

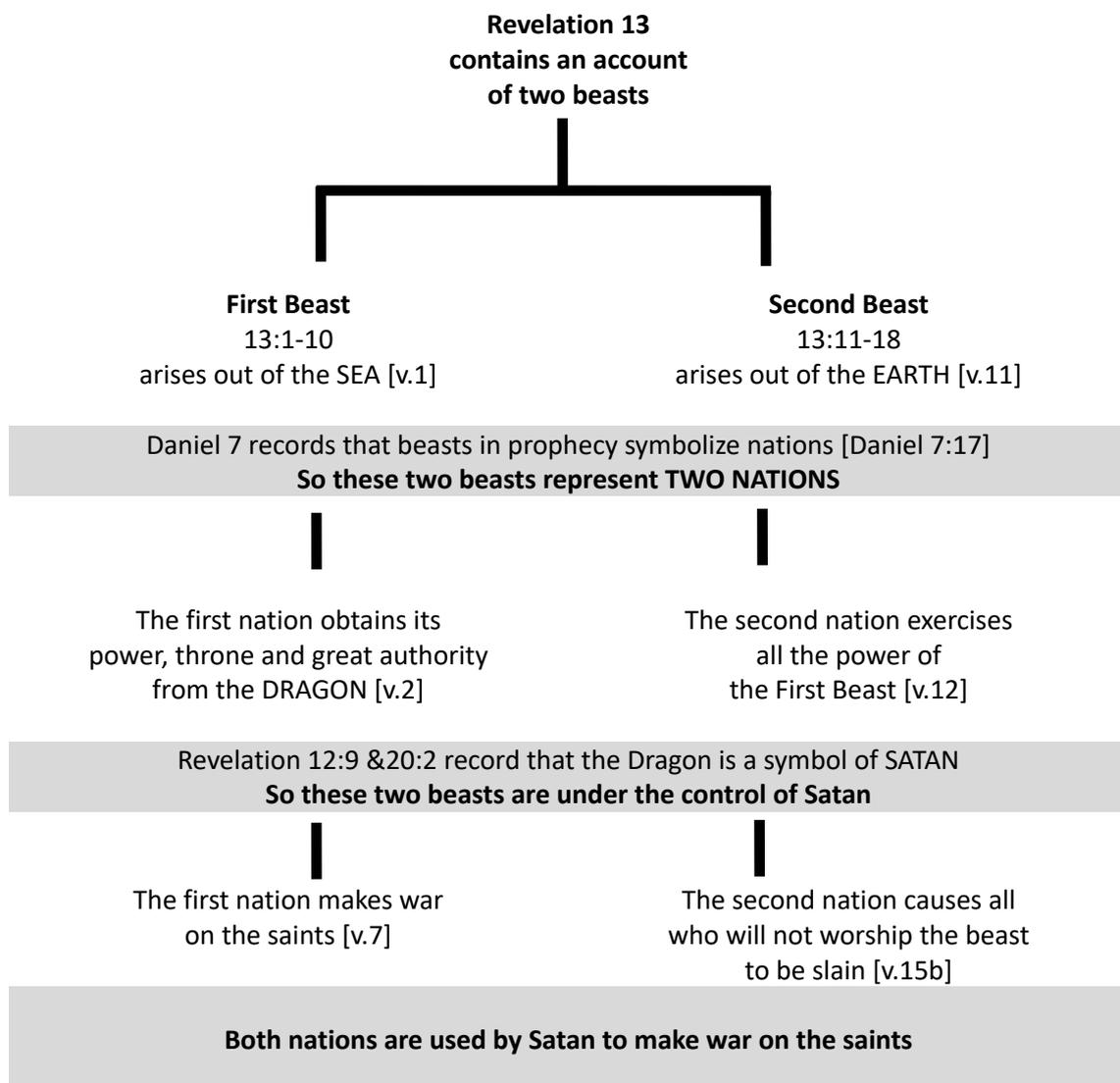
REVELATION 13 – THE CONTENTS OUTLINED

Revelation 13 contains an account of two beasts, the first of which comes up out of the sea (v1.) and a second which arises out of the earth (v11.). Beasts in prophecy represent nations (see Daniel 7:17). Hence these two beasts represent two nations.

The first of these nations obtains its power, throne and great authority from the dragon (v.2) whereas the second exercises all the power of the first beast in its presence (v.12). So both derive their power from the dragon which symbolizes Satan (see Rev. 12:9 and 20:2)

The first beast uses its power to make war on the saints (v.7) whereas the second beast causes all who will not worship the beast and its image to be slain" (v.15).

This may be presented as follows:



Thus Revelation 13 contains an account of two nations, each of which derives its power from Satan and uses that power to persecute the church of God. So Revelation 13 brings to view two persecutors.

