

REVIVAL NEWS

From Revival Ministries Australia

P.O. Box 2718 BC TOOWOOMBA Q4350 Australia

Phone: 61-431 603 985; e-mail: rma@revivalministries.org.au

Website: www.revivalministries.org.au

[Declaring the whole counsel of God](#) [Bulletin – Article 4 – March 31, 2024](#)

THE BEAST & THE OVERCOMING CHURCH

Nicholas Jackson

[This teaching follows from the published booklet "The Mystery of God would be finished – a journey through the Book of Revelation 1 - 11". This is the fourth in a new series of teachings that will journey through the remaining chapters of Revelation. If you have not read the booklet and would like a copy, please reply by email and we will send an e-copy of the booklet to you. This teaching follows directly from the November 2023 Newsletter entitled "The Great Spiritual Warfare"]

A BEAST COMING OUT OF THE SEA

John "saw a beast rising up out of the sea" Revelation 13:1a. The beast is *rising up out of the sea*. In Revelation 17:15 we are told that, "the waters which you saw...are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues". In Psalm 65:7 the "noise of the seas" is prophetically linked to being "the tumult of the peoples". This beast rises up from the peoples of the earth who are in a noisy tumult; no peace nor rest.

This is a continuation from Revelation 12 where the Dragon is enraged at the Woman, a picture of the Bride Church (Eph.5:22-33) which is bringing forth sons in the earth. The Dragon wants to destroy the sons coming forth, those who are "her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17. So what does the Dragon do? He raises up a beast from the sea, from out of the noisy tumult of the nations that rage against God (Ps.2:1). It is the dragon "who gave authority to the beast" Revelation 13:4. In fact the Beast is the manifestation of the Dragon in the earth. The Dragon was described as "a fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems (crowns) on his heads" Revelation 12:3. The beast is described as "having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns" Revelation 13:1. The Beast is so similar to the Dragon, that it is as if the Beast is the Dragon manifesting on the earth using religious, political, social and governmental means to "make war with the saints and to overcome them" Revelation 13:7. The difference is that the crowns are on the heads of the dragon – speaking of the power and authority coming from the dragon. The Beast has the crowns on

the *horns* – showing that the power of the dragon is manifest through the beast in human rulers, kings and governments.

The authority of the beast and the rulership of Jesus Christ

This beast was seen *“having seven heads”* Revelation 13:1b. *Heads* speak of authority. The number *seven* speaks of complete authority. The good news is that there is a *Head* who is more powerful than the Beast with *seven heads*. God put all things under the feet of Christ and *“gave Him to be head over all to the church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”* Ephesians 1:22-23. This is confirmed in Revelation 1:5 & 5:6 which shows us that Jesus Christ is *“the ruler over the kings of the earth”* and the *Lamb* is in the midst of the throne having *“seven horns”*. Jesus said, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”* Matthew 28:18. Jesus has complete and total authority.

Which government are you under?

Jesus reigns now and will continue to reign until His enemies are made His footstool (Ps.110:1-2; 1 Cor.15:25). The Beast has authority over all those who *“worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* Revelation 13:8. The beast has complete authority over the unregenerate world, the ones who *“walk according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”* Ephesians 2:2. John says, *“we know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one”* 1 John 5:19. The beast has authority over those who submit to him. But we are *“of God”*, a people who have been *“delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love”* Colossians 1:13. Those who belong to the Lamb are under a new and different government, no longer governed by the dragon and thus can walk free of the beast.

HORNS, CROWNS AND BLASPHEMIES

Horns

This beast has *“ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name”* Revelation 13:1c. The Beast is a manifestation, or incarnation, of the Dragon (Rev.12:3). *Horns* speak of kings and rulers of nations – just as Jesus is referred to as a *“horn of salvation...in the house of David”* Luke 1:69 (see also Ps.132:17; Dan.8:8-9). Both in Daniel and Revelation it says that *“the ten horns which you saw are ten kings”* Revelation 17:12 (also Dan.7:24). Horns are kings, and the number *ten* speaks of a multitude of kings or governments banding together, manifesting the authority and nature of the beast. It is not a literal number.

Ten also speaks of a time of trial and testing in the Scriptures. Daniel, in regard to not eating the King of Babylon’s food, asked the steward of the king to *“please test your servants for ten days...”* Daniel 1:12. Also in Revelation 2:10 Jesus told the church in Smyrna that some of them *“will have tribulation ten days”*. The *Ten Commandments* test mankind against God’s nature. *Ten* can also be a representative number of the nations of the earth as in Zechariah 8:23 which says, *“In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you’”*. Putting this together, these *ten horns* are a representation of the governments of unbelieving nations who will test the saints and give trouble to them for a time. They come forth from and are inspired by the beast with hatred against God’s people.

