

**The Stuff Of Nightmares  
A Return To The Genesis 6 Problem  
Revelation 13:1 – 10**

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Revelation 13:1–8

“And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.” (NASB95)

Our examination of who the Beast will be has so far, provided us with the following profile:

- He is Satan’s answer to Jesus Christ, the second person of the evil pseudo-trinity
- He is a gentile
- He obtains political power through lying, treachery and military might
- He is the leader of a 10-nation coalition, personally ruling over 3 of the members himself
- He is from the eastern side of the Roman Empire, most likely from one of the nations that used to make up the Seleucid Empire
- The nations seem to align with the old Roman Empire as well as those nations that make up the prophesied war in Ezekiel 38
- Throughout Revelation, by John’s choice of words, when added to old testament references, there is a strong overlay with the Islamic world which the Beast appears to initially ally himself with
- His military might will be known for being highly mobile, sizable, and ruthless. It appears the Beast’s forces may consist of augmented humans.
- His power is from Satan himself as He appears to be personally possessed by Satan

- He will survive an assassination attempt that will appear to succeed but his physical appearance is altered, and the external appearance will have the look and feel like he has come back from the dead.
- The assassination attempt coupled with whatever takes place to restore him to health, disfigures the Beast.
- It is entirely possible that he may not be wholly human, genetically, anymore and many who follow him may also be following in his footsteps by being augmented or being post human (transhuman. Human+)

Back to Daniel 2 and his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream

Daniel 2:42–43

“And as for the toes of the feet, **a certain part was iron and a certain part was of potter’s clay**. And a **certain part of the kingdom will be strong and a certain part will be broken**. And as you saw the iron mixed up together with the clay of an earthen vessel, **they will be comingled into the offspring of humans, and they will not be comingled in harmony nor will they be favorably inclined toward one another**, even just as the iron is not able to be mixed with the clay of an earthen vessel.” (Lexham Press 2020, Dan 2:42-43)

There is a reason why I use the term coalition as this is a group of nations that although led by the Beast, have difficulty adhering to one another. This may be a statement of governmental forms involved within the nations making up the coalition, or it may be a statement alluding to something else, or both

Daniel 2:40–43 (LXX)

“And a fourth kingdom, mighty as iron. Just as the iron overpowered everything, and as the iron destroyed every tree, so all the earth will be shaken. And as you looked at its feet and its toes, a part partly of earthenware, a part partly of iron, another kingdom, made of two parts, will be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed up together with the clay of an earthen vessel. And as for the toes of the feet, a certain part was iron and a certain part was of potter’s clay. And **a certain part of the kingdom will be strong and a certain part will be broken**. And as you saw the iron mixed up together with the clay of an earthen vessel, they will be comingled into the offspring of humans, and **they will not be comingled in harmony nor will they be favorably inclined toward one another, even just as the iron is not able to be mixed with the clay of an earthen vessel**.” (Lexham Press 2020, Dan 2:40-43)

Not only is this a geopolitical issue for the Beast to deal with, but it also talks to some of the geopolitical topics Jesus talked about in His reference to the Days of Noah being seen again in the Last Days. Could it be that part of the reason the Beast does not succumb to his deadly wound is that he is no longer completely human? He, due to military reasons, has possibly become augmented or enhanced possibly for the purposes of combat command and control, as well as many who serve his military?

Matthew 24:37

“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the **days of Noah**.” (NASB95)

Luke 17:26–30

“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. In those days, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came and destroyed them all. And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot. People went about their daily business—eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building—until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and burning sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. Yes, it will be ‘business as usual’ right up to the day when the Son of Man is revealed.” (NLT)

Genesis 6:1–4 (LXX)

“And Noah lived five hundred years, and Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And it happened when humans began to become numerous upon the earth, and they had daughters, **the angels of God, having seen the daughters of humans, that they were beautiful, took for**

**themselves women from all whom they picked out.** The Lord God said, “My breath will certainly not reside in these humans for very long because they are flesh, but their days will be one hundred and twenty years.” **Now giants were upon the earth in those days, and after that, whenever the sons of God entered into the daughters of humans, they fathered children for themselves; those were the giants who were from long ago, the people of renown.”** (Lexham Press 2020, Gen 6:1-4)

The idea of enhanced humans being something which will take place in the future, almost a replay of what took place in Genesis 6, is not science fiction, it is not as far off in the future as we may think, nor is it something we cannot fully dismiss.

