

Cancer is a terrible disease, claiming an estimated 580,000 lives in the United States in 2013. Unlike many other illnesses, which can arise when some outside virus or bacteria invades the body, cancer arises from within our very cells.

Normal cells, designed to multiply when needed and die off when old or damaged, function in harmony with one another. **Cancer occurs when this healthy process is** interrupted. Damaged DNA produces mutated cells. Though meant to die, these broken cells live on and multiply.

If left unchecked, they can keep invading other parts of the body-metastasizing. God has created human cultures and ordains human governments, but sin and Satan damage these institutions. In time, such a corrupt system can metastasize and corrupt those who are part of it.

In Revelation 13, we witness human government becoming so corrupt that it will fall completely under the power of Satan through his Antichrist and False Prophet. Revelation 13:1 (CSB) And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names.

Revelation 13:2–3 (CSB) The beast I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority. One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed. The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast.

Revelation 13:4–5 (CSB) They worshiped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to wage war against it?" The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies. It was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

Revelation 13:6–7 (CSB) It began to speak blasphemies against God: to blaspheme his name and his dwelling-those who dwell in heaven. And it was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation.

Revelation 13:8–9 (CSB) All those who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered. If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen.

Revelation 13:10 (CSB) If anyone is to be taken captive, into captivity he goes. If anyone is to be killed with a sword, with a sword he will be killed. This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.

As we continue through the interlude of 12:1–14:20, chapter 12 closes with Satan standing on the shore of the sea (12:18 in the Greek text but moved to 13:1 by some translations). Chapters 12 and 13 must be seen together.

Having been prevented from reaching the woman, the dragon now calls forth two evil agents to continue his mission of blaspheming God, warring against believers, and deceiving the world: the beast from the sea (13:1–10) and the beast from the earth (13:11–18).

The dragon, the beast from the sea (antichrist), and the beast from the earth (false prophet) comprise the "unholy trinity." Satan counterfeits God the Father. Antichrist counterfeits God the Son. The false prophet counterfeits God the Holy Spirit.

This passage describes the beast's origin, relationship to the dragon, actions against God and his people, and influence on the world. Through it all, God remains in control since the beast operates within the divine limits ("was given" occurs five times in 13:5–7, 14–15). The passage concludes with a prophetic warning to believers, calling them to faithful endurance.

As you study the beast from the sea...

1. Survey his power (1-2)

Revelation 12:17–13:1 (CSB) So the dragon was furious with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring-those who keep the commands of God and hold firmly to the testimony about Jesus. The dragon stood on the sand of the sea. 13:1 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names.

12:17 ... The dragon stood on the sand of the sea. 13:1 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. Whether the phrase "the dragon stood on the shore of the sea" concludes chapter 12 or introduces chapter 13, the point is that the dragon calls forth and empowers the beasts to continue his war against the saints

13:1 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea.

In light of the Old Testament tradition equating the dragon with Leviathan, the sea monster that symbolizes the chaos and evil that threaten God's creation (e.g., Pss. 74:13–14; 89:10; Isa. 27:1; 51:9; Job 40–41), it naturally follows that this beast emerges from the sea.

Revelation 13:1 (CSB) ... It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names.

The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. Like the dragon, the beast has ten horns and seven heads (12:3), but the order is reversed and ten "crowns" (diadema) appear on the horns, stressing again the strength and power of the beast.







Revelation 13:1 (CSB) ... It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names.

The 10 horns speak of great power of a future political alliance in cooperation with the beast. 7 heads adds connotations of ferocity and intelligence. The 10 crowns convey great authority and political influence. Revelation 13:1 (CSB) ... It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names.

The 10 horns speak of great power of a future political alliance in cooperation with the beast. 7 heads adds connotations of ferocity and intelligence. The 10 crowns convey great authority and political influence. Revelation 13:2 (CSB) The beast I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority.

John also seems to take into account the four beasts of Daniel 7 that come up from the sea. Since the beasts and kings in Daniel 7 portray nations and rulers who attack God's people, John appears to have something similar in mind.

