

## **World's System as a Beast Revelation 13, 17**

Their rule for a short time will be personification of evil

### **I. Who is this beast?**

1. More than a man, it is part of the world's system  
World system focused on possessions, great city  
Seducing men to find pleasure in world – harlot  
Drunk with power rulers oppress people – beast
2. It has been a part of this world over the ages  
Human government established to restrain evil  
Rulers, hungry for power, seize other nations  
Oppressive rule often persecutes God's people  
God will allow wickedness to peak in Tribulation
3. We look first at the past history of this beast

### **II. Description of the Beast**

1. Rises out of sea – 13:1; sea of humanity – 17:15  
It has been part of human history
2. It has seven heads & ten horns – 13:1  
Heads represent different manifestations of beast  
Ten horns with crowns speak of beast's final form
3. The various heads blaspheme God – 13:1, 5-6  
Rulers in rebellion against God & oppress His people
4. The Beast rules with power from Satan – 13:2  
Man's kingdom & Satan's kingdom are united in the beast
5. After it is defeated it rises in another form – 13:3
6. It is held in awe and worshipped – 13:4, 8  
The Beast & Satan are worshipped
7. The beast makes war with God's people – 13:7  
True throughout history  
Will be even more intense in final stage

### **III. The Seven Headed Beast – 17:8-10**

1. Beast ascends out of the bottomless pit – 8  
Identifies the beast as part of Satan's kingdom  
Beast is destined to destruction in perdition
2. Beast has risen to oppress at different times - 8
3. 7 heads are 7 mountains on which the harlot sits  
Some interpret this as 7 hills of Rome  
Mountains in Scripture speak of strong kingdoms  
Isaiah 2:2; Jeremiah 51:25; Dan. 2:35; Zech. 4:7
4. 7 heads speak of 7 kings, kingdoms – 17:9-10  
7 rulers built empires; oppressed God's people
5. Five, fallen (past); One, is; One, to come – 10  
One was present in John's time – Roman empire  
Oppressed Jewish people – Destroyed Temple and Jerusalem  
Caused Jewish scattering over the world  
Gave sanction to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ  
Persecuted the Church of Christ, many martyrs  
One yet to come, final manifestation of the beast  
Antichrist linked with 10 rulers who submit to him – 10-13

### **IV. The Beast of the Past**

1. Five times this beast has reared its ugly head  
Each time God was blasphemed & His people oppressed
2. Three of five are linked to Book of Daniel – 13:2  
The leopard, the bear & the lion are in Daniel 7  
John looks back and sees them in reverse order
3. Leopard refers to Greece; Alexander – Dan. 7:6  
He conquered the world and sought to hellenize it  
After his death, kingdom divided into four parts  
Syrian ruler over Israel, Antiochus Epiphanes  
Blasphemed God & desecrated His Temple  
Hanukkah celebrates victory God gave Israel in time of Maccabees
4. Bear refers to Persian Empire – Daniel 7:5  
Medes & Persians ruled the world and Israel  
Daniel was put in Lion's Den under that rule  
Law passed to annihilate Jews under that rule  
Feast of Purim celebrates deliverance God gave by Esther
5. Lion refers to Babylonian Empire – Dan. 7:4  
Conquered Jerusalem & took people into exile  
Cast three men into fiery furnace for not worshipping idol  
Belshazzar desecrated Temple vessels
6. Assyrian Empire; exile of 10 tribes – 2 Ki. 17-19  
Assyrian king blasphemed God in siege of Jerusalem  
God delivered His people with the death angel
7. Egyptian Empire enslaved Israel – Exodus 1-15  
Sought to kill all male children born to Israel  
Kept Israeli's in harsh bondage  
Resisted God when Moses asked for release  
Defied God even when under the ten plagues  
Similar scene seen in last form of the beast  
After release was granted they pursued Israel  
God gave deliverance at Passover & Red Sea
8. Daniel's vision reveals end of beast– Dan. 7:9-14
9. Nebuchadnezzar's dream shows end – Daniel 2:44-45  
Man's view sees beast so as to glorify man – a great image  
God will crush this image and Christ will rule