At some levels, this is already taking place with some of the amazing new mind control prosthetics being developed for those wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The idea of intentionally augmented humans has become a topic of study within the military of the United States. Let's look at some of the recent unclassified literature from the Army War College which reveal preparations for the Beast taking place.

The operational environment of 2035 and beyond will include faster, cheaper, and ubiquitous advanced technologies that shape geography, affect global populations, and enhance the strategic reach of state and nonstate actors. This increase of **globalization and interconnectedness** will drastically change the strategic landscape and **challenge accepted norms**. The future environment, conflict, and warfare itself will be shaped by factors that roughly follow six trend lines: **speed of human interaction**, demographics and urbanization, economic disparity, resource competition, science and technology, and strategic posture. (Boyd and Kimball 2017, Location 309)

The proliferation and availability of commercial technology may allow adversaries to obtain an operational advantage. Technology, including weapons of mass destruction, advanced sensors, **augmented humans**, autonomous processes and **automated decision making**, will permeate the battlefield. (Office of the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 2016, 9)

These interfaces could potentially **employ techniques that actually alter neural function to improve processing, for instance through the skull using trans-cranial magnetic stimulation or direct electrical stimulation that uses neural implants**. The timing of stimuli could be in response to operational contexts that the automation recognizes, such as changing routes through buildings or responding to the moved toxin ingredient in the Battlefield 2040 Operational Scenario. Alternatively, they could be triggered by the automatic sensing of a human internal state, such as mental or physical fatigue, or physiological responses that indicate pre-conscious recognition of stimuli or detection of anomalies. (Office of the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 2016, 24)

**Scientists have proposed ideas for neurological and physical enhancements of soldiers at the genetic level** to help build resistance to battle fatigue, enhance sensing and monitoring of the battlefield, aid faster recovery, and endure extreme conditions and extended operations. Ideally, these enhancements would increase force ability to adapt and adjust to changing battlefield conditions and conduct major operations using a smaller force by creating a soldier who is stronger, faster, has more endurance, and is better protected against unpredictable enemy tactics. (Buchner 2013, 7)

This is from unclassified documents; one can only guess what is going on under the publicly acknowledged layer.

The US Military is already preparing for working with genetically and cybernetically enhanced humans. They clearly expect this to be normative in the battlefield of the future, so do militaries throughout the world.

The business world is also dealing with this as well. Textbooks already exist for training future managers to deal with a workplace involving augmented humans, post humans or Human+. How do we deal with AI that becomes the manager?

Many of us can now expect to experience during our working lives a world in which 'ordinary' human beings labor alongside artificial general intelligences, social robots, sapient networks, nanorobotic swarms, and human beings with genetically engineered capacities and neurocybernetic implants. (Gladden 2016, 18)

We're not in Kansas anymore are we. Science fiction is rapidly becoming science fact and the world that will see the rise of the Beast, is going to be very different from the one we are familiar with right now. What is it, beyond politics, that Daniel is warning about?

Daniel 2:42-43

"As the toes of the feet were **partly of iron and partly of pottery**, so **some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle**. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, **they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another**, even as iron does not combine with pottery." (NASB95)

Several points are made here: 1) iron is strong; 2) clay is brittle; 3) iron and clay do not mix. So far so good! The intriguing question is: what does the text mean about the lack of cohesion of iron and clay, particularly by the reference to mixing with one another in marriage? (Lennox 2015, 123-124)

If we accept the fact that this dream is revelation direct from YAHWEH to a gentile king and also revealed to Daniel to be communicated to us, we have accepted the fact that this is a very supernatural event.

There is another way of looking at this that blends in a series of ideas running throughout the scriptures. The solution is just another possible interpretation of this scripture.

