

## Chapter 13:

Chapter 13 is another “intermission” chapter, if you will, that John uses to further explain events in Revelation. In this chapter, he is explaining who the Antichrist is, the False Prophet, and introduces us to the mark of the beast; 666. There is a lot of figurative language that is used in this chapter. Because of that, there are many opinions on what is being stated. One example is how John states it is the “beast out of the sea”. Prior to today, 2025, I don’t think anyone ever thought it literally meant the beast would come out of the sea. My opinion was, and still is, that the “sea” represents the gentile nations. That means the Antichrist would be of non-Jewish decent.

However, in recent news, we hear a lot of talk about aliens and UFOs. There are additionally reports of underwater alien activity and USOs (Underwater Submerged Object). When you hear the description of this beast, he sounds like something out of this world. Again, I personally do not believe the Antichrist will be anything other than a person born of this world, with super-charged demonic powers given to him by Satan, but how Satan chooses to deceive will remain to be seen. In general, I believe the alien activity, skin-walkers, and other non-human entities that are seen, are Satan’s workers doing what he does best; being a liar. I believe God allows this because as the world gets more evil, it is preparing the way for Satan and the Tribulation. Call it “de-sensitizing” if you will.

I’m going to table this discussion for the time being. As we get closure to the time of the Tribulation, I believe there will be many more things, we didn’t think were possible or real, that will at least become “seemingly” real. For the sake of this study, and what I believe, I will represent it here. Again, please note most of what I share about this chapter is my opinion, so I would encourage you to study this for yourselves and pray and meditate on it.

Verse 1 is stating that Satan is standing on the shore of the sea. I guess this could also mean that he is standing on the border of Israel and a neighboring gentile nation. John sees a beast coming out of the sea; gentile nation. There are a lot of opinions on who the Antichrist could be, from modern day presidents, past dictators, the pope, etc. We do not know specifically where the Antichrist will come from. We do know, at least close to the time of the Tribulation, he will have the authority to make war but will not, or look like he’s not. We know this person will be charismatic, appear to be honorable, and with the world’s best intentions in mind. This person will seemingly honor freedom, diversity, individual religion/spirituality, and support 1-world systems that bring unity to humanity. At the start of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will make peace with Israel and help lay the foundation for the return of the Holy Temple to the Jewish people. He will support the rebuilding and restoration of the Holy Temple and Orthodox Jews will reinstate sacrificial activities.

The 10-horns are the rulers that will begin to rule with the Antichrist at the beginning of the tribulation. The 7-heads could have a double-meaning, or represent 1 of these meanings: The world empire that rises during the tribulation will be the 7<sup>th</sup> in human history, believed to be the revived Roman Empire. It could also represent 7-hills on which this new “world-religion” and/or “world-systems” sit. There are a lot of cities built on 7-hills. The most famous: Rome, Jerusalem, Moscow,

Edinburgh, Barcelona, Tehran, Mecca, Lisbon, Istanbul, Seattle. The 10-crowns with blasphemous names are the “systems” of the government that are wicked and lead by the 10 rulers, or 10-horns.

Verse 2 goes on to further explain the nature of the Antichrist. The reference to a leopard could be speaking to: strength, determination, and resilience. Feet like a bear could be speaking to: powerful, ability to travel/reach great distances, determination and not easily moved. Mouth like a lion: speaks to authority, strength, and commanding voice. It states that Satan gives the Antichrist his power, his thrown, and great authority. If you think about the relationship between God-Jesus-Holy Spirit, Satan is trying to simulate that with himself. Satan-Antichrist-False Prophet.

I read an interesting perspective by author Daymond R Duck that referenced a leopard with a future Arab coalition, the bear with Russia and her allies, and lion with England. Depending upon world events as we get closure to this time of tribulation, I could potentially see the Antichrist coming out of some form of a coalition of nations. Or perhaps having decent of all 3 of these nations. There are some things we will not know until the time has come. However, for any of us still here at that time, this could help prove to us, or others needing Jesus, that this person is the Antichrist. Think of it as “prophecy fulfilled”; tangible evidence to support our Christian faith.

Verse 3 speaks of one of the heads having a fatal wound. There will come a time, around the mid-point of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist will become increasingly hostile towards Christians and the 2-Witnesses. I imagine there will be an attempted assassination, or staged event most likely, that will make it look like the Antichrist had been killed. Then he will “miraculously” come back to life. The idea is to try and present the Antichrist as a messiah. That will set the stage for him taking over the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and setting up the “abomination of desolation” that is an image of the Antichrist. The majority of the world will be worshiping Satan and the Antichrist at this point.

Verses 5-8 are speaking of the Antichrist being proud and boastful and blaspheming the name of God. He will have authority over the earth for 42 months. Anyone who worships him, does not have their name in the Lambs Book of Life, and therefore will be destined for the Lake of Fire. People still have the option during this time to choose: to live for Christ, and die for Him in the present, or live for the Antichrist in the present, but lose their immortal soul. Surviving during this last part of the tribulation will be quite terrible. Between the events going on with the world, and trying to hide from everyone who would do you harm if you don’t have the mark of the beast, there will be no room for the undecided. You either accept Jesus and will most likely be martyred, or side with the Antichrist and be destined for an eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Verse 9 is one of conflicting thoughts. It states “He who has an ear, let him hear.” It does not say “He who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” There are people that believe that because it doesn’t reference the churches here, it is direct evidence that the church has been raptured. I believe that the rapture has already occurred at this point, but I don’t believe that this passage is intended to suggest that. I believe this is similar to Jesus speaking in the Gospels. “He who has an ear, let him hear”. If Jesus had been born in the south it would have been “You’all listen up now!” Let us not forget this is the Revelation of Jesus. At this point I believe Jesus is saying, through John, pay careful attention to what is being shared.

