

## Message #33

## Revelation 13:1-10

When one goes straight through the book of Revelation and one gets to chapter 13, one comes to about the mid-way point of the Great Tribulation and at that mid-way point a diabolical agent of Satan takes front and center stage.

He is known by many descriptions and names:

- 1) He is the one who will bring the “abomination of desolation.” Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14
- 2) He is the “false Christ.” Matt. 24:24
- 3) He is the one who will come “in his own name.” John 5:43
- 4) He is “the man of sin.” II Thess. 2:3
- 5) He is “the son of destruction.” II Thess. 2:3
- 6) He is “the lawless one.” II Thess. 2:8
- 7) He is a “liar.” I John 2:22
- 8) He is a “deceiver.” II John 7
- 9) He is “the beast.” Rev. 11:7; 13:2

But of all the titles given in the Bible to this individual, the one that is the most familiar is

**10) He is “The Antichrist.”**

The actual name “Antichrist” comes from I John 2:18 which says, “Children, it is the last hour and just as you heard that **antichrist is coming**, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.” John predicts the Antichrist is coming and it is right here in Revelation where he arrives.

The actual name “Anti-Christ” is a composite of two Greek words: anti cristoç.

- 1) **Anti** which means against and in opposition to something and also it means in the place or as a substitute for something (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 40).
- 2) **Christ** which means the anointed **Messiah** of Israel - John 1:41 (*Ibid.*, pp. 484-485).

**This name is appropriate because the Antichrist is one who will try to take the place of Jesus Christ on earth, specifically as Israel’s deliverer and Messiah but he will be in total opposition to and against God, Jesus Christ and Israel.**

As we come to Revelation 13:1, we come to a prophetic prediction that in the middle of the Great Tribulation there will be a “beast” who will come on the scene and this beast will be “the Antichrist.”

**Actually, in Revelation 13, there are two beasts we meet in Revelation 13:**

- 1) The beast of the Sea. Revelation 13:1-10. This is the Antichrist.
- 2) The beast of the Earth. Revelation 13:11-18. This is the False Prophet (Rev. 9:20).

**GOD WANTS SPECIFIC PROPHETIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANTICHRIST READ, UNDERSTOOD AND PROCLAIMED.**

In this chapter God reveals 19 facts about the Antichrist and then in Revelation 17, we get two more facts:

**Fact #1 - The Antichrist is a beast. 13:1a**

When Daniel received his prophetic vision of the Antichrist, he also identified him as a terrifying, dreadful and very strong beast (Daniel 7:7). God identifies him the same way here when he surfaces. He will be a wild, vicious, untamable, uncontrollable, ferocious beast.

**Fact #2 - The Antichrist is a Gentile. 13:1b**

We may observe that the beast came up “out of the sea.” This expression “out of the sea” is one that would clearly indicate that the Antichrist is a Gentile and not a Jew. In Revelation 17:13-15, we learn that this reference to the seas and waters refers to Gentile nations worldwide. So based on this we conclude that the Antichrist will be a Gentile and not a Jew.

**Fact #3 - The Antichrist is a dominant political leader. 13:1c**

The Antichrist has “ten horns.” We know from Daniel 7:24 and from Revelation 17:12 that these ten horns refer to ten major world leaders who give their power to this Antichrist. He will have so much world power that he will be the law of the world for 3 ½ years (Dan. 7:25).

**Fact #4 - The Antichrist will have complete dictatorial political control. 13:1d**

The seven heads and ten diadems represent complete political control of the world. The seven heads perhaps have to do with the seven continents - Africa, Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Australia and Antarctica.

**Fact #5 - The Antichrist will have the highest position of world royalty. 13:1e**

**This Antichrist will be viewed as king royalty over the world.** The “diadem” was a crown of royalty. This Antichrist will be viewed as “the royal king” worldwide. But as E. W. Bullinger observed, this is nothing but “satanic royalty.”

**Fact #6 - The Antichrist will have blasphemous names. 13:1f**

That word “blasphemy” means to speak against God. We know from Daniel that this Antichrist will be a blasphemous, arrogant braggart (Dan. 7:20) and we know from Paul that he will exalt himself above everything that has been called god or every object of worship (II Thess. 2:4).