Rendering the translation in modern terms will help to grasp the full implications of the verse: "They will hybridize [mingle, mix, crossbreed] themselves with the genetic material [seed] of mankind" (translation mine). This rendering is further enhanced when we consider the use of "seed of men," which in Daniel is the Aramaic word for men/ mankind [anasha ], "the seed of mankind." (Hamp 2011, Locations 2528-2531)

Who are "they?" They are identified for us in verse 44 as "those kings." If "they" are going to be comingled or mixed with the offspring of mankind, but not in harmony, does this imply they are not fully human? Is this a geopolitical statement or one that goes beyond that? The language points to beyond that.

Is this a repeat of Genesis 6:1-4?

Daniel 2:44

"In the days of **those kings** the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever." (NASB95)

In the lifetime of those kings. Human, certainly, but recall, there is a power behind the throne.

Ephesians 6:12

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**" (NASB95)

They are no longer in heavenly places, but now limited to earth.

Rulers - ἀρχάς (archas) - They are spiritual beings (Eph. 6:12), related to angels according to Revelation 8:38. For Paul this does not exclude the possession of another form (v. 12a) of corporeality (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:35 ff.). In the plan of creation they were originally meant to be good spirits and were created as such (Col. 1:16). Perhaps they were originally assigned to a higher heavenly sphere. Their abode is now the ἐπουράνια (heavenly places) (Eph. 3:10), which is obviously the lowest of the different heavenly spheres (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:2) from which σκότος (darkness) comes into this world (Eph. 6:12). (Delling 1964-, 483)

Powers - ἐξουσίας (exsouias) - As a metonym used for: What is subject to one's rule, dominion, domain, jurisdiction (Luke 4:6; 23:7; Sept.: 2 Kgs. 20:13; Ps. 114:2). (2) In pl. or coll., those invested with power as the powers of rulers, magistrates (Luke 12:11; Rom. 13:1-3; Titus 3:1). For the celestial and infernal powers, princes, potentates, e.g., angels, archangels (Eph. 1:21; 3:10; Col. 1:16; 2:10; 1 Pet. 3:22); demons (Eph. 6:12; Col. 2:15). (Zodhiates 2000)

World forces of darkness – κοσμοκράτορας - world-ruler (used of world-ruling gods... Then generally of spirit beings, who have parts of the cosmos under their control... (Arndt, et al. 2000, 561)

(kosmokratoras) – this is a combination of two words, κόσμος (cosmos) – and the appropriate meaning here would be “the system of human existence in its many aspects, the world” (Arndt, et al. 2000, 562)

The other word is κράτος (kratos) - exercise of ruling ability, power, rule, sovereignty (Arndt, et al. 2000, 565)

Literally, this is a fallen divine being “who rules over the whole world—‘world ruler.’ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ πάλη ... πρὸς τὰς ἀρχάς, πρὸς τὰς ἐξουσίας, πρὸς τοὺς κοσμοκράτορας τοῦ σκότους τούτου ‘we are fighting ... against the rulers and masters, the world rulers of this dark age’ Eph 6:12. The expression ‘world ruler’ should not be understood in terms of merely ruling over the earth as a physical object but of ‘ruling over those who are on the earth.’ “ (Louw and Nida 1996, 480)

And the word is plural.

The” they” who are hybridizing themselves with the genetic seed of mankind are fallen divine beings. Referred to here as kings, both human, as well as the kosmokrators who are behind the scenes.

Looking at a modern translation of 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12:

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12

“The coming of the lawless one will be **accompanied by the power of Satan**. He will use **every kind of power, including miraculous signs, lying wonders, and every type of evil to deceive those who are dying**, those who refused to love the truth that would save them. For this reason, God will send them a **powerful delusion** so that they will **believe the lie**. Then all who have not believed the truth but have taken pleasure in unrighteousness will be condemned.” (ISV)

The Beast may very well be a genetically enhanced individual and his armies may also be genetically enhanced. This may account for the speed and ferocity. Enhancements to include neural interfaces to a network would create superior speed and reaction time.

