

Book of Revelation – The Sea Beast -Revelation 13:1-8

Series REV-29

Part I

The Beast from the Sea

We have come to the very chapter involving the final conflict this side of probation closing. This is probably the most studied chapter in the history of Adventism concerning the book of Revelation. It is unfortunate that in recent times we as a people are speaking less and less about the players in this chapter and who they are according to our historical position. But be that as it is. God would have us become intelligent to what He has revealed to us that we may be among the wise (Dan 12:10).

REVIEW

Before we plunge into this chapter, it is needful we do a review over the first half of the Book.

As we saw in chapter one, the introduction chapter to the Revelation, we realized from the onset, that it was and is a ‘revelation of Jesus.’ [BTW—more than any other book in Scripture do we have so many appellations of His name—the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty, the Son of man, the Lion of the Tribe of Juda, the root of David, the Lamb—to name a few of the more popular titles He goes by.] In every chapter, we see a picture of Jesus a little differently, even a little clearer—this is by design, for as the hymn states, we are to talk about Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life, yet more and more.

John, the prophet, beholds Christ on the Sabbath, as the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, dressed as a common priest (and thus man’s advocate) in the midst of the 7-branch lampstand. –therefore, the Sanctuary teaching very early is revealed in the Book of Revelation.

The light Giver from the 7 lamps conveys 7 messages to 7 churches in chapters 2 & 3. The last of the seven, Laodicea, is the judging of the people, which is the next scene in the unfolding drama of the book—chapters 4 & 5. Once the Lion of Juda prevails to open the Book, the metaphor of the Lamb is introduced—a most fitting symbol of He who solves the sin problem, in giving His life to redeem man. Our hearts are thrilled as we note this “Lamb” as the One who prevails in Judgment (at the cross) and this earns Himself the right to become man’s Judge, investigating each of the 7 churches (chapters 6-8:1).

Chapter 7 deals with the honor roll (144K) who will be sealed, thus enabling them to stand when the ‘wrath of the Lamb’ is revealed. These same 12K of each of the 12 tribes are given 7 trumpets to blow in warning messages to the world (chapters 8 & 9). Though chapter 10 opens with a picture of Him who alone can reflect the light of the sun (His Father’s character) and a rainbow is upon his head, it then proceeds to reveal the history of His people who eat the book in the hand of Him who swears by

the Father. Just as it was in the beginning of the movement, so it will be in the end, in the days of the voice of the 7th angel (vs.7) when the mystery of God should be finished.

In Rev 11, we see the dual application of the French Revolution and the principles of that revolution being worldwide in the last days. God's 'two witnesses' appear who prophesy (give the loud cry) to an atheistic world filled with lawlessness and immorality. Once they finish their testimony (vs.7), the beast from the abyss (Babylon) will "overcome them" [aka a death decree is issued], but God will deliver them when the "Spirit of Life" enters them (11:11-14). Thus, they are glorified (at the special resurrection Daniel predicted (Dan 12:2) which happens at the beginning of the 7th plague.

This brings us to the last chapter we just finished, the Great Controversy chapter of the Bible (Rev 12), which takes us behind the scenes and shows us who really is the enemy of God, who persecutes the church down through the ages, even till the end of time. But God looks at His people in totality (since the beginning to the end) as a beautiful woman "a great wonder" who is "clothed with the sun of Righteousness. Through all the attacks of the serpent and the dragon, the God of the earth preserves His church, those "which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." We now we come to the final conflict. {It would be well to read the first 8 verses a few times, so the subject matter will begin to sink in.}

Revelation 13:1-8 – the Beast of the Sea

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."

This verse is full of symbols. Please identify the following characteristics which will help us identify this 'sea beast':

Sand: _____.

Seven Heads: _____.

Ten Horns: _____.

Ten Crowns: _____.

Name of Blasphemy: _____

_____.

Vs.2

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

More identifying marks come out here. Please list the characteristics of each of these unclean animals as depicted below from the text:

Leopard's body: _____
_____.

Feet of a Bear: _____
_____.

Mouth of a Lion: _____
_____.

What does this phrase mean, “the dragon gave him his power, seat and great authority?”

Vs. 3

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast.

What does the mortal wound involve in vs. 3 and it been healed and when?

All the world wondered after the beast. When does this happen?

Vs. 4

Eight times we find this word ‘worship’ in Rev 13? It is mentioned more times here than anywhere else in the book. Why do you think this is stated so many times? Under COVID, can we see how the whole world can be brought to this point—“they worshipped the beast?” {Notice they worship the dragon first.}

_____.

I know this is a heavy-duty lesson, that is why I’ve split it up into two parts. Do the best you can from all the reliable resources you can find. The Lord will guide you in your research. We will also be looking at Rev 17 in conjunction with this chapter in future lessons to help us with the understanding.

Be of good courage, we will discuss your findings in our Monday night study.

End of Part I