REVELATION 13 ITS CONNECTION TO REVELATION 12

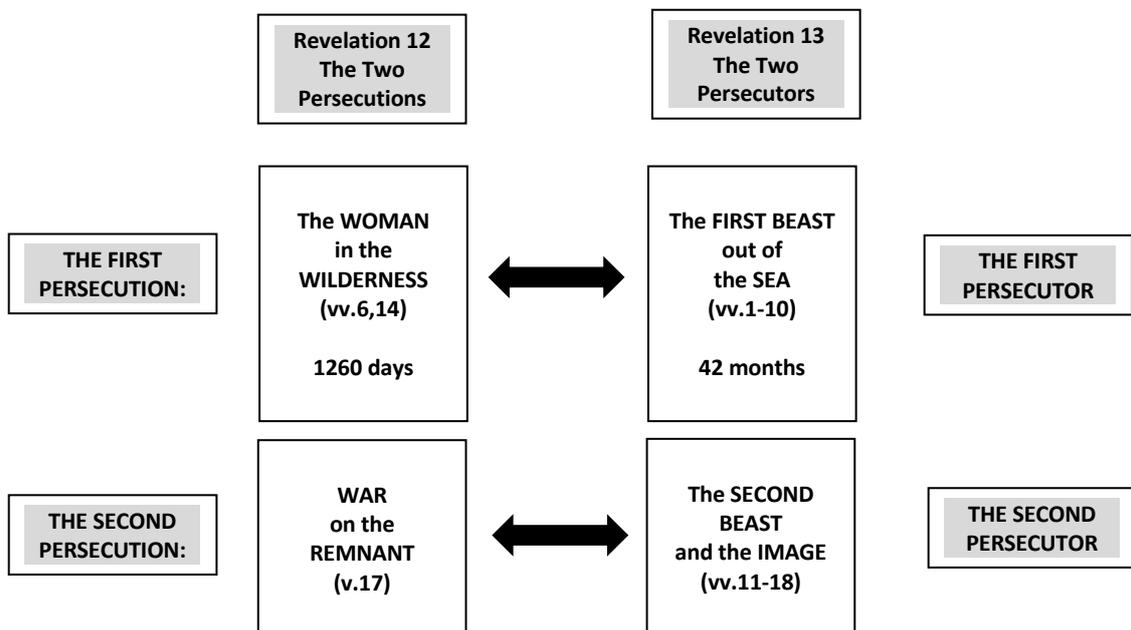
Revelation 12 traces the History of the church between the First and the Second Advents from the perspective of Spiritual Warfare. It reveals that Satan will make two great attempts to destroy the church. The first will last for 1260 days (vv.6,14). It does not succeed so the Devil makes a second great attempt as he engages in his war on the remnant (v.17). Revelation 12 contains the account of two great periods of persecution.

Revelation 13 contains an account of two nations, each of which is under the control of Satan and is used by him to persecute the church of God. It is of importance to note that the first persecutor is given 42 months (v.5) in which to carry out his plans. This 42-month period is also mentioned in Revelation 11:2 as the time period in which the holy city is trampled over. The same time period is mentioned in Revelation 11:3 as being 1260 days. Thus the forty two month period is the same as the 1260 day period.

Hence the forty two months, during which the first beast wages war on the saints (13:5,7) is the same as the 1260 days during which the church flees to the wilderness (12:6,14).

In other words, the first beast of Revelation 13 is Satan's agent in the first period of persecution mentioned in Revelation 12. The second beast will be his agent in his war on the remnant.

The relationship between the chapters may be illustrated as follows:



THE FIRST BEAST OF REVELATION 13

Revelation 13:1-10

I. REVIEW

It has been noted that Revelation 12 & 13 parallel to each other. The first period of persecution in Revelation 12^{6,14} is the consequence of the activities of the first beast of Revelation 13¹⁻¹⁰ who is the agent of Satan in conducting the first period of persecution. The sea-beast is a political entity (Daniel 7:17) under Satan's control (Rev.13:2) who persecutes the saints (Rev.13:7) for a forty-two-month period (Rev. 13: 5).