“One such deception was a book distributed by The Ashtar Command titled, Project World Evacuation. The messages in the book were channeled by a woman who was called Tuella (pronounced two-lah). In the book she channels four fallen angels who go by the following identities; Sananda, who claims to be Jesus Christ; Kuthumi; a third entity who calls itself Andromeda Rex; and of course the fourth who goes by Ashtar. The basis of the book consists of these four fallen angels working through Tuella, giving her messages to share to the world.

The messages talk about coming world catastrophes and an upcoming worldwide evacuation of souls from the Earth so that they can be safe during the world changes. It is of course more complicated than that, but that gives us a fair synopsis of the book. The basic message of the book is that some of the New Age faithful will be taken from the Earth before the bad things happen and they will be spiritually evolved while in the giant UFOs that the fallen angels say are Earth. They will be brought back after the chaos on Earth is over. Interestingly they also say that there are some (eluding to Christians) who will not accept the changes and who will be sent to another place a short while for special training.” (Ruffino and Jordan 2010, Kindle Locations 1577-1587)

The advent of the Beast signals an increase in activity and a return to the conditions that existed as a result of the fallen angels descending to Mount Hermon in Genesis 6. We must realize though, that at the midpoint of the tribulation, **all the fallen angels are on earth**. Why wouldn't we expect to see a repeat of Nephilim, genetic manipulation and some of the other things which have been relegated to mythology. Speaking of mythology and human enhancement/Nephilim. The world is being conditioned to be accepting of this. Captain America – enhanced soldier. Iron Man – cyborg. Superman – Messiah impersonator. The Hulk – Nephilim. Captain Marvel – enhanced human.

The so-called imaginary characters of the ancient world have been repackaged and rebranded. An entire subculture of young adult fiction is mining ancient religion for characters and plots. In the spring of 2017, Disney's publishing division announced a new fiction imprint featuring the work of best-selling author Rick Riordan, who's created five series based on the old gods aimed at young readers: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, featuring the demigod son of Poseidon; Magnus Chase and the Gods of like “babyface” professional wrestlers, play out soap-opera storylines while wearing Spandex costumes, fans get caught up in the drama and forget that their heroes are based on entities that God has judged and condemned to death—because they want to destroy the human race. (Gilbert 2018, Location 107)

And about the apparent assassination of the Beast. Let's take a look at that.

Revelation 13:3–4

“I saw one of his heads **as if it had been slain**, and his **fatal wound was healed**. And the **whole earth** was amazed and followed after the beast; they **worshiped the dragon** because he gave his authority to the beast; and they **worshiped the beast**, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”” (NASB95)

To further the look and feel of the impersonation, the Beast needs to take on characteristics like those of the true Messiah, Jesus Christ. To seal the deal, he will not only appear to have risen from the dead, but he will then enter the Temple and demand to be worshiped as God. This may prove to be upsetting to some of his followers of Islamic persuasion, but at the time this takes place, the world is a very different place from today.

Again, the idea is to counterfeit, it is not the real deal. I do not think this is a true resurrection but has the look and feel of one. We may be talking about genetic manipulation being involved, or cybernetic augmentation, meaning that post injury, the Beast is no longer quite human. There is an attempted assassination of the Beast by someone using a small hand held weapon. The word in the Greek is sword or machaira sword which is similar to the sword used in hand to hand with the Roman army. The Beast receives a blow to the head by a sword (Revelation 13:14) and it appears to be a death blow. It affects his appearance

How frightful then the scene! Men have rejected the wounded, slain but risen Lamb of God. And now they are given over to bow in absolute helpless “wonder” before another wounded one “slain unto death,” but who lives,—a fearsome lost creature from “the abyss,” re-entered, for Satan's fell purposes, into a body that by its very death-scar compels the world's worship as the victor over death! (Newell 1935, 188)

Zechariah 11:17

“Woe to the worthless shepherd Who leaves the flock! **A sword will be on his arm And on his right eye! His arm will be totally withered And his right eye will be blind.**” (NASB95)

The Greek word used and translated slain is the same word used of the Lamb and used of the believers under the altar.

