REVELATION: PART 40 · STUDY GUIDE

Revelation 13: The Beast Out of the Sea

Revelation 13:1–5 | Sunday, April 23 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Revelation 13 is another of the parenthetical chapters — not carrying the chronology forward, but explaining the movements and the personalities that matter most during the seven years. Two of the most important are here. Hal works through the first five verses: John standing on the sand at Patmos while a beast rises out of turbulent water, the sea being Scripture's own picture of the nations in chaos. The seven heads and ten horns send him back to Daniel — Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome, and the ten nations rising out of the ruins of the fourth. Then the centre of the message: the dragon gives the beast three things, and Hal takes each of them in the Greek. Innate power. A throne. And great delegated authority — which he illustrates with a traffic policeman in Mexico City, and then turns around on the believer, who has throne rights of his own.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 13:1–5 — The beast out of the sea; the dragon gives him his power, his throne and great authority

Revelation 12:9 — The dragon is that serpent of old, Satan and the devil

Daniel 2 — The ten toes of the image

Daniel 7 — The ten horns; the leopard, the bear and the lion

Ezekiel 28:11–19 — Satan as the most beautiful creature God ever created

Ephesians 2 — Raised up to be seated with Christ — the believer's throne rights

KEY TERMS

Parenthetical chapter — a chapter that explains persons and movements rather than advancing the chronology

Dunamis — great innate, personal power — the word from which we get "dynamite"

Thronos — the throne; it is Satan who establishes this man as ruler

Megala exousia — great authority — a delegation of power that can be called upon and released

The beast — how the Word of God names him, Hal says, because God is looking at his true nature

The dragon — Satan, identified plainly in Revelation 12:9

Throne rights — the believer's delegated authority in Christ, out of Ephesians 2

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What does Hal mean by calling Revelation 13 a parenthetical chapter?

2. From the Old Testament sketch Hal gave, what kind of person is the Antichrist?

3. According to Hal, under what conditions do dictators actually come to power?

4. Where is John standing when he sees this vision, and what is the sea a symbol of?

5. Which four empires stand behind the heads and horns of this beast?

6. When did Rome cease politically, and why does Hal say it fell?

7. Where do the ten appear in Daniel, and in what form?

8. Match the leopard, the bear and the lion to their kingdoms. What is the point of the composite?

9. What three things does the dragon give the beast, and what is the Greek word for each?

10. What is the difference between power and authority, in the illustration Hal uses?

11. What does Hal say the believer's throne rights are, and on what conditions?

12. What first makes the whole world take note of the beast, and whom does the world then worship?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal says dictators arrive in chaos, when people are desperate for order. What does that suggest about how a society becomes ready for such a leader?

2. The world’s question in verse 4 is “who is able to wage war with him?” They follow the beast because they are afraid. Where do you see fear driving the choices people make?

3. Hal draws a sharp line between power and authority. What difference does it make to know that a believer’s authority is delegated rather than owned?

4. He warns against showboating with that authority, and notes that even the angel Michael treated Satan with respect. What would a right kind of caution look like?

5. Hal turned down a large retainer rather than make a film that would not follow the Bible. What has faithfulness cost you — or what might it?

6. Satan, Hal says, will not come as something ugly; he was the most beautiful creature God ever created. How should that change what a believer watches for?

MEMORY VERSE

> *“And the dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”*
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> — Revelation 13:2, as Hal reads it in this message