

Revelation 13

The antichrist comes to power

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The rise of the beast out of the sea

Today we'll be looking at Revelation 13:1-2. In order to explain these two verses, we'll need to visit Daniel's prophecy. The book of Daniel talks about past events that he foretold before they happened and we can see in the history books all over the world that what he said happened. He also prophesied concerning future events as well.

The book of Daniel was written about 2600 years ago in 536-530 BC.

Notice BC years are counting backwards as in 536-530 B.C. because that is 536-530 years before the Birth of Christ. Jesus was born around year AD 1 – 6. AD years (AD – Anno Domini) count up and mark the birth of Christ as "In the Year of the Lord" or His Death, Burial and Resurrection as "In the Year of Our Lord Jesus Christ" and this is taken from the original phrase, "Anno Domini nostril Jesu Christi". Now of course the world wants to disassociate BC and AD from Jesus Christ so they came up with BCE (Before Common Era) and changed AD to CE (common error).

So let's compare and explain Revelation 13:1-2 by examining the book of Daniel.

In Daniel 2, Daniel is the Interpreter.

In Daniel 7, the Angel is the Interpreter.

In Daniel 8, the Angel, Gabriel is the Interpreter.

Daniel 8:16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. 8:17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

Revelation 13:1-2 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. 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.

Daniel 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Notice in Revelation 13 verse 1-2 John's description of the beast clearly resembles that spoken of by Daniel:

- The antichrist (beast) will arise out of the sea.
- He has 7 heads and 10 horns with 10 crowns
- Ten horns represent 10 kings (Daniel 7:24)
- These 10 rule individual kingdoms out of the old territory of the Roman Empire

- Seven heads represent the result of three of the kingdoms being conquered.

Babylonian Kingdom

The king of Babylon whose name is Nebuchadnezzar had taken over Judah, the Hebrews were taken into captivity along with Daniel and 3 other Hebrew boys. King Nebuchadnezzar had some disturbing dreams and demanded an interpreter to tell him what he dreamed and the meaning of it.

In DANIEL CHAPTER 2, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azaria prayed to God for the answer and God revealed the dream and the interpretation of it to Daniel and here's what Daniel told the king in verse 31.

Daniel 2:31 "Your Majesty, you had a vision. You saw a large statue. This statue was very bright. It stood in front of you, and it looked terrifying. The head of this statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were made of silver. Its stomach and hips were made of bronze. Its legs were made of iron. Its feet were made partly of iron and partly of clay. While you were watching, a stone was cut out, but not by humans. It struck the statue's iron-and-clay feet and smashed them. Then all at once, the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were smashed. They became like husks on a threshing floor in summer. The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a large mountain which filled the whole world. This is the dream. Now we'll tell you its meaning.

Daniel 2:36-45 explains the interpretation:

When we look at Chapter 8, the Bible tells us point blank who these Kingdoms are and when we look back in history, the fall is in the exact order as prophesied.

Daniel 2:38. You are this head of gold.

King Nebuchadnezzar took over Judah and its capital, Jerusalem in 605 BC.

Here on the map you can see where Babylon was located. It is in the territory of what we call now, Iraq and you can see the Territory that was called Babylon in Iraq.

When Babylon took over Judah, they occupied all this territory.

Now we'll look at Daniel chapter 7.

Daniel 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

The Babylonian Empire

Daniel 7:4. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

A lion with eagles wings (Babylonian Empire)

This parallels the gold head on Nebuchadnezzar's image (Daniel 2:38)

Medo-Persian Empire

Daniel 2:39. Another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to power after you.

So after king Nebuchadnezzar took over Jerusalem the Persians took over the Medes around 550 BC.

Then the Medes and Persians took over Babylon around 539 BC.

The Persians and Medes were primarily in the territory of Iran and then took the entire Babylonian empire.

The Bible says they were inferior to the Babylonian empire but obviously outsmarted them. If you look at Daniel 5:28 it shows right there that the kingdom was given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 7:5. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

A bear with 3 ribs in its teeth (Medo-Persia Empire)

This parallels the breast and arms of silver on Nebuchadnezzar's image (Daniel 2:32)

Daniel 8:3. Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

Daniel 8:4. I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

Daniel 8:20. The ram which thou saw having *two* horns *are* the kings of Media and Persia.

Greece Empire

The last part of verse Daniel 2:39 it says, a third kingdom of brass, which will rule over all the earth.

This third kingdom that is represented by this brass belly is Greece that was established around 330 BC by Alexander the great.

Daniel 7:6. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl: the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

A leopard with four wings and four heads (Grecian Empire)

This parallels the belly and the thighs of brass on Nebuchadnezzar's image (Daniel 2:32)

Daniel 8:21. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

Roman Empire

Daniel 2:40. There will also be a fourth kingdom. It will be as strong as iron. (Iron smashes and shatters everything.) As iron crushes things, this fourth kingdom will smash and crush all the other kingdoms.

So this fourth kingdom is represented by the Roman empire and they fought against Greece in 215, 197, 168 and Greece finally fell to the Roman empire in 146 BC.

Daniel 2:41. You also saw the feet and toes. They were partly potters' clay and partly iron. This means that there will be a divided kingdom which has some of the firmness of iron. As you saw, iron was mixed with clay.

There is a divide here described in verse 41 whereas these two legs representing the Roman empire had an eastern and Western division and both of those divisions could not get along with each other which made the kingdom part strong and part weak.

Daniel 2:42. The toes were partly iron and partly clay. Part of the kingdom will be strong, and part will be brittle.

Daniel 2:43. As you saw, iron was mixed with clay. So the two parts of the kingdom will mix by intermarrying, but they will not hold together any more than iron can mix with clay.

Daniel 7:7. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly: and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it and it had ten horns.

The beast with great strength and iron teeth (Roman Empire)

This parallels the legs of iron on Nebuchadnezzar's image (Daniel 2:33)

The ten horns of the fourth beast (10 kings or kingdoms will arise)

This parallels the feet of iron and clay on Nebuchadnezzar's image (Daniel 2:33)

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.

- The little horn with eyes like a man, and a mouth speaking great things represents the antichrist and this verse represents the rise of his kingdom. He rises, conquers, and speak great things (blasphemy). This parallels the blasphemy of the beast of Revelation 13:1-2 which could indicate his eventual claim to be the messiah of all the world's religions, but denounce Jesus. It will be this claim that deceives the nations into following him and the Jews into covenant with him.

- The antichrist will derive his power, position, and authority from the dragon on whose heads is the name of blasphemy (v.2).
- Three horns were plucked up, which indicates his conquering.

Daniel 8:23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and will destroy the mighty and the holy people. 25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. 26 And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. 27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

Kingdom of God

Daniel 2:44. "At the time of those kings, the God of heaven will establish a kingdom that will never be destroyed. No other people will be permitted to rule it. It will smash all the other kingdoms and put an end to them. But it will be established forever.

Daniel 2:45. This is the stone that you saw cut out from a mountain, but not by humans. It smashed the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God has told you what will happen in the future, Your Majesty. The dream is true, and you can trust that this is its meaning."

Daniel 7:9. I beheld till the thrones were cast down and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

The thrones were cast down (The Millennial Kingdom of Christ)

This parallels the stone cut out of the mountain which broke the iron, brass, clay, silver, and gold into pieces on Nebuchadnezzar's image (Daniel 2:32-45)