



THE BIBLE STANDS

*The Bible stands though the hills may tumble,
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble;
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,
For the Bible stands.*

Lesson 22: THE RISE OF THE COMPOSITE BEAST

Name:

Date:

1. John saw a beast rise up out of what? Revelation 13:1.

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

2. How does the Bible describe this beast? Revelation 13:2.

“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

When compared to Daniel 7:1-7 this beast is composed of all the former beast before it. This teaches us two very important points and identifies without question who this beast, or kingdom, is.

The first point it teaches is time:

John is standing on the prophetic sea shore looking back in time (represented by the composite leopard like beast) while Daniel was looking forward into the future.

SYMBOL	VERSE	DATE
7 heads	Daniel 7:8	A.D. 538
10 horns	Daniel 7:7	A.D. 476
Leopard	Daniel 7:6	B.C. 331
Bear	Daniel 7:5	B.C. 538
Lion	Daniel 7:4	B.C. 605

From the above chart we see that John saw everything Daniel saw only in reverse order. The time in which he beheld this beast is identified in the first symbol used in the verse. After Pagan Rome split into ten powers three were uprooted leaving seven (a horn and head are used interchangeably in Bible prophecy), and this was accomplished in the year A.D. 538. So the first thing we are to understand about the composite beast is that John saw it rise to power in the year A.D. 538.

The second point it teaches is characteristics:

Lion = Babylon – Pride and exalting man to the level of God (Habakkuk 1:6, 11; Daniel 4:28-31)

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Bear = Medo-Persia – Cruelty, making laws against God and His people, and claiming infallibility (Isaiah 13:16-18; Esther 3:8-15; Daniel 6:8, 15)

Leopard = Greece – Exalting reason and man’s word (tradition) above God’s word (1 Corinthians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 10:5, margin; Acts 17:

Dragon = Pagan Rome – Persecuting power (Daniel 7:7; 2:40; Deuteronomy 28:45-57)16-22; 2 Timothy 3:7)

If we take these two points, Time and Characteristics, and put them together we have but to identify the world power who rose to dominance in the year A.D. 538, who exalts man to the level of God, who claims infallibility and showed extreme cruelty in its history, who places tradition above the Word of God, and who persecuted those who went against them.

One power alone can fit these clues... Papal Rome (Papacy) Yet the Bible offers us more clues. Notice the following question.

3. From whom did this beast receive his power, and his seat, and great authority? Revelation 13:2.

“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

Seat	A.D. 330
(Civil) Authority	A.D. 533
(Military) Power	A.D. 496 – 538

Papal Rome received its “seat” when Constantine moved from the city of Rome to Turkey (Constantinople). It received its civil authority when Emperor Justinian gave the popes the power to correct heretics and titled the Papacy the head of all churches. The military power it received was from Pagan Rome which helped it remove the three horns (see Lesson 21) that were in its way of rising to power.

The Dragon is Satan (Revelation 12:9), but Satan uses world powers to do his bidding. At this point in world history Pagan Rome was the power he used; at other times he used other powers (see Ezekiel 29:3).

4. What name was written on the beast’s heads? Revelation 13:1.

“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.”

5. How does the Bible define blasphemy? John 10:33.

“The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”

6. How great does the “man of sin” oppose and exalt himself and whose position does he claim? 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

We are not to worship man (Acts 10:25, 26), good angels (Revelation 22:8, 9), fallen angels (Matthew 4:9, 10), or any created being (Romans 1:25). We are to worship Jesus (Hebrews 1:6; Philippians 2:10).

7. There was given unto the beast a mouth doing what? Revelation 13:5.

“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.”

8. What is said about the little horn’s mouth? Daniel 7:8.

“I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

9. He shall speak great words against whom? Daniel 7:25.

“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

10. He opened his mouth in blasphemy against whom? Revelation 13:6.

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.”

11. What was he allowed to do to the saints, and power was given him over what? Revelation 13:7.

“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.”

12. Daniel beheld, and the same horn did what to the saints and how long was this to continue? Daniel 7:21, 25; Revelation 13:5.

7:21 “I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;”

7:25 “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

Revelation 13:5 “And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.”

Time = 1 year or 360 days	42 months
Times = 2 years or 720 days	1 month = 30 days
½ Time = ½ year or 180 days	42 x 30 = 1260

Total = 1260 days or years (Ezekiel 4:6; Number 14:34). A Biblical month has 30 days (see Genesis 7:11, 24; 8:1-4).

13. He would think to change what? Daniel 7:25.

“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”

The laws of man change frequently, but God’s law is unchangeable. It was this law that the Papacy sought to change. The only commandment that deals with time is the fourth

commandment calling for Sabbath observance. The Papacy sought to change this by the institution of Sunday observance (see Lesson 23).

14. What three consecutive things did John see happen to this beast? Revelation 13:3.

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”

Being that this power rose to world domination in the year A.D. 538, 1260 years would bring us to A.D. 1798 when the Papacy lost its “power to continue.”

15. What are we told about all that dwell upon the earth that worship him? Revelation 13:8.

“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.”

Thought Summary:

The beast of Revelation 13:1-10 and the little horn of Daniel 7 are the same power, holding supremacy in the world for 1260 years, warring against God and His people.