In Daniel's vision from Daniel 7 - The leopard represented the Greek empire under **Alexander the Great. It speaks of the** swiftness of its destructive power and scope. The bear represented Medo-Persia and symbolized its great strength and devouring power.

The lion was Babylon, with its majesty, power, and fierceness.

Taken together - the empire of the Antichrist will rise quickly, cover the whole world (leopard), and possess a fierce power (bear, lion) never before seen on the earth.

Revelation 13:1 (CSB) ...and on its heads were blasphemous names.

The name of blasphemy on each head likely refers to divine names accepted by Roman emperors (e.g., "Lord," "Savior," "Our Lord and God"). Putting it all together, the beast from the sea symbolizes the "perpetual deification of secular authority" or "the powers of evil which lie behind the kingdoms of this world."

More specifically, this beast represents political, military, and economic power used in the service of Satan to oppose God and his people. Often such secular power is personified in a single wicked leader (e.g., Nero and Domitian in first-century Rome and Hitler in Nazi Germany; cf. the many "antichrists" of 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7)

The final eschatological leader who personifies this particular beast has traditionally been called the antichrist.

Who is the Antichrist?

The term "antichrist" (antichristos) is used only four times in the Bible, all in John's letters (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7). The word antichrist (Gk antichristos) means "one who is against Christ" or "one who is in the place of Christ." Both are true.

John mentions not just one but many antichrists who are not only going to appear in the future but have already appeared (1 John 2:18). The spirit of the antichrist denies the Father and rejects Jesus as the incarnation of God (1 John 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 7).

The concept of powerful figures who oppose God and his people runs throughout the Scriptures. For example, Jesus warns of false messiahs who will deceive many (Mark 13:22), and Paul speaks of a "man of lawlessness" who will exalt himself and oppose God (2 Thess. 2:3-4).

From the history of Israel, we think of persons and powers such as Babylon, Pharaoh, and Antiochus IV Epiphanes—the tyrannical Syrian ruler (175–164 BC) who attacked Jerusalem and desecrated the temple.

The word antichrist does not appear a single time in Revelation. In the Apocalypse he is called "the beast." Elsewhere in Scripture he is called

- the little horn (Dan 7:8)
- the prince (ruler) who is to come (Dan 9:26)
- the lawless one or man of sin (2 Thess
- 2:3-8)
- the antichrist (1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2 John 7)

Now it is important to understand that the concept or idea of antichrist is multifaceted. It is used in at least four ways in the Bible:

An evil empire or political power (Rev 13;
17)

2. A past and present impersonal force, presence, or spirit; the evil spirit of this age (1 John 4:3)

3. Literal persons who are forerunners of the final antichrist (1 John 2:18)

4. The final and climactic embodiment of satanic power and opposition to God in a person (2 Thess 2:3-8; Rev 13:1-10)

There is a fluidity and even overlap, especially in Revelation 13:1-10, where the beast, the antichrist, at times seems to be both a political empire and at the same time a person. This is not all that unusual. When you think of evil Nazi Germany, you think of Hitler. When you think of the founding of America, you think of George Washington.



Satan may use evil political leaders as he wages war against the people of God. World history is full of examples. In the first century AD, Nero and Domitian were notorious for their persecution of Christians. The twentieth century saw the rise of Hitler, shown here, and the atrocities committed under his leadership. Many more evil rulers may come to power before the final antichrist appears, as described in John's vision.

As you study the beast from the sea...

1. Survey his power (1-2)

2. Study his imitation (3-4)

Revelation 13:3 (CSB) One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed...

The beast actually receives a death wound, even though most English translations add a condition such as "seemed to" or "as if" or "appeared to," which is not the intent of the Greek text.

Revelation 13:3 (CSB) One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded...

This leads the whole world to be amazed and to follow the beast. The word wounded is the same word in Greek translated "slaughtered" in 5:6,9. There it addresses the vicarious death of the Lamb. Revelation 13:3 (CSB) One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed...