The root word used in all three places is the Greek word σφάζω (sfazo) - slaughter, the killing of a person by violence, butcher or murder someone. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 979)

We have examined this word once before. Yes, it is a word used for murder, but it is used for other purposes as well. Throughout the Septuagint, it shows up as the word used when discussing the various ritual sacrifices made.

Leviticus 4:15

“Then the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the LORD, and the bull shall be **slain** before the LORD.” (NASB95)

It carries the sense of murder, absolutely, but it is heavily used in discussion of the ritualized slaughter of animals for sacrifice in the Temple.

As we discussed previously with the 5th seal judgement, where we learn about the disposition of those who become believers after the rapture but shortly before the beginning of the tribulation that they have been slaughtered, ritually killed for their faith. We further find in Revelation 20:4, that the death is due to beheading. What religion today has, and has had for centuries, ritualized beheading as part of their methodology of dealing with nonbelievers?

- Jesus was sacrificed as the perfect Passover lamb for all of us and did so on the cross
- Pre-tribulation believers were to be ritually slaughtered for their faith
- Could it be that the assassination attempt is by the same group?
- Could this be the reason for a break with that group and the development of dragon worship and beast worship via the False Prophet?

The beast is made blind, the language is in the passive. It is something done to him or is it for him. Could the blindness be the result of the implantation of a cybernetic device allowing for a complete interface with computerized information?

*Human beings who are unable to quit their jobs because they rely on their employers for a lifetime supply of antivirus updates, immunosuppressive drugs, or physical maintenance for their full cyborg body. Human workers whose invasive neural interfaces allow them to dwell permanently within virtual worlds and whose physical bodies must be cared for by their employer's biomedical support division.*

*Neurocybernetically linked human workers who lose their personal identity and merge to form a hive mind whose members share collective sensations, emotions, and volitions. A vast, tangled, digital-physical ecosystem in which an organization's human and synthetic employees, buildings, vehicles, manufacturing equipment, databases, products, and customers are all cybernetically linked through their participation in the 'Internet of Being.'* (Gladden 2016, 19)

We see that those who follow the beast turn to dragon worship. Recall what Paul said about those who worship false gods.

1 Corinthians 10:20–21

“No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.” (NASB95)

They even go as far as attributing god like power to the beast with their statement of “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”

This statement is a continuation of the counterfeit.

The incomparability of the beast is what provokes people to worship him. “Who is like the beast” (Τίς ὅμοιος τῷ θηρίῳ [Tis homoios tō thēriō]) is a parody on the name “Michael” (מִיכָאֵל [mīkā’ēl]), which in Hebrew means, “Who is like God?” It also echoes, perhaps even mocks, similar language about God in the OT (cf. Ex. 15:11; Pss. 35:10; 113:5; Isa. 40:18, 25; 46:5; Jer. 49:19; Mic. 7:18). (Thomas 1995, 159-160)

### Who Is Like the Beast?

Exodus 15:11

“Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?” (NASB95)

Micah 7:18

“Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.” (NASB95)

Who Is Able to Wage War With Him?

Really?

Revelation 12:9

“And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” (NASB95)

Revelation 12:10–11

“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.” (NASB95)

Romans 8:37–39

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NASB95)

John 12:31

“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” (NASB95)

Revelation 13:5–6

“There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.” (NASB95)

Permission obtained to blaspheme from the Dragon, but implied that it has been provided from an even higher authority.