What we learn here in Revelation is every name and title or appellation that is given to him will be blasphemous. It will be a name that is designed to be against God. His names and titles will reveal that fact and the title “Anti-Christ” is one of these names.

**Fact #7** - The Antichrist will be a vicious political leader. **13:2a**

There are three animals to which the Antichrist is compared in **verse 2**: Leopard, Bear, Lion. The comparative adverb “like” means he has those qualities of those beasts.

These same animals were used in prophetic imagery given by Daniel in Daniel 7:4-6. In Daniel they prophetically described powers that would come to dominate and destroy Israel. Greece was the leopard, Medo-Persia was the bear and Babylon was the lion.

The Antichrist will have all of the traits combined. He will attack swiftly like Greece the leopard; he will devour like Medo-Persia the bear and will be a vicious killer like Babylon the lion.

The Antichrist will be the most savage political leader to ever exist.

**Fact #8** - The Antichrist is directly empowered by Satan. **13:2b**

The Antichrist will be directly empowered by Satan himself. Daniel says he has unusual power that is not his own (Dan. 8:24). Paul said all his activity is empowered by Satan. He will be able to perform signs and false wonders by the power of Satan (II Thess. 2:9).

Everything he is and has will be Satanic. Every power he possesses, every political prestige he has, every international acclaim he receives will be from Satan. He is not a man wearing dark clothing with pentagrams tattooed on his head. He is a very shrewd, smooth, successful, professional politician who is directly empowered and controlled by Satan.

**Fact #9** - The Antichrist will be resurrected from being dead. **13:3**

It is clearly stated here that this beast received a deadly wound to the head that will lead to some form of miraculous healing that will please all people in the world.

There have been three views as to what this means:

- 1) Some say it refers to a dead Roman Empire that is miraculously revived by the Antichrist.
- 2) Some say it refers to a dead political leader who will be miraculously brought back to life.
- 3) Some say it refers to the Antichrist who will be killed and Satan brings him back to life.

The first view makes the miraculous healing that of a nation. The last two make it a miraculous healing of a human.

Now the first interpretation is based on the fact that just one head is wounded and yet the beast does not appear to die.

So the view is that even though the Roman Empire appears to be dead and dormant, it still has been in existence and will be brought to life and revived by the Antichrist.

The second and third interpretations are the easiest to contextually and grammatically defend because the fatal wound in **verse 3** is given to a person who has a personal pronoun “his” and not “it.” The text says, “his fatal wound was healed” not “its fatal wound was healed.”

We may also make other observations here:

- 1) The context is clearly discussing a political world Satanic leader.
- 2) Other passages of Scripture discuss a powerful Satanic leader - II Thess. 2:8-10; Dan. 8:24.
- 3) Revelation 13:12 seems to clearly identify that the beast had the fatal wound and ended up being worshipped.
- 4) The same word “slain” is used in Revelation 5:6 and there it refers to Jesus Christ.

We may safely conclude that the one who received the fatal wound to the head was a real person who will be brought back to life. The only question is, is this a person from previous history brought back to life or is this a reference to the Antichrist who is brought back to life?

Now the real grammatical difficulty comes from the perfect passive verb “as if it had been slain” (**v. 3**). This does seem to indicate that the wounding did take place prior to John seeing the Antichrist here in Revelation 12.

However, we don’t know how long before John saw him that the fatal wound took place. It is certainly possible that after the Tribulation began and the Antichrist negotiated a peace treaty with Israel and was assassinated.

It is also grammatically possible based on the verb that someone could be brought back from the dead such as Caligula, Nero, Hitler, or John F. Kennedy.

**We believe the key to proper contextual interpretation is Revelation 13:12.** The false prophet, whom we will meet next time, demands that people worship the first beast, the Antichrist, “whose fatal wound was healed.”

Somewhere in the early days of the Tribulation this Antichrist will suffer a mortal wound to the head and at this point Satan will see to it that he comes back to life and “the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast” (Rev. 13:3).

