

It is immediately apparent that the political and economic climate of today is beginning to set the stage for the reign of a world dictator. There is tremendous and continual worldwide unrest... as numerous and varied countries experience vast internal turmoil. ... There are those who are advocating the belief that the only solution to these economic... political... social... and even religious problems... is a one world government.

World leaders have been pushing for a one-world government for a number of decades.

AP press release, July 26, 1968... New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller said that as President he would work toward the international creation of a new world order.

January 30, 1976, a document called The Declaration of Interdependence was introduced to Americans. It was signed by 32 senators and 92 representatives in Washington D.C. It read in part: *Two centuries ago our forefathers brought forth a new nation; now we must join with others to bring forth a new world order.*

William P. Hoar is an author, magazine columnist, and managing editor of *Periscope*, the U.S. Naval Institute military database. He has written that — *A New World Order is on the horizon.* And he has published many articles tracing how world leaders have been for many years... secretly working toward this.

Dr. Saul Mendlovitz is Professor of Peace and World Order Studies at the Rutgers University School of Law in New Jersey. He is also the founder and Chairman of the International Steering Committee of Global Action to

Prevent War (GAPW). GAPW is a transnational coalition of individuals, civil society organizations and states promoting a comprehensive political and legal program. He writes —*There is no longer a question of whether or not there will be a one world government, the question is when.*

Henry Kissinger ... the former secretary of State under Richard Nixon... in his book *American Foreign Policy*... states... "*We must construct an international order before a crisis imposes it as a necessity.*" ... In the July 1, 1974, issue of *Time Magazine*... the writer states... "*Kissinger's achievements have at last justified the establishment of a new political office, which I sincerely hope the UN will consider: President of Planet Earth.*"

Norman Cousins was an American political journalist, author, and University professor. He wrote back in 1985—*World government is coming. It is a fact that is inevitable. No arguments for or against it can change that fact.*

In 1987, Gary Kah... a proud son of Indiana... whose parent migrated to the US from Croatia... was invited to join the World Constitution and Parliament Association. This is one of the organizations involved at the forefront of promoting the world government agenda. He joined and for the next 4 years... he obtained detailed documents which demonstrated that the push toward a one-world government was active and rapidly advancing. He has written extensively and reproduced many of these documents in his books. Gary Kah is a Christian and revealed in his book, *En Route to Global Occupation*, a letter dated December 12, 1990: "To all Presidents, Prime Ministers, Kings, and Queens, and to all other heads of governments

and national parliaments, We are convinced that to solve global problems peaceably and to administer human affairs on earth intelligently, a world federal government is required and we appeal to you to endorse a Federal One-World Government."

Robert Muller, former assistant Secretary General of the United Nations said, "*We must move as quickly as possible to a one-world government; a one-world religion; under a one-world leader.*"

President George Bush Sr. announced to the U.S. Congress on September 11, 1991 (Notice the month and day), that he was working to create a "New World Order." President Bush used this term "New World Order" more than 200 times in his speeches during his presidency.

Dietrich Fischer, spokesman for United Nations reform: "*To reach agreement on reform that needs to be taken is not easy. It has usually taken a major catastrophe to shake up the international community sufficiently to attempt to create a new world order.*" (The Rapture will provide a good shake-up for the world.)

James Warburg was a German-born American banker. He was well known for being the financial adviser to Franklin D. Roosevelt. On February 17, 1950, he stated to a Senate committee, "*We shall have a world government whether we like it or not; by consent or by conquest.*"

I have listed all these quotes to help you understand what is really going on... behind the scenes... and out in the open... concerning the formation of a one-world government or new world order. ... Its formation is very near. ... Some of the key hindrances to its completion has been fear of

world laws... loss of national identity... unequal economies... and most important of all, the will of God. ... God has not allowed it to happen yet.

Today's passage of Scripture... Revelation chapter 13... reveals that this one world government concept is exactly what will come to pass. ... With so much unrest among nations in economic bankruptcy... and with no sign of conditions becoming better... the masses of people will welcome a world government which promises that conditions will improve. ... Somebody (a super-human somebody) will appear on the scene and will gain the attention of the people and provide the leadership anticipated. This exalted leader will be Satan incarnate... and the world has never before known a consummate ruler like him.

The point of application from today's message is this: as we look around today and see that the world is right on course for this event to happen... we need to turn our hearts more and more to the Sovereign God of the Ages... Who is working His plan perfectly. ... When John wrote these prophecies way back during the first century... on the Island of Patmos... none of this looked even remotely possible. Today it does!

