

# **GOD'S PATHWAY THROUGH PROPHECY**

## **JOHN'S GREAT BEAST**

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

**INTRODUCTION:** Revelation 13:1-10 opens a clear window into John's inspired vision of the Beast out of the Sea, who, in time, becomes the Beast out of the Bottomless Pit. The same person had been referenced earlier in Revelation 11:7, where he is prophetically identified as "*the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit.*" These two events, his rise out of the Sea, followed by his rise out of the Pit, span the first half of Daniel's seventieth week, carries us to the middle of the week when the Abomination of Desolation is revealed and the kingdom of the Beast assumes full and ferocious tyrannical rule over planet Earth, and paves the way for the second half of the Beast's ruthless rule as the Beast out of the Bottomless Pit, when he is embodied and empowered by the Great Dragon. Thus, from the time in which this beast rises out of the sea, to the time in which he shall arise out of the Bottomless Pit is a period of 1260 days, or 42 months, consisting of 30 days per month, and 360 days per year, for a total period of 3 ½ years. Once he becomes the Beast from the Pit, he will then be sovereignly granted a second period of 3 ½ years during which time he shall dictate and dominate the entire global system under a one world government, complemented by a one world religious system led by another Beast which shall be dealt with later.

Just as Daniel saw the first four kings and kingdoms of prophecy as brute beasts, so John now sees the final phase of the fourth beast-kingdom as a beast in its own right. This beastly personage shall prove to be the most powerful and pervasive of all the prophetic beast-systems. He shall also prove to be the most perverted mortal to ever walk upon the earth. It is important to note once again, that since the first four beastly kings, along with their beastly kingdoms proved to be literal and historical; it would seem only logical to conclude that this beastly king, together with his beastly kingdom shall also prove to be a literal and historical reality once he rises out of the sea onto the earth's scene.

John's vision of the Beast affords us with a cardinal example of the important principle of Scripture interpreting Scripture to avoid unnecessary conjecture and speculation. While chapter 13 provides the identification of John's vision, it is not until we come to chapter 17 that we find the inspired and infallible interpretation of John's vision. This means that chapter 13 cannot be understood in its true biblical light apart from chapter 17. Together these chapters reveal vital truths concerning both the system and person of the Antichrist as he exercises his providentially permitted authority in concert with a new revived Roman Empire consisting of a ten nation European Federation earlier revealed in Daniel chapter two and chapter seven. This brutal beast is the Roman Little Horn of Daniel 7 that rises up out of the future and final phase of the fourth prophetic empire. His beastly system and person are now revealed to John as the final eschatological substance behind all of the Old Testament shadows.

I. The **IDENTIFICATION** of John's Vision of the Beast – vs. 1-8

## A. The **SEER** of the Vision

1. His **PERSON** – *“And I stood”* – The first person singular punctiliar verb refers to the apostle John. It is emphatic in its emphasis of the subject. He is the recipient and recorder of the present vision. He gives us an eyewitness account of the actual episode being revealed and reported.
2. His **POSTURE** – *“And I stood upon the sand of the sea”* – John was standing on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea gazing out across the churning turbulent waters. The verbal notion implies that he was standing and continued to stand fast and firm as if poised and prepared to receive the next message that God had for him. That message was soon to come in the form of another divine vision.
3. His **PERCEPTION** – As the winds blew and the waves whirled and continuously crashed upon the shore near where John was standing, he observed a horrible Beast rise up from the waters of the Sea. This Beast assumes the central focus and flow of the present vision. It is John’s great Beast out of the Sea.

B. The **SUBJECT** of the Vision – *“A beast rise up out of the sea”* – The Beast out of the Sea speaks of both the System and the Person of the Antichrist. It cannot be overstated that the Antichrist is both a system and a person. At times the Bible addresses the system which stands in direct opposition of Jesus Christ. At other times Scripture treats the personal figure who heads the system and seeks not only to oppose Christ, but to replace Christ. These must be held in tension without confusing the two.

