

## Revelation 13:1-10—The Antichrist—Part 5

Four Kingdoms of Daniel				
	Chapter 2	Chapter 7	Chapter 8	
Babylon 606 B.C. Mobility King humbled		Head of Gold		Winged Lion Eagles wings Stood like a man
Medo-Persia 538 B.C. 2 Nations Persia dominant Persia younger		Breast & 2 Arms of Silver		Bear 2 Sides raised up on 1 side 3 Ribs
Greece 333 B.C. Fast conquest Alexander Four generals Antiochus IV		Belly & Thighs of Brass		Leopard Given dominion 4 Wings 4 Heads
Rome 63 B.C. East/West division		2 Legs of Iron		Uncut Stone
Future 10 Kings Antichrist		Feet of iron/clay	10 Horns Little horn	Great Mountain
				Ancient of Days Second Coming
				Everlasting Dominion Millennial Kingdom

## Why study Revelation?

Revelation is a "lens" that puts the entire Bible into focus. The lens is focused on the person of Jesus Christ, and his destiny (second coming) is imminent. This is a book of victory: We are overcomers! We are the ultimate winners in the game of life! (I read the ending: we win!) (Ron Matsen)

## Why do many find it difficult to study the book of Revelation?

One of the reasons this book strikes us as strange is because of our lack of understanding concerning the Old Testament. The Book of Revelation consists of 404 verses that contain over 800 allusions to the Old Testament. (Ron Matsen)

Remember that as we go through, we simply look for the symbol in the Old testament, learn what the literal meaning is, and then insert the literal meaning of the symbol back into Revelation. Easy right! The more you know and read your bible, the easier Revelation will be to understand.

## Revision: The Divine outline of the Book of Revelation

We can understand the book of Revelation by realising that there is a divine outline that breaks the book into three basic sections. The outline of the book is found in:

Revelation 1:19 NKJV

<sup>19</sup> Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Part 1 - **The things which you have seen:** Chapter 1, the vision of the Glorified Christ.

Part 2 - **The things which are:** Chapters 2-3, the church age.

Part 3 - **The things which will take place after this.** Chapters 4-22, The tribulation, Millennial reign of Jesus, and then the new Heavens and Earth.

## **Revision—the four world empires or kingdoms**

We'll start by revising the four kingdoms including symbols used in chapter 8. Look at the chart showing the four kingdoms on the first page.

This was all predicted by Daniel, especially that the final world empire would be a revived form of the four great empires of the past, but especially the Roman empire. The first was Babylon, the second Medo-Persian, the third Greece, and the fourth, Rome. Rome officially ceased to be in A.D. 476.

## **Revelation 13:1-10—The antichrist**

Now let's come back to our study of Revelation 13:1-10, the section of Revelation that concerns the antichrist. Remember that over the last four weeks we have studied the Old Testament passages that describe the antichrist, what kind of person he will be, and the things that he will do. The antichrist will be a great orator, a man of great cunning, a man who will flatter, bribe and manipulate people to get what he wants. Through his cunning he will cause deceit to prosper; so he will be a great deceiver, but one who appears to be just the best leader that humanity has ever seen—a leader that we can depend upon to lead us out of chaos. He will be asked to lead after the chaos that will follow the rapture of the church. Then he will take over. Like Hitler, he will come in as a passionate person, one who loves the people, and as the bible says, as "an angel of light."

Also, we now know the literal meaning or interpretation of most of the signs and symbols are that we will find in Revelation 13.

### **Some of the things we learned last week are:**

1. The antichrist, Satan, and the revived Roman empire can be considered to be synonymous or the same because:

*"The person is often the symbol of the government, and what is said of the government can be said of him."*

2. The **sand of the sea** (Revelation 13:1) represents the gentile nations.

3. The **7 heads and 10 horns** represents the government of the final world empire, the Roman empire, described as feet made up of iron mixed with clay in Daniel chapter 2.

4. The ten toes or ten horns represent 10 kings, possibly of ten nations, who will *together* rule the revived Roman empire during the last 7 years—during the tribulation.

5. These 10 kings will give their power and authority to the antichrist, making the antichrist the world dictator.

### **Revelation 13:1-10 NKJV**

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. <sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. <sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marvelled and followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

<sup>5</sup> And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. <sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

<sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup> 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 the faith of the saints.

