

Itemized Arguments

The Beast?

Daniel 7:3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. 4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!' 6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot

whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

•**The four beasts represent Babylonia, Medes, Persia, and Alexander's Greek empire.**

Revelation 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. 2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Key Points: The Beast

- Without exception, the image of sea monster is used in the OT to represent evil kingdoms that persecute God's people.
- Sea is the symbol of chaos and of cosmic evil (home of beast and dragon); this is why it will be taken away later on by God.
- Persecution and deception are the two main weapon of the beast, so, even those who have not experienced persecution, they are under the deception of the Beast, e.g. America is under deception even through they may not be under persecution.
- Contrast 13:1 with 17:3, 13:7-13 with 1:5, and 17:14 with 19:12-16.
- Point of beast is not to focus on a destructive creature but to understand the world we live in.

What is the Mark of The Beast?

13:16-18- 16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

7:3-8- 3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel....

Revelation 14:1 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Ezek 9:3-7, Exod.13:9, 16; Deut. 6:8-9, 11:18

- In OT, sign on hand and head was to remind them continually of their commitment and loyalty to God
- The “forehead” represents ideological commitment and the “hand” the practical outworking of that commitment.

Point: The Mark of the beast is not a symbol on your body but on your heart.

Reigning Now?

- Jesus Christ being seated is symbolic, meaning his atoning work is complete and that Christ offering is final (Heb. 10:11-14).
- Scene is picturing deceased saints reigning in heaven (7:14-17).
- 42 of 46 occurrences of ‘throne’ location is in heaven.
- Also the use of Satan’s throne is not on earth but located in a spiritual dimension.
- ‘priests’ and ‘reign’ is a promise based on (Exod. 19:6, which 1:6 and 5:9-10) which is applied to the whole community of saints.
- ‘The rest of the dead’ in 20:5 clearly are those who will not be protected from ‘the second death,’ and hence, must be unbelievers.
- The faithful are promised a seat on the throne of the Lamb Rev. 3:21, Mt. 19:28.

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Eph 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

1Cor 15:24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

Col 2: 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, {13 Or your flesh} God made you {13 Some manuscripts us} alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Acts 2:24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Gal 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through.

Eph 2:16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Col 1: 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Acts 2:35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." {35 Psalm 110:1} 36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Power of sin, satan, this world and death all take a back seat.

5:1-14

Christ has begun to reign over the earthly kings 1:5, 2:6-27

a. Peter sees God's promise to David as already having been fulfilled: 2 Sam 7:16 and Acts 2:30-31.

b. James sees the restoration of David's throne, and its broad scope, as having already been fulfilled: Amos 9:11-12 and Acts 15:13-21

Point: If Christ is reigning then you are reigning with him. Satan wants you to believe you are not reigning.

True Israel

•Acts 2:29-33: "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, ... Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, ... This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God," ...

•David foresaw the resurrection of the Christ. Christ is of the fruit of David's body according to the flesh. Peter tells us that Christ has been resurrected and exalted to the right hand of God, and thus, figuratively, sits on David's throne.

•Eph. 5: The New Testament speaks of the unity of Christ and the church

•Rom. 2:29: ... "but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God."

•Rom. 4:16: ... "Abraham, who is the father of us all" ...

•Gal. 3:7: "Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham."

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•Gal. 4:26: ... "but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all."

•Heb. 12:22-23: "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, ... to the general assembly and church

of the firstborn who are registered in heaven," ...

Gal. 6:15-16: "But in Christ it is not circumcision or uncircumcision that counts but the power of new birth. To all who live by this principle, to the true Israel of God, may there be peace and mercy!"

-Phil. 3:3: "For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh," ...

-Col. 2:11: "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands," ...

-Eph. 2:11-13: "Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh ... that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ."

-Eph. 2:19-20: "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone," ...

-Galatians 3:29: "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" .

-2 Cor. 3:6-11, we read of the superior glory of the new covenant.

-John 4:22-24: ... "for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

-Luke 1:31-33: "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son; and He will be called Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His forefather David; and He will be King over the House of Jacob for the Ages, and of His Kingdom there will be no end."

-Rom. 9:24-26, 24 even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? 25 As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one," 26 and, "In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'children of the living God.'" Paul recalls that God told Hosea that He would choose others who were not his people to be "my people." They would be called "sons of the living God." (Hosea 2:23, 1:10)

-Rom. 9:27-29 he cites Isaiah 29:16 and 45:9 as evidence that not all of Israel would be saved, but only a remnant.

-Rom 10:19 he cites Deut 32:21 as evidence that God would make Israel envious "by those who are not a nation."

-Many text throughout scripture are now applied to the church in the New Testament.