1. His **DAWNING** – John first observes the origin of the Beast. He rises *“up out of the sea.”* This is the Mediterranean. As we shall see shortly the “sea” speaks of the masses of unregenerate humanity in its dark, delusional, and depraved condition. It is the secular world-system in which the spirit of iniquity is at work because it is already under the spirit of antichrist and resides in the Wicked One (1 Jn. 2:18; 5:19). It is this evil world-system that makes us the future system of the Antichrist. It consists of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, and it will pass away into final perdition (1 Jn. 2:15-17).
2. His **DESCRIPTION** – *“Having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy”* – John provides three primary descriptors of the Beast which play a vital role in understanding both the system and person of the Beast. First, it has “seven heads”! The seven heads possess a dual meaning. They symbolize seven Roman Emperors. The one ruling during the Revelation was Domitian. The final Emperor to persecute the Christians was Diocletian. These seven Roman emperors point to the person of Antichrist. The seven heads also symbolize the seven Mountains upon which the Great City of Rome was established. The seven hills of Rome speak to the system of Antichrist. He will be a revived European ruler whose kingdom will rise out of a revived

Roman system. It cannot be overstated that this Beast and his kingdom are not the fourth kingdom of ancient Rome, but they rise out of a final revived phase of that kingdom.

Second, the Beast has ““ten horns”! These correspond to the 10 toes of Daniel 2, and the ten horns coming out of the fourth beast in Daniel 7. They symbolize the latter-day coalition of 10 Euro-Rulers comprising a 10 Nation Federation within the Revived European community. The fact that the ten toes refer to ten political figures and their kingdoms is reinforced by the third characteristic of the Beast. John saw that he had “ten crowns”! These crowns speak of political powers. In the latter days ten political figures will rise to prominence through a ten Nation Federation in cooperation with the Beast from whom they ultimately derive their power and influence.

**NOTE:** It is of central importance to observe that John provides one additional description of the Beast which cannot be overlooked by any serious student of prophecy. The text reads as follows – “*And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion*” (v.2). Here John explains what the Beast actually looked like. He had the appearance of a leopard with bear’s feet and a lion’s mouth. Once again John speaks of the governmental system of the Beast which is invested in and inspired by the person of the Beast. The final Beast-system encompasses all the characteristics of the previous three gentile world powers of prophecy during the times of the Gentiles (Dan. 7). What is of supreme importance is the fact that since the three preceding systems were literal-historical governmental systems ruled by a literal-historical governmental ruler, it seems only logical to understand that this final Beast system will actually be a literal earthly governmental system in real space-time history, governed by a literal earthly governmental ruler in real space-time history. In short, the shadow of symbolism has a literal historical substance behind its fulfillment. The Antichrist will be a real person who rules over a real kingdom upon the same planet that Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Darius, and Alexander once ruled. The plain sense of Scripture makes this sense very plain, and there is no textual basis for seeking any other sense. There is no need for speculating, spiritualizing, or sensationalizing.

3. His **DIRECTOR** – “*And the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority*” – The Antichrist will be so possessed by the Dragon as to be inspired and empowered by him in his person and program. The Dragon (Gk. *drakon*) speaks of Satan, the ancient Serpent whose subtle seduction shall deceive the whole world through his demonized agent, the Antichrist. Satan will give the Beast three things: 1) His “power” (Gk. *dunamis*) superhuman or supernatural ability. From this very word we derive our concept of dynamite, “explosive power!” 2) His “authority” (Gk. *exousia*) the right to exercise power. Satan shall give his man both power and the right to wield that power over the earth and its inhabitants. This is the very power and authority that Satan promised to Jesus if he

would just bow down and worship him (Mt. 4:8-9). But Jesus refused to be seduced by the Dragon; and so, Satan still waits in the shadows until the time comes when another shall willingly bow down and cut covenant with Hell itself. What Christ refused to give Satan; Antichrist will gladly give him. 3) His “seat”. The word speaks of a literal throne or seat of political rule. Once his counterfeit Christ and masquerading Messiah has power and authority, Satan will sit him on his throne as supreme world ruler.

