

EXAMINING OUR FAITH, part 12 quotes

1 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” 2 Corinthians 13:5.

(Picture #12 - the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment of the Decalogue)

2

(Picture #13 - the 3rd Angel's Message)

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God**, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: **and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**” Revelation 14:9-13.

So this 3rd angel followed them - or the 1st and 2nd angels. But now what does the word “followed” mean? The Greek word for “followed” used in this text is “akoloutheo”, which translates and means “to accompany, to follow” (Strong's Exhaustive Greek Concordance, word #190). So instead of this word meaning that the 2nd angel must completely finish giving its message all over the world before the 3rd angel can sound, no matter how long this may take, it instead means that the 3rd angel accompanies or joins its message with the 2nd angel. Now since we learned earlier in part 3 that the 1st and 2nd angels' messages go together, so now the same with this 3rd angel's message. This means that all 3 angels' messages go together, one after another.

3 Who represents the Beast?

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world....And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.” Revelation 13:1-8, 16-18.

These verses reveal that there are 10 specific characteristics to this Beast which will help us to correctly identify who it is

1. This Beast rises up out of the sea (verse 1).
2. This Beast has parts of 3 different beasts within it - Leopard, Bear, Lion (verse 2).
3. This Beast has 10 horns and 10 crowns upon its horns (verse 1).
4. The Dragon gives this Beast its power and authority (verse 2).
5. This Beast receives a deadly wound, which becomes healed over time (verse 3).
6. This Beast is both a political as well as a religious power (verses 3, 7-8).
7. This Beast commits blasphemy against God (verses 1, 5-6).
8. This Beast makes war with and overcomes the saints (verse 7).
9. This Beasts rules for 42 months (verse 5).
10. This Beast has the number 666 (verse 18).

4 Characteristic #1 - This Beast rises up out of the sea (Revelation 13:1).

The sea (or water) mentioned in this prophecy represents people.

“And he saith unto me, **The waters which thou sawest**, where the whore sitteth, **are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**” Revelation 17:15.

This Beast arises from amid “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues”, or in other words it arises from among the established nations of the then-known world.

5 Characteristic #2 - This Beast has parts of 3 different beasts within it - Leopard, Bear, Lion (Revelation 13:2).

In Daniel chapter 7:4-6 we see the same 3 beasts mentioned which make up this Beast of Revelation.

Daniel chapter 7	Revelation chapter 13
Lion-like beast (vs. 4)	"Mouth of a lion" (vs. 2)
Bear-like beast (vs. 5)	"Feet of a bear" (vs. 2)
Leopard-like beast (vs. 6)	"Like unto a leopard" (vs. 2)

What do these beasts listed in Daniel 7 represent?

Daniel chapter 2	Daniel chapter 7	Revelation chapter 13
Babylon	Lion-like beast (vs. 4)	"Mouth of a lion" (vs. 2)
Medo-Persia	Bear-like beast (vs. 5)	"Feet of a bear" (vs. 2)
Greece	Leopard-like beast (vs. 6)	"Like unto a leopard" (vs. 2)

As these 3 beasts of Daniel 7 are depicted as being 3 different nations or powers which ruled the known world in succession, then this reveals that this Beast of Revelation 13 must also be a world-ruling power that ariseth after these nations have ruled. And since this Beast is made up of parts of 3 different beasts - the Leopard, Bear and Lion, then this reveals that this Beast of Revelation would have aspects of the kingdoms of Greece, Medo-Persia and Babylon within it.

6 Characteristic #3 - This Beast has 10 horns and 10 crowns upon its horns (Revelation 13:1).

Horns represent power in Scriptural prophecy.

“And his brightness was as the light; **he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.**” Habakkuk 3:4.

Crowns represent kings in the Scriptures.

“And he brought forth the king's son, and **put the crown upon him**, and gave him the testimony; and they **made him king**, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.” 2 Kings 11:12.

Since 10 horns represent 10 different powers which are connected with this Beast, and as each horn has a crown, then these 10 crowned horns would represent 10 different kingly powers which uphold and empower this Beast.

