

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*  
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

# War on the Saints

Revelation 12:17-13:10





**Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. <sup>1</sup> And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. <sup>2</sup> And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" <sup>5</sup> And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. <sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear: <sup>10</sup> If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.**



## Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- **The dragon makes war on the saints**



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- The dragon makes war on the saints
- **The dragon gives power to the beast**



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- The saints are those who have their names written in the book of life of the Lamb
- The reality of the war against the saints means some are going to be taken captive and some will die by the sword
- **The 'suck of life' on the earth with the beast and dragon requires great steadfast endurance and faith in God, His Christ, the gospel, and the Bible by all the saints**

# Revelation 12:17



- Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

**And he stood on the sand of the sea.**

**Nearly every bit of chapter 13 is apocalyptic, figurative, and symbolic language.**

**And draws heavily from the book of Daniel.**



# Revelation 13:1



- **And I saw a beast rising out of the sea,**

**Remember this is a vision.**

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**The sea represents a  
place of chaos and  
disorder.**



# Revelation 13:1



- **And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.**

**10-7-10**

# Revelation 13:2



- And the beast that I saw was like a leopard;
- its feet were like a bear's,
- and its mouth was like a lion's mouth.



# Revelation 13:2



- And to **it** the dragon  
[Satan] gave his power and  
his throne and great  
authority.

**The beast with his 10 horns, 7 heads and 10 diadems is a symbol of empires and kingdoms who are characterized by evil, ungodly, immoral, and demonic behavior.**

**This chapter reminds us that these regimes have their origin in the pit of hell.**

**No doubt the early church would have immediately thought of the Roman Empire.**



# Ten Horns

Daniel 7 is the only other reference to something having “Ten Horns” in the Bible.



# Comparing Daniel 7 to Revelation 13

**And four great beasts came up out of the sea (v. 2)**

**And I saw a beast rising out of the sea (v. 1)**

**Lion (v. 4) Bear (v. 5)**

**Bear (and) Lion (v. 2)**

**Ten horns (v. 7 & 20)**

**Ten horns (v. 1)**

**The beast was killed, (v. 11)**

**One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, (v. 3)**

**Speaking great things (v. 8)**

**Speaking great things and blasphemous words (v. 5)**

**This horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, (v. 21)**

**Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them (v. 7)**

**And they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (v. 25)**

**And it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. (v. 5)**

# Revelation 13:3



- One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed,

**This mortal wound could be something one person receives and recovers from or it could represent the manner in which each mega-world power comes to an end suggesting nothing could be bigger, better or more powerful AND yet another empire fills the gap.**

**For example, after Alexander the Great could anyone be like him and do what he did?**

**Yes, the Roman Empire emerges in all its glory and might.**

**And when Nero committed suicide some, no doubt, wondered: would that be the end of the Roman Empire?**

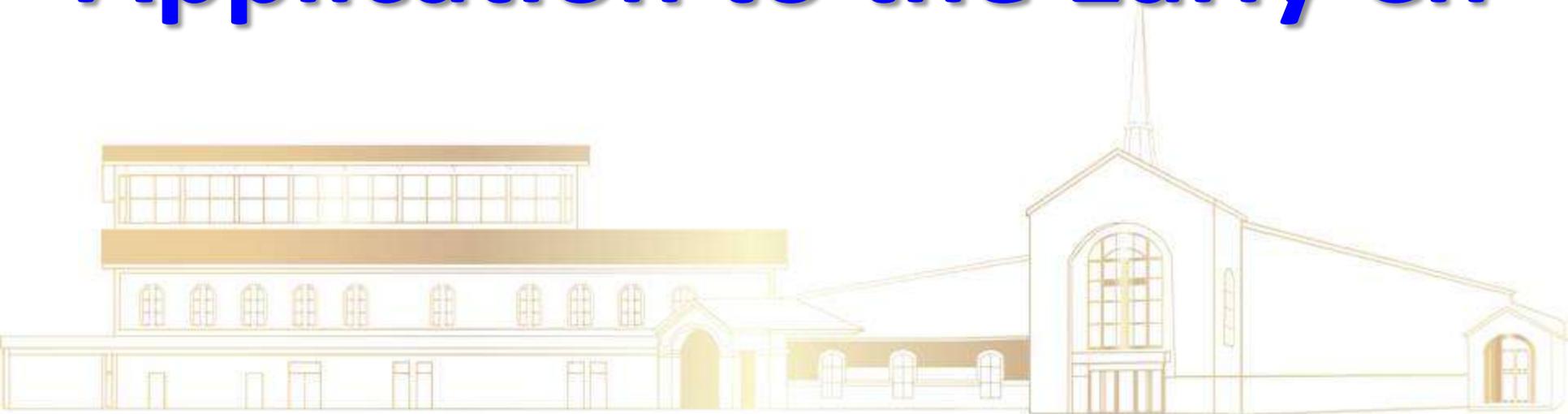
**No. After Nero's untimely death, Rome grew even more powerful.**



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# **Remember My Premise**

**This Letter Must Have  
Application to the Early Ch**



# Revelation 13:3



- One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.