The Antichrist will literally be the Devil’s Dictator. Satan has always desired to be God. Unable to achieve this objective, he will settle for a cheap counterfeit. Satan will pretend to be God, and will exalt the Antichrist in the place of Jesus Christ. Satan knows that it is God’s plan to rule planet earth through THE MAN He has appointed and anointed. Satan will seek to subvert this plan by appointing and anointing his own man. In doing so, Satan will also seek to form his own unholy trinity. With himself as the counterfeit of God, and Antichrist as the counterfeit of Christ, the final piece of the puzzle will come in the person of the False Prophet, who will be Satan’s imposter for the Holy Spirit, thus completing the Tri-Union of Hell.

4. His **DEATH** – *“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed”* – As John continued to observe this gruesome Beast, he noticed that the time came when “one of his heads was as it were wounded unto death.” This refers to the actual person of the Antichrist. The supreme power of the revived European Empire. At the middle of Daniel’s seventieth week an event shall take place during a mid-week military conflict between the Beast out of the Sea and the king of Syria. The Beast shall be slain by the sword. It must be noted that the Greek phrase translated, “as it were wounded unto death,” is the very same phrase used of Jesus’ death in Rev. 5. It implies that the Beast is actually put to death by the sword (i.e. military power) of the king of Syria (Dan. 11:40-45). John goes on to note that over time “his deadly wound was healed” so that the Beast who was, then was not, shall be yet again. The clear implication is that the Beast is resurrected and brought back to life with even greater power than before. Having begun as the beast out of the sea, he is slain, descends into perdition, rises from the dead, and then becomes the Beast out of the Bottomless pit newly possessed and energized by Satan himself. And yet, praise be to God, he will be destroyed by Jesus at His return. This commentary is clarified by the inspired interpretation of the vision in Revelation 17 as we shall see shortly.

5. His **DECEPTION** – John states the outcome of the Beast’s death and resurrection in a short and shocking statement, *“and all the world wondered at the beast.”* The verb wondered means “to stand in awe, to be astonished by, to be amazed, to marvel at.” It carries the idea of reverential regard. This shall be the response of a godless and God-forsaken world. They shall be deceived with a strong delusion and shall become so bewitched as to be beguiled by the Beast. In their mesmerized condition they shall give full and final allegiance to the Beast,

who is now the Beast out of the bottomless pit. Occultism and Satan worship will become the new one world Religion! The adoration and allegiance which mankind has ever refused to give to Christ, they will then gladly give to the Antichrist!

6. His **DEIFICATION** – John goes on to say that “*they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast?*” The third person personal pronoun, “they,” speaks of the world of the wicked. The world of the non-elect. The world of the doomed and the damned who despise Jesus Christ and yet desire Antichrist. These shall give their souls to Satan in all out worship of the counterfeit god of this world-system and his counterfeit son, the Antichrist. The world will deify the devil and will be utterly captivated by his masquerading Messiah, marveling at him, and saluting him with the worshipful proclamation, “who is like unto the beast!” On that day Antichrist will be all that the world has been looking for since the fall of Adam. It is this very world that had no room for Jesus at His first coming. It is this world that so hated Jesus as to choose Barabbas in His place. It must ever be remembered that Germany adored Adolph Hitler and that the only reason they came to despise him was that he failed to win the war. Had Germany prevailed the German people would have continued to love and laud Hitler despite his drunken and despicable evil. They loved Hitler and his evil. He is who a sinful world of sinful men is seeking to this very day. This world loathes Jesus Christ and longs for Antichrist. When he finally comes, he will be everything their hearts desire, and they will gladly deify him as god. They will glory in his militance and merciless genocide of the godly, shouting, “who is able to make war with him?” Because he will now be the Beast out of the bottomless pit, the implied answer is, NO ONE! In that hour the Beast and his subjects will assume themselves victorious and invincible. They will be intoxicated with their own idolatry, immorality, iniquity, and insolence.

