

Session 31 The Son of Man and the Gospel of the Kingdom – Part II

I. THE FOURTH BEAST AND THE DRAGON – DANIEL 7 & REVELATION 12, 13

A. Daniel 7:7, 8, 11, 12, 19-28

The Prophet Daniel saw in his night vision Four Beast Empires that represent four kings that will arise out of the winds of chaos initiated by the four angels that stir the winds of the great sea. It is the fourth beast however that concerns Daniel and provokes in him terror and astonishment. It is this one he inquires of from the divine being showing him the vision.

¹⁶ I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ¹⁷ ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’ ¹⁹ “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying...(Dan. 7:16-27)

²...“I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. (Dan. 7:2)

¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea...(Rev. 13:1)

¹⁵ And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute [Babylon] is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. (Rev. 17:15)

B. This Beast corresponds with the events of Revelation 12 and 13 as well as the appearance of Leviathan in Job 41. *He sees everything that is high; he is king over all the sons of pride. (Job 41:34)* The use of water language describing the place from which the last Beast will arise points to the chaos demon, Leviathan.

Leviathan may be interpreted based on its semitic etymology as ‘the twisting one’ (cf. Arab lawiyā) or ‘the wreath-like’, ‘the circular’ (cf. Heb liwyā), both possibilities pointing to an original concept of Leviathan as a snake-like being.

The concept of Leviathan is closely related to Rahab, insofar as the latter seems to be a late exilic adaptation of the former, possibly supplemented from Babylonian Marduk theology...Both Leviathan and Rahab belong to the realm of dragon-like monsters (Tannin), both may be termed ‘fugitive serpent’ (cf. Isa 27:1 with Job 26:13) and thus may sometimes have been confounded, although the book of Job clearly distinguishes between them (see 3:8, 40:25–41:26 on Leviathan and 9:13; 26:12 on Rahab, still 7:12 on Tannin).¹

¹ Uehlinger, “Leviathan,” ed. Karel van der Toorn, Bob Becking, and Pieter W. van der Horst, Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible (Leiden; Boston; Köln; Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge: Brill; Eerdmans, 1999), 511-12.

*The use of Rahab (Rahav) is a direct reference in Isaiah 51 to *the* Passover feast of First Fruits when Israel crossed the Red Sea. Recall Exodus 12:12 says explicitly not only will Yahweh strike the firstborn of Egypt, but also the *gods of Egypt*. When Judah is in Babylonian exile, the name Rahab will be assigned to Egypt itself, showing us that these chaos spirits manifest in both the spirit realm and the leaders and nations of the earth that are in opposition to Yahweh and His Son. Yahweh has judged this spirit and will do so again as it manifests in the Beast at the end of the age.

*Psalm 74:13-14 says Yahweh “divided the sea by Your strength; You *broke the heads* of the sea monsters (*tanninim*) in the waters. You crushed *the heads of Leviathan*.” Note here there are *heads of Leviathan* and not just *one head*. This is consistent with Daniel and John who describe the many headed *dragon*. (Seven heads, ten horns or crowns).

* The interpretation presented here certainly fits the context of Ps 74, which describes YHWH’s “working salvation in the midst of the earth” (v. 12). YHWH is here acting as a warrior who fights against his enemies, both historical and spiritual. Salvation (see v. 12: “salvations,” תוֹעוּשֵׁי) is the result of YHWH’s victory as king in the battle against his and his people’s enemies in the present world. There is no reason to connect it with the creation of the cosmos in primordial time.