### **Revelation 13:1 NKJV**

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.

This was all predicted by Daniel, that the final world empire would be a revived form of the four great empires of the past, but especially the Roman empire. The first was Babylon, the second Medo-Persian, the third Greece, and the fourth, Rome. Rome officially ceased to be in A.D. 476. They collapsed from their rottenness, their immorality, just like the western countries are today. The foundations of the family unit, law and order, and respect are quickly eroding.

The beast in the context of Revelation 13 is the antichrist, who is of Roman ethnicity, and who rises up from the gentiles.

v 1 **Ten horns:** horns in the bible is often used to represent political power.

v 1 **Ten crowns:** These crowns represent that they are ruling, that they have authority.

v 1 **Seven heads:** This symbol is interpreted in:

### **Revelation 17:9-10 NKJV**

“Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. <sup>10</sup> 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.”

This is interesting, as it has dual literal meanings. The **seven heads** are both seven mountains, and they represent seven kings or kingdoms.

Interestingly, Rome is situated on seven hills. Here it seems to indicate that the future one world religion (symbolised by the woman) will be centred in Rome, just as it was in John the apostle's day. Here's a quote from Wikipedia about the seven hills of Rome:

The seven hills of Rome east of the river Tiber form the geographical heart of Rome, within the walls of the city.



But what about the seven kings or kingdoms?

Revelation 17:10 NKJV

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.

Rev 17:10 The seven kings or kingdoms—those nations that affected Israel.

1. Egypt.
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Mede-Persian empire
5. Grecian empire
6. Roman empire (the one that “is” at the time when John lived)—the two legs of iron
7. The revived Roman empire - the feet of clay and iron—only reigns for a short time.

There are many interpretations of the seven heads as there are snails in France, but I think that this simple interpretation works best.

### Revelation 17:10 NKJV

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.

**Kings** can also mean **kingdoms**. There are seven kingdoms or world empires that have affected Israel. At the time Revelation was written, the sixth kingdom was in power, the Roman empire. And then it says specifically that the last one **is yet to come**, and will only last a **short time**. It seems logical that this is a clear reference to the revived Roman empire that will only last 7 years because it will be destroyed when Jesus returns to the earth. In summary, the seven kings or kingdoms is best represented by taking the 7 major kingdoms or world empires that have affected Israel, with the last one, the revived Roman empire, still yet to come.

## The nature of the Revived Roman Empire

### Revelation 13:2 NKJV

**Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.**

v 2 **Beast:** Why is the antichrist called the beast? Because that's his true nature. He'll come across as a nice guy, but he'll be a devil inside.

Do you remember which nation each of these beasts represent, as stated in Daniel 7:2-6 where God uses animals to describe the empires?

- Leopard—Greece
- Bear—Medo-Persian
- Lion—Babylon

In other words, the final world empire will be from the ruins of the Roman empire, but there will be elements of the great power that these other empires had. It will have some of the characteristics of the other empires.

v 2 **lion:** represented the Babylonian Empire—Strong and powerful and ruled by an all powerful despotic dictator. The antichrist will also be an all powerful despotic dictator.

v 2 **bear:** Represented the Medo-persian empire—they would crush their enemies with overwhelming force. The antichrist's kingdom will also crush their enemies with overwhelming force.

v 2 **Leopard:** represented the Grecian empire. Under the leadership of Alexander the Great, they conquered the known world in a very short time. As predicted in Revelation 6:2, the revived Roman Empire, the last world empire, will conquer the whole world very quickly.

This final days, end times kingdom is also described the feet of iron and clay (Daniel 2),

Daniel 2:38b-44a NKJV

...you are this head of gold [Babylon]. <sup>39</sup> But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours [Medes and Persians]; then another, a third kingdom of bronze (Grecian), which shall rule over all the earth. <sup>40</sup> And the fourth kingdom [Roman empire] shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. <sup>41</sup> Whereas you saw the feet and [10] toes [the future Revived Roman empire], partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. <sup>42</sup> And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. <sup>43</sup> As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. <sup>44</sup> And in the days of these [10] kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed [1,000 year Millennial reign of Jesus].