Chapter 13 verse 14 adds that the beast "had the sword wound and yet lived." The word lived is "the very term used for Jesus' resurrection in 2:8" (Osborne, Revelation, 495). Revelation 13:3 (CSB) One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed...

What we have here is nothing less than a counterfeit death and resurrection taking place at the end of the age.

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Some believe it is the resurrection of a political entity (e.g., the Roman Empire that is dead and will be revived), others of the personal antichrist, and others a combination of both.

Revelation 13:3 (CSB) ...fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed...

The healing of the death wound imitates Christ's resurrection, as the beast's parody of Christ continues (also 13:14). Revelation 13:3-4 (CSB) ... The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. They worshiped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to wage war against it?"

People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast?" Revelation 13:3-4 (CSB) ... The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. They worshiped the dragon...

The display of power in the beast's counterfeit resurrection results in many converts who now worship both the beast and the dragon.

Mounce writes, "Deification of secular power is in fact the worship of Satan." The question, "Who is like the beast?" mimics the praise that only Yahweh deserves (i.e., "Who is like you, God?"—Exod. 15:11; Pss. 71:19; 89:8; Mic. 7:18) Mounce, Revelation, 249.

Chuck Swindoll -How like Satan! The one who "disguises himself as an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14) will provide the world with a copycat "christ" to match all their man-centered ideals of personality, politics, and power. No wonder the whole world will be swept off its feet by this attractive, persuasive figure (13:3)!

In fact, we are told the world will worship the dragon through their worship of the Beast. In this rabid fit of hypernationalism that will make Hitler's Third Reich look like a high school sporting event, the world will cry out, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" (13:4). (Insights, 181) - Chuck Swindoll

The beast's power appears unmatched, although the war has already been waged and won against the dragon and his followers (12:7, 11). The earth dwellers stand in awe and worship the beast all because of its godlike power. There is no mistaking the blasphemy and idolatry at work.

VELIZION

As you study the beast from the sea...

1. Survey his power (1-2)

2. Study his imitation (3-4)

3. Stay faithful to the Lamb (5-10)

Revelation 13:5 (CSB) The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies. It was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

God, the one whose power far exceeds that of the dragon and the beast, allows the beast to operate "it was allowed" occurs in 13:5 [2x], 7 [2x] in the Greek text; cf. also 6:2, 4 [2x], 8, 11; 7:2; 8:3; 9:1, 3, 5; 11:1, 2; 13:14, 15; 16:8; 19:8; 20:4).

Revelation 13:5 (CSB) The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies. It was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

He is given this mouth directly by the dragon, but ultimately he is permitted to speak by God. He, like the Devil, is on God's leash. For a limited period of time (forty-two months), the beast is permitted to utter proud words and blasphemies, slandering both God and his people (cf. Dan. 7:8, 11, 25; 2 Thess. 2:4). Revelation 13:6 (CSB) It began to speak blasphemies against God: to blaspheme his name and his dwelling—those who dwell in heaven.

God's "dwelling place" refers to his people, people with heavenly citizenship, whether on earth or in heaven (i.e., "his tabernacle, that is, those who live in heaven"; cf. Rev. 21:3; Dan. 8:10–13). Revelation 13:7 (CSB) And it was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation.

The beast is also permitted to wage war against God's holy people and conquer (nikaō) them (11:7; Dan. 7:21). Revelation 15:2 (CSB) I also saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had won the victory over the beast ... were standing on the sea of glass with harps from God.

Ironically, as the saints are conquered by the beast through persecution or martyrdom, they become conquerors of the beast.

Revelation 13:7 (CSB) ...It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation.

Sadly, the beast's deceptive power seduces unbelievers from all the nations.

Revelation 13:5 (CSB) ... It was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

These blasphemies, these slanders, indeed will go on for a sustained period of time. John says it will be for 3½ years. But not only will he speak against God and His people; he will also act against God and His people.