Thus, Ps 74:12–14 displays a motif of destruction, as in KTU 1.5 i 1–3 (the Baal epic); Ps 46:2–3; Hab 3:8, 9, 13, and so on, rather than a motif of creation. In these texts, YHWH is presented as the one who brings salvation to his people by destroying his and their enemies. The image of conquering the raging sea is thus used to describe a divine battle in which God’s enemies are completely destroyed by him, whether they are the historical enemies of Israel (as in Exod 15:8–10) or its spiritual enemies (as in Isa 27). It is possible that one of the victories the psalmist had in mind was the exodus...²

- C. Grant Osborne notes the following in his Revelation commentary
- Throughout the ancient Near East, the sea monster symbolized the war between good and evil, between the gods and chaos... Obviously, in similar fashion to the meaning of “abyss” in 9:1–2, this builds on the fact that for the nations surrounding the Mediterranean basin, the sea meant unfathomable depths and the chaos of death. Thus, Leviathan or the “dragon” came to represent all the terrors of the sea and thus the presence of evil and death... It also signified nations that stood against God and his people. The dragon or Leviathan is defeated both at the beginning of creation (Ps[alm] 74:13; 89:10 = Isa[iah] 51:9 [“Rahab”]; 2 Esdr. [4 Ezra] 6:49–52) and at the day of Yahweh (Isa[iah] 27:1; 2 Bar[uch] 29.4). First Enoch 60.7–10, 24 speak of the female sea monster Leviathan and the male Behemoth destroyed at the “great day of the Lord.”³

² Tsumura, David Toshio. “The Creation Motif in Psalm 74:12–14?: A Reappraisal of the Theory of the Dragon Myth.” *Journal of Biblical Literature*, vol. 134, no. 3, 2015, pp. 547–555, <https://doi.org/10.1353/jbl.2015.0029>. Accessed 17 July 2019. P. 555

³ Heiser, Michael. *John’s Use of the Old Testament in the Book of Revelation: Notes from the Naked Bible Podcast* (p. 211-12). Naked Bible Press. Kindle Edition.

- D. Elsewhere the Old Testament associates churning waters with “the turbulent world and peoples”⁶ and even with sinful humanity (e.g., Isa 17:12 – 13; 57:20; Jer 46:7 – 8). The New Testament picks up this motif in Revelation, where it equates the waters with “peoples, multitudes, nations and languages” (Rev 17:15).⁴
- E. The picture we have then at the time of the Fourth Beast is the Four divine council beings (angels or other *elohim*) stir up the sea of humanity in the domain of darkness and the result is an empire more evil than all of the others before it, and is composed of elements from each of them. All that is of the empire of Satan and the rebellious sons of God over the nations are here. Every wicked scheme to remove the boundary lines Yahweh has placed on them and the peoples of the earth are exploited in an attempt to rage against God’s righteousness and His Son, the King Yeshua. (see again, Psalm 2)
- F. Out of this Fourth Empire will emerge a *little horn*. Of all of the characteristics, Daniel notices in this horn eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. “[In] the Old Testament eyes and speech are often indicators of character (e.g., Prov 6:16 – 19),¹² so the description of this eleventh horn seems “to anticipate [its] arrogance, irreverence, and wickedness.” When the little horn appeared, three of the other ten were uprooted and the little one took over the scene.”⁵
- G. Revelation shows us exactly what is going on behind the veil of the visible cosmos. At the birth of the King Messiah there appeared a *beast* in the heaven: A great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns with the intent of devouring the Isaiah 9:6 Child. The Child however ascended into Heaven. And this Male Child is “one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.”⁶
- H. The next part of the vision John sees is a war in heaven between the Prince of Israel, Michael the Archangel and *his* angels, or the Heavenly Host. We’ve seen these before. Joshua saw the actual Captain of the Hosts of Heaven, Heaven’s Armies in Joshua 5:13-15. We also have seen them in 2 Kings 6:17 when Elisha prayed for Gehazi’s eyes to be opened to see the hosts of heaven, horses of fire and chariots of fire (and by implication, riders on those chariots). These hosts of heaven fought with Michael against the Dragon, Satan and *his* angels or hosts of darkness. And Michael prevailed over Satan and his rebellion, and they were thrown down out of the heavenly sphere to the earth to persecute the saints.
- I. At this throwing down of Satan and the powers of darkness is the declaration: “Now salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His Messiah have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down.” Upon the ascension of the Male Child, the King Messiah, a victory

⁴ Widder, Wendy L.. Daniel (The Story of God Bible Commentary Book 20) (p. 152). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Widder, Wendy L.. Daniel (The Story of God Bible Commentary Book 20) (pp. 153-154). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

⁶ Revelation 12:5; c.f., Daniel 7:13-14 and Psalm 2. Both give insight into the identity of this Child as Immanuel, Jesus the Messiah.

ensues over His enemies. This also involves the saints, “And *they* conquered him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” Then the great command to rejoice in heaven, and the woe to the earth, for in his being cast down in defeat, “the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short. (Rev. 12:12).

