

Living Word Fellowship Church

An Expository Explanation of Revelation Chapter 12B-13

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Part I

A. General Description:

1. Transition of Satan's Activity from Chapters 12-13

a) While the concept of Satan in heaven is difficult to comprehend, it is clear that he is now the accuser of saints (cf. Job 1:6; Rev. 12:10). Though Satan was defeated at the first coming of Christ (John 16:11), his execution was delayed and is in stages. Here (Rev. 12:8–9), he will be cast out of heaven in the middle of the Tribulation. Later he will be bound for the duration of the millennial kingdom (20:1–3). The devil will finally be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur (20:10), where the world ruler (Antichrist) and the false prophet will have been cast a thousand years earlier. [\[1\]](#)

b) Continuation of the above paragraph - Satan's ultimate objective is to destroy the woman's child, Christ (12:4). The son of the woman (12:5) is Christ, as is seen by the fact that he is the ultimate ruler of the nations. Israel's flight to the wilderness is designed to avoid the persecution of the antichrist during the last three and a half years (1,260 days) of the Tribulation period (Matt. 24:15–21). In Revelation 12:7–12, the scene shifts from earth to heaven. Satan and Michael, the archangel, are involved in a conflict. Satan and his angels are thrown out of heaven and are confined to the earth (12:9) for the rest of the tribulation period. He will now vent his wrath on Earth. In 12:13–17, having been cast out of heaven, Satan will center his hostilities on the "woman," Israel

(12:5–6). His goal is to destroy Israel so that Christ will not have a people over whom to rule. ^[2]

c) Rev. 12:18–13:18 is temporally parallel with 12:13–17 and explains in further detail the nature of Satan’s persecution of the church (some English versions make 12:18 part of 13:1). Though the devil has been defeated, he can still oppress the saints. 12:18–13:18 also delineates the agents through whom the devil executes his persecuting will. These agents are none other than the governing political and economic powers of the earth. In ch. 13, John draws predominantly from Daniel, especially Daniel 7. ^[3]

2. Introduction to Chapter 13:

a) Chapter 13 is important because it introduces two of the main characters of Revelation: the beast out of the sea, the world dictator, and the beast out of the earth, the false prophet and chief supporter of the political ruler. ^[4]

b) It is almost unbelievable that the whole earth will worship both the dragon and the beast (vv. 3, 4). There will be much religion on earth, but it will be godless and blasphemous. This first beast is against God (vv. 5, 6); he is satanically energized (v. 2); he is militarily supreme (v. 4); he possesses worldwide power (v. 7); and he persecutes the saints of God (v. 7). Who would deny that the stage of world history is rapidly being set by tendencies that will ultimately lead to the rule and adoration of such a monster? All who do not belong to the Lamb of God will worship the beast. ^[5]

c) While the first beast is undoubtedly a political world power, the **second beast** (v. 11), as Lee has said, “is a spiritual world power, the power of learning and knowledge, of ideas, of intellectual cultivation. Both are from below, both

are beasts and therefore they are in close alliance. The worldly anti-Christian wisdom stands in the service of the worldly anti-Christian power” (p. 671). The second beast enforces the commands of the first beast and accompanies his evil work with various forms of miraculous manifestations (vv. 12, 13).^[6]

Chapter 13 highlights how much Satan wants to rule the world (1 John 5:19), destroy the church, and be worshipped like God. His passion is to be just like God (Luke 4:5-8; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15), processing all His authority and power. He wants to be worshipped like the most high God and would stop at nothing to achieve this. It does not matter if he knows it will not be done; he will still try no matter what he has to do to attain it. He is so destructive God only allows him to reign for three and one-half years.

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^[1] Walvoord, J. F. (1985). [Revelation](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 959). Victor Books.

^[2] Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [Tyndale concise Bible commentary](#) (p. 744). Tyndale House Publishers.

^[3] Beale, G. K. (1999). [The book of Revelation: a commentary on the Greek text](#) (p. 680). W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press.

^[4] Walvoord, J. F. (1985). [Revelation](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 963). Victor Books.

^[5] Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F., eds. (1962). [The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament](#) (Re 13:1). Moody Press.

^[6] Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F., eds. (1962). [The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament](#) (Re 11:11). Moody Press.