With our American presidential elections right around the corner... you and I need to disconnect from any false hope that some merely human government is going to bring the change that we really need. ... And perhaps after looking at our two present candidates... that may be pretty obvious to you. These two people are not providing the hope that you thought you want. ... But God's King... (Jesus)... is coming... and things are shaping up to bring in the kingdom of God. ... Something far

better is on the horizon... and it involves the only hope and change to believe in – It is Christ's Kingdom!

Now... Satan... will make his last great attempt to defeat the program of God... by establishing his kingdom upon earth. ... He will seek to do this by instituting two great powers... one political... and one religious. ... These two great powers will be two men... called in Revelation 13 "beasts"... because of the viciousness and cruelty of their reign. ... These two men... representing two movements... will seek to set up a world federation of nations for political reasons... and a world federation of churches for religious reasons."

Revelation 13 can be divided into two main parts as follows:

1. The Satanic Beast... the anti-Christ... Satan's fake Messiah... or second member of the Trinity... (Revelation 13:1-10)
2. The Support Beast... the False Prophet... Satan's fake Holy Spirit... the third member of the unholy trinity... who promotes worship of the anti-Christ around the world (Revelation 13:11-18)

Satan's strategy is really pretty simple: he acts like he is God... and he will try to kill anyone who isn't fooled by his impersonation. ... So in the first four verses we see Satan's beast will try to convince the world that he is Jesus. ... Then in the next three verses... (Revelation 13:5-8)... Satan will go to war against everyone who isn't convinced. ... and to complete the section about the first beast... (Revelation 13:9-10) calls the new converts to Christianity to endure all of this until God vindicates them. ... So let's read about this first beast in Revelation 13...

Revelation 13:1

It is interesting to be aware of John's vantage point... (where he is)... when he sees his visions in the Book of Revelation. ... In chapter one... verse nine... John starts off... on the Isle of Patmos. ... In chapter four... verse one... he is caught up into heaven. ... In chapter thirteen we see him standing on the sands of the sea. ... In chapter seventeen... he is found standing in the wilderness. ... In chapter twenty-one... verse ten... he takes his place on a high Mountain.

Wherever John is transported... he has a grandstand view (God-ordained) of all that is happening in the Revelation that God is sharing with him. In our passage... he is right where he can observe the sea... and what happens to it.

The sea... whenever it is mentioned in Revelation... represents the masses of people... ("the sea of humanity"). Revelation 17:15 makes sure that we know this for sure...

Revelation 17:15 (ESV)

And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages."

When observing the sea from the seashore... waves constantly crash upon the shoreline... and even looking beyond... only on rare occasions does it seem to be at peace with itself. ... Much of the time it appears troubled... casting up mire and dirt... continually seething and surging... never at rest.

Isn't this indeed... an accurate picture of humankind... the people... nations... and multitudes of the world. ... Out of this worldwide unrest a universal government will arise with one man ruling with supreme authority.

Here in our chapter... this man... arising from the troubled sea of humanity... is the first of two "**beasts.**" ... Who is this first "beast?"

The Apostle Paul used a few names for him. He warned believers 30-40 years before John wrote Revelation... that a "**man of sin**" will appear just prior to the end times (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

This "**man of lawlessness**" is also identified as the "**son of destruction.**" I am quite certain that this first beast of Revelation 13... the "man of lawlessness"... and the "son of destruction"... are all the same person - the Antichrist.

But do you know what...? ... The word "**Antichrist**" does not appear in the Book of Revelation. ... You will not find that word in the entire book. ... So... Do we have a problem...? ... No... not really. You see... the writer of Revelation... John... does use the word (several times) in two other books which he wrote.

1 John 2:18 (ESV)

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 2:22 (ESV)

Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

1 John 4:3 (ESV)

and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

2 John 1:7 (ESV)

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Because of what John wrote elsewhere... (in his letters that bear his name)... we know that the "**beast**" of Revelation 13... rises out of a sea of humanity... a world-wide culture of prevalent thinking... attitudes... and beliefs... that opposes Jesus Christ... The beast will be a literal person who represents the overwhelming tide of hatred for Jesus.

Antichrist means two things: #1. a growing mystical influence... It is here today... (an overwhelming negative attitude about Christ)... and #2. it is also an actual person who will embody it. ... He will rise up... and give it a human face.

The description of this beast with ten horns and seven heads is explained for us in chapter 17. I don't want to go too far into the weeds with this right now... but we should have an idea of what John is presenting in our passage of study. ... Turn with me... briefly... to Revelation 17...

Revelation 17:8

The beast... who will be Satan's false messiah... will seem to duplicate the death and resurrection of Jesus. He "was... and is not... and is about to rise from the bottomless pit..." (We will also see this phony resurrection in chapter 13... when we return to it in a few minutes.) In chapter 17...

here... we see that this event is going to attract everyone whose name is not written in the book of life (those who are not saved.) But next we get an explanation for the seven heads and ten horns...

