The Seven-Headed Beast From Out of the Sea
Revelation 13:1–10

Chapter 13 introduces us to two beasts: one from out of the sea (vss. 1–10) and one from out of the earth (vss. 11–18); the beast from out of the sea is the Antichrist and the beast from out of the earth is the False Prophet; our concentration in this lesson will be the beast from out of the sea, or the Antichrist.

There has been over history many people claiming to be the Christ; 1 John 2:18 says, “Little children, it is the last hour; and you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.”

Some people in recent times who have called themselves the Messiah would be Father Divine, Charles Manson, Jim Jones, Sun Myung Moon; in 2011, Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez claimed to be the reincarnation of Jesus Christ; his claim to fame is he tried to assassinate President Barack Obama believing him to be the Antichrist; he took nine shots at the White House and ended up in prison; also, there was the charismatic leader of the Growing in Grace Church in Miami, Florida, who gathered quite a following by not only claiming to be the Messiah, but also claiming to be the Antichrist; he had the numbers 666 tattooed to his right arm; he died of liver failure in 2007.

Jesus said one sign that will characterize the last days is people claiming to be the Christ; He said, “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many” (Matthew 24:5); later on in that same chapter, Jesus continued to emphasize this matter: “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ Or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:23-24).

The name “Antichrist” appears only four times in Scripture—all in John’s epistles (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7); however, he has several titles in Scripture: He
is “the little horn” (Daniel 7:8–11, 21–26; 8:9–12, 23–25); he is “the prince that shall come” (Daniel 9:26–27); he is “the son of perdition” (John 17:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:3); he is “the man of sin” (2 Thessalonians 2:3); he is “the lawless one” (2 Thessalonians 2:8); he is “a beast rising up out of the sea” (Revelation 13:1–10).

The Appearing of the Seven-Headed Beast from the Sea (13:1–2)

*His arising from out of the sea...* “Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea...” (13:1a); in a vision John sees a raging sea and from out of the sea comes this ugly-looking beast. The sea represents the Gentile nations; we know this from Revelation 17:15 where John says: “Then he (an angel) said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.’” The prophet Isaiah wrote that the multitude of many people make a noise like the roar of the seas (Isaiah 17:12). He also said: “The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt” (Isaiah 57:20); so the sea represents peoples and nations of the world, and they are all Gentiles; the Jewish people or Israel is never described this way in Scripture. The beast comes from out of a massive sea of humanity. Therefore, it seems clear that the Antichrist is a Gentile.

*His appearance as a beast...* “...having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion...” (13:1b–2ba).

He has seven heads; Revelation 17:9 says “the seven heads are seven mountains;” could this refer to Rome which is called “the city of seven hills?” Is Rome the headquarters of the Antichrist? In that same chapter of Revelation, Babylon is identified as that place from where the Antichrist will reign; yet we know from church historians that the early Christians referred to Rome as Babylon, for the Roman Empire was a persecutor of Christians for the first three hundred years of the Church; Peter closes off his first epistle sending greetings from the church in “Babylon” to the churches in Asia Minor (1 Peter 5:13); we know Peter was in Rome during the final years of his life; Babylon is used as a disguised reference to Rome, in order to protect both the Roman Church and Peter from Neronian persecution; we conclude that Rome is the headquarters of the Antichrist, with Europe his initial supporters.
Revelation 17:10 tells us that “There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.” The seven kings would be the world empires that have ruled over the Jewish people; five have fallen: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece; the one that is, is Rome; there is one yet to come.

Could the one to come be the European Union, which territorially occupies what was once the Roman Empire? We get some help from the prophet Daniel; when Daniel interprets the dream of Nebuchadnezzar in 606 BC you have the revelation of Europe in Bible prophecy; you may recall that Nebuchadnezzar saw a great image whose head was of gold, whose chest and arms were of silver, whose belly and thighs were of bronze, whose legs were of iron, and whose feet and toes were partly of iron and clay; then a stone was cut out of a mountain without hands and crushed the image at its feet and then it filled the whole earth.

Daniel gave interpretation; this image represented the various empires that have suppressed the Jewish people; Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon were the head of gold; the Medes and Persians would conquer Babylon and they were the chest and arms of silver; the Greeks under Alexander the Great would conquer Persia and was represented by the belly and thighs of bronze; the Romans would conquer the Greeks and they were the legs of iron.

