

Revelation Chapter Thirteen

- We have seen chapter 12 symbolically describe two Tribulational characters – The Woman (Israel) and The Dragon (Satan).
- Chapter 13 now symbolically describes two more Tribulational characters – Satan’s agents – as Beasts.
 - The description of the first Beast [13:1-10] lines up with the Gentile imagery in Daniel 7 [also Rev 17:15].
 - The description of the second Beast [13:11-18] does not pin down his origin, but the fact that he comes up from the earth may indicate that he is Jewish.
- The first Beast – Antichrist.
 - This Beast comes in the image and likeness of the Dragon (7 heads and 10 horns) [12:3 cp. 13:1].
 - The dragon has 7 diadems on his 7 heads [12:3].
 - The beast has 10 diadems on his 10 horns [13:1].
 - This Beast is the culmination of the world empires of the Times of the Gentiles [13:2a; Dan 7:1-8].
 - This Beast is empowered by the Dragon to rule over the whole world [13:2b; 2 Thess 2:8-10].
 - This Beast will be put on display as a counterfeit resurrected Christ [13:3a].
 - This Beast and the Dragon form a counterfeit of God the Son and God the Father [13:3b-4; 1 John 2:22].
 - This Beast comes in the image of the Dragon and is empowered by the Dragon.
 - As we will see, the second Beast completes the counterfeit Trinity.
 - This Beast is allowed to accomplish many things over a forty-two month period in the permissive will of God [13:5-8; 2 Thess 2:11-12].
 - This Beast has many names in Scripture...
 - The Seed of the Serpent [Gen 3:15].
 - The Little Horn [Dan 7:8 also 7:11, 20-26].
 - The Coming Prince [Dan 9:26-27].
 - The King [Dan 11:36-45].
 - The Man of Lawlessness, the Son of Destruction [2 Thess 2:3-10].
 - The Antichrist [1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7].
 - The Beast from the Abyss [Rev 11:7; 17:8].
 - The Beast from the Sea [Rev 13:1-8].

- The second Beast – The False Prophet.
 - This Beast is “another beast” [13:11] in contrast to the first Beast [13:12].
 - He is a contemporary of the first beast [13:14-18].
 - His primary title is the False Prophet whenever the anti-Trinity is mentioned [Rev 16:13; 20:10].
 - This Beast spotlights the first Beast [13:12-15] just as the Holy Spirit spotlights Christ.
 - He exalts the first Beast [13:12].
 - He oversees the worship of the first Beast [13:13-15].
 - This Beast uses the fervor of religious allegiance to the first Beast to secure control of the economy throughout the entire world [13:16-18].
 - Early manuscripts have 616 here instead of 666.
 - We cannot calculate the number because that is reserved for the Tribulational saints [Dan 11:33].