

The Seven Personages - Part II

13:1-18

Introductory Notes

- We are in another parenthetical section that does not follow the chronology of the seal/trumpet/vial judgments.
- This section in Chapter 12 and 13 is marked by seven “persons”: the woman, the dragon, the man-child, Michael the angel, the remnant seed of the woman, the beast out of the sea, and the beast out of the earth.
- I think we see here the work of Satan’s “false trinity”.

Outline

- The Beast from the Sea - vs. 1-10
- The Beast from the Earth - vs. 11-18

Notes

- (6) Beast from the Sea - Antichrist and his empire
- vs. 1 - ten horns - see Daniel 7:24
- vs. 1 - seven heads and ten crowns - see Daniel 7:24
- vs. 1 - blasphemy - likely refers to his claim to deity
- vs. 2 - compare the description of the animals to Daniel 7.
- vs. 2 - who’s the real power behind the Beast? Satan.
- vs. 3 - there are quite a few opinions to this verse, especially when compared to 17:8. Some think the Antichrist will be a resurrected dead person (Judas, etc.), some that it refers to the death and rebirth of the Roman Empire. J. Vernon McGee thinks it is a faked “resurrection” of the Antichrist.
- vs. 4 - looks like the return of deifying rulers, like the Romans and others did.
- vs. 5 - 42 months = 3 1/2 years, the last half of Tribulation
- vs. 6 - note the key characteristic of the Antichrist - word of blasphemy
- vs. 7 - the worldwide power and purpose of the Antichrist
- vs. 8 - the unsaved on earth give in to the Antichrist’s claims of deity.
- vs. 9-10 - the promise of God is that the wicked will not go unpunished
- (7) Beast from the Earth - the False Prophet and his unified religion
- vs. 11 - note the juxtaposition of lamb and dragon.
- vs. 12 - this False Prophet’s role is something like John the Baptist’s
- vs. 13 - his great miracle is copying Elijah and the Two Witnesses in 11:5
- vs. 14 - image of the beast - a false idol, perhaps part of the Abomination of Desolation in Daniel 9:27, etc.
- vs. 15 - “power to give life unto the image” - “life” is literally breath or spirit. This is a different type of idol that “miraculously” comes to life.
- vs. 16-17 - “the mark of the beast” - I think we lose track of the significance of the mark by trying to identify what it is. EVERY unbeliever has it.
- vs. 18 - Here come the conspiracy theories! Tattoos, bar codes, RF chips, credit cards... and the list goes on, and on, and on, and on, and on... I personally am not sure this is a puzzle for us to solve, but it will be clear to those in the Tribulation.