

Revelation 13: 1-5; "The Beast Rising out of the Sea", Sermon # 89
in the series -
"The Faithful and True Witness", Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall
on June 1st, 2008, in the Morning Worship Service.

We have now come to the place in the book of Revelation in which the Apostle John will reveal to us more about the identity of the Beast which is going to give the true Church of Jesus Christ so much trouble during the whole time period of the 1260 days prophecy. The 1260 days are prophetic years and as we studied in Chapter 11, there is a testimony being born by the true Church during this whole time period. It is the testimony of the truth of the Word of God and the true gospel. It is also the testimony of the God-given authority of the true Church in the way that she administers the sacraments and disciplines those within her midst who do not live in accordance with the teaching of the Word of God. These 2 witnesses; the Church's Doctrine and the Church's Discipline which are given by our God and by our Christ, to the proper authorities within the true Church, are what is represented by the 2 mystical witnesses who are mentioned in Chapter 11, verse 3. At the end of the 1260 days, or year's prophecy, we were told in Revelation 11: 7 that the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against these witnesses, overcome and kill them. I have told you in past sermons that I believe that this will be the slaying of the public testimony of true Christianity as it is held forth by her teachers and her true Protestant churches. This slaying will most certainly involve the testimony of true Christians and churches in the 10 kingdoms of Europe, an event which is already close to taking place there. But it may also involve the United States of America and other countries which have, in the past, had a tremendous witness in a public sense for our Lord Jesus.

So I would say that it is very important to the forward progress of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ that all true Christians understand the identity of this Beast rising up out of the sea for it is the greatest strategy of Satan to attempt to blockade the gospel of our Lord Jesus from reaching and conquering the nations of the world. The question that we are asking in this sermon is, " How can every true Christian come to understand the identity of this Beast and take action against it?" And I would say that the answer to that question is; that every true Christian must come humbly to the revelation of this truth of the identity of the Beast by a careful study of this passage of Scripture and then compare it with history. This beast, who has been revealed in this passage of Scripture and in history can be identified by the 3 three-fold descriptions which are found in this text. The Beast can be identified by his heads, and horns, and crowns, first of all. Then 2ndly, he can be identified by what he is like; a leopard, a bear, and a lion. And then he can be identified by what the Dragon gave him; his power, his throne, and his great authority. We will only have time to go through the 1st of these 3-fold descriptions of the beast in this sermon.

1st of all - This Beast can be identified by his heads and horns and crowns.

(Verse 1)

Verse 1 says, "Then I stood on the sand of the sea." "And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name." Now I have already established, hopefully to your satisfaction in past sermons, that when we are speaking of the Antichrist as a beast we must ask ourselves where else in the Bible is this kind of language of beasts used? The very best way to interpret Scripture is to compare it with itself, and let it comment upon itself from other parts of the Scripture. This language about beasts is used in Daniel Chapter 7 if you will turn over there with me. We will look at what the Beast was like when we get to the second point of my sermon. This is mentioned in verses 1-6 of Chapter 7. The only thing that we need to see right now from these verses is verse 2 where it says, "Daniel spoke saying, 'I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.'" "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other." The sea is a different environment from the land. The sea refers to the political realm of men, the land refers to the spiritual and ecclesiastical realm of Christendom. If you look over to the 17th verse it says, "Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth." First the sea is mentioned in Chapter 7, verse 2 as the place from which they arise, and now the earth. The same thing is true in Chapter 13 of Revelation. Each of these 4 beasts had a real and direct relation to and impact upon the nation of Israel as the Old Testament Church. And in a sense modified by God's purpose in Christ and the strategies of Satan in the times of the New Testament, we will see that each of these 4 beasts has an impact upon the New Testament Church in the way that the Beasts are spoken of in Chapter 13 of Revelation.

