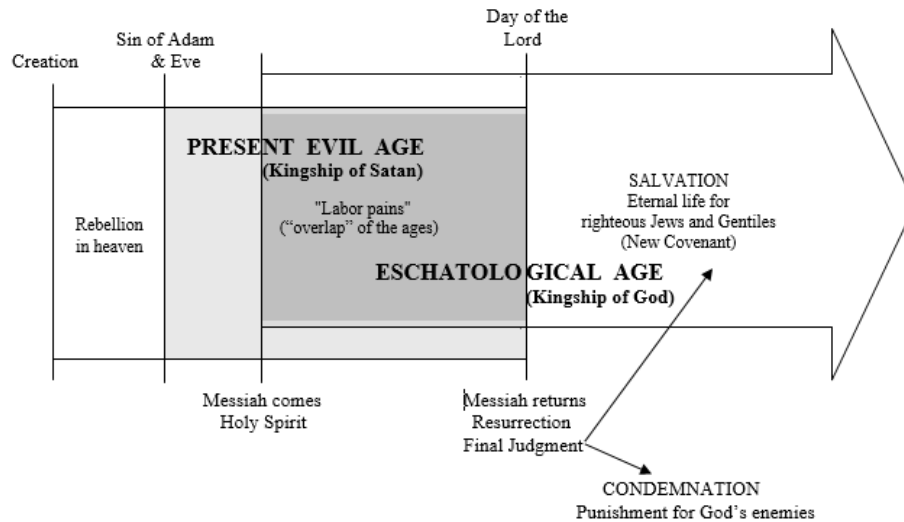


## APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

### Session 17: The Beast from the Sea (Revelation 13:1-10)

#### REVIEW



#### John's Third Vision of the Future (Rev. 12:1-22:6)

##### 1. Basic Structure:

- Revelation 12-13: The "Labor Pains" pictured as the dragon's war against Christ and Christians through the beast from the sea and best from the land
- Revelation 14:1-22:6: The Final Judgment, which brings salvation to God's covenant people and destruction to his enemies

##### 2. Revelation 12:

- Overall plot: possible adaptation of the Leto/Apollo myth
- Roman emperors' use of the myth
- The dragon symbolizes Satan
- The male child symbolizes Jesus the Messiah
- The woman symbolizes possibly Mary but probably Zion/God's covenant community (first Jews under the Mosaic Covenant and then Christians under the New Covenant) pictured like a goddess

##### 3. Transition to Chapter 13 (Revelation 12:4b-6, 17):

<sup>4b</sup> . . . The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. <sup>5</sup>She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. <sup>6</sup>The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. . . .

<sup>17</sup>Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

## **THE BEAST FROM THE SEA (Revelation 13:1-10)**

<sup>1</sup>And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. <sup>2</sup>The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup>One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

<sup>4</sup>Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

<sup>5</sup>The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup>He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. <sup>7</sup>He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. <sup>8</sup>All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

<sup>9</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup>If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

## **INTERPRETATION OF REVELATION 13:1-10**

A. Revelation 13:1a, 11a:

<sup>1a</sup>And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea...<sup>11a</sup>Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth.

1. The dragon symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The sea" symbolizes the forces of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The beasts from the land and sea resemble \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The beasts from the land and sea symbolize two types of \_\_\_\_\_ Satan uses to make \_\_\_\_\_ against the saints.

B. Revelation 13:1b-2:

<sup>1b</sup>And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. <sup>2</sup>The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority....

1. Compare Daniel 7:1-8, 23-25, which is the source of much of John's imagery:

<sup>1</sup>In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

<sup>2</sup>Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. <sup>3</sup>Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

<sup>4</sup>"The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

<sup>5</sup>"And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

<sup>6</sup>"After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

<sup>7</sup>"After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

<sup>8</sup>"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully. . . .

<sup>23</sup>"He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. <sup>24</sup>The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. <sup>25</sup>He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.'

2. In Daniel, the four beasts symbolize \_\_\_\_\_ and the horns symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.  
These were \_\_\_\_\_ powers that opposed God and oppressed His saints.
3. Likewise, the beast from the sea in Revelation 13 symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ powers that the dragon will use in the same way.

C. Revelation 13:1b:

**<sup>1b</sup>And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had...seven heads**

The beast's seven heads may link it to \_\_\_\_\_, or possibly to \_\_\_\_\_  
(see Revelation 17:3, 9).

D. Revelation 13:1c, 5-6, 8:

**<sup>1c</sup>and on each head a blasphemous name....**

**<sup>5</sup>The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies...<sup>6</sup>He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven...<sup>8</sup>All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.**

1. In Daniel, the “little horn” speaking “blasphemies” symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In Revelation, the beast from the sea symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ powers who put themselves in the place of \_\_\_\_\_, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.

E. Revelation 13:3:

**One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.**

1. This identifies the beast as \_\_\_\_\_ (see, for example, Sibylline Oracles IV and V from the late 1<sup>st</sup> century).
2. It is also an example of an important theme in Revelation: Satan’s \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

F. Revelation 13:2b, 4-5, 7:

**<sup>2b</sup>The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority...<sup>4</sup>Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"**

**<sup>5</sup>The beast was given...to exercise his authority for forty-two months...<sup>7</sup>He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**

G. Revelation 13:9-10:

**<sup>9</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup>If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.**

A more literal translation of the Greek text:

“...\_\_\_\_\_ patient endurance (*hypomone*) and faithfulness of the saints.”

H. SUMMARY: The beast from the sea symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ powers used by Satan to make \_\_\_\_\_ against Christ and Christians throughout the \_\_\_\_\_.

**LATER EXAMPLES OF THE BEAST FROM THE SEA**