**Fact #10** - The Antichrist will promote Satan worship. **13:4a**

The Antichrist is Satan’s man and he will promote Satan worship. This is what Satan has always wanted. He has wanted to be worshipped as God (Is. 14:12-14). The Antichrist will see the world worships Satan with direct power from Satan.

We do not think it is a coincidence that more and more places of Satanic worship are rising up. This is setting the stage for what will happen 3 ½ years into the Tribulation.

**Fact #11** - The Antichrist will promote himself to be worshipped. **13:4b**

We learn from II Thessalonians 2:4 that the Antichrist will sit in the Temple in Jerusalem and will demand to be worshipped as God. He will actually display himself and say he is God. Daniel says he will magnify himself above everything that is called god (Daniel 11:37).

**Fact #12** - The Antichrist will be given a Satanic, blasphemous mouth. **13:5-6**

Satan does his greatest work with words. Satan uses people to communicate words. He will speak through the Antichrist and he will speak against God. He will speak proud, arrogant words. Daniel says he will make arrogant boasts (Dan. 7:20) and will defiantly and arrogantly speak out against God (Dan. 7:25).

**Fact #13** - The Antichrist will be limited in time. **13:5b**

God permits the Antichrist to have this control for 42 months or 3 ½ years. Daniel says the same thing “time, times and half a time” (Dan. 7:25). Also we learn from Revelation 12:6 that it is broken down into 1,260 days which is also 3 ½ years.

So it will be the final 3 ½ years of the Tribulation when the Antichrist will be permitted to have this Satanic power and influence. This is all sovereignly controlled by God.

**Fact #14** - The Antichrist will wage war with the saints. **13:7a**

Carefully observe how **verse 7** begins, “It was given to him.” God is the One who permits this. Satan and the Antichrist cannot touch God’s property unless God permits it.

The noun “saints” is articular “the saints.” The specific target of this attack will be aimed at Israel. Certainly anyone connected to God will be targeted. In fact, Daniel predicts he will seek to stamp out and wear down “the saints” (Dan. 7:25).

**Fact #15** - The Antichrist will overcome the saints. **13:7b**

He will overcome them by verbal and physical assault (Dan. 7:25).

**Fact #16** - The Antichrist will have authority over the whole world. **13:7c**

He will have worldwide control over every tribe, people, language and nation. He will be, as Daniel said, the total law of the world (Dan. 7:25). He will be the ultimate world leader.

**Fact #17** - The Antichrist will be worshipped by all unbelievers worldwide. **13:8**

Every unsaved person in the world will worship the Antichrist. Every person whose name is not found in the book of life will worship him.

The “book of life of the Lamb” is God’s sovereign book of salvation that was written before the foundation of the world. The verb “has not been written” is perfect passive which means those names were in that book or not in that book from a point of the past and continue to be in that state at the present and into the future. This book was written “before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).

The fact is, God is the One who determined from before the foundation of the world who was in the Lamb’s book of life. You may not like the doctrine of predestination and election and you may not understand it and may even disagree with it, but you cannot Biblically and grammatically deny it because this is what the text says.

**Fact #18** - The Antichrist will himself be executed. **13:10; 19:20**

This time of the Antichrist will feature death, killing and captivity. This principle guarantees that eventually the Antichrist will be killed. That will happen in Revelation 19:20. Daniel says it this way: “But the court will sit for judgment and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever” (Dan. 9:27).

**Fact #19** - The Antichrist will have a specific name, mark and number. **13:16-18**

We do not know what the specific name of the Antichrist will be, nor do we know what his specific mark will be, but we do know his number. His number will be 6-6-6.

**Fact #20** - The Antichrist will have a connection to some religion. **17:3**

The Antichrist will have the full support of some false religious system. Many believe it will be Catholicism, but since it is connected to Babylon, we may conclude it will have a Muslim or Islamic connection.

**Fact #21** - The Antichrist will have support of major world powers. **17:13**

Many political leaders have tried to gain control of world powers and have not succeeded. The Antichrist won’t have to even try. The world powers will willingly give their power and allegiance to the Antichrist.