He will persecute God's people, and many will perish as they take their faithful stand for the Lamb. Conquering the people of God will not satisfy the insatiable appetite of Satan and his antichrist. Again, by divine permission, he will be given authority over the people the Lamb came to redeem: "every tribe, people, language, and nation" (13:7). Indeed "all those who live on the earth will worship him" (13:8)



In response to the leadership and authority of the beast from the sea, "all inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast" (13:8). This is probably not mere adoration but more cultic worship similar to what was occurring with the imperial cult in the Roman Empire. Many Roman emperors were deified upon their deaths, and temples were erected for their worship. The archaeological remains shown here are from the temple of Augustus at Pisidian Antioch in Turkey, built in the early first century AD.



Revelation 13:8 (CSB) All those who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered. The switch to the future tense suggests the worldwide worship of the beast by unbelievers at the end of the age, worship deserved by the Triune God alone.

Revelation 13:8 (CSB) All those who live on the earth

Those "who live on the earth," a phrase used consistently for unbelievers throughout Revelation, will be excluded from the "Lamb's book of life," the heavenly register for all true believers (3:5; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; see the sidebar in 3:1-6).

Philippians 4:3 (CSB) Yes, I also ask you, true partner, to help these women who have contended for the gospel at my side, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the book of life.

The book of life is the book containing the names of the redeemed, the saved, those who follow the Lamb have their name in this book.

Revelation 13:8 (CSB) ...everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.

Our name was written in this book in eternity past. Further, this is a book that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered. John MacArthur - "Seven times in the New Testament, believers are identified as those whose names are written in the book of life (cf. 3:5; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27; Phil. 4:3). The book of life belonging to the Lamb, the Lord Jesus, is the registry in which God inscribed the names of those chosen for salvation before the foundation of the world."

"Unlike unbelievers, the elect will not be deceived by Antichrist (Matt. 24:24), nor will they worship him ([Rev] 20:4). Antichrist will not be able to destroy believers' saving faith, for the Lord Jesus Christ promised, "He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels" (Rev 3:5; cf. 1 John 5:4)" John MacArthur

Revelation 13:9 (CSB) If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen.

Verse 9 is a simple invitation to pay attention and be spiritually discerning. This is an invitation every generation needs to heed, but how much more as we edge toward the end of history. Revelation 13:10 (CSB) If anyone is to be taken captive, into captivity he goes. If anyone is to be killed with a sword, with a sword he will be killed. This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.

Those whose names are written in the Lamb's book will never experience the condemning wrath of God. They are susceptible, however, to the wrath of the dragon and the beast, resulting in persecution and possible martyrdom (cf. Jer. 15:2; 43:11; Matt. 24:9; Rev. 2:10, 13; 6:9–11; 7:14; 11:2, 7; 13:7; 14:13; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 20:4).

Revelation 13:10 (CSB)...This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.

As secular power presses down on the church, believers are called to trust God and to go on trusting God as he walks with them through the fire.

David Platt: "It is, and it will be, costly to follow Christ in this world, but don't compromise! Even if it means you're being slain, hold fast to your faith. Even if it means you lose your job and all your money, hold fast to your faith ... "

David Platt: "... Even if it means ridicule and oppression and isolation or imprisonment or death, follow the Lamb! And one day you will stand with him, you will sing with him, and you will be satisfied completely in him." ("Fighting," 2012)

Focus - The Christian and the Government?

Revelation 13 and Romans 13 have often been compared when thinking about the relationship between the Christian and the state. The apostle Paul reminds us that God created human government and "there is no authority except that which God has established" (Rom. 13:1; cf. Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; John 19:11).

When operating properly under divine authority, the state upholds law and order and serves as an instrument of justice (Rom. 13:4). But human institutions may be hijacked for evil purposes, and such is the case in Revelation 13.

Satan sometimes works through secular power systems and the wicked individuals who rule those systems. When the state turns tyrannical and demands unconditional allegiance, Christians have no choice but to "obey God rather than human beings" (Acts 5:29).