Back to Revelation 13:2 NKJV

Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

v 2 **The dragon:** Who is the dragon? Rev 12:9 tells us that it's Satan. "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;"

## Satan Gives the antichrist his power, his throne, and great authority

v 2 **Gave him his power, his throne, and great authority:** The devil gives this man, the antichrist, three things; his power, his throne, and great authority.

### 1. His power:

Satan gives his power to the antichrist. The Greek word used for power here is *dynamis*, from which we get our word dynamite. It means great, innate power, innate meaning that it becomes a part of you. It's personal power. Satan gives this man his own personal power. The world has never had to face a man as malignant and deceptive as this. Consider:

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive **power** (Gk *dynamis*) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Just like God lives in us and gives us the power to do whatever He wants us to do, which includes miracles and healings, parting of seas and rivers, and many other wonderful things, so will Satan empower the antichrist to do anything that he can do. Imagine that, all the power of the most powerful angel given to a man. It will be no wonder that he will be able to do miracles, materialise things, call down fire from heaven and lots more.

## **2. His throne:**

Remember when Jesus was taken up to a high mountain when Satan was tempting Him. Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would just bow down and worship him. Consider:

Luke 4:5-7 NLT paraphrase

Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup> “I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them,” the devil said, **“because they are mine to give to anyone I please.** <sup>7</sup> I will give it all to you if you will worship me.”

*So basically we can understand Satan's throne as being his dominion or right to rule over the earth.* He is king of the earth.

It's interesting to consider the power of Satan to visualise all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. But more interesting is the fact that they all belonged to Satan. Why did they belong to Satan? Because when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them dominion over all the earth (Genesis 1:26-28). Adam and Eve were effectively given ownership or control over the world. They were the kings over the earth. However, when Adam sinned, he became a slave of Satan, and forfeited the title deed of the earth to Satan. Remember that we are slaves to whoever we obey.

Romans 6:16 NLT paraphrase

Don't you realise that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

By obeying Satan, Adam and Eve betrayed God's trust and became Satan's slaves. Since then all humanity has been born into bondage to Satan and to sin. Satan owns us. That's why Jesus had to die on the cross. Jesus redeemed us, or bought us out of, the slave market of sin. The price for our freedom was His blood, His very life. There could be nothing more costly or valuable. Our salvation is free, but it's not cheap.

So the point is that Satan then had the title deed of the earth, and could genuinely say to Jesus that it was all his, and he really did have the authority to give it to whoever he wanted to.

However, when Jesus died on the cross He bought the earth and the people on it back. We have been redeemed! Since the cross, the title deed of the earth is in God's possession. However, Jesus hasn't yet returned to claim the purchased possession. That process starts with the rapture in Revelation 4, then Jesus takes the scroll, the title deed of the earth, from the Father Revelation chapter 5. And then finally in Revelation chapter 6 He starts to open the seven seals that prevent the scroll from being opened. The opening of the first seal in Revelation 6 marks the start of the 7 year tribulation. At the end of the seven years, when all the seals and judgements are finished, Jesus comes back to claim what is rightfully His.

Therefore, until then, Satan is still the “prince of the power of the air,” or the throne of the earth, meaning he still controls or has authority over the world, even though he has already been defeated.

Ephesians 2:2

...according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,...

All that to say this:

*The throne that Satan gives to the antichrist is nothing less than his rule over the whole world, all the kingdoms of the world.*

Jesus turned it down, but this man won't. He will sell his soul. It will be satan who will establish this man as ruler. He will first be ruler over ten nations out of the ruins of the old Roman empire. And then, from that power base, he will take control over the rest of the world quickly.

You say, but how could that happen so quickly? Humanly speaking it's impossible, but this man is given the rule of the world by Satan. Also remember that this is at a time when God's restraint of evil has been removed... the church has been raptured. At the moment, the Holy Spirit is restraining the evil one as He, the Holy Spirit, works through the church. But when the church is taken up, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit also finishes (2 Thessalonians 2).

### **3. And great authority:**

The Greek word for **authority** is *exousios* and means "power exercised by rulers or others in high position by virtue of their office. It's *ruling power, official power.*"

**Great authority**, means great beyond anything else. He will have to power to do whatever he pleases and will also delegate his power to others.