Crowns

Crowns is in the Greek *diadema*. This is what kings wear as a sign of their authority and power to rule. Kings who conquered other kingdoms would take the crowns of those conquered kings and wear them as a testimony to the victory over that kingdom that is now under their control. This is like when King David took Rabbah, of the people of Ammon, and he **“took their king’s crown from his head...And it was set on David’s head” 2 Samuel 12:26-30**. The beast has *ten crowns*, revealing a joining of many kings and rulers in alliance with the Dragon, being inspired to wage war against the saints.

Psalm 2 says, **“kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yahweh and against His Anointed [literally “Messiah”]” Psalm 2:2**. This is the beast. It is already here. This beast has manifested in various ways through the last two thousand years. In the early church the beast manifested in this way; **“both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done” Acts 4:27-28**. The beast in their generation was an unholy alliance of Kings (Herod), Rulers and governors (Pilate representing the Roman Empire), Gentiles (nations) and the people of Israel (particularly the religious leaders), all being inspired by the Dragon to come against the saints and the apostles. They were manifested as being against Yahweh and His Christ, **“Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed” Acts 4:27**.

These were the *ten horns* and *ten crowns* in that early generation of the Body of Christ. The good news is that when the seals were opened by the Lamb who was slain in **Revelation 6:1-2**, the first seal released the One on the white horse to go out **“conquering and to conquer”**. By **Revelation 19:11-12** the One who sits on the white horse is seen to **“have on His head many crowns [Gk diademas]”**. The *ten crowns* have been taken off the beast, having been conquered by the One who is called **“The Word of God” (Rev.19:13)**. He is seen wearing those crowns in victory (**Rev.19:12**) over all the kings and kingdoms of the earth (**Rev.11:15**)!

Blasphemies

The beast had seven heads **“and on his heads a blasphemous name”**. The *name* in Scripture refers to the nature, character and essence of the thing being named. The beast is by nature *blasphemous*. This means the beast is completely disrespectful of God, unashamedly wicked and promoting what is abominable to God. The beast was **“given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months” Revelation 13:5**. *Blasphemies* bring down what is godly, call evil good and good things evil and show no regard for what is holy; no reverence for what is to be hallowed. The fourth beast mentioned in **Daniel 7:8** also had a **“mouth speaking pompous [great things] words”**. The beast speaks with such authority. It intimidates and makes it seem like the saints are so evil and wrong for loving what is good. We see this today when governments legislate, with such “moral authority”, ungodly, degenerate, abominable, unclean and murderous laws as if they are compassionate and right in what they say. This is because the **“dragon gave him his power, his throne and great authority” Revelation 13:2b**. The *seven heads* of the beast speak of the all-encompassing authority given by the dragon which had *seven heads* (**Rev.12:3**). It speaks with a perverse but strong authority.

Blaspheming God, His name, His Tabernacle and those dwelling in heaven

The beast openly and unashamedly speaks and rails against **“God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven” Revelation 13:6**. The beast is a people who want to cast off the restraint of believing there is a God to whom they are accountable.

The nations rage against *“Yahweh and against His Anointed [Messiah], saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us”* Psalm 2:2-3. They do not want to be bound by the law of God and Christ. They despise righteousness and suppress the truth (Rom.1:18).

They are not afraid to speak irreverently, rudely and mockingly of God. They blaspheme His name, use His name in vain, or even join His name to wicked things in an attempt to normalize what is evil. We as believers are to live in such a way that *“the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed”* 1 Timothy 6:1.

The beast speaks against God’s *Tabernacle*. In the New Testament the *tabernacle* is the church, the house of God, the dwelling place of God in the Spirit (1 Tim.3:15, Eph.2:22). The beast tries to make a mockery of the church and speaks against it and infiltrates it with lies, institution rather than family, and causing it to become religious and bound in traditions and false doctrines, rather than the real Body of Christ flowing in the Word and the Spirit.

The beast also speaks against *those who dwell in heaven*, those whose *“citizenship is in heaven”* Philippians 3:20. The people of God who are truly born again are *“raised up and made to sit together with Christ in the heavenly places”* Ephesians 2:6. While being on the earth our dwelling is in the heavenly realm of the Kingdom of God and is in direct contrast with those who *“dwell on the earth”* and *“worship him [the beast], whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* Revelation 13:8. We are a heavenly people while on the earth and we do not worship the beast. The beast hates this and tries to cancel and mock any who do not go along with the ideas and false religion and immorality that he attempts to force on the earth!