It was under Emperor Diocletian in 395 AD that the Roman Empire divided into Eastern and Western Rome; that explains the two legs on this image; the feet and ten toes were partly of iron and partly of clay; then Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, “...the clay and iron mixture will mingle with the seed of men, but it will not adhere to one another just as iron does not mix with clay, rather the kingdom shall be divided” (Daniel 2:41–43); once the feet and the toes on the image begin to crumble, there will be a stone cut from a mountain without hands and it will crush the image at its feet and fill the whole earth; that stone is the coming of the Messiah and His Millennial reign on the earth (Daniel 2).

*His alliance with the ten toes of the image...* What are we to make of the feet and ten toes made partly of iron and partly of clay? The Roman Empire collapsed in 476 AD and from out of it came ten nations which eventually formed Europe: the Huns, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Suevi, Vandals, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons, and the Lombards.

I find it interesting that Europe was first formed from ten nations that broke away from Rome; could that be a reference, in Daniel’s prophecy, to end-time Europe.
that is partly strong and partly brittle? Today, the European Union consists of 27 nations after Great Britain pulled out of the EU in 2016; of those 27 nations, 9 would be considered iron and 18 would be considered clay; today the EU is facing serious trouble; not only are there serious economic problems with unemployment double that of the US and UK, with falling living standards and steep cuts to state services, but Europe is facing the brunt of the disintegration of Syria and Iraq, which has sent a tidal wave of Muslim refugees crashing over into Europe via Italy, Greece and Macedonia.

The refugee crisis is a major cause of division in Europe; Germany is pressing member nations to take in more refugees; Poland, Austria, Hungary, and Italy are aggressively saying no to Angela Merkel of Germany in this request; the relationship between Germany and Austrian leadership is frigid; the same can be said of Germany’s relationship with Poland and Hungary.

Terrorism is another problem causing a divide between Germany and France; Steven LeBlanc, writing in *World Watch Today*, says there are “two Europes, one in the camp of France frightened about the jihadist threat, and the other Europe, which is Germany that does not want to overreact to the Middle East crisis, including the jihadist threats.”

Secular Europe is certainly a good candidate for the coming Antichrist; if Europe is to survive, it will require a strong leader to once again unite Europe; while Europe has its problems, I see this super state a modern day Babylon and ripe for the coming Antichrist.

Europe has turned its back on God and is primarily atheistic; furthermore, the Antichrist is atheist, for as John writes, “on his heads a blasphemous name” (13:1c); there are few places on earth where God was once honored, but now is blasphemed; except for the millions of Muslims flooding into Europe, the continent is secular and atheistic; in fact, there are more Muslims than Protestants in Europe; her churches are empty and when they go up for sale the Muslims are there to purchase them and turn them into mosques; this also is happening in America; when a church building goes up for sale the Muslims are there to buy it as they see this as a victory for Islam over Christianity.

This beast also has “ten horns and on his horns ten crowns;” the ten horns are “ten kings” (17:12); we have said the Antichrist is a Gentile; he rides on the seven mountains of Rome and he has authority over 10 kings. Could those 10 kings represent the EU since Europe was first formed from 10 nations? If so, could the
number 10 in Scripture, as it relates to the Antichrist, represent the EU, no matter the number of nations in the EU at the time the Antichrist rises to power? It should be noted that there are 12 stars in the form of a circle against a blue background on the flag of the EU and the stars have nothing to do with the number of nations in the EU; rather it is a symbol of the unity of these nations; if 12 stars can symbolize the unity of 27 nations, why can’t 10 symbolize the EU since Europe was born out of 10 nations?

*His authority as a beast...* “The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority” (13:2b); this beast, known as the Antichrist, gets all his power and authority from the dragon who is Satan; he is described by three animals: a leopard, a bear and a lion; in Daniel’s vision of the world empires in chapter 7 of his prophecy, he identified Babylon as a lion, the Medo-Persians as a bear, and Greece as leopard (Daniel 7:3–6); so when John describes the reign of the Antichrist he has Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece all rolled into one; with this Satan-possessed dictator, he will have a very powerful alliance with great authority.

**The Adoration for the Seven-Headed Beast (13:3–4)**

*The way of his healing...* “And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed...” (13:3a); some people believe the Antichrist will be killed and then come back to life; I don’t believe that for two reasons; the text says one head was wounded so he still has six others; but more importantly, Satan does not have the power to raise the dead; he cannot create life nor can he resurrect it; we do know the Antichrist will suffer a wound where he will lose the sight of his right eye and his arm will completely wither (Zechariah 11:17); evidently he gets wounded in war, or there is an assassination attempt made against him, but he does not die; so miraculous was his recovery that the world is astounded that he is alive.