**Application:** What authority do we have as Christians? What are our "throne rights"?

Story about the massive 5 way roundabout in Mexico, controlled by a single policeman... it's chaos, cars everywhere, but when the policeman blows his whistle and raises his hand, everyone stops. That's authority. The man can't stop all those cars by himself, but he has all the power of the Mexican government wrapped up in his right hand when he raises it. Why? Because he has the authority to put you in jail if you don't obey, and you don't want to go to jail in Mexico.

That's the difference between power and authority. Power is innate, or from within. Authority is given from a higher power, in this case Satan's own awesome power and authority. The antichrist has at his disposal all the authority of Satan. What he says goes, simple as that. He can say and do whatever he wants because he has the authority of Satan to back him up.

### **Application: How much power does the believer have?**

But what about the believer? What authority do we have? Here's an illustration that might help us to understand. In the Narnia movie called Prince Caspian, there is a scene where an evil army is about to cross over a bridge, but there is a little girl holding a little dagger standing in the way. The entire army stops. Why did they stop? For the sake of a little girl with a tiny dagger? No. Aslan (Jesus) was right behind her. Lucy stopped the entire army from advancing because of the authority that was given to her by Aslan (Jesus).

Most christians never learn it, but we have the authority of God Himself. If you learn to walk with God, to trust Him, then you can raise your hand in the name of Jesus Christ and stop all the power of hell—just as long as you are doing it in the will of God. Now there are many who leave that part off, the doing it in the will of God. They think that they can use God's power for whatever they want, and in any way they want—for their own glory and honour.

However, this is very dangerous. We need to respect Satan. Even Michael the archangel said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you" (Jude 9). He didn't bring a bunch of railing accusations against him. Instead he came in the power of Jesus name, of Jesus' authority. Understand that I can't rebuke Satan, and you can't rebuke Satan, but God can. And because we are in Him, in Christ, we can exercise God's authority. Listen to what Ephesians 2:6 says:

#### Ephesians 2:6 AMP

And He raised us up together with Him and **made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him]** in the heavenly sphere [**by virtue of our being**] in Christ Jesus (**the Messiah, the Anointed One**).

So don't let Satan boss you around. He might tempt you, but he can't force you to sin. Don't let him mess with you. He has no power over you. In the name of Jesus resist him, and he will flee. It's your right or privilege. Why? Because you are in Christ and share His power—we share His throne.

Here's an example of what happened when the 72 disciples used the power and authority that Jesus gave them:

#### Luke 10:17-20 NLT paraphrase

17 When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"

18 "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! 19 **Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy**, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. 20 But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."

Q How much authority did Jesus give them? ...**over all the power of the enemy!**

That was before the cross, so not everyone back then was given this power and authority. But today, Jesus is risen, Satan is defeated, and so all believers have that same authority. If it is God's will, then we do have the authority to cast out demons, and do many other things in His name—but only if it's His will for it to happen.

There are three main problems that prevent Christians from exercising Christ's authority. Firstly, some don't know that they have the power of Christ living in them, or that they have the authority of Christ given to them, and so they live in defeat. Secondly, some do know, but are not walking close to God and so do not know what His will is, and therefore never or rarely experience that power. Thirdly, there are some who simply pretend to use Christ's authority, and sensationalise things, making a big deal about casting out or delivering this or that thing or sickness.

So how do we experience victory as we utilise the power and authority that God has given us? Walk with Him in humble obedience and fellowship and know your bible. It's that simple. Consider the following verses:

Micah 6:8 NLT paraphrase

O people, the Lord has told you what is good,  
and this is what he requires of you:  
**to do what is right, to love mercy,**  
**and to walk humbly with your God.**

James 4:6-10 NLT paraphrase

**And he gives grace generously.** As the Scriptures say,  
“God opposes the proud but **gives grace to the humble.**”

**7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. 9 Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. 10 **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honour.**

Notice that humility is directly tied to repenting of our sins and turning to God. We must agree that what He says is right and we are wrong, and then ask God for the strength to live the life He has planned for us. We must be continually turning from our sin. Always remember Jesus words in:

Luke 10:20 NLT paraphrase

But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”

*It's not about the power, it's about the relationship.* If you focus on your relationship with Christ, then you will naturally experience His power and authority in your life. However, if you focus on the power and authority, then you will abuse it and not experience the reality of the Risen Lord living inside of you.