A LIMITED TIME

Forty-two months

The good news is that he is only given authority for a limited time – *“forty-two months”*. The beast is restricted by the Word of God. The beast is still in the bounds of the sovereignty of Jesus Christ, the One who created all things *“whether thrones, or principalities, or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him”* Colossians 1:16. The devil can only work within the limits appointed to him. This is the same time frame that the Gentiles will *“tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months”* Revelation 11:2.

These are not two separate events but describing the same thing in different ways. The beast is a conglomerate of Gentiles (nations that are unbelieving), coming against God’s city, His people. But in the midst of that Jesus *“will give power to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days!”* Revelation 11:3. The same time of three and a half years said in days rather than months. Jesus gives His church – the two Lampstands (Rev.1:20, 11:4) – *“power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses...”* Acts 1:8. We are the witnessing church in the midst of the time of trouble. In the midst of the beast having authority for this time, we also have power to testify and witness of the resurrection, authority and miraculous ability of Jesus Christ, prophesying by the power of the Holy Spirit!

This is the same time frame for the Woman, another picture of the church that brings forth sons of God (Rev.12:5,17), to have a place prepared by God in the wilderness, *“that they should feed her there for one thousand two hundred and sixty days* Revelation 12:6. The awesome promise is that the church is looked after and nourished during the time of the beast persecuting her. The dragon, the devil, comes against the church to try and stop her reproducing more sons but the *“woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times and half a time from the presence of the serpent”* Revelation 12:14. The dragon is so enraged at the woman

that *“he went to make war with the rest of her offspring”* Revelation 12:17. The way He makes war with them is by raising up this beast, revealed in Revelation 13, to overcome them.

This has been, and is, happening already. We are in this battle now and have been for almost two thousand years. The Beast has manifested in many and various ways over this time and God’s people have had to confront this and come through this in varying contexts. We need to face this head on in our generation and learn to overcome because *“greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world”* 1 John 4:4. Jesus said, *“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”* John 16:33.

The time of trial is for our good!

The period of three and a half years mentioned in Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6,14 & 13:5 is all speaking of the same thing but unfolding the revelation from another perspective! It is the beast coming against the sons of God, the offspring of the woman, causing it to be difficult and troublesome for the disciples of Jesus who follow His commandments. This is working for our good! This *“light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* 2 Corinthians 4:17. For the Lord’s sake *“we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us”*. Romans 8:36-37. It is a time of purification for the saints as *“tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope”* Romans 5:3-4. The hope produced is *“Christ in you, the hope of glory”* Colossians 1:27. The testing period is a time of learning and training and equipping to hear from God in the wilderness and then prophesy and speak boldly what He reveals to us. Even though the beast speaks blasphemies with great authority, we are to speak with the authority of Christ knowing that He has given us *“authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt us”* Luke 10:19.

Victory over the Beast – not warring in the flesh

We are also to realise that our wrestling *“is not with flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age...”* Ephesians 6:12. The church is not to war with men or human governments. There are a people who will overcome the beast. John saw *“those who have the victory over the beast...”* Revelation 15:2. The *victory over the beast* is not a victory in the flesh, with war, protests, political and military might. Man loves to war in the flesh, but we are warned, *“He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and faith of the saints”* Revelation 13:10. Jesus overcame the beast in His lifetime through humility and *“obedience to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name...”* Philippians 2:8-9. We are to be *“conformed to His death, if by any means we may attain to the resurrection of the dead”* Philippians 3:11. This is how we overcome and have victory over the beast!

Patience and faith

We need *patience and faith* so as not to war according to the flesh. Through the mighty power of God, we are to *“pull down strongholds, cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled”* 2 Corinthians 10:4-6. In the days of Noah, God used Noah to through his faith in a wicked world to *“condemn the world and (he) became heir of the righteousness which is*

according to faith” Hebrews 11:7. Paul said, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?” 1 Corinthians 6:2.

Through our *“faith and patience in all our persecutions and tribulations that we endure, it is manifest evidence of the righteous judgement of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you suffer, since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you” 2 Thessalonians 1:4-6.* God is using our faith and patience to judge the world. Through our holy conduct and godliness in difficult times we *“look for and hasten the coming of the day of God” 2 Peter 3:11-12.* Through *patience and faith,* we learn to inherit the promises (**Hebrews 6:12**). We are to *“let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” James 1:4.* We are to commit our souls to a faithful Creator and give room for His wrath.

Declaring the manifold wisdom of God

The church is not to war with men or governments of men, but to make known the *“manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to God’s eternal purpose, which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” Ephesians 3:10-11.* Keep preaching the gospel! Keep making disciples and *“lo, I am with you always, even till the end of the age” Matthew 28:20.* Stay focused on the mission amid the beast warring against the saints. We are to *“take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” Ephesians 6:13.* It is time for the church to wake up to the battle with the beast that we are already in and learn to overcome and be bold to declare the mystery of Christ in our generation!