There is also the possibility that the text is referring to the resurrected Roman Empire, which died once but will be resurrected once the Antichrist comes to power; in fact, Revelation 17:11 states that you cannot separate the Antichrist from the Empire over which he rules. The text says: “The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition” (Revelation 17:11). That is, there are seven kingdoms, the seventh being the Revived Roman Empire over which the Antichrist rules; yet he is the eighth, and is of the seven; the eighth is the Antichrist who is part of the seventh; again, the simple way to understand this is to say that the Antichrist, while a separate being
from his empire, is at the same time inseparable from his empire; he is like an eighth empire while part of the seventh.

The worship of the beast and the dragon… “All the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshipped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” (13:3b–4).

People marvel at the power of the Antichrist and his resurrected Empire, but they also worship Satan; it’s beast worship: “Who is able to make war with him?” The Antichrist is Satan’s greatest accomplishment outside of getting mankind to sin; Satan has produced in the Antichrist the greatest politician, the greatest genius, the greatest military leader, the greatest orator, the most charismatic individual the world has ever seen. Hitler could not live up to his standards, nor could Mao, nor Mussolini—no one in all history can compare with this evil beast; he is such an impressive character that all who dwell on the earth worship him.

The Attitude of the Seven-Headed Beast (13:5–6)

He will express himself with blasphemous words… “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months” (13:5); for 3½ years the Antichrist will have complete authority over the earth; while he operates throughout the whole Tribulation, he doesn’t come to power over the world until the middle of the Tribulation; when he does, he will speak blasphemies against the God of heaven and against His Son Jesus; that is the character of the Antichrist; it is to blaspheme God’s Holy Name; in that sense there are certainly a lot of antichrists running around today, for it is all too common to hear God’s name blasphemed.

He will exalt himself above everything that is of God… “Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven” (13:6); Daniel says when the Antichrist comes to power he will speak “pompous words” (Daniel 7:8); then Daniel goes on to say, he “shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done…” (Daniel 11:36); Paul writes of the Antichrist saying, he “opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4); so the Antichrist blasphemes God, His tabernacle, and His people.
The Activity of the Seven-Headed Beast (13:7–8)

He will receive permission to kill the believers... “It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation” (13:7); The Antichrist has to get permission to kill the saints; he cannot do whatever he chooses apart from God’s permission; it was God who granted him permission to make war with the saints.

Remember the martyrs in heaven who came out of the Tribulation? They are under the altar of God praying, “How long, O Lord holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on earth?” They were told “that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed” (6:9–11); God is not only allowing the Antichrist to make war with the saints and kill them, but when those already martyred and are in heaven pray, “When are you going to stop the massacre? When are you going to bring vengeance on those who spilled our blood?” What answer do they get? Not enough have died for their faith; when that number has been reached then I will seek vengeance.”

“What is God doing,” you say? God is letting evil have its final day; God is giving the filthy, vile system of Satan one last gasp; He is allowing Satan to take his best shots before once and for all He destroys evil and kills the Antichrist and casts him into hell and removes Satan from the scene by depositing him in a bottomless pit!

Daniel also says “the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time” (Daniel 7:25); that is 3½ years; then it stops!

However, those who are martyred are not permanently overcome. In Revelation 15:2–4 we read: “And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.’”
Now the martyred are in the presence of God, before His throne singing praises to Him who sits on the throne; Satan may appear at first to get the victory, but in the end it is God and His saints who are victorious!

_He will receive praise from those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life..._ “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (13:8); there will be many who still follow the Antichrist; in fact the text uses the hyperbole “all who dwell on the earth will worship him;” we know not everybody bows to the Antichrist, that is why he wars against the believer; yet, there are people who will never come to the truth; and I’m glad I’m not one of them! Aren’t you glad you are a child of God with the promise of everlasting life with your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?!

The Application Concerning the Seven-Headed Beast (13:9–10)

_Be careful to listen..._ “If anyone has an ear, let him hear” (13:9); what we have been talking about is serious business; there is evil in the world; there is a real devil who is prowling around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8); there is coming on the earth a tribulation period which is called “the great day of His [God’s] wrath...” (6:17); there is coming a Satan-possessed man known as the Antichrist who will make war with the saints; yet, there is victory, but it is found only in Jesus Christ! Be glad you know Him!