Verse 10 is another one that is a little tough to understand. Here is the passage from the KJV. “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints”. In the NIV it states “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.” My favorite translation for this verse is in the NLT “Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.

One reason this is my favorite translation is because it is clear. It is saying if you are destined for prison, go with courage because God is with you. If you are to be killed for being a Christian, accept it knowing you are a martyr of the faith. The last part of the verse calls it out well; we must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful. If you remember the letter to the church of Smyrna, “Be faithful even to death and you will receive life as your victor’s crown.” I like to additionally reference Chapter 6 with the souls under the altar. They are later seen again in Chapter 20 being resurrected to reign with Christ.

I have read some commentaries that have stated during this point in the Tribulation, there will be an “eye for an eye” type system. So, if you kill someone, you are to be killed as the punishment. I agree that this could be very likely, given the nature of the world order and corruptness of the leaders. I don’t believe that is what is being stated in this text though.

Verse 11 begins the description of the False Prophet. The False Prophet is described as coming out of the earth. I believe this means he will be of Jewish decent. Some translations use “it” in place of “he”. I’m not sure if the sex of the False Prophet is ever clearly stated anywhere. We would need to do a study on this from the original Greek text. I’m not ruling out this could be a female, at least at this point of my understanding, but we will stick with “he” for now. He is described as having 2 horns like a lamb but spoke like a dragon. 2 horns speak to appearing innocent and without blemish. Speaking like the dragon is referring to sounding like Satan.

Around, or directly after, the midway-point of the Tribulation, the False Prophet will require everyone on earth to worship the Antichrist. He will be the leader of this only accepted 1-world religion. The Antichrist will be seen as the savior of humanity and the world. Those who do not worship him, and are captured, will be murdered if they maintain their faith and testimony in Jesus. The False Prophet will have Satanic power and the ability to do great “signs” or magic, however these will undoubtedly be called “miracles”. He will do these on behalf of the Antichrist and deceive the world with their “god-like” abilities. The False Prophet is who orders the placement of the image of the Antichrist in the Holy Temple, after the Jews are carried into the wilderness to escape Satan.

This image of the Antichrist in the temple will appear to be brought to life by the power of the False Prophet. I imagine this will be done with AI, or some type of demonic possession. In verse 15 it states that all that refuse to worship the image of the beast will be killed. Verse 16 states the False Prophet requires everyone to receive the mark of the beast on either the right hand or forehead. A person will not be able to buy or sell anything unless they have this mark. That will put Christians

living in this time in a very difficult position. They will not want to steal, kill, lie, or sin in any way, but how will they survive? It will be much better to make ourselves ready so that we are raptured and removed prior to this last 3 ½ year period of the Tribulation, best known as the “Great Tribulation”. The first part of the Tribulation is called the “Beginning of Sorrows”. It is Jesus Himself that calls it this in Matthew 24.

Note this is the first time in Revelation that we read about the mark of the beast. However, it will likely become available for people to start doing long before the midway point of the tribulation. I believe it is at the midway point that we see the harsh requirement of “do it or die”. Since the early 2000’s, there has been development of microchip technology that allows a RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chip to be inserted into the human body. This chip can have information about medical records, access to doors and systems, share your location, bank account information for paying or receiving money, or various other information.

A Stockholm-based company called Biohax Sweden created a RFID chip that was first offered to workers at a Swedish tech hub Epicenter in January of 2015. Since then, the chip has been gaining popularity in Europe. In August of 2017, a US tech company named Three Square Market (32M) voluntarily made the chip available to their employees and is said to be the first American company to implement the chip. It seems that this technology, or a future progression of it, could represent the mark of the beast, or at least be connected to it in some manner.

Verse 18 in the NIV, “This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666”. The number “6” from [www.biblestudy.org](http://www.biblestudy.org) “The number 6 and its meaning are related to man and human weakness, the evils of the devil and the manifestation of sin. Man was created on day six of creation week...The number is also associated with Satan in his temptation of Jesus...The bringing together of triple six is the mark of the end time Beast power of Revelation. As such, it represents the very best system of governance that mankind can produce without God and under the constant influence of his chief adversary...Man's system on earth is made up of three parts (economic, religious and governmental) all of which are influenced and led by Satan.”

The number “666” from [www.biblestudy.org](http://www.biblestudy.org) “The meaning of the number 666 is derived primarily from the mark of the Beast Power discussed in the book of Revelation. This sequence of three 6's is also related to fabulous wealth, adversaries other than Satan the devil, and the rejection of Jesus by the majority of his disciples...The sequence 666 symbolizes the perfection of man's overall system that is separated from God and under the constant influence of Satan the devil. Six in the Bible represents, by itself, incompleteness or imperfection, as it is one less than perfect seven. Man's system on earth is made up of three parts, each represented by a six in the numeric 666...The first six of the three 6's symbolizes the perfectly false religions of man under Satan's lead. The devil is the god of this world, and allowed to deceive mankind, until the return of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). The second six is for the deceived false governments of this world. The third six of 666 is symbolic of mankind's self-centered economic system.”