The verb “was given” shows that the beast’s power is derived; he has no power of his own. It is given him by his master, the dragon. But John’s readers will reflect that ultimately it is God who determines the limits within which he operates, a point brought out by the use of was given four times in verses 5–7 (NIV omits it before authority in verse 5). It is further emphasized by the limit of his authority to forty-two months (for this period see on 11:2). Even the horrible and irresistible beast can exercise authority only during the time that God permits. (Morris 1987, 163)

Daniel 7:8

“While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.” (NASB95)

Daniel 7:19–20

“Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates.” (NASB95)

Daniel 7:25

“He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.” (NASB95)

Daniel 11:36

“Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.” (NASB95)

For 3 ½ years the Beast will go out of his way to magnify himself in place of God. That is blasphemy βλασφημίας, the mouth of the lion

### Definition of Blasphemy

*“The word means a. “abusive speech,” b. “personal mockery,” c. “blasphemy.”*

*In the LXX blasphēmía...always has reference to God, e.g., disputing his power (2 Kgs. 19:4), desecrating his name (Is. 52:5), violating his glory (Ezek. 35:12), wicked speech (Is. 66:3), or human arrogance (Lev. 24:11)...For the rabbis speaking impudently about the law, idolatry, and shaming God’s name are blasphemy.*

*In the NT blasphemy is violation of God’s power and majesty. It may be directly against God (Rev. 13:6), his name (Rom. 2:24), the word (Tit. 2:5), Moses (Acts 6:11), or angelic beings (Jude 8–10; 2 Pet. 2:10–12). The concept is a Jewish one; hence Jesus seems to be blaspheming when he forgives sins (Mk. 2:7), or claims to be the Messiah (Mk. 14:64), thus making himself equal to God (Jn. 10:33ff.). For Christians blasphemy includes doubting the claim of Jesus or deriding him (cf. Lk. 22:64–65; Mk. 15:29; Lk. 23:39). Persecuting Christians is also blasphemy (1 Tim. 1:13). The community has to suffer blasphemy (Rev. 2:9; 1 Cor. 4:13; 1 Pet. 4:4). Opposition to Paul’s message is necessarily blasphemy (Acts 13:45) because it attacks its basic content.*

*Christians may give cause for blasphemy if they deny Christ, if the weak eat idol meats (1 Cor. 10:30), or if they do not love (Rom. 14:15–16). A bad action is blasphemy either because it resists God’s will or brings Christianity into disrepute (1 Tim. 6:1; Jms. 2:7; Rom. 2:24; Tit. 2:5). Yet only blasphemy against the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven, i.e., the willful and wicked rejection of God’s saving power and grace (Mt. 12:32). For this the only remedy is to hand the blasphemer over to Satan (1 Tim. 1:20). The opposition of the beast (Rev. 13:1) and the harlot (17:3) in the last days is blasphemy. The lists of*

*offenses in Mk. 7:22; Mt. 15:19; Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8; 1 Tim. 6:4; 2 Tim. 3:2 contain the blasphem- group.”* (Kittel, Friedrich and Bromiley 1985, 107-108)

We see though that the Beast goes one further by verbally attacking those who dwell in heaven. I wonder where that came from?

The aorist tense ἤνοιξεν (ēnoixen, “he opened”) is constative, viewing the whole career of the beast. Obviously, blasphemy is not an incidental feature of the beast’s kingdom, but one of its continuing characteristics. (Thomas 1995, 161-162)

He blasphemes and he keeps on blaspheming. This is not a one-time thing, it is his nature, just like that of his master.

Revelation 12:7–9

“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” (NASB95)

Satan and his followers, who have been permanently kicked out of heaven, are now relegated to the role of shaking a fist of those who inhabit heaven and cursing them. Let’s see, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Divine Beings, Church, Martyrs.

The Beast has been given permission to speak great boastful things about himself, and since he is saying worship me, that is blasphemy.

Revelation 13:7–8

“It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.” (NASB95)

This is not the church; the church is already in heaven with Jesus and has been since chapter 4. The church has the promise of protection.

Matthew 16:18

“I tell you that you are Peter, and it is on this rock that I will build my congregation, and the powers of hell will not conquer it.” (ISV)

What is the number one roadblock the Beast perceives as he takes the power provided to him by Satan and begins to consolidate world power? What is it that his data access and system would provide him? Who is it that was untouched by the demon terrorists? Who was it that was untouched by the demon armies? Who is it that has been at the forefront of resistance against human enhancement and forced evolution at the cost of truly being human? It would be those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, all of those who have responded as a result of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, all of those who have come to Christ since the rapture and survived the terror of the First Church of the Great Whore, it would also be Israel.