**What makes Bible prophecy so special—so amazing—is the manner in which this text spoke to the early church concerning their relationship to the beast of their day—the Roman Empire.**

**And the manner in which the same scripture will speak to another generation of Christians with a different beast.**

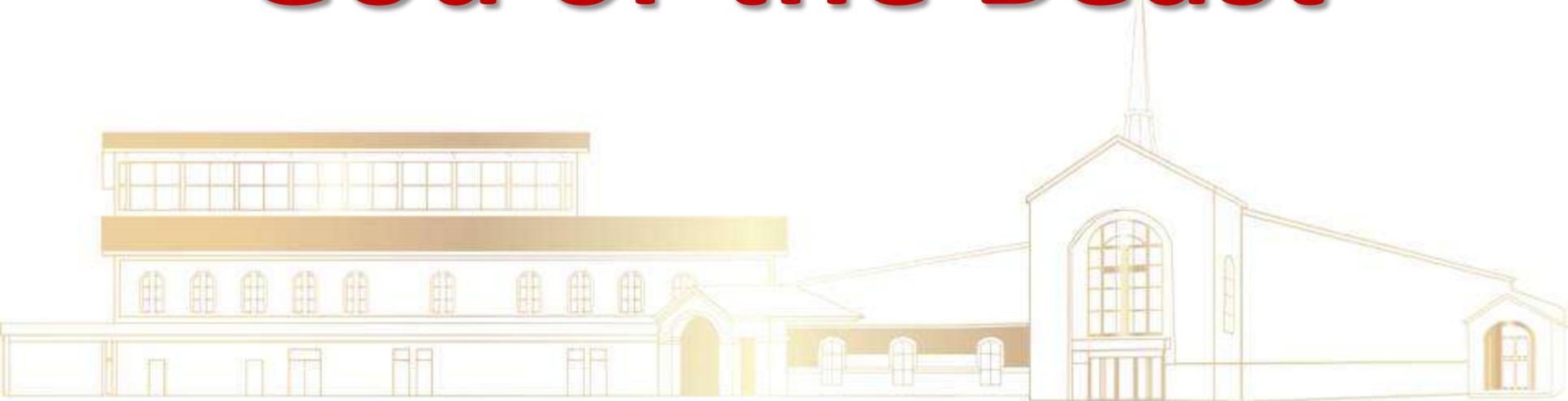
**And the manner in which the same scripture will speak to the final generation of Christians alive when Jesus returns.**



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**Who do you follow?**

**God or the Beast**



# Revelation 13:4



- **And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast,**
- **and they worshiped the beast,**

# The Beast Throughout History

<b>66- 300 AD</b>	<b>Nero Caesar and the Roman Empire</b>
<b>600-1500</b>	<b>Different Popes and the RCC oppressing the people with indulgences and a false gospel</b>
<b>1805-1814</b>	<b>Napoleon Bonaparte</b>
<b>1922-1953</b>	<b>Joseph Stalin</b>
<b>1933-1945</b>	<b>Hitler</b>
<b>1960s</b>	<b>Pol Pot's Communist govt. in Cambodia</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>Chinese Communism shutting down and persecuting churches and Christians</b>
<b>??</b>	<b>?</b>

**To worship the beast is to worship the dragon.**

**Ultimately the cosmic struggle is over who is worthy of worship.**

**One of the distinguishing marks of true Christians is they manifest their love for God in the form of praise and worship.**



# Matthew 4:8–10

- Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”



# Matthew 4:10

- Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ”



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**Worship of any other  
god is strictly  
prohibited in the Law.**



# Exodus 34:14

- (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),



# **The beast appears to be both an individual and a corporate entity.**

## **It has:**

- **Power/Authority**
- **Big Mouth**
- **Wealth/resources**
- **Followers**



# Revelation 13:4



- And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast,

**Following Julius Caesar who in 42 BC was formally deified as "the Divine Julius" various Roman emperors for the next 300 years have self-identified as deities.**