Q How is power different from authority? *Power is personal, it comes from within. Authority is external, it is the power wielded because of the office that we hold.*

Q In Revelation 1:6, God describes us as kings and priests to Himself. So how should we behave? *As kings and priests to our God. Faithfully representing Him and exercising all His authority*

Q A personal question: The antichrist will be totally sold out to Satan to do his will. Will I choose to be totally sold out to Jesus to follow Him wherever He leads, or will I leave parts of my life under Satan's control?

### **Revelation 13:3 NKJV**

**And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marvelled and followed the beast.**

At this point in the Tribulation, Antichrist is mortally wounded. According to Zechariah 11:17, there will be an assassination attempt on Antichrist that will evidently cause his eye to be poked out and his right arm to be paralysed. The antichrist will be trying to persuade the world he is the messiah. Remember that the *anti* means counterfeit or pretend. What better way to deceive people into thinking that you are the messiah, the saviour of the world than to die and then rise from the dead. Well, the bible says it was a good plan. It will deceive many. Look at what the text says: "**And all the world marvelled and followed the beast.**"

So how do we know that this is referring to the antichrist? After all aren't the heads kingdoms? All we need to do is follow this thought through and see that it can only refer to the antichrist. Look at the following verses:

#### **Revelation 13:12, 14 NKJV**

And he (the false prophet) exercises all the authority of the first beast (the antichrist) in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it **to worship the first beast** (the antichrist), **whose deadly wound was healed**.

<sup>14</sup> And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, **telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast** (antichrist) **who was wounded by the sword and lived**.

Also see Revelation 17:8, which says the same thing in a slightly different way.

This copy cat resurrection event at the half way point of the Tribulation is a big deal. Satan and the antichrist milk this miracle to suck as many people as they can into their lie—the lie being that the antichrist is the real messiah. It seems that the antichrist, after the halfway point, will be consistently referred to as the man who was killed but rose again. He will most likely claim that he rose himself from the dead, when the actual fact is that Satan has possessed his body.

### **Revelation 13:4 NKJV**

**So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"**

What are they afraid of? War. So instead of fighting him, they will worship him. *But isn't that true even for christians today? We either fight against Satan or we worship him.* To worship someone means to submit to them and obey and honour them. They are our choices. There is no middle ground.

During the tribulation, the world will be worshipping Satan. They will also be worshipping the antichrist because he will be the physical manifestation of Satan, the visible presence. The world won't just be facing a human being, they will be facing a human being possessed by Satan himself. He will be superhuman and will mesmerise people. The biggest mistake people make is to think that Satan will come as ugly and frightening. But no. He was the most beautiful creature that God ever created (see Ezekiel 28:11-19). He has a certain beauty that can mesmerise unbelievers. He can even dazzle believers out of fellowship.

## **Revelation 13:5 NKJV**

**And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.**

Aside from Jesus, there will never be a person with such a mouth, such a gift of the gab; someone who would seem so wise, so compassionate, so humble, so powerful, with such passion and with such amazing solutions to problems. He will be able to negotiate with people who hate each other because he will have such brilliance, such super human knowledge of what both are thinking and what they both want, that he will be able to convince anybody of anything. According to Revelation 6:1-2 and other verses, the antichrist will rise to power not by force or war, but by intrigue, deception, lies, flattery, bribery, and any kind of manipulation. He will most likely initially bring economic prosperity, and will seem to have the answers to many of the seemingly unsolvable problems that mankind faces today.

He will probably say something like, “I have come to show you how the human nature has the power to do or achieve anything. You don’t need God. He isn’t real. Those antiquated beliefs have held up human progress for far too long. If you want to have peace and prosperity, then you need to leave all those things behind—destroy all the bibles and other books that sprout this nonsense, and kill those who believe it—they are stopping the rest of humanity from reaching their true potential. You don’t need God and He doesn’t exist anyway.”

**v 5 Given authority to continue for forty-two months.** Jesus is the one who gives the antichrist this authority to continue. *This tells us who is really in control!* As it says in many other places, the last half of the tribulation will be only 3 1/2 years, 42 months, or 1260 days.

