

“THE IDENTITIES OF THE BEASTS IN DANIEL AND REVELATION”

Text: (Revelation 13:1-18)

Introduction: Everyone has heard of the beast, the so-called “Antichrist,” or future “world dictator.” He appears in the imaginations and writings of every generation, and, throughout history, many men have been predicted to be the so-called “Antichrist.” I won’t bore you with a long list of names, but among the predicted “Antichrists” of the past are: Constantine - Hitler - Stalin - Henry Kissinger - and “Gorby.”

In his book, “There’s A New World Coming,” (Page 183) Hal Lindsey says this about the “Antichrist.” *“Adolf Hitler was but a ‘choir boy’ when compared with the dictator that will take over the world during the tribulation. I believe that this very man lives right now somewhere in Europe.”* (Lindsey wrote this in 1973). I could give additional quotes from Mr. Lindsey and others concerning this supposed coming world dictator. However, I’d rather lead you in a study of the scriptures which describe the beasts, and help you understand what those scriptures actually teach. In fact, I’m going to show you who these beasts actually are, and, in so doing, Mr. Lindsey’s view (as well as those of other premillennials) will be proven to be false.

I. First Mistake Made By Lindsey And All Premillennials - Ignore “Time Statements” In Revelation:

A. Two Of These Statements Are Made In The Very First Chapter - In Fact, Opening Remarks:

1. (Rev. 1:1) *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.”*
2. (Rev. 1:3) *“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”*

B. The Last Of These Time Statements Are Made In The Very Last Chapter Of The Revelation:

1. (Rev. 22:6) *“And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.”*
2. (Rev. 22:10) *“And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.”*

C. Imagine That You Are Sitting In A First Century Church Assembly - John Comes In, And Says:

“Brothers and sisters, I have a revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants ‘things which must shortly come to pass.’ Blessed is he who reads and hears these words, and keeps those things, for ‘the time is at hand.’ And, the Lord sent his angel to show unto his servants the ‘things which must shortly be done,’ so he told me not to seal the sayings of this book, for ‘the time is at hand’.”

1. Would you understand Revelation to concern things in the first century or the distant future?
2. Obviously Revelation concerns things occurring soon, beginning shortly in the first century.
3. Any view of Revelation that puts its events far in the distant future (2,000 A.D., etc.) is wrong!

D. Concerning The Things Which Must Shortly Come To Pass, We Have Several Things To Identify:

1. The Sea Beast? (Revelation 13:1-10)
2. The Earth Beast? (Revelation 13:11-18)
3. The Head Wounded To Death? (Revelation 13:3-14)
4. The Number 666? (Revelation 13:16-18)
5. The Harlot? (Revelation 17:1-7, 18)
6. The Beast That Was, And Is Not, And Yet Is? (Revelation 17:8-11)
7. The Head Wounded To Death - Healed? (Revelation 13:3, 12, 14)

E. Concerning All These Things To Identify, You Can Just Write “ROME” All Over The Picture!

1. The book of Revelation is a prophecy about Rome’s persecution against the Lord’s church.
2. This fact will become obvious as we continue our study of the beasts, and the other identities!

II. The First Question: What Is The Identity Of The Sea Beast Described In Revelation, Chapter 13?

(Rev. 13:1-10) “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. 2 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 . . . ”

A. First, Let’s Refresh Our Minds About The Image In Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream - *(Daniel 2:31-45)*

1. Daniel interpreted the image to represent four successive world kingdoms - (Sea Beast Chart)
 - a. The head of gold - (Babylon)
 - b. The breast and arms of silver - (Medo - Persia)
 - c. The belly and thighs of brass - (Greece)
 - d. The legs of iron and feet of iron and clay - (Rome)
2. He saw a “*little stone*” that was “*cut out of the mountain without hands* (*Dan. 2:45*)
 - a. The little stone is the kingdom of God, ruled by Christ. (“*cut out without hands*” - divine)
 - b. The stone struck the image on the *feet* (Rome) and broke the image in pieces. (*Dan. 2:34*)
3. Since the *little stone* is the kingdom, and struck the *feet* (Rome), it came while Rome existed.
 - a. Remember, the kingdom was to come “*in the days of these kings*” (kingdoms) (*Dan. 2:44*)
 - b. The Roman Empire was destroyed in 476 A.D. The kingdom was set up before Rome fell.
4. Will Rome peacefully allow the “*little stone*” to become a *great mountain* and fill whole earth?
 - a. The answer is, No! Rome will persecute the saints of God (those in Christ’s kingdom).
 - b. This coming persecution is the reason why both Daniel and John were given these visions.