II. RELATIONSHIP OF FIRST BEAST TO DANIEL 7

The pathway to identifying the first beast of Revelation 13 is indicated in the first two verses of that chapter. The imagery incorporated into the Sea Beast is clearly drawn from Daniel 7:

Revelation 13:1-2 (ESV)

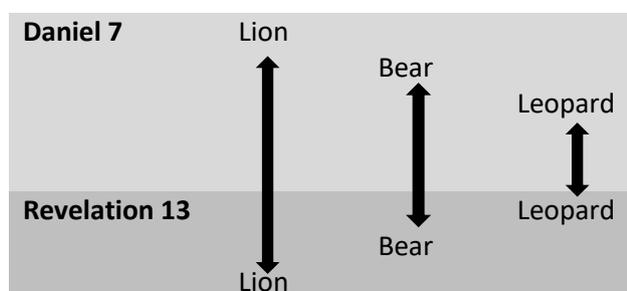
¹And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

²And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

The following points establish this connection:

- a. The first beast in Revelation 13 arises "out of the sea" (R.13:1) as do the four beasts in Daniel 7 (D.7:)
- b. In Daniel 7 four separate beasts arise in succession: the Lion, followed by a Bear, then a Leopard and finally a Fourth Beast whereas in Revelation 13 a single beast arises who shares the characteristics of the four beasts of Daniel 7: it was 'like a leopard' but with feet "like a bear" and a "mouth like a lion's mouth".

In Revelation 13 the order in which the beasts occur reverses the order in Daniel, creating a chiasm which effectively ties the two chapters together.



- c. Here we notice how Revelation creatively uses the Old Testament. Revelation 13 has effectively combined the four beasts of Daniel 7 into the one single Sea Beast of Revelation 13. Not only is this obvious from the

description of the beast as it is given in Revelation 13 but also from the detail of seven heads and ten horns (see below).

This is John’s way of making a theological statement with regard to the opposition that God’s people face as they journey through history. He is saying, "Do not see individual nations in the prophecies of Daniel. The opposition that faces the people of God through all ages is united and directed by a single mind who has a single purpose. It is part of one great plan that is rooted and grounded in opposition to God."

John has already exposed that mind in Revelation 12 where the opposition is seen to come from the great red dragon which is Satan. There he is portrayed as having 7 heads and ten horns as does the first beast of Revelation 13.

Revelation 12:3 (ESV)	Revelation 13:1 (ESV)
³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon , with <u>seven heads</u> and <u>ten horns</u> , and on his heads seven diadems.	¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea , with <u>ten horns</u> and <u>seven heads</u> , with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

The Dragon and the Sea Beast are again tied together by the use of a chiasm:

DRAGON (R.12:3):	seven heads	
	↑	ten horns
	↓	↑
SEA BEAST (R.13:1):		ten horns
	seven heads	

It is almost as if the Dragon has clothed himself with the first beast. Revelation is telling us that the nations down through the ages that have persecuted and oppressed God’s people are simply Satan’s instruments, carrying out his purposes and his plans in opposition to the purposes and plans of God.

The difference between the Dragon and the Sea Beast is the position of the crowns. These are diadems (the crown of royalty) as distinct from stephanos (the crown of victory). With the Dragon the diadems are on the heads whereas with the Sea Beast they are located on the horns.

- d. Further evidence for the combination of the four beasts of Daniel 7 into the Sea Beast of Revelation 13 is seen in the number of its heads and horns. Consider the following:

Daniel 7	Heads	Horns
Lion	1	-
Bear	1	-
Leopard	4	-
Fourth Beast	1	10
TOTAL	7 HEADS	10 HORNS

The combined number of heads of the Four Beasts in Daniel 7 is SEVEN – the exact number of the Heads of both the Dragon and the First Beast of Revelation 12 & 13. The total number of horns belonging to the four beasts is TEN – the same number of horns on both the Dragon and its agent, the First Beast.

III. THE SEA BEAST IDENTIFIED:

1. Now that John has taken us back into Daniel 7, he gives us a small but significant clue to assist us in identifying the First Beast. This is found in Revelation 13:1

Revelation 13:1 (ESV)

“And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, **with ten diadems upon its horns** and a blasphemous name upon its heads.”

John places a “diadem” – the crown of royalty - upon the horns. He is telling us that the Sea Beast is ruling and reigning at the time of the “horns” in Daniel 7. We will find him there.

2. The Sea Beast has the following characteristics:

Revelation 13:5-7a (ESV)

⁵And the beast was given **a mouth uttering** haughty and **blasphemous words**,

and it was **allowed to** exercise authority for forty-two months.

⁶It opened **its mouth to utter blasphemies** against God, **blaspheming** his name and his dwelling,^[a] that is, those who dwell in heaven.

⁷Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.^[b]

Note that verses 5-7a contain two strophes which are parallel. The first part of the parallelism (vv.5a, 6) emphasizes that the first beast is characterized by blasphemy. He is branded as **a BLASPHEMER**.

The second part of the parallelism (vv.5b, 7) states that the sea beast exercises “authority for 42 months” and “makes war on the saints” and “conquers them”. He is branded as **a PERSECUTOR**.

