

## The Beast from the Sea

*What Must We Do?*

Revelation 13:1-10

### Identify the Beast (1-7)

- A. The description of the beast (1-3)
- General description
    - Body like a leopard, feet like a bear, mouth like a lion
    - Had several heads and horns, but one head looked like it had been fatally wounded by a sword
  - Similarities to the dragon show their close connection (they both have seven horns and seven heads).
  - Differences from the dragon show that they are not the same
    - The dragon has seven royal crowns on his heads
    - The beast has ten royal crowns on his heads
  - This is a vision, so this is not what the beast will actually look like. The description is symbolic.
- B. The reception of the beast (vv. 3,4,7,8)
- The unbelieving world will be totally awestruck by the beast
    - They will proclaim its unmatched power - *Who is able to wage war against him?*
    - They will worship the beast and the power behind it, Satan.
  - The believing world will reject this beast
    - They will be persecuted by the beast
    - Their names ARE written in the book of life, so they will not worship the beast.
- C. Historical theology – how did believers view this prophecy
- Early church theologians thought that the ancient Roman empire was the beast since it demanded emperor worship.
    - Some saw Nero has the fatal wound healed
      - Nero killed himself in 68 A.D.
      - Many claimed to be Nero risen from the dead as late as 89 A.D.
    - Some saw Caligula as the fatal wound healed because he recovered from a fatal illness.
    - But the ancient Roman Empire fell and Christ never returned. So this view is wrong.
  - Protestant reformation theologians (1500's) believed that the beast was fulfilled in Papal Rome
    - Popes became the governmental and religious head - the Holy Roman Empire

- b. Popes became corrupt - people could buy indulgences which promised them a shorter journey to heaven (taught that people have to suffer for sins in purgatory for centuries before getting to heaven)
  - c. But the Holy Roman Empire did not affect, every tribe, tongue, nation and all those outside the empire did not worship it. So this view is wrong.
- D. Revelation 17 gives us a clearer picture of who this beast will be
1. Verse 10 – Seven heads represent seven k\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Five had already f\_\_\_\_\_ from John’s standpoint
    - b. The sixth was existing from John’s standpoint
    - c. The seventh was yet f\_\_\_\_\_ from John’s standpoint
  2. If we interpret the kings to refer to the Roman emperors it would not work out since there had already been \_\_\_\_\_ emperors.
  3. If we interpret the kings to refer to k\_\_\_\_\_ (see Dan 7:17,23 for this understanding)
    - a. The sixth kingdom would be the R\_\_\_\_\_ empire – the one that is
    - b. The previous kingdoms that had fallen would be the Greek, the Medio-Persian, the Bablyonian, the Assyrian, and the Egyptian (these were the world empires that intertwined with Jewish history)
    - c. The seventh kingdom is yet future still but when it arises it will remain for a little and then out of this the beastly empire will arise (Rev 17:11)

**Accept your destiny (5-10)**

- A. The beast will o\_\_\_\_\_ the saints (v. 7)
- B. The beast will have authority for \_\_\_\_\_ months (v. 5), which is the same period mentioned in 11:2 referring to the persecution of the people of God (remember the holy city does not refer to a place but the people of God – see sermon notes on Rev 11 and see 21:2,9,10)
- C. The beast will determine the kind of persecution a believer will have and believers must accept that destiny (v. 10a – whether it be c\_\_\_\_\_ or d\_\_\_\_\_ by sword).
- D. The beast will attempt to squash believers but what will become apparent will the p\_\_\_\_\_ and f\_\_\_\_\_ of the saints (v. 10b)
  - 1) Heb 13:5,6 – The Lord will never l\_\_\_\_\_ us. He will always help us and so what can man do to us?
  - 2) Rom 8:35-37 – what will separate us from the love of Christ? – n\_\_\_\_\_