

LEARNING TO INTERPRET REVELATION

Rev. 13:1-2

Introduction: It has been three weeks since we have been able to look at The Revelation together, and although I know most of you have been studying the text day and night, I think a little review of where we are might be helpful.

Rapture of the Church	Rev. 4
The Seven Year Tribulation	Rev. 5
Seven Seal Judgments	Rev. 6:1 – 8:1
White horse – Rise of _____	Rev. 6:1-2
Red horse – War	Rev. 6:3-4
Black horse – Famine	Rev. 6:5-6
Pale horse - _____	Rev. 6:7-8
Martyrdom of believers	Rev. 6:9-11
Natural disasters	Rev. 6:12-17
The 144,000 saved and _____	Rev. 7:1-8
Great multitude saved from every tribe	Rev. 7:9-17
Silence in _____	Rev. 8:1
Seven Trumpet Judgments	Rev. 8:2 – 14:20
God controls earth and heavens	Rev. 8:7-13
God controls the _____	Rev. 9:1-12
God controls the armies	Rev. 9:13-21
The Terrible _____ of the Lord	Rev. 10:1 – 14:20
The Little Book	Rev. 10:1-11
Death of the Two _____	Rev. 11:1-14
Flight of Israel	Rev. 11:15 – 12:6
Satan cast down to the _____	Rev. 12:1-12
Satan persecutes Israel and _____	Rev. 12: 13-17

In our last session, we used our tools to work through Rev. 12. That chapter is pivotal for understanding the next six chapters! Therefore, we are not going to redo the interpretation, but we are going to review the conclusions we reached so that we will have the right foundation under our feet for understanding the visions John is about to see.

<p>Rev. 12: 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,</p>	<p>This is not the original war of rebellion by _____ in which he was given the name Satan. The dragon Satan is already in his fallen condition, but he still has access to heaven (Job 1-2). He has been trying since he heard the words of Genesis 3:15 to destroy the promised seed. Having failed to do more than bruise Christ’s heel, Satan now attempts to prevent the crushing blow to his own head by waging war in heaven.</p>
<p>Rev. 12: 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.</p>	<p>After this battle, Satan will no longer have access to _____.</p>

<p>Rev. 12: 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.</p>	<p>Satan has been abiding in the heavens, just visiting the earth on occasion. When he is cast down this time, earth will become his _____.</p>
<p>Rev. 12: 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.</p>	<p>Satan will no longer be able to _____ believers as he did Job and countless others, before the throne of God in heaven.</p>
<p>Rev. 12: 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.</p>	<p>The way to _____ over Satan!</p>
<p>Rev. 12: 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”</p>	<p>There will be rejoicing in heaven for Satan is gone. But _____ to the earth for Satan is upon it and he is going to vent his wrath fiercely upon the earth for he knows he has but little time. During these 3 ½ years that Satan is literally upon the earth, he will actively pursue Israel to destroy her. But God will prepare a place for Israel to be kept safely, probably in the land of Edom and Moab. Dan. 11:41 He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.</p>
<p>Rev. 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>What a time of chaos this will be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is pouring the wrath of His _____ judgment upon a world which justly deserves it. • Satan is venting his wrath against Jews and _____. <p>What did Jesus say about this time? Matt. 24:22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.</p>

Now we are ready to begin chapter 13.

Revelation 13:1–2 *1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

John has been looking up into the heavens where he saw the sign of the woman. Now he stands on the beach of Patmos and looks out upon the sea. As he does **he sees a terrible _____ rise out of the sea.**

Our next task of interpretation is to answer the question, “Who or what is this terrible beast John saw?”

Let’s make a list of what the text tells us about this terrible beast:

- _____ heads
- Ten _____
- On each horn a _____
- On the heads a blasphemous _____
- Like a _____
- Feet like feet of a _____
- Mouth like _____ mouth
- The _____ gave the beast
 - His power
 - His _____
 - Great authority

Now let’s see if we can use Scripture to explain Scripture.

1. **We remember that the dragon has been identified in Rev. 12. The dragon is the _____.**
2. **If you are studying Revelation after having read through all of the rest of the Bible, the descriptions here in Rev. 13 are probably ringing your bell. But even if they are not, some simple searches will reveal other Scripture that is going to help us.**

Let’s start with a search on “seven heads.”

- **In Genesis we discover seven heads of _____ in Joseph’s dream.**
- **In Rev. 12, we saw the dragon had seven heads also, but he only had seven _____, not ten. Plus, we note that the dragon is not the same as the beast of Rev. 13:1 because the dragon gives things to the beast.**
- **However, we find three references in Rev. _____, which when we look ahead we find the same beast is being described; and there may be information there that will help us; but there is no quick or easy identification.**

Let’s try “ten horns.”

- **Again we come to Rev. 12 about the dragon.**
- **We also are led again to Rev. 17, which reinforces the connection between Rev. 13 and 17.**
- **But we find a new passage: Daniel _____. There are three references to “ten horns” and the first one we look at is also about a terrible _____. We better read this one in its context.**

Daniel 7 1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

2 Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 4 The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.

5 “And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’

6 “After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

9 “I watched till thrones were put in place,

And the Ancient of Days was seated;

His garment *was* white as snow,

And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool.

His throne *was* a fiery flame,

Its wheels a burning fire;

10 A fiery stream issued

And came forth from before Him.

A thousand thousands ministered to Him;

Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.

The court was seated,

And the books were opened.

11 “I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

13 “I was watching in the night visions,

And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,

Coming with the clouds of heaven!

He came to the Ancient of Days,

And they brought Him near before Him.

14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,

Which shall not pass away,

And His kingdom *the one*

Which shall not be destroyed.

15 “I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 17 ‘Those great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings *which* arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.’

19 “Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, *with* its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, *which* devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; 20 and the ten horns that *were* on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance *was* greater than his fellows.

21 “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favor* of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

23 “Thus he said:

‘The fourth beast shall be

A fourth kingdom on earth,

Which shall be different from all *other* kingdoms,

And shall devour the whole earth,

Trample it and break it in pieces.

24 The ten horns *are* ten kings

***Who* shall arise from this kingdom.**

And another shall rise after them;

He shall be different from the first *ones*,

And shall subdue three kings.

25 He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High,

Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,

And shall intend to change times and law.

Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand

For a time and times and half a time.

26 ‘But the court shall be seated,

And they shall take away his dominion,

To consume and destroy *it* forever.

27 Then the kingdom and dominion,

And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,

Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,

And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’

28 “This *is* the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart.”

Your assignment for next week, if you choose to accept it, is to find the similarities between Dan. 7 and Rev. 13:1-10. This is not a mission _____!