## **Revelation 13:6 NKJV**

**Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.**

This verse tells us what Satan and the antichrist will be blaspheming, mocking, or putting down;

- God’s name or His person and character,
- the temple or tabernacle, which is where God dwells, i.e. Heaven
- and those who have put their trust in God and are now in heaven—the church, us, those who were caught up to meet Jesus in the air and then go onto heaven.

This shows that one of the first things that the antichrist will have to do is explain just what happened to all those people that disappeared. He will give God a bad name as well as those who believed in Him and were taken up to heaven.

**v 6 And those who dwell in heaven:** This group of people, the believers will be contrasted with another group of people in verse 8.

## The Book of Life and The Book of Life of the Lamb

**Revelation 13:8 NKJV**

**All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

Those “**who dwell in heaven**” are those who are saved, who have their name written in the “**Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**” However, the other group you can belong to is those “**who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**”

Do you see the contrast? Heaven or earth, name written in the Lamb’s book of Life or not written in the Lamb’s book of Life.

To **dwell in** means to settle down in, to be at home in. The christian should never be at home down here on earth. This world is not our home. Our citizenship is in Heaven. Keep your eyes on the eternal, not the temporal.

The phrase, “**those who dwell on the earth**”, is used 7 times in the book of Revelation, and each time it says something about them. But most importantly, they are unbelievers.

So, there are two books that the bible talks about. There is one book, the “**Book of Life**”, in which, before the earth was founded (see Revelation 17:8), the name of every person who ever lived was put in. Then there is the **Book of life of the Lamb**, in which the name of every person who believes in Jesus and His gift of salvation, his name is written in it the moment they are saved. When a person dies as an unbeliever, their name is then blotted out of the book of life, where it had been written before the foundation of the earth. But with the Lamb’s book of life, your name is entered only when you believe. Compare the following two verses:

**Revelation 3:5 NLT paraphrase**

All who are victorious will be clothed in white. **I will never erase their names from the Book of Life**, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.

**Revelation 13:8 NKJV**

**8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

**Revelation 17:8 NKJV**

And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in **the Book of Life from the foundation of the world**,...

**Revelation 20:15 NKJV**

And anyone not found written in the **Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire.

So you can think of **the Book of Life**, also called **the Book of Life from the foundation of the world**, as a general roll call of all humanity, written before the world began, that contains the names of all people who will ever live. If a person dies an unbeliever, or if you have taken the mark of the beast during the tribulation (Rev 17:8) then your name is blotted out or removed—you are forevermore spiritually dead,

eternally separated from God—you have sealed your fate for all eternity. It's like your name is scrubbed off or removed from the electoral roll when you die. It's a fearful thing. What's really sad is that those in the tribulation who take the mark of the beast have their names scrubbed out early. There is no chance of salvation once they have pledged allegiance to and worshipped Satan by taking his mark, the mark of the beast (Revelation 14:9-11).

On the other hand, the **Book of life of the Lamb** is not pre-filled. It started empty. A person's name is only entered into the **Book of life of the Lamb** when they come to put their trust in Jesus' saving work, His substitutionary sacrifice, His dying in my place and your place on the cross for all the sins of all the world.

In God's mercy, everybody's names are initially written in the general "**Book of Life from the foundation of the world**", because everybody has a chance to believe in Jesus, to be forgiven of their sins. The Holy Spirit convicts the whole world of sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:8-11). God made the way open for everybody, but not everyone chooses to receive God's precious gift of eternal life.

Q Before God created Adam and Eve, which names were written in **The Book of Life, also called The Book of Life from the Foundation of the World?** *Everybody's.*

Q Before God created Adam and Eve, which names were written in the **Book of Life of the Lamb?** *Nobody's. Nobody had yet had the opportunity to make the decision to put their trust in God.*

Q Eventually, at the end of all the ages, all the names written in both books will be the same. Why? *Because all the unbeliever's names will have been blotted out of the Book of Life, leaving only the names of believers in it. Also, all those believers will have had their names written in the Book of Life of the Lamb the moment that they were saved.*

So God has a dual bookkeeping system. When you believe, your name goes into the **Book of Life of the Lamb**. And when you die without believing, your name is blotted out from the **Book of Life written from the foundation of the earth**.

So you see that there is one choice that we all must make that will effect where we go for all eternity — will I believe in Jesus.

John 3:16-21 NKJV

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."