...the beast will systematically seek to destroy everyone who worships the true God (or any god except himself and the dragon, for that matter), and the only ones who escape death must do so by fleeing and hiding. (H. M. Morris 1983, 243)

While the Beast is hunting down every believer he can, in order to achieve his goal of their elimination, he is also consolidating his global power base.

He was given authority (ἐξουσία), the right of command and control, over “...every tribe and people and tongue and nation.” Who would give him that control? Recall again the deal Satan offered to Jesus.

Luke 4:5–8

“And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’” (NASB95)

This authority is given to the Beast from Satan. He has accepted the deal that was rejected by Jesus.

Again, a counterfeit of the real as shown in Revelation 5:9 “And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” (NASB95)

In verse 8, the earth dwellers react to what they have seen, and they will worship the Beast.

This is a perverse counterfeit as well.

As believers, we give the God the Father glory and honor and praise, and as we do so we worship His Son, Jesus Christ. For earth dwellers, this is perversely found in that as they worship the Dragon per Revelation 13:4, they naturally extend to worshipping the Dragon’s false Christ, the Beast.

John wants us to get it that only the earth dwellers are involved in this worship, but those who are in the book of life will not do so.

Here is John the theologian giving his ultimate theological expression to things, such as one finds in the prologue to the Gospel that bears his name. For even though “the Lamb ... was slain” at a given point in history during the reign of Tiberius Caesar, what the Roman emperor and his army did not know was that their execution of a supposed revolutionary was in fact God’s ultimate redemptive moment which had been orchestrated from all eternity—because at the heart of the Christian gospel is the awesome reality that God the Creator is also God the Redeemer. And according to John, that redemptive moment, which began historically with the creation of our planet, was ultimately fulfilled early in the first Christian century through the death and resurrection of the incarnate Lamb of God, the Lamb “who takes away the sin of the world.” And as one is wont to remind his readers, this is the only God there is! (Fee 2011, 183)

There will be only one group not worshipping the Beast, the non-earth dwellers.

We will see that those who take the mark of the mark of the beast will be incapable of being saved, but here we get the same story. Earth dweller names are not in the Lamb’s book.

Revelation 13:9–10

“If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.” (NASB95)

Now a direct word for those who are believers living in this time. These are the same words that Jesus used multiple times including Revelation. He wants those who are hearing or reading this in Revelation and watching as participants, the events take place, to get the full impact of what has just been relayed in chapter 12 and 13.

### For Those Seeing These Events

For those who have witnessed these events and have now seen a world ruler arise. Perhaps you have seen this man go into the Temple and proclaim he is god. If you have been putting off Christ, you can no longer put Him off. If you worship the Beast, you are done and headed to the same location as the Beast's master, Satan. "Refuse his mark, renounce his worship and die, or else accept his mark and worship him, hoping that he and the dragon can vanquish Christ and empty hell." That will not happen. (H. M. Morris 1983, 245)

The omission of the phrase "unto the churches" in 13:9 is most significant and tends to support the teaching that the church, the body of Christ, has previously been raptured and is not in this period. This instruction is not addressed to the churches. (Walvoord 2008, 203-204)

Revelation 13:10

"If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints." (NASB95)

This is encouragement for those believers who are being persecuted, tortured and killed by the Beast. Those who are involved in the capture and killing of Believers will soon suffer the same and much worse. "From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty." (Revelation 19:15, NASB95)

This is consistent with the message conveyed to the martyrs under the altar in Revelation 6:9-11. This will continue "...until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also." (Revelation 6:11, NASB95)

It is this promise and confidence which will help to sustain the saints through such a bitter time of persecution. Here (in this promise) rests the faith of the saints, making them patient in tribulation. The patience of which this verse speaks means "patient endurance." Like their Lord, "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2), they know that they "have in heaven a better and an enduring substance" and that their confidence in His promise "hath great recompense of reward" (Hebrews 10:34, 35). (H. M. Morris 1983, 245-246)

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