In Daniel 7: 17, in the marginal reference, in relation to the word "kings", it says, "Representing their kingdoms". That is, each of these four beasts is a kingdom, a political World Monarchy represented by the word "king" in the singular. Each of these World monarchies may have had, and did have, more than one monarch but this is a prophetic way of speaking. If we consider that the first kingdom is Babylon, comparing this vision with the one given to Daniel in Chapter 2, of Nebuchadnezzar's great dream of the statue of 4 parts, we can see that these are the same 4 World Monarchies that are being spoken of there. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. These World Monarchies arose out of the political commotions and agitations of the nations of those times in World History. They are spoken of prophetically as "the Great Sea". These great World Monarchies arose in succession to one another it says in Daniel 2: 39. "But after you shall arise another kingdom, inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth." And then in regard to the fourth kingdom it says in verse 44, "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." This is the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But if you look now at verse 7 of Daniel 7, it says, "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong." "It

had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet." "It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns." "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns, were plucked out by the roots." "And there in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and mouth speaking pompous words." Now we see here that the fourth kingdom, the kingdom of Rome, the kingdom in whose days Christ's everlasting kingdom was set up, was different from all the beasts that went before it. The other kingdoms that went before it were dreadful, terrible, and exceeding strong in their day too. But this kingdom has 10 horns, other smaller kingdoms that are a part of its power, and extensions of its power. And among these 10 smaller kingdoms is another horn, a little one coming up among the rest. This horn is described as plucking up three of the first horns by the roots. It is described as having the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking pompous words. This, I would say to you, is the Antichristian Beast of our text in Revelation 13. This is the Papal power of Rome. In verse 23 of Daniel 7 it says, "The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces." "The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom and another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings." "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law." "Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time." This time, by the way, of "a time, times, and a half a time, is the same period of time prophetically spoken of as the 1260 days of Revelation 12: 6 and the 42 months of Revelation 11: 3 and 13: 5. In every case it is speaking of 3 and one half years of prophetic days, a year for a day. 1260 years of Antichristian oppression and persecution of the true Church of Jesus Christ.

So the identity of the 1st beast in Revelation 13 is the same as the fourth kingdom in Daniel's vision. It is the political Pagan Roman Empire. The ten horns are the 10 kingdoms formed into countries following the breakup of the Pagan Roman Empire. They were the territories under its jurisdiction before, and subject to its power, but this beast is different because its power is both political and ecclesiastical. It is the attempt by Satan to have the false church of Rome to use the 10 kingdoms of Europe, which countries came to be political entities under its influence, as horns to persecute the true Church of Jesus Christ. This is the little horn exercising authority over the 10 horns of Western Europe. This is exactly how things developed in history after the breakup of the former Pagan Roman Empire. You remember, in our previous study of the seals in Chapters 6-8 how dreadful, terrible, and exceeding strong were the persecutions under the 10 emperors of Rome. You remember how Satan was kicked out of this "heaven" and thrown to the earth. He was forced to construct a new strategy against the church. He could no longer politically persecute Christians using the Roman Emperors. His new strategy would be to become an Emperor within the visible Church of Jesus Christ and persecute and oppress the

true Christians from there. The center of his base of operations would still be Rome and the 10 kingdoms that the Roman Empire became. They would be the beast and the horns of the beast. There would be real political power exercised at many points in order to persecute the true Church. But now Satan would initiate through the Papal system, a false church authority, a new and terrible form of persecution. He would have the Popes claim to be the representatives of Christ upon the earth. The Pope would be the head of the church, each Pope would rule in his day as Head of the Church upon the earth, just as kings are the political heads, each in their day and generation. And this would continue through many generations. So this first beast in Revelation 13 is identified as a devouring, persecuting political power, a beast rising out of the Sea. From Daniel 7 we can identify it as first being Pagan Rome, which then transitions into Papal Rome. The ten crowns on the 10 horns show the time period of transition which we are speaking of here. It is the time of the Roman power as professing to be Christian that we are speaking of. The dragon mentioned before in Chapter 12, verse 3, had seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. That was the Imperial power of Rome under the Emperors. But here in Chapter 13, verse 1 we find the Beast having seven heads, and ten horns and on the ten horns ten crowns. Dominion has been taken away from the Imperial city politically and divided among the 10 kingdoms. But another little horn has come into being to rule them all if he can.