B. To Identify The Sea Beast, We Must First Examine Daniel’s Vision Of Four Beasts: *(Dan. 7:1-28)*

(Dan. 7:1-3) “In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.” (These “*four beasts*” are the same four great kingdoms revealed in the image in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.) “*These great beasts, which are four, are four kings (or kingdoms, Pat M.) which shall arise out of the earth,*” (*Dan. 7:17*).

1. *(Dan. 7:4) “The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.”*
 - a. The lion represents the Babylonian Empire. It’s slowed down by plucking of its wings.
 - b. The giving to it, a “*man’s heart*” refers back to King Nebuchadnezzar - (*See Daniel 4*)
2. *(Dan. 7:5) “And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.”*
 - a. The bear is the Medo-Persian Empire - It is strong, but slow moving. So was Persia.
 - b. The phrase, “*raised up itself on one side,*” speaks of the dominance of the Persian side.
 - c. The “*three ribs in the mouth of it,*” tells us that this kingdom has a devouring nature.
 - d. Some have speculated that the “*three ribs*” are: (1) Assyria - (2) Egypt - (3) Syria.
3. *(Dan. 7:6) “After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.”*
 - a. The Leopard is the Grecian Empire. A leopard is swift - with “*four wings*” very swift.
 - b. How swift? Alexander the Great conquered the world. Yet, he died in Babylon at age 33.
 - c. The “*four heads*” represent the four divisions of Greece, after the death of Alexander.
 - d. Alexander’s Generals: (1) Lysimachus - (2) Cassander - (3) Seleucus - (4) Ptolemy.
 - e. These four generals are discussed in another vision of Daniel - (*See Daniel 8:21-22*)
4. *(Dan. 7:7-15) “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. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. 9 I beheld till the*

thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. 12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. 13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. 15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.”

- a. The fourth beast is the Roman Empire. The “iron teeth” shows this empire is very strong.
- b. The “ten horns” represent ten kings or rulers of this empire. (More later on the ten kings.)
- c. The “little horn” is the eleventh king of Rome. Three kings are uprooted before he comes.
- d. With three of the ten horns (kings) uprooted, this “little horn” is actually the eighth king.
- e. The “rest of the beasts” (Babylon - Medo/Persia - Greece) had their lives prolonged in Rome.

C. Now Let’s Study The Interpretation Of The Vision; Especially As It Relates To The Fourth Beast:

(Dan. 7:16-28) “I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. 17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. 19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. 25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. 26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. 27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. 28 Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.”

1. As we mentioned earlier - the four beasts represent four successive great world kingdoms.
 - a. (v.17) “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.”
 - b. They are the same four kingdoms in Daniel 2 (Babylon - Medo/Persia - Greece - Rome)
2. The fourth beast is Rome - “The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth,” (v. 23)
3. The ten horns - “The ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise,” (v. 24)
 - a. These are the Ceasars, who ruled the Roman Empire in the days of Jesus and the apostles.
 - b. For a complete list of these Caesars, and the lengths of their reign, see appropriate chart.

