



## BEHOLD – THE RISE OF THE BEAST (PART 5)

### SUMMARY

We want to see how the story is going to end so that we know what to anticipate as we make our way through the story. Life is no different. We all have a desire to know what's going to happen next so that we can be better prepared for whatever it may be. While God has not explained everything that will take place to us, He has pulled back the curtain of tomorrow and He invites us to take a look and to make proper preparations in our heart and in our life for what will come to pass shortly.

### REVIEW

For a few weeks now, we have been considering the first two verses of Revelation chapter 13.

We found that in this chapter we are introduced to the unholy trinity – the **DRAGON** that is cast down from Heaven (the Devil), the **FIRST BEAST** that rises up out of the sea (the antichrist), and the **SECOND BEAST** that rises up out of the earth (the false prophet).

We considered the Dragon (the Devil) back in Revelation chapter 12 and we find the Antichrist and the False Prophet in chapter 13.

- 1) The **APPEARANCE** of the beast
  - A) The **REVELATION** of the beast

Chapter 13 can best be described as the **UNCOVERING** or the **UNVEILING** of the antichrist.

We found that the antichrist is not some supernatural individual; he is a man, in all likelihood a Gentile man, through whom the Devil is going to work to accomplish his goal of world domination as well as the destruction of the Jewish people.

So far, in these first two verses, we have found that the revelation of the Antichrist is described in a few ways:

1) It is a **SUDDEN** appearance

The Antichrist will burst onto the scene of this world when a **REBELLIOUS ENVIRONMENT** is established globally and when the **RESTRAINTS** on the antichrist are removed. Both of these take place at the rapture of the church.

2) It is a **STRATEGIC** appearance

While the Antichrist will appear suddenly, his appearance will also be the culmination of a strategy – to establish the **SPIRIT** of Antichrist that will produce the perfect candidate to serve as the Antichrist.

3) It is a **STRUCTURED** appearance (the **SYSTEM** of antichrist)

While the Antichrist will appear suddenly, when he does there will be a global structure in place that will of **REJECTION** (Christ), one of **REBELLION** (Lawlessness), and one of **RESTRICTION** (Globalization). This will make it easy for the Antichrist to take control and to carry out his plans initially.

4) It is a **STRIKING** appearance (the **SPREAD**, the **SPEED**, and the **STRENGTH** of the Antichrist)

We found that the some very striking terms are used to describe the Antichrist and his earthly kingdom: the **LION**, the **LEOPARD**, and the **BEAR**. These are animals that embody and are considered to be the epitome of **QUICKNESS**, **STRENGTH**, and **FEROCITY**.

We said that we have to consider verse 2, in two different directions: the past and the future. Last week, we considered the first one.

(A) The **LEGACY** of the **GENTILE'S** reign

We found that these terms were used by Daniel to outline what Jesus called “The Times Of The Gentiles.” And Daniel described them as: (1) the lion with eagles wings – Babylonian Empire, (2) the Bear – the Medo-Persian Empire, (3) the Leopard – the Grecian Empire, and (4) the dreadful and terrible beast – which saw it’s initial element during the Roman Empire, but ultimately

points toward the kingdom of the Antichrist (what has commonly been called a Revived Roman Empire)

And that's where we pick back up this evening.

## MESSAGE

Revelation 13:1-2 says, *"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."*

If you're in the habit of marking things in the word of God, I want to draw your attention back to verse 1 where the Bible says, *"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea..."*

For a few moments, I'd like to begin to consider this thought: **BEHOLD – THE RISE OF THE BEAST (PART 5).**

A) The **REVELATION** of the beast

- 1) It is a **SUDDEN** appearance
- 2) It is a **STRATEGIC** appearance (the **SPIRIT** of antichrist)
- 3) It is a **STRUCTURED** appearance (the **SYSTEM** of antichrist)
- 4) It is a **STRIKING** appearance (the **SPREAD** and **SPEED** of the Antichrist)

(A) The **LEGACY** of the **GENTILE'S** reign

(B) The **LIKENESS** of the **ANTICHRIST'S** reign

Revelation 13:2 says, *"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..."*

As we glance forward, we find that there is coming a day when a dreadful and terrible beast will come onto the scene of this world that can best be described as a coalition of nations who will yield their control to the embodiment of wickedness – the man that we call the Antichrist.

I remind you that back in Daniel chapter 2, Daniel explain Nebuchadnezzar's dream as the outline of the times of the Gentiles that Jesus said would be fulfilled.

Danial 2:31-34 says, *"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver,*

*his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces."*

Daniel 2:36-43 says, *"This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."*

The ten toes that are described as being mixed with iron and clay is used to describe the future kingdom that will be headed by the Antichrist. Together, iron and clay speak of strength and vulnerability. This beast that will arise will be big and fierce and controlling, and the nations of this world will either fall under him or they will surrender to him. Oh, but friend, there's coming a day when Jesus Christ will descend from Heaven and destroy this beast. This beast, the Antichrist may indeed be strong, but he is still no match for the power of almighty God.

Now, I want you to notice back in Revelation chapter 13, that these terms – the lion, the leopard, and the bear – are not necessarily used to describe the kingdom of the Antichrist as much as they are used to describe the Antichrist himself and how he will carry himself when he is revealed.

A) The Antichrist described as being like a **LEOPARD**.

The leopard in the legacy of the times of the Gentiles was the Grecian Empire under the leadership of Alexander the Great. By the time he was in his thirties, Alexander had conquered the world and he wept because there was no more kingdoms to conquer. It speaks of the swiftness of conquest and the Antichrist will operate similarly. He'll have to because he's only going to have a short period of time to do so. A leopard is known for being adaptable, able to acclimate and modify its habits to thrive in its current

environment. How fitting that is of the Antichrist. If you'll remember, when the Antichrist first comes onto the scene of the world, he does so riding upon a horse carrying a bow, but he has now arrow (we found that was symbolic of conquering through). However, halfway through the Tribulation period (we'll talk more about this in another message), the Antichrist is going to be forced to change tactics and he is quickly going to shift from the tactic of domination through peace to domination through force.

B) The Antichrist is described as have feet like a bear. The mouth of a Lion

The bear in the legacy of the times of the Gentiles was the Medo-Persian Empire under the leadership of Cyrus the Great. When the Meds conquered the world, it wasn't like the Grecian Empire. They methodically and very brutally stamped out anyone that stood in their way and they brought the world under their control.

*Revelation 13:4 says, "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?"*

C) The Antichrist is described as having the mouth of a **LION**

Daniel told us that the Lion was Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire who was the greatest of all the Gentile dictators. There was no one that ruled that Nebuchadnezzar. A lion is known for its strength, for its courage, for its power, for its protection. The antichrist will operate in much the same way. He will quickly rise in both global authority and global popularity. And, as a result, he will do everything within his power to protect that status quo.

*Daniel 7:19-20 says, "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; 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."*

(1) He will begin as a man of **PEACE**

*Daniel 9:27 says, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week..."*

(2) He will be a man of **POPULARITY**.

Revelation 6:2 says, *“And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”*

He will be seen as a man of leadership, eloquence, charm, charisma, and great intellect. And the world will embrace him as their king.

Jesus said, in John 5:43, *“I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”*

(2) He will be a man of **PROSPERITY**

Daniel 11:42-43 says, *“He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.”*

(3) He will be a man of **POWER**

Revelation 13:7-8 says, *“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.”*

(4) He will be a man who is **PROTECTIVE** of what he sees as rightfully his.