Revelation 17:9-13

The heads are kingdoms... government administrations. They did not all exist at the same time. They came one after the other. When John wrote the book of Revelation... five of them had already come and gone. One of these government systems was in place at the time John wrote... and the one that was still future... would be the one that the beast would control.

The beast will be part of system of one-world government that has ten divisions. ... My understanding of this... is that the world will be divided into ten sections (or kingdoms) for governing the future one-world system. The beast will control one of these ten sectors... and the other nine will eventually concede their power to him. The beast will emerge as the single leader... from a one-world 10 sector governing system. Daniel (in his book of prophecy) calls him "the little horn."

Speaking of Daniel... now let's return back to Revelation 13... so I can try to confuse you even further... with the elements of Daniel's vision in the Old Testament. ... Because that is what John employs next.

Revelation 13:2

The three animals named in Revelation 13:2 remind us of the four beasts Daniel saw in his dream (Dan. 7): a lion (Babylon), a bear (Media-Persia), a leopard (Greece), and a "terrible beast" (the Antichrist). John saw these animals, or kingdoms, in reverse order since he was looking *back*, while

Daniel was looking *ahead*. The final world empire will be rooted in all the previous empires and unite in one their evil and power. Added to the ferocity of these beasts will be Satan's own power, throne, and authority!

If we allow Daniel to help us understand this vision, then it seems that the beast is the satanic force that lies behind all the evil kings and rulers and nations... this world has ever seen. ... The dragon (who we saw last week in the previous chapter) is Satan... and Satan gives them his power and his throne and great authority.

Revelation 13:3-8

Keep in mind that the Antichrist begins his career as a peacemaker (according to Rev. 6:2). ... This may be possible through his ability to settle the on-going Arab-Israeli territorial problem. ... This peace solution will bring about a seven year covenant with the Jews (Daniel 9:27 tells us)... and allow Israel to rebuild the Temple... and reinstate religious rituals.

However... in the middle of the seven years... the Antichrist's true colors show forth... and although the Jews turn against him... the world in general is more and more solidified behind him... as his popularity continues to grow. ... At this point the Jews... who were merely used as a stepping stone... are blocking his way to unanimous public idolization.

He breaks the covenant with them (once again... we learn from Daniel 9:27)... and he sets himself up as god. ... This is probably the time an assassination attempt will be made on his life. We saw in chapter 17 that he was... then suddenly he was not... but there will be a rising.

We see the same thing here in chapter 13... expressed differently. The description is, "**seemed to have a mortal wound.**" ... The people at large... think the assassination attempt was successful... and that their leader... the Antichrist... has been killed. ... Satan uses this episode to make the people believe the Antichrist has been supernaturally raised from the dead! This apparent miracle will cause the people to rally behind the Antichrist even more... and set the stage for world dictatorship.

The world will be looking for a superman... and this world leader... in charge of one of the ten sectors... will sweep the world off their feet. Immediately they will begin to worship him. Rather than worship God, the whole earth worships Satan. Rather than worship Jesus, they worship Satan's fake christ. They will declare that no one can stand against him... that there is nothing he cannot do.

What horrible blasphemy!

I believe that this is when he comes into the Temple at Jerusalem... and tries to get them to worship him as god... Daniel and Jesus Christ call this the "Abomination of Desolation." ... The Jews will feel violated... (Their Temple has been desecrated.) Enough resistance comes from them... that the beast will focus his anger on the Jews. The whole world worships him... but a significant portion of the Jews won't... so he becomes enraged.

Let's remember where we are in the wider narrative that began in chapter 12. ...The dragon (Satan) hoped to devour the male child (the Messiah)... of the woman (Israel.) ... But he failed. ... Then Satan will chase Israel... who will be given the wings of an eagle (the exact expression Moses used

to describe their flight from Egypt in Deuteronomy)... and similarly... Israel will flee into the wilderness... where God will nourish her for three and a half years (the last half of the Tribulation). ... So... again the dragon will fail. ... He will be furious with Israel (depicted in chapter 12 as “the woman”)... and he will go off to make war on the rest of her seed... (believers who will convert to Christ through revivals during the 1st half of the Tribulation).

Then we come to this morning’s chapter... which continues this narrative. Satan (seen as the dragon in chapter 12)... summons up this beast from the sea.

Revelation 13:7-8

There have been many persecutions of God's children all down through the ages. ... There are horror stories upon horror stories of the attempts to wipe out the true believers of the Sovereign God... but there has never been anything as sweeping in scope as this final war on Christians.