D. The Fourth Beast Of Daniel 7 Is The Sea Beast of Revelation 13 - It Is The Civil Roman Empire:

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE BEASTS IN DANIEL AND SEA BEAST IN REVELATION	
<i>(Daniel 7:1-8)</i>	<i>(Revelation 13:1-10)</i>
(v. 3) “four great <u>beasts</u> came up from the <u>sea</u> ”	(v. 1) “a <u>beast</u> rise up out of the <u>sea</u> ”
(v. 4) “first was like a <u>lion</u> ”	(v. 2) “the mouth of a <u>lion</u> ”
(v. 5) “second, like to a <u>bear</u> ”	(v. 2) “the feet of a <u>bear</u> ”
(v. 6) “another, like a <u>leopard</u> ”	(v. 2) “like unto a <u>leopard</u> ”
(v. 7) “and it had <u>ten horns</u> ”	(v. 1) “having . . . <u>ten horns</u> ”
(v. 8) “a mouth speaking great things”	(v. 5) “a mouth speaking great things”

III. The Second Question: What Is The Identity Of The Earth Beast Described In Revelation 13:11-18?

A. (Rev. 13:11) *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”*

1. The fact that John saw a *“beast coming up out of the earth”* tells us that he is of human origin.
2. The fact that he had *“two horns like a lamb”* and *“he spake as a dragon”* shows he’s deceptive.

B. (Rev. 13:12) *“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”*

1. He exercises *“all the power of the first beast.”* Therefore, he has the authority of Civil Rome.
2. Since he causes many people to *“worship the first beast,”* this second beast is Religious Rome.
3. The *“beast . . . out of sea”* is Civil Rome. The *“beast . . . out of the earth”* is Religious Rome.
4. This *“beast . . . out of the earth”* is also called the *“false prophet”* (Rev. 16:13 & Rev. 19:20).
5. This *“earth beast”* (Religious Rome, or State Religion) is promoting Caesar worship.

C. (Rev. 13:13-15) *“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”*

1. These supposed *miracles* were magic tricks (like Pharaoh’s magicians or Simon the sorcerer).
2. J. W. Roberts mentions temples, and statues of Caesars that were placed there for worship.
3. He says that modern archeology has discovered piping devices beneath the altars and statues.
4. One can see how easy it would be for the Concilla (state priests) to cause the image to speak.
5. Men were required to worship the image and declare, *“Caesar is Lord.”* (worship - be killed!)

IV. The Third Question: What’s The Identity Of Beast With Head Wounded To Death? (Rev. 13:3, 14)

A. (Rev. 13:3, 14) *“3 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,” . . . (14) “And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”*

B. The Head That Was *“Wounded To Death”* Is Nero. He Was The First To Persecute Christians.

1. At Nero’s death, the state policy of persecuting Christians ceased. The head, Nero, was dead.
2. Later, another Caesar would again institute the policy of persecution. (Head wound healed.)
3. In a few minutes we’ll take about the identity of the head (Caesar) who renewed persecution.

V. The Fourth Question: What Is The Identity Of The Number Of The Beast - 666? (Rev. 13:16-17)

A. (Rev. 13:16-17) *“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: 17 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.”*

1. The *“right hand”* refers to the giving of one’s strength - the *“forehead”* refers to the mind.
2. The phrase that *“no man might buy or sell”* without the mark, indicates economic pressure.

B. (Rev. 13:18) *“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.” (666)*

1. The phrase *“count the number”* refers to letters (in some languages) having numerical values.
2. Examples: Roman numerals - Hebrew - Latin - Greek. (Jesus, in the Greek, equals 888!)
3. The number 666 signifies the very name of Nero in both the Hebrew and the Latin alphabets.
 - a. Hebrew (Neron Kaesar) n = 50, r = 200, o = 6, n = 50, k = 100, s = 60, r = 200 (Total 666)
 - b. (*“HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH,” Philip Schaff, volume 1, pages 846-847*)
4. The identity of the number (mark/name) of the beast (666) refers specifically to Nero Caesar.