This leaves the phrase, "having seven heads", to be explained. This phrase is interpreted for us in Revelation 17, verses 3 and 9-11. "So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness." "And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." Verse 9, "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits." "There are also seven kings." "Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come." "And when he comes, he must continue a short time." "The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition." This is the same beast that we have been studying here in Chapter 13. The mind which has wisdom knows that in history that Rome was the city founded on seven hills. One also knows from the study of history that the Pagan Roman Empire went through a number of changes in the heads of her government. Livy and Tacitus, Roman historians, tell us that Rome started out with kings, went to consuls, and then to dictators; then followed decemvirs, and military tribunes with consular authority. These are the five that are fallen. The sixth form of Roman government was still in existence at the time of the writing of the vision by John, and that was the Caesars or Emperors. The transition was made from the sixth form of government, the Emperors to the 7th form of government when the Imperial name of Emperor was put to an end in 476 A.D. Bishop Thomas Newton tells us in his work, *On the Prophecies*, "An end was put to the imperial name in the year 476 by Odoacer king of the Heruli, who having taken Rome, deposed Momyllus Augustulus, the last emperor of the West." ... "A new form of government was not erected, till Rome fell under the obedience of the eastern Emperor, and the Emperor's lieutenant, the exarch of

Ravenna, dissolved all the former magistracies, and constituted a Duke of Rome to govern the people, and to pay tribute to the exarchate of Ravenna." "Rome had never experienced this form of government before: and this I conceive to be the other, which in the Apostle's days "was not yet come, and he cometh, he must continue a short space." "For Rome was reduced to a dukedom, tributary to the exarch of Ravenna, by Longinus, who was sent exarch in the year 566 according to some accounts, or in the year 568 according to others; and the city revolted from the eastern emperor to the pope in the year 727: which is a short space in comparison of the imperial power, which preceded, and lasted above 500 years; and in comparison of the papal power, which followed, and has now continued above 1000 years."

I think that Newton is right about this. History thus confirms that "the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven. This is how the beast of the Imperial Pagan Roman power transitioned into the Papal political and Ecclesiastical power. What can we say about all this in closing? We haven't time to take on the second and third points of the sermon today. We will next month. There is one thing in closing that I would like to apply from the verses that we studied this afternoon. These things that we are speaking of here today may not seem important to some, but the reason that I preach them to you is so that you, as believers here in this place will be faithful and true in your testimony to Jesus Christ. The faithful testimony to Jesus Christ is both negative and positive. Positively, we want people to be saved from their sins and to have eternal life, and so we must preach to them, we must speak to them of what our Lord Jesus has done on the cross for their sins. We must speak to them about their absolute need of Christ; of receiving the righteousness which He worked out for us in keeping the commandments of God. We lovingly do this so that people understand that salvation is not by the works of the law kept by them, either ceremonial or moral. It is rather by the works of the law kept by Christ fully, perfectly, and completely. But a faithful testimony is also negative in that we must speak to people who we want to be saved eternally about the dangers of believing what is false. We must be willing to take our stand against the doctrine and the false authority of Antichrist. The Papal power is the Antichrist spoken of in the Holy Scriptures. I have tried to show you this from the Word of God and from history. I will continue to attempt to do so. It is so very important that we show people in our families and in our community that the doctrines of Roman Catholicism as a system built by the Popes will not save a single soul. And that the authority of the church of Rome as exercised by the Pope, the Bishops, and the Priests of that false church must not be recognized or submitted to in relation to the salvation of any person. It is people's eternal souls that are perishing when they remain in that church, believing in their system of false doctrine. Will we let them perish in our silence? Will we say it does not matter? We may even know certain people in that church who we believe are true Christians. This is a real possibility that true Christians can be going to a Roman Catholic church. The issue is this. If those who attend, hold to the false doctrine and submit to the false authority there, they cannot be saved. If they are a true Christian, and attending a Roman Catholic

church, they have been saved by believing in the true gospel of faith in Jesus Christ and not because of anything taught to them in that church. A person is not saved by taking sacraments or confessing to priests, or by believing in the edicts and doctrines of Popes. They are saved by the Apostolic teaching of the Bible. They are saved by the gospel of Christ. They are saved by the living Christ Himself, and by the power of His Holy Spirit. And have heard somewhere, from someone outside of their church that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and not of themselves. It is the gift of God. And they believed it. They are no doubt confused in relation to their church. And this is where we can help them. They may think that they should stay because all of their relatives are there. This is the place where they have always gone to church. They may fear not being able to be saved outside of their church. But let us pray to be able to say to them, as God Himself says to them in Revelation 18: 4, "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'" Let us not sit idly by. Let us not be silent if we have been in the past. Let us pray for them and ask God to give us wisdom so that we might speak to them both negatively and positively about the truth of the gospel, and where they can find a true church of Christ's believers.