Included in Daniel chapter 7 is a 4th beast or world-ruling nation that arises after the fall of the first 3 beasts, and this 4th beast also has 10 horns.

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold **a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth**: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” Daniel 7:7.

We know from history that the world-ruling nation that arose after Greece fell, was Rome.

<u>Daniel chapter 2</u>	<u>Daniel chapter 7</u>	<u>Revelation chapter 13</u>
Babylon	Lion-like beast (vs. 4)	"Mouth of a lion" (vs. 2)
Medo-Persia	Bear-like beast (vs. 5)	"Feet of a bear" (vs. 2)
Greece	Leopard-like beast (vs. 6)	"Like unto a leopard" (vs. 2)
Rome	Ten-horned beast (vs. 7)	"Having ... ten horns" (vs. 1)

As the Roman Empire was depicted as a 10 horned beast, and horns represent powers, then what were these 10 different powers which upheld or empowered Rome?

1- Alemanni	6 - Lombards
2 - Anglo-Saxons	7 - Ostrogoths
3 - Burgundians	8 - Suevi
4 - Franks	9 - Vandals
5 - Heruli	10 - Visigoths

These 10 nation/powers ruled over different territories and developed into what we know of today as Western Europe. And as the Roman Empire consisted of precisely 10 different regions of power which supported it, so we see that this Beast of Revelation 13 would arise after the Roman Empire had fallen and would also be supported and upheld by these same 10 different regions of power located in Western Europe.

7 Characteristic #4 - The Dragon gives this Beast its power and authority (Revelation 13:2).

Who is the Dragon?

“And **the great dragon** was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:9.

Satan is the real power behind the working of this Beast, and the Devil gives it great authority to rule over the world.

8 Characteristic #5 - This Beast receives a deadly wound, which becomes healed over time (Revelation 13:3).

As this Beast is a world-ruling power arising after Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome had fallen, then for it to receive a deadly wound that would be healed would signify that this Beast power would be conquered and almost cease to exist, only to be revived back to power sometime later.

9 Characteristic #6 - This Beast is both a political as well as a religious power (Revelation 13:3, 7-8).

Since “all the world wonders after the Beast”, and “all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him”, then this Beast wields immense world-wide political as well as religious power!

10 Characteristic #7 - This Beast commits blasphemy against God (Revelation 13:1, 5-6).

What does it mean to commit blasphemy against God?

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Yet in this your fathers have **blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass [worshiping other gods] against me.**” Ezekiel 20:27.

“Why doth this man thus speak **blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?**” Mark 2:7.

“The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for **blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.**” John 10:33.

This Beast commits blasphemy against God by claiming to be worshipping only Him, but in actuality would be worshipping false gods; it claims to be able to forgive sins, as well as to be God on earth.

11 Characteristic #8 - This Beast makes war with and overcomes the saints (Revelation 13:7).

Who are these saints?

“Here is the patience of **the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**” Revelation 14:12.

This Beast will persecute, war against and overcome those who obey God and Jesus Christ through faith and who also keep Their commandments.

12 Characteristic #9 - This Beasts rules for 42 months (Revelation 13:5).

In Bible prophecy, each prophetic month has only 30 days. In Genesis 7:11 & 8:4 it states that the flood waters were upon the earth for 5 months, and in Genesis 7:24 it states that the flood was upon the earth for 150 days. So 150 days, divided by 5 months, would be 30 days for each month, and then 42 months of 30 days each would mean that this Beast would rule over the known world for 1260 prophetic days. In Bible prophecy, each prophetic day represents 1 year of literal time (see Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6). Then since this Beast is to rule over the world for 1260 prophetic days, then this would mean that they rule for 1260 literal years.

13 Characteristic #10 - This Beast has the number 666 (Revelation 13:18).

In Revelation 13:18 it states that "It is the number of a man," and in Revelation 15:2 it states that it is "the number of his name." This reveals that this literal number of 666 is somehow connected with the numeric number of a man's name who is connected with this Beast.