In these verses there is a consistent use of the PASSIVE VOICE:

“it was given” (v.5)

“it was allowed” (v.5b, 7)

The passive voice – “**it was allowed**” (vv.5b,7) – indicates that though the Sea Beast works against the Saints of God, the God of the Saints has placed limits on its ability to

persecute. Like Job the saints are given over into the hand of Satan who can only act within the parameters that God has set. (See Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-6).

Job 1:12 (ESV)

“¹²And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.”

Job 2:6 (ESV)

“⁶And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.”

The sufferings of Job, whom God loves, are for his own good. As he holds on to God and struggles he grows until finally the pain works to his gain and he comes face to face with God:

Job 42:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ I **had heard** of you by the hearing of the ear,
but **now my eye sees you**;
⁶ therefore I despise myself,
and repent^[a] in dust and ashes.”

The road of suffering Job walked becomes the road to blessing:

Job 42:10, 12 (ESV)

¹⁰ And **the LORD restored the fortunes of Job**, when he had prayed for his friends. And **the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before**. . . ¹² And **the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning**. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys.

3. These characteristics of the First Beast are shared by the Little Horn of Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:8, 20-22, 25 (ESV)

⁸ I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them **another horn, a little one** . . . And behold, in this horn were . . . **a mouth speaking great things** . . . ²⁰ . . . the horn . . . that spoke great things . . . ²¹ As I looked, this horn **made war with the saints and prevailed over them**, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. . . ²⁵ He **shall speak words against the Most High**, and **shall wear out the saints** of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and **they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time**.

Notice the points of contact:

- Both the First Beast and the Little Horn have a mouth that speaks great things and blasphemies:

Revelation 13:5a,6 (ESV)

⁵ And the beast was given **a mouth uttering** haughty and **blasphemous words** . . . ⁶ It opened **its mouth to utter blasphemies** against God, **blaspheming**

Daniel 7:8,20,25 (ESV)

⁸ . . . there came up among them another horn, a little one . . . in this horn were . . . **a mouth speaking great things** . . . ²⁰ . . . the horn . . . that **spoke great things** . . .

his name and his dwelling,^[a] that is, those who dwell in heaven.

²⁵ He **shall speak words against the Most High . . .**

- Both the First Beast and the Little Horn make war on the saints.

Revelation 13:7 (ESV)

⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.^[b]

Daniel 7:21-22,25 (ESV)

²¹ As I looked, this horn **made war with the saints and prevailed over them**, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. . . ²⁵ He . . . **shall wear out the saints** of the Most High . . .

- Both the First Beast and the Little Horn have a restricted time during which their activities against the saints are to continue

Revelation 13:5 (ESV)	Daniel 7:25 (ESV)
<p>⁵ And the beast . . . was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. . . ⁷ . . . to make war on the saints and to conquer them.^[b]</p>	<p>²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them . . . ²⁵ . . . and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.</p>

Thus the First Beast of Revelation 13 and the Little Horn of Daniel 7 are a perfect match. By following the clues that Daniel that Revelation gives us we are brought to the conclusion that the First Beast of Revelation 13 is the Little Horn of Daniel 7.

REVELATION 13:1-10 (ESV)

¹ And I saw *a beast* rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth.

And to it *the dragon* gave his power and his throne and great authority.

³ One of its heads seemed to have *a mortal wound*,
but *its mortal wound* was healed,

and the whole earth *marveled*
as they *followed* the beast.

⁴ And they *worshiped the dragon*, for he had given his authority to the beast,
and they *worshiped the beast*, saying, "Who is like *the beast*, and who can fight against it?"

⁵ And the beast was given *a mouth* uttering haughty and *blasphemous words*,

and *it was allowed* to exercise authority for forty-two months.

⁶ It opened *its mouth* to *utter blasphemies* against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling,^[a] that is, those who dwell in heaven.

⁷ Also *it was allowed* to make war on the saints and to conquer them.^[b]

And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;

if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

THE SEA BEAST IDENTIFIED (A)

Daniel 7:1-10 (ESV)	Revelation 13:1-2 (ESV)
<p>¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ² Daniel declared,^[a] "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. ³ And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. ⁴ The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. ⁵ And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' ⁶ After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. ⁷ After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different 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 horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.</p>	<p>¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.</p>

THE SEA BEAST IDENTIFIED (B)

Daniel 7:8-10 (ESV)	Revelation 13:5-7 (ESV)
<p>⁸ I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. . . ¹¹ “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. . .</p> <p>¹⁹ “Then I desired to know the truth about . . .</p> <p>²⁰ and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that . . . spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. ²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. . .</p> <p>²⁴ As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.</p> <p>²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.</p> <p>²⁶ But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.</p>	<p>⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling,^[a] that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.^[b] And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation</p>

REVELATION 13:1-10 (ESV)

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⁵And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling,^[a] that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.^[b] And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

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