_Be cognizant that your sins will find you out..._ “He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed by the sword...” (13:10a); it was Moses who told the children of Israel, “... you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sins will find you out” (Numbers 32:23); you cannot get away with sin, for the day will come when it will catch up to you and you will be exposed for who you are; this is not only a word for us, but certainly for the Antichrist and those who worship him; how you treat others is how you will be judged.

_Be continuing in what is right..._ “Here is the patience and the faith of the saints” (13:10b); when hardships come we must endure with patience, knowing this too will pass; furthermore, we must keep the faith; don’t let the hardships of life drive you from God, but allow them to draw you closer to Him.

We might wonder as we have studied the seven-headed beast from out of the sea, could such a monster like the Antichrist come to power?
There is a book written by Louis Paules and Jacque Bergier titled, *The Morning of the Magicians*, published in 1969; it is about the evilness and the occultic powers of Adolf Hitler; these authors studied the transcripts of the Nuremberg trials as well as read hundreds of books on Hitler and studied eyewitness accounts from those around him; one sentence from the book stands out: “It is impossible to understand Hitler’s political plans unless one is familiar with his basic beliefs. And his convictions that there is a magical relationship between man and the universe.”

Hitler was fascinated with mysticism and the occult; he spent time reading ancient Hindu texts along with Nietzsche, Darwin and Tibetan magicians; these authors speak of Hitler’s ideology as “a magical puzzle... a powerful Satanic mystical;” then they tell us we shall never be safe from Nazism, or certain manifestations of a Satanic cult, which, through the Nazis, cast its dark shadow over the earth; Hitler’s power came from the world of black occultism, an evil mysticism totally controlled by Satan.

In another book on Hitler, *The Hollow Earth*, by Eric Norman, published in 1972, he writes of Hitler and his Nazi-oriented sect as a secret occult society; they worshiped beings believed to be in the hollow earth; this cult believed that demons existed in the hollow of the earth and they would eventually come forth and control the world; (this ought to remind you of Revelation 9 when a demonic horde of locusts comes from the heart of the earth and stings people with great pain for five months; people will want to die but cannot).

Hitler’s use of children in warfare came from writings on the hollow earth; it was out of those writings that he formed his corps of adolescent werewolves who wore black uniforms and had the sinister death heads on their sleeves.

The book, *The Hollow Earth*, also speaks of a man named Karl Haushofer who had visited Tibet, China and India; he was a teacher of black occultism and was initiated into a secret Buddhist society from which the only escape was suicide; he was an expert in demonstrating psychic powers and it was said that he was the black magician that controlled Hitler; Rudolf Hess, a man close to Hitler said, “Haushofer is the power behind Hitler and his demonic legions;” Hitler himself was a medium capable of conjuring up evil spirits.

I found it most interesting that it was Tibetan monks and their practice of black magic that had such an influence on Hitler; even the swastika is a magical sign that comes from Tibet and the black occult.
In 1925, under Hitler’s directions, a group of Tibetan monks moved to Berlin, swore allegiance to the black occult society, and began to infiltrate the entire German society; it was the German Third Reich that financed expeditions into Tibet to find more about the black occult movement; when Germany finally fell they began to unmask the SS; many of them were Himalayan Asians with no ID; they were the last of the black monks who had helped Hitler’s evil and menacing cause.

In March of 1946, Haushofer killed his wife and then before a Buddhist altar slaughtered himself and his son, who knew his father was the magician behind Hitler.

Another source on Hitler said that there were times when he spoke in public that his voice was not his own; people who knew him well said the voice he used in public, they never heard any other time from his lips; Hitler was truly a demon-possessed small “a” antichrist.

Hitler said, “There are people who do not deserve the name ‘human.’ They are left as relics of some baser form of life, created along with hideous crawling creatures. They are the gypsies, the Negroes, and the Jews.” Could it be that one reason Hitler murdered 6 million Jews is that he did not want them to be the fulfillment of God’s plan to restore the nation of Israel? Today, Israel is in her land, and the Jew has come back and today they are 15 million strong worldwide.

When you study a man like Adolf Hitler, and his connection with the black occult movement whose power comes from the Devil, don’t ever think that a seven-headed beast cannot come out of the sea in the person of the Antichrist and under the power of Satan take control of the world; evil exists and evil has a way of conquering good.

However, let us leave here on a positive note: God is the one who controls the Devil and the Antichrist; whatever they do their power was granted to them; and in the end, God will turn His power against them and they will be the defeated foe; also, Christ will return in power and glory and set up His kingdom which Satan and his cohorts can never touch; that will be a great day for the Church and for all the saints of God—and you and I will be part of His glorious triumph over evil! Hallelujah! Amen!