

## REVELATION: Lesson 120

### Chapter 13:1-4, The Antichrist: The Counterfeit Christ; Who is Like Him? / Making a God out of a Man

13 November 2020

**Rev 13:1** “**The sand of the sea.**” This term occurs 18 times in the Old Testament and 4 times in the New Testament. In every case except Job 6:3 this refers to a vast multitude of people. The Beast is going to rise up out of the sea (of mankind), chosen by the people, and exalted by them.

**Seven heads, ten horns, ten crowns:** the dragon (Satan) has the real power (Rev 12:3), but it is presently concealed. When it is time to display his power, he will do it through the Beast (Antichrist).

Notice the **counterfeit** operation here: God’s power was displayed through Jesus Christ, the man. Similarly, Satan’s power will be displayed through a man (Antichrist).

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**Rev 13:2** “**The beast...was like unto a leopard.**” A leopard has spots. Satan’s man is spotted with sin. Jesus Christ is “**the lamb without blemish and without spot**” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

#### **The power of the beast:**

**Leopard:** in Jeremiah 5:6, the leopard is able to tear people to pieces. He is large, fierce, and swift to spring upon his prey (Dan 7:6, Hos 13:7, Hab 1:8).

**Bear:** the picture is that of a she-bear robbed of her whelps (2 Sam 17:8, Prov 17:12, Hos 13:8). Satan (mama bear) will be furious when he sees the church (whelps, cubs) taken off the Earth.

**Lion:** the mouth of a lion represents power and eagerness to destroy (Psa 17:12, Hos 5:14, 1 Pet 5:8).

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**Rev 13:3** The Beast will be wounded “**as it were**” unto death. The word “as” indicates that he will not actually die; his wounds will be healed. People will be told that he resurrected from the dead, but Satan has never had the power to raise the dead or create life.

- God is the one who makes **alive** (Deut 32:39) and **quickeneth** all things (1 Tim 6:13).
  - Jesus Christ is the **resurrection** and the **life** (John 11:25), He is the way the truth and the **life** (John 14:6).
  - Satan had the power of **death** (Heb 2:14). He doesn’t have the power to give life.
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**Rev 13:4** “**Who is like unto the beast?**” Satan finally gets the worship he has always desired. He’s not interested in being a world leader; he wants to be God. This is a religious endeavor.

- More indications of a counterfeit operation.
    - Satan mimics the unseen God. No man hath seen God at any time (Jn 1:18, 5:37).
    - The Beast mirrors Jesus Christ. He that hath seen me hath seen the Father (Jn 14:9). Jesus is the express image of God (Heb 1:3), He is God manifest in the flesh (1 Tim 3:16). Similarly, the beast is the embodiment of Satan.
    - As the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and testifies of the Son (Jn 15:26), the false prophet is a counterfeit. He comes from Satan and testifies of the Beast.
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## WHY WILL MAN MAKE A GOD (IDOL) OF ANOTHER MAN?

1. **Because they can see a man.** It requires no faith (Heb 11:1, 6). They will religiously follow a man who possesses above average qualities.
2. **Man must consider things from an infinite point of view.** God put the world in their heart (Eccl 3:11). God has given all men an understanding of His eternal nature. Creation reveals an eternal God (Rom 1:20). Man strives to be “as gods” (Gen 3:5), therefore he’ll idolize a man who claims to be like the Most High (Isa 14:14), showing himself that he is God (2 Thess 2:4).
  - a. Young people idolize rebels (rock/rap stars, sports figures, effeminate men, macho women) because in their heart, that is what they desire to be. They admire the rebel’s stand against authority.
  - b. The Antichrist will be the greatest rebel ever seen. People will flock after this man who is rich, powerful, successful, open-minded, without conscience, and unrestrained by a Holy God (Dan 11:36).
3. **It gratifies and satisfies man’s pride.** Men imagine that they ARE the person whom they idolize. They dress and behave like their idol. A rebellious heart is at the root of it. If it resists righteous, holy authority, it appeals to the rebel heart.
4. **Their conscience is seared** as they observe the rebel remaining unpunished by the true God. It makes them bolder in their own defiance against God. *“My friends did it and nothing happened to them.”* They knew God, but their foolish heart was darkened (**Romans 1:18-23**).
5. **It sets them free to practice all human lusts.** If we are all gods, everything we do will be alright with “god.” You would never condemn any kind of sin or else you’d be condemning the “god” who is sinning.
  - a. It leads to idolatry. Idolatry leads to every kind of sin imaginable (**Rom 1:24-32**).
  - b. Immorality is joined to religion (Exod 32, the golden calf). It is religion without God.

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## WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO BE LIKE?

**Psalm 115:1-8**      You will be like your god. If your god is a sinful man, you will be just like him. You will be just like the one you exalt.

**Romans 8:29**      If you are saved, the Holy Spirit is working to make you more and more like the Lord Jesus Christ every day.

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The exaltation of man above God is the spirit of Antichrist.