- J. The picture then changes again to the flight of the woman into the wilderness for 1,260 days. Given the nature of Leviathan and Behemoth, the Dragon’s mouth opens (the serpent’s mouth) and poured water like a river to sweep her away with a flood. The imagery of this event is staggering. This is in contrast to the living water that flows from the Temple on Mount Zion, meaning this torrent is aimed at *sweeping her away*. (See 2 Samuel 22:5-10 = Psalm 18:4-19; 144;7-11) This flood that seeks to drown and sweep away the Church is of the same spirit that produced the four beasts and the little horn. Yet God has prepared a place to sustain and protect the Church.

Short Excursus on Who is Israel

I have thus identified the *woman* in Revelation 12 as *the Church*. The conclusion is based on the Biblical definition of *Israel*. Israel is defined as both a *man*, a *nation*, and *kingdom* (the domain in which Yahweh’s rule and reign manifests through His Messiah and the people and lands over which He reigns).

Paul seemed to think not in terms of *supersessionism* (i.e., *the Church replaced Israel*), rather faithful Israel, that is believing Israel (both individuals and those in the nation), those who were considered righteous by their faith in Yahweh and obedience to His word. Stephen specifically refers to Israel in the Wilderness as *the Church (ekklesia) in the Wilderness* (Acts 7:38). So the thought in the early sermons of believers in Jesus was that Israel in the Wilderness was equivalent in some real way with the word *ekklesia* or Church.

Matthew 16:18 clearly says the revelation of Jesus as the Messiah is the foundation upon which He will build His *ekklesia* or Church. All followers at that time, and up to Cornelius, were Jewish believers, or faithful Israel. And so, Jesus could have just as easily said, “Upon this rock I will build my Israel” which was made of believing Jews.

Paul further defines this truth in Romans 2:28-29 saying the *circumcision of the heart* is what constitutes a Jew, not simply the external circumcision as the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant. He give another point of clarification in chapter 9:1-13 showing it was the *child of promise* and the action of *faith* that produced the promise that resulted in Israel, not simply being of Abraham’s natural offspring. So there is a distinction within Israel. *Only believing Jews, those who believe in Yeshua*, are considered Israel; and this has always been the case.

It is into this *root* of faithful Israel that Gentile believers have grafted. Romans 11 is explicit in how and why they were added to *Israel*. Gentile believers didn’t replace Israel. They became part of that

community (ekklesia) of believers; that is to say, Israel was and is the Church and Gentiles were added to it. Unbelieving Israel was not and is not the Church. Gentile believers by themselves are not the Church.

¹⁸*Do not be arrogant toward the branches (believing Jews). If you are, remember it is not you (believing Gentiles) that support the root, but the root supports you. (Rom. 11:18)*

It is Jew and Gentile that together make up the *One New Man*, and this *New Man* is the *Israel of God*. (Gal. 6:16) This Israel of God is *not* another name for *spiritual Israel*. No, the Israel of God is made of natural Abraham's offspring who are children of the Promise. Those who have believed in Yeshua. And into those believers who constitute Israel (and always have, both before Jesus and after Jesus; recall Abraham was counted *righteous* because he believed God – see Romans 4), we “who were dead in trespasses and sins...separated from Christ, alienated from the *commonwealth* of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world...have been *brought near by the blood of Christ...that He might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God.* (Ephesian 2)

The woman then who gives birth to the Messiah is in fact believing Israel, *the Church in the Wilderness*. The woman who flees is the *same woman*, with the addition of Gentile believers, who together make up faithful, believing Israel, the Church. Again, there is no replacement. There is only addition and a reconstituting or redefining of who Israel is in order to include Gentiles. But this was always God's plan to bring the nations back into fellowship with Him.

