

# The End

## The Bad Guys (Part Two)

### Introduction

In our last lesson, we looked at the “bad guys” of false teaching, the “destroyer” and Satan. Today we move forward in Revelation to examine a few more bad guys, as well as the ultimate conclusion to their story.

### Bad Guys

#### The Beast of the Sea (Revelation 13:1-10)

The accounting of this beast is a continuation of the previous chapter.

At the end of Revelation 12, we see the dragon standing on the “sand of the sea” having been in pursuit of the woman (we’ll talk about who this is at another time).

It appears that the Dragon here is bringing help to the fight against the woman.

The description of the beast of the sea is animalistic:

Leopard-like (13:2)

Bear-like feet (13:2)

Lion-like mouth (13:2)

The description of the beast also brings in numerology:

Ten horns (13:1)

Seven heads (13:1)

Ten diadems/crowns (13:1)

Exercises authority for forty-two months (13:5)

The description of the beast is also tied to the Dragon:

Gives it power, throne, and authority (13:2)

This leads to both the Dragon and the beast being worshipped (13:4)

This beast is very clearly a reference to the four beasts of Daniel 7:

These four great beasts arise from the “sea” (7:3)

Leopard, bear, and lion (7:4-6)

The fourth beast is noted as being “terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong” (7:7; Revelation 13:4)

The fourth beast is given “dominion” (7:6; Revelation 13:2, 4, 5, 7)

The fourth beast is noted as having “ten horns” (7:7)

One of the horns is noted as speaking “great things” (7:8) and is later interpreted for us as one that will “speak against the Most High” (7:25; Revelation 13:5)

The fourth beast conquers the “saints” (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7)

The fourth beast is described as being “different from all the beasts that were before it” (Daniel 7:7).

Though a little harder to follow, it is interesting that the one beast of the sea here is all the qualities of the other beasts described in Daniel. This is the beast unlike anything we have seen before. In Daniel, the fourth beast is a clear allusion to the Roman Empire, and that seems to be the case here, in Revelation.

#### The Beast of the Earth (Revelation 13:11-18)

Following this is the beast of the earth, another continuation of Revelation 12:12 ("woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows his time is short!")

This beast is given animalistic descriptions as well:

Two horns like a lamb (13:11)

Speaks like a dragon (13:11)

The description of its working is the performing of great signs (13:13) for the purpose of leading others to follow the beast of the sea (13:12, 14, 15)

It is with this beast that we are given the infamous 666 (we'll talk more about this when we get to numerology, but...)

There is significance to the number 7. It is often regarded as the "perfect" number (7 days of creation).

The idea is then that 6, is one short of perfection. It represents a falling short.

Speaking of falling short, the description of this beast bears resemblance to descriptions of Christ Himself, in performing great signs and wonders, a theme in John's gospel. The thought here would be then that this second beast is a sort of "false Messiah" leading others to a false king that will ultimately bring about death.

This number of 666, is said to be a "mark" that anyone (small/great, rich/poor, free/slave) can have. It is something that sits on their hand or forehead (13:16), a possible reference to Deuteronomy 6.

### The Great Prostitute (Revelation 17)

Our final bad guy is actually a "bad girl" identified as the "great prostitute" (17:1).

The description of the prostitute includes some numerology:

Seven heads (17:3)

Ten horns (17:3)

NOTE: these are descriptions of the beast she is riding

The descriptions of her appearance are as follows:

Arrayed in purple and scarlet (17:4)

Adorned with gold and jewels and pearls (17:4)

She is aligned against the saints (17:6), and is identified with "Babylon" (17:5).

### Summary

The cycle of all of these bad guys is the same. They use fear and power to dominate people into submission, worship, and ultimately death. They represent one of the two empires we can choose. There is this empire, represented by beasts of terrifying description, and the other empire, represented by a lamb that has been slain. Who wins? Let's find out...

### **Judgment of Evil**

While there might be more we want to explore with these bad guys throughout Revelation, it's important that we understand the end that is said to be present for all of them.

The beast of the earth in Revelation 13, is ended this way:

"So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image."

(Revelation 16:2)

The sea beast, the earth beast (identified here as the "false prophet"), and those that have the mark are said to meet this end:

"And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh."

(Revelation 19:17-21)

Then "Satan" is said to be ended this way:

"and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

(Revelation 20:10)

The great prostitute meets her end this way:

"For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her."

(Revelation 18:8)

Those who follow in Revelation 21:8 follow all the way to the "second death".

## **Conclusion**

Every bad guy we are presented with finds defeat at the hands of the "Most High". This is true in the book of Daniel, and it's true in Revelation. Those in the kingdom of God will suffer pain, maybe even death, at the hands of the empire of evil, but, Revelation makes it clear that the kingdom of God will come out on top and be ushered into the place true peace.

## **Take Home**

Where does the number "7" appear in Revelation? (List the verses below)