VI. The Fifth Question: What Is The Identity Of The Harlot Sitting Upon The Beast? (Rev. 17:1-7)

A. (Rev. 17:1-7) *“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.”*

B. The woman sitting *“upon a scarlet colored beast”* is commercially seductive Rome - Here's Why:

1. The woman sits upon seven mountains. Rome is described as the city sitting upon seven hills.

(Rev. 17:9) *“And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.”*

2. She ruled over the earth in John's time (not in future). Rome ruled the earth in John's time.

(Rev. 17:18) *“And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”*

3. She is the leading commercial power on earth in John's time. The commercial power - Rome.

(Rev. 18:3) *“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.”*

4. This is sufficient evidence to prove the harlot is Rome, in all her seductive attire and power.

VII. The Sixth Question: What Is The Identity Of The Beast That Was - Is Not - Yet Is? (Rev. 17:8-11)

A. (Rev. 17:8-11) *“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. 11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”*

1. Notice that the beast: (1) *“was”* - (2) *“is not”* - (3) *“and yet is”*. What does all this mean?

a. The beast *“was”* - That is, he had already existed sometime in the past. Thus, he *“was.”*

1. The beast that *“was”* is Nero - First Caesar to institute an empire policy of emperor worship.

2. So the beast (Nero) had already existed in the past, therefore it is said that the beast *“was.”*

b. The beast *“is not”* - That is, he was not present when John wrote. Therefore, he *“is not.”*

1. The *“is not”* means that when Nero died, persecution by the beast ceased, as empire policy.

2. While there was persecution after Nero's death, it wasn't an empire policy. So, he *“is not.”*

c. The beast *“yet is”* - He ascends *“out of the bottomless pit,”* (returns). Thus, he *“yet is.”*

1. The *“yet is”* refers to the fact the beast (by another emperor) will be back again to persecute.

2. This occurred when Domitian took power, (81 - 96 A.D.) and claimed deity. So, he *“yet is.”*

2. This beast can be identified by examining the Caesars who ruled the empire. (See the chart.)

B. When he says, *“And there are seven kings,”* he is talking about the Caesars who ruled the empire.

1. The *“five are fallen,”* (1) Augustus - (2) Tiberius - (3) Caligula - (4) Claudius - (5) Nero.

2. The *“one is,”* is Vespasian, (69 - 79 A.D.) who ruled Rome when John wrote the Revelation.

3. The *“other is not yet come . . . continue a short space,”* is Titus, (79 - 81 A.D.) the next ruler.

4. The *“beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth,”* is Domitian, (81 - 96 A.D.) the Beast!

C. When Daniel described the beast he spoke of eleven horns, with three uprooted, leaving eight.

D. When John described the same beast, he ignored the three uprooted, and only mentioned eight.

VIII. What Is The Meaning And Identity Of The Head Wounded To Death - Healed? (Rev. 13:3, 12, 14)

A. (Rev. 13:3, 12, 14) “3 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.” . . . “12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” . . . “14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

B. The Head That Was “*Wounded To Death*” Is Nero. He Was The First To Persecute Christians.

1. At Nero’s death, the state policy of persecuting Christians ceased. (Head, Nero, was dead.)
2. When another Caesar again instituted empire policy of persecution. (Head wound healed!)
3. That Caesar renewing persecution was Domitian, who called himself “*lord god Domitian.*”
4. Domitian was known in history as “*a limb of bloody Nero,*” because he persecuted like Nero.
5. When Domitian began persecution as empire policy, the “*head wounded to death - healed.*”

Conclusion: Having completed our study, we are now able to summarize the identities, as follows:

1. The Sea Beast - The Roman Empire (Civil Rome)
2. The Earth Beast - Religious Rome (State Religion That Promoted Emperor Worship)
3. The Head Wounded To Death - The Death Of Nero, (68 A.D.) Who Had Instituted Persecution.
4. The Number 666 - Nero Caesar
5. The Harlot - The Roman Empire (In All Of Her Commercially Seductive Power)
6. The Beast That Was, And Is Not, And Yet Is - Was In Nero, Is Not His Death, Yet Is In Domitian.
7. The Head Wounded To Death, Healed - Nero, Resurrected In Domitian. He Renewed Persecution!

There is no need to fear a supposed future Antichrist. Our duty is not to fear any man, but rather, God!

(Eccl. 12:13-14) “13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

(Matt. 10:28) “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

(Heb. 13:5-6) “5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

- NOTES -