- K. This torrent from the mouth of the serpent/dragon is a flood of deception, wickedness, compromise, works of the flesh, and persecution. It is all things *the wrath of Satan* (v. 12). It includes all of the mechanisms of the *domain of darkness*. Economies, governments, leaders, and people from every group that participate in the deeds of darkness. It involves the occult, demonization, witchcraft and sorcery, as well as powers, principalities, rulers of darkness in the heavenlies. And yet with this onslaught, the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church. This war has been going on since Jesus, the Son of Man, ascended and began His reign from heaven.
- L. One of the ways Jesus has and will help the Church is through a *sign on the earth*.

¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and *the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river* that the dragon had poured from his mouth. (Reb. 12:16)

Recall Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost (Shavuot).

“¹⁸in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above and *signs on the earth below*...²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the *day of the LORD* comes, the great and magnificent day.” (Acts 2:18-20; c.f. Joel 2:28-32)

The Bible shows us two major eschatological patterns of the earth opening up its mouth to consume this river of deception:

- Speaking of Pharaoh and his armies that were destroyed in the Red Sea – ¹²*You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.* (Exodus 15:12 – see also Targum Ps. J for Ex. 15:12)
- Korah’s Rebellion – ³⁰But if the LORD creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the LORD. ³¹And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. ³²And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up...” (Num. 16:31-32)
- Revelation also speaks of the last great earth sign event that will ultimately unseat all of the powers of darkness from their earthly seats of power:
 - 1) The Sixth Seal, Seventh Trumpet, and the Seventh Bowl all contain a *great earthquake*. The Sixth Seal contains the final fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy declared by Peter.

¹²When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was *a great earthquake*, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, *and every mountain and island was removed from its place*. ¹⁵Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶*calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us* from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷*for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”* (Rev. 6:12-17)

- 2) The Seventh Trumpet contains several events including the *rapture of the Church*, the resurrection of the saints, the fall of the world empires, and the visible manifestation of the Kingdom of God in the Second Coming of Jesus. It also includes with the opening of the Temple in Heaven *flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.* (See Revelation 11:19)
- 3) The Seventh Bowl contains the same events and earthquake that does the exact same damage of the other two judgments:

¹⁷The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” ¹⁸And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and *a great earthquake* such as there had never been since man was on the earth, *so great was that earthquake*. ¹⁹The great city was split into three parts, and *the cities of the nations fell*, and God

- remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰ And *every island fled away*, and *no mountains were to be found*. ²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe. (Rev. 16:17-21)
4. In these three judgments that have an earthquake as a major event we see the earth is used by God to bring judgment on the Serpent and his domain of darkness. This also poses a serious reconsideration of how to view these judgments: *how many times can the islands and mountains flee and no longer be found* as a result of an apparent world-wide earthquake? Herein lies an honest question. If these are in sequence, then the islands and mountains must no longer be found three times, which would indicate they actually were found twice before the last judgment. We can then think that at a minimum the Sixth Seal, the Seventh Trumpet, and the Seventh Bowl all happen at the same time – the Great Day of the LORD. *They appear to be the same event from different angles.*⁷
 5. We have then a refocus of the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments, with the sixth seal, seventh trumpet, and seventh bowl being *the same event*, meaning the *Last Trumpet* that heralds the return of Jesus, *the Resurrection of the Saints, and Rapture of the Church happen at the end of the last judgments*. This time envelops the scope of the *great tribulation*, or as Revelation 12:6 and 14 say, 1260 days or 3 ½ years.
 6. Extra: We have then a mix of progressive and recapitulative judgments: Seals 1-5, Trumpets 1-6 (with the Seventh Seal = the First Trumpet) all progressive in some sense; Bowls 1-6, then Seal 6, Trumpet 7, and Bowl 7 all the same event, the culmination of all of the judgments.