By this time the battle lines will have been drawn. The vast majority will have aligned themselves with the Antichrist. Verse 8 literally throbs with the strength that the believers in Christ possess. ... There will be so much persecution and martyrdom... that life for the child of God... appears unbearable.

These are the new converts (because of the revivals during the 1st half of the tribulation... from the 144,000 mentioned in chapter 7... and the two witnesses in Jerusalem mentioned in chapter 11)... Present day believers

will not experience the terror of that time... having been raptured... but God have mercy on those who go through the experience! ... They will be hunted down and put to death.

We have verse 10 in our Bibles... but I believe that it is here PRIMARILY for these tribulation saints. Verse 10 is their encouragement to hang in there... don't give up. It seems to be telling them: "the beast and his followers will be able to harm you physically... but that is all! You will enter God's presence by the Blood of the Lamb!

Revelation 13:9-10

This statement is here to keep believers during the Tribulation from deciding they will renounce Christ so they can avoid imprisonment or execution. The statement is here to preserve God's people in faithfulness through the war Satan prosecutes against them.

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A second beast appears on the scene to support the first beast by giving the first beast much honor. He is the third member of the unholy trinity... the counter to God's Holy Spirit.

Satan seeks to take the place of God the Father; the first beast assumes the place of Jesus Christ, the Son, the King of kings; and the second beast, the false prophet, has a role similar to the Holy Spirit who causes Christians to worship God. This is Satan's final attempt to substitute a false religion for true faith in Christ.

Revelation 13:11

The "**two horns**" represent power... the word "**lamb**" denotes religion. This beast... also known as the false prophet is... therefore... to be the head of a powerful world religious system. ... The first beast will be the head of the one-world government. The second beast will be the head of the one-world religion. ... Like the first beast... who is the Antichrist... this beast... who is the false prophet... will also derive his power from the dragon... Satan, himself.

The false prophet will do the same kind of work that the Holy Spirit does today. This evil imitation will persuade men and women to worship the false messiah – the Antichrist... and will perpetuate the belief that he rose from the dead.

He will convince men to build an image... perhaps a statue... maybe even a holographic image of the beast (because the false prophet will fool the people into thinking that it actually is the beast talking through it.) Maybe it will be like Mr. Lincoln at Disneyland (the mechanical robot I used to love to watch as it would stand up and speak an inspirational message... like Abraham Lincoln.)

Revelation 13:12-15

And then... of course... the false prophet will regulate the economy... in such a way that forces people to worship the Antichrist...

Revelation 13:16-18

This mark... the number 666... is probably the best known symbol in the entire Bible and yet no one really knows for sure what it is. ... Verse

eighteen has caught the attention of multiplied thousands of people... who have spent millions of hours trying to figure out exactly who the Antichrist is.

After spending considerable time... myself... considering the meaning of Revelation 13:18... I think that I have unlocked the mystery... which I am sure millions of people before... wished they would have discovered.

Would you like to hear my take on it...?

This verse begins by saying, "**This calls for wisdom.**" It is the key that unlocks it for us...

Obviously I am just playing with you... by trying to make you think that I had a special insight that reveals who the Antichrist is. That I don't have... but I think I do have an insight that many who have deliberated on this would now wish that they saw.

"This calls for wisdom" ... in other words... anyone with true godly wisdom would not spend much time on this verse... conjecturing whether it is Henry Kissinger... or Barak Obama... or anyone else ! One's time could be better spent trying to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with a lost soul. To try to interpret this verse and apply it to a specific person is futile. To do so is a complete waste of time. ...

"This calls for wisdom" ... This chapter is beneficial for us to read and study... but it will have even greater significance to the Tribulation saints. Verse 9 and 10 seem to be directed (like a targeted missile) at them. This probably is too. ... So much of end-time prophesy could not be understood until we got much closer to it. The idea of a one-world government only in recent days seemed possible. The Tribulation saints will probably be able

to interpret its meaning and know who this number points to. ... But from today's point in time... it remains a mystery.

Revelation chapter 13... may have some hidden meaning to us. But that does not mean a study of it... like what we have been doing here today... cannot be of benefit to us.

God has a sovereign plan that He has been working for ages. We can see enough of how it is all coming together to know that it will happen. ... We can look at modern-day events... and look at prophecies in Daniel and in Revelation... and see how they all fit. We see the world-wide turbulence... and the conditioning for a one-world government... and a one-world religion... which well on its way.

The rapture can happen at any moment... when Christ will call every follower of His... Who is alive on earth at that time... to Heaven with Him... before the awful events of the Tribulation occur.

Are you ready for that...?

Are you preparing others to be ready for it...?

Matthew 24:38-44 (ESV)

For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.