John Stott identifies the theological principle at work: "We are to submit right up to the point where obedience to the state would entail disobedience to God. But if the state commands what God forbids, or forbids what God commands, then our plain Christian duty is to resist, not to submit, to disobey the state in order to obey God." John Stott, Romans, 342.

Key Themes of Revelation 13:1–10

Satan works through secular power structures and wicked individuals to war against God and his people. Satan's forces are eager to deceive and will readily accept the worship that belongs to God alone.

Key Themes of Revelation 13:1–10

 Those who are not genuine followers of the Lamb will be deceived and worship the beast.

 Christians should be prepared to suffer as part of their discipleship to Jesus.



Revelation 13:1 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names. **Daniel 7:3 Four huge beasts came up from**

the sea, each different from the other.

Revelation 13:2 The beast I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority.

Daniel 7:4–6 "The first was like a lion but had eagle's wings. I continued watching until its wings were torn off. It was lifted up from the ground, set on its feet like a man, and given a human mind. 5"Suddenly, another beast appeared, a second one, that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one side, with three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up! Gorge yourself on flesh.' 6"After this, while I was watching, suddenly another beast appeared. It was like a leopard with four wings of a bird on its back. It had four heads, and it was given dominion.

Revelation 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies. It was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

Daniel 11:36 "Then the king will do whatever he wants. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and he will say outrageous things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, because what has been decreed will be accomplished.

Daniel 7:20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three fell—the horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spoke arrogantly, and that looked bigger than the others. Revelation 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies. It was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

Daniel 7:25 He will speak words against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High. He will intend to change religious festivals and laws, and the holy ones will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.

Daniel 7:8 "While I was considering the horns, suddenly another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. And suddenly in this horn there were eyes like the eyes of a human and a mouth that was speaking arrogantly. Revelation 13:7 And it was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation.

Daniel 7:21 As I was watching, this horn waged war against the holy ones and was prevailing over them

Daniel 7:7 "After this, while I was watching in the night visions, suddenly a fourth beast appeared, frightening and dreadful, and incredibly strong, with large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and it trampled with its feet whatever was left. It was different from all the beasts before it, and it had ten horns. Revelation 13:8 All those who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.

Isaiah 53:6–7 We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all. 7He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, he did not open his mouth.

Daniel 12:1 At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people, will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape. Revelation 13:10 If anyone is to be taken captive, into captivity he goes. If anyone is to be killed with a sword, with a sword he will be killed. This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.

Jeremiah 15:2 If they ask you, 'Where will we go?' tell them: This is what the Lord says: Those destined for death, to death; those destined for the sword, to the sword. Those destined for famine, to famine; those destined for captivity, to captivity.

Jeremiah 43:11 He will come and strike down the land of Egypt—those destined for death, to death; those destined for captivity, to captivity; and those destined for the sword, to the sword.

CONCLUSION

Revelation 13:1~10

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Satan's antichrist is coming. But so is God's Christ, the Lord Jesus. What will you do? Will you be pro-Christ or anti-Christ? Will you worship God and the Lamb, or will you worship the dragon and the beast? The choice is that clear.

And the choice is yours. Your eternal destiny hangs in the balance. Your eternal home is at stake. You must take a stand. You are taking a stand right now. Jesus said in Matthew 12:30, "Anyone who is not with Me is against Me." There is no neutral ground. You are either with Him or against Him. So, what will you do?

"The main point of the book of Revelation is that Christ wins in the end. And that to have your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, so that you don't get any mark of belonging to any beastly power, is absolutely essential."

"Those who have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life are enabled not to give in to any beastly, antichrist power that comes along."

"And that's the most important thing for us individually: that we love Christ so much that we defeat Satan by the word of our testimony and by the blood of the Lamb, and thus find ourselves on the right side of the Lamb when he comes"

"when others are going to say, "O rocks, fall upon me!" because they can't bear to look upon the wrath that will stream forth from the face of the Lamb of God when he comes the second time."