II. THE TWO BEASTS: THE MAN OF SIN AND THE FALSE PROPHET (REVELATION 13)

- A. The dragon, having been thwarted in his attempt to destroy the woman, enlists the aid of two beasts, creating a “satanic trinity” in mockery of the triune God. The two beasts are seen here in terms of the Roman state and its accompanying propaganda machine in the local governments of the province of Asia, though until the final parousia other states succeeding Rome could be included in the beast images. The apparent success of the beast in its wars leads people to worship and revere it, but God’s people are warned to worship God alone.⁸
- B. We see the Beast rising from the sea in Revelation 13:1 is the embodiment of the Satan Dragon from Revelation 12:

⁷ This interpretive approach is referred to as Recapitulation.

⁸ Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament (Kindle Locations 42830-42833). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, *a great red dragon*, with *seven heads and ten horns*, and on his *heads seven diadems*... ⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the *dragon*. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And *the great dragon* was thrown down, *that ancient serpent*, who is called *the devil and Satan*, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Rev. 12:3, 7-9)

The power then behind the *kingdoms of this world* is the Devil, Satan. He (It) will give power to the *beast arising out of the sea*, which has the nature of Leviathan.

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. 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?" (Rev. 13:1-4)

C. The *last* Beast Empire and its human leader is the embodiment of the dragon and his domain of darkness. It also brings together all previous Beast Empires before it.

- ⁴The first was like a lion and had eagle's wings...(Dan. 7:4)
- ⁵And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear...(Dan. 7:5)
- ⁶After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard...(Dan. 7:6)
- ⁷After 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. (Dan. 7:8)

The Beast of Revelation 13 has each of the previous beast features, including a *human ruler* that will execute the plans of the Satan Dragon. (1 John 2:18, 22 – already-but-not-yet impact on the antichrist spirit)

D. ⁵And the [last] 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, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (Rev. 13:5-7)⁹

Daniel saw the same event in Daniel 7:8: *And behold, in his horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things*. These *great things* are in fact blasphemies identified by John in Revelation

⁹ Verse 8 is a reference to *God's foreknowledge not predestination*.

13:6 and are part of the Satanic flood of deception aimed not only at the nations of the earth, but also the Church as she flees into the wilderness.

- E. This beast will make war on the saints and conquer them. However, the quote John gives us is drawn from Isaiah 33:1, Jeremiah 15:1-2; 43:8-11

Compare Revelation 13:10: *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.*

¹ Woe to you, O destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed; woe to you, O traitor, with whom no one has dealt treacherously! When you have sunk down in destroying, you will be destroyed; and when you have finished dealing treacherously, you will be dealt with treacherously. (Isa. 33:1 DSSB)

¹ [Then the LORD said to me: Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, yet my heart would not go out to this people. Send them away] from my presence, and le[t them go! ² And when they ask you, “Where shall we go?” then you are to tell them: Thus says the LORD: Th]ose destined for death shall go [to death; those destined for the sword, to the sword; those destined for famine, to famine; and those destined for captivity, to captivity]. (Jer. 15:1-2 DSSB)

⁸ [Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah] in Tahpanhes: ⁹ Take some large stones in your hands, and bury them [in the clay in the brick pavement of Pharaoh’s palace] which is at the entrance of Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah, ¹⁰ [and say to them, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: See, I am going to se]nd and tak[e my servant Ki]ng Nebuchad[nezzar of Babylon, and will set his throne right over th]ese [stones] that I have buried, [and] he will spread [his royal canopy over them. ¹¹ He will come and attack the land of Egypt, giving those] who are destined for death over to death, and tho[se destined for captivity to captivity, and those destined for the sword to the sword]. (Jer. 43:8-11)

The main points are these: those in rebellion to Yahweh and His Anointed will be destined for the last judgments leading up to the Sixth Seal, Seventh Trumpet, and Seventh Bowl of Wrath. They killed the saints (the martyrs), drank their blood (Rev. 17-18), and became the dwelling place for demons; a prison for every unclean spirit, unclean bird, and detested beast (Rev. 18:2). All of the nations fell to the drunkenness of the eagerness and willingness of Babylon’s desires and immorality. The kings of the earth in their efforts to remove the restraints and boundaries God placed on them committed immorality with her, and the merchants grew rich because of her.