**The reader of Revelation would have immediately connected a culture that worships Caesar to the beast.**



# Revelation 13:4



- **saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”**

**Asking,**

**“Who is like the beast and who can fight against it?”**

**Comes from a failure to know God, His attributes, and His plan from the beginning to end. I am reminded of David who asked:**



# 1 Samuel 17:26

- And David said to the men who stood by him, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”**



## David believed that:

- **The God of Israel is the Sovereign ruler of the cosmos.**



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- **The God of Israel is the Sovereign ruler of the cosmos.**
- **His God is the most Almighty, all powerful, being in the universe.**



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- **His God is a divine Warrior fighting on behalf of His people.**



## **David believed that:**

- **The God of Israel is the Sovereign ruler of the cosmos.**
- **His God is the most Almighty, all powerful, being in the universe.**
- **His God is a divine Warrior fighting on behalf of His people.**
- **His God has all the resources necessary to suppress each and every enemy as though they are nothing.**



**Today many in the church are deciding that the LGBT Sexual Revolution cannot be resisted.**

**They are asking “Who can fight against it?”**

**They have decided that its victory is inevitable.**

**They want more to be on the right side of history more than God’s side.**

**Ultimately, they are worshipping the beast.**



# Revelation 13:5



- And the beast **was given** a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it **was allowed** to exercise authority for forty-two months.

The passive voice construction of “**was given**” and “**was allowed**” reminds the reader that it is the Sovereign God of the Universe who is permitting Satan, the beast, and the false prophet to do what they do.

**Look at v. 7 as well.**



# Revelation 13:7



- Also it **was allowed** to make war on the saints and to conquer them.
- And authority **was given** it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

# Revelation 13:5



- **And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.**

**Forty-two months should be understood to be a limited period of time and may or may not be a reference to the final 42 months on the earth before the return of Christ.**

**See Revelation 17:12.**



# Revelation 17:12

- And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, **but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour,** together with the beast.

**Are you ok with saying this  
is 60 minutes of power?**



# Revelation 13:6



- It opened its mouth to utter **blasphemies against God,** blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

**These beasts and beast-like regimes are anti-God in everything.**

**They promote an agenda and campaign platform that is anti-God to its very core.**

**They reject God and anything remotely associated with God.**



# Revelation 13:7



- Also it was allowed to make war on the saints
- and to conquer them.

# Saint Defined

- Literally is “holy one.”
- Any male or female who has been saved by God from their sin through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His gospel.
- This person has been made holy by the shed blood of the Lamb of God and set apart as one of God’s very own son or daughter.
- Saints exist both on this earth and in heaven and do NOT refer to an exclusive group of people separate or distinct from all other believers.



# Revelation 13:8



- and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

**The book of life is mentioned 5 times in Revelation.**

**The first reference has particular focus on security of the believer subsequent references emphasize the distinction between the saved and unsaved.**

**Paul uses it one time.**



# Revelation 3:5



- The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

# Philippians 4:3

- Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, **whose names are in the book of life.**



# Revelation 13:9



- **If anyone has an ear, let him hear:**

**This is the same phrase  
used in each letter to  
the 7 churches.**

# NET Translation

If anyone has an ear,  
he had better listen!



**Verse 10 is shockingly  
difficult and one we don't  
want to hear.**

**But not original in thought  
to Revelation.**



# Revelation 13:10



- If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes;

[God is not going to rescue them]

# Revelation 13:10



- if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain.

**[God is not going to prevent their death]**

- **Life is NOT fair.**
- **Life is really going to suck (captivity and slain) for some in a way that isn't equally shared.**
- **God has permitted Satan and his cronies to make war against the saints.**
- **Suffering, pain, sorrow, persecution, and tribulation is all part of the Christian and non-Christian experience alike.**
- **The reward for the saints will be worth it.**



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**Turn to**  
**John 21**  
**v. 17**



# John 21:18

- Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”



# John 21:21

- When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, **“Lord, what about this man?”**





# Revelation 13:10

- Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

## NET

- This requires steadfast endurance and faith from the saints.

# Patience: Steadfast Endurance

**KJV Translation Count — Total: 32x**

**The KJV translates Strong's G5281 in the following manner:** patience (29x), enduring (1x), patient continuance (1x), patient waiting (1x).

## **Outline of Biblical Usage [?]**

- I.* steadfastness, constancy, endurance
  - A.* in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings
  - B.* patiently, and steadfastly
- II.* a patient, steadfast waiting for
- III.* a patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance

# **Faith** (belief, trust, dependence, reliance) **in:**

- **God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit**
- **The Promises found in the Word of God—the Bible**
- **The Gospel, that is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ for your sins and mine sins**
- **The truths in the Holy Scriptures**