Then a voice from heaven declares, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins¹⁰, lest you share in her plagues. (Rev. 18:4)

- F. The second beast is like Behemoth, a beast of the earth.

¹⁰ Among those are human trafficking; And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore...and slaves, that is, human souls. (Rev. 18:11-13)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.
¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. (Rev. 13:11-14)

This beast or *False Prophet* looks like a *lamb* but sounds like a *dragon*. In other words, we know this is not *the Lamb* because of the words he speaks. He will sound like the Devil.

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27)

One of the keys to not being deceived by the False Prophet's signs and wonders is by listening to what he says. He may *look like Jesus*, but he will not say the words of Jesus. The followers of Jesus are with Him on Mount Zion and follow *the Lamb* wherever He goes. (Revelation 14:1-5)

- G. This second beast has a nature like Behemoth as seen in Job 40:10-24. The figure suggested is a singular being of awesome dimensions, a 'super ox' of mythic proportions and possessing supernatural characteristics, hence the 'Beast' par excellence.¹¹ The point here is that the False Prophet's nature is that of Behemoth and the authority or permission to use Satanic power makes this man an imposing figure on the earth's scene at the end of the age.
- H. Behemoth is clearly no ordinary beast: an awesome ox-like being that eats grass but is equally at home in the water as on land, with bones of metal and a tail...comparable to a mighty cedar tree. This 'first of the works of God' fears neither human nor beast; only the deity is capable of capturing him. Behemoth is paired with the mythic fire-breathing monster Leviathan, whose description immediately follows in Job 40:25–41:26(41:1–34).¹²
- I. The False Prophet introduces to the *Babylonian* Domain of Darkness a requirement to participate in *her* economy: take the name of the Beast, the Antichrist, the Man of Sin, and worship him only; bear his name and worship him. This is in direct rebellion to Yahweh's Torah Commands:

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take [**bear**] the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. (Exodus 20:4-7)

¹¹ B. F. Batto, "Behemoth," ed. Karel van der Toorn, Bob Becking, and Pieter W. van der Horst, *Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible* (Leiden; Boston; Köln; Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge: Brill; Eerdmans, 1999), 165.

¹² *Ibid.* p. 166

- J. Yahweh forbade idolatry, the making of an image to worship. The False Prophet makes an image of the Beast and does the occult practice of breathing into it an attachment of the Antichrist spirit, so that it would speak and have the power to kill those who do not worship it or the Beast.
- K. Yahweh made Israel His Segullah, His prized possession of all the earth and told her to not take or bear His name in vain, or live contra to His love and His commandments. The False Prophet demands all of the earth to take or bear the name of the Beast to become his prized possession in all the earth, to live according to his Satanic plans and purposes. Those who refuse cannot participate in the Babylonian economy.
- L. Those who belong to the Lamb will not take this mark or name of the Beast, rather, they will have the Name of Yahweh *written on their foreheads* as they engage in harp and bowl prayer and worship in concert with the Heavenly Jerusalem and Mount Zion. They do not bear the Name (HaShem) of Yahweh their God in vain. And as such they are the target of the Man of Sin and his False Prophet.

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless. (Rev. 14:1-5)

- M. Now that the Beast and False prophet have been identified, the Day of the LORD is to begin and the greatest takeover in human history is going to be initiated. But first, Daniel sees the already-but-not-yet play out in an initial judgment on Babel/Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. And in the *days of those kings (Caesars, et. al.)* the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. (Dan. 2:44)

This pattern is proof of the final judgment on the last Beast and his Empire. The Ascension initiated the beginning of this defeat. And a last divine council session will be called and the final plan will be initiated by none other than the Son of Man.

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." (Rev. 5:1-5)