7. His **DISCOURSE** – “*And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies*” – Newly empowered by Satan, and emboldened by the worship of sinners, the Beast shall escalate his hatred for, and hostility toward Christ and all things Christian. His propaganda will increase as he speaks “great things” (Gk. *megaloi*) “willfully haughty and audaciously arrogant” things. In addition to his boisterous bragging and billowing, he will magnify his “blasphemies” against the Lord, and against His Anointed One. No doubt the media mob will gleefully join in and the politicians will jockey for positions in his administration. Absolute autocratic power will finally have reached its absolute perversity.

8. His **DURATION** – John is told that the perverse power of the Beast will be providentially permitted to persist for a fixed time, “*power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*” This time frame is based upon the Jewish prophetic calendar consisting of 30 days per month. Thirty days multiplied by forty-two months comes to a total of 1260 days. This amounts to a period of three

and a half years. Rev. 11:2 and 12:6 provides collaboration for this time calculation. The former refers to the first half of the seventieth week, while the latter refers to the final half of the seventieth week. In John's immediate vision the 42-month period pertains to the last half of Daniel's seventieth week which, as shall be seen, includes the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. This means that once the beast out of the sea becomes the beast out of the bottomless pit, Satan shall grant him a second term to rule and reign for an additional 42 months, or 1260 days, or 3 ½ years.

9. His **DOMINION** – During this forty-two-month period of unprecedented absolute autocratic power, the Antichrist will unleash his perverse atrocities against that single most hated group on planet earth, “the saints” of God. The saints will include Jews and Christians. John provides a colorful picture of what this time will be like: *“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.”* This will be the Devil's day. It will be that time marked by the wrath of the Beast against God and the things of God. All that is holy shall be hated. All that is clean shall be condemned. All that is sacred shall be stifled and soiled. All that is pure and pious shall be perverted and persecuted. And all that is Christian shall be held in contempt. Violence, vileness, vice, and viciousness shall be victorious for a time, and times, and the dividing of times. During this dark day of demonic dominion, the Beast shall have power “given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. His government shall be global, and his worship shall be worldwide. During that darkest day of human history there will finally be a One-World-Government, and a One-World-Religion. It shall be the reign of the Beast and the religion of the Beast. But this too shall pass and shall never prevail because the Rolling Stone shall roll down from heaven and smite the ten-nation federation and smash it into pieces and grind the times of the Gentiles into dust until that time should be no more (Dan. 2).

## II. The **INJUNCTION** of John's Vision of the Beast – vs. 9-10

A. John's **CALL** to the Elect – *“If any man have an ear, let him hear.”* The verb “hear,” (Gk. *akousato*) is a 1 Aor. Act. Imperative 3<sup>rd</sup> Pers. Hortative form issuing a strong and striking command. It is not a request that is optional. It is a charge that is urgent. God obligates us to hear this vision and heed this vision. The word itself means “to hear with a view to heeding the message!” It sounds the alarm against complacent and casual hearing. The Spirit of God expressly inspires John to charge us to attentively and actively heed the vision of the Beast out of the Sea. We have been warned and we are without excuse if we neglect the sounding of the alarm. God has told us in advance and strongly admonishes His saints to be faithful with the message by never forgetting it. May we all be diligent in our duty to be faithful and not forgetful hearers of the words of

this prophecy. So urgent is the call that it is followed by a word of caution with regards to how we should respond and so conduct ourselves when the time finally comes upon this sleeping and sinful world.

B. John's **CAUTION** for the Elect – Having given his directive to hear and heed, the apostle John lovingly proffers this caution, *“He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”* What is the connotation of John's caution? In light of the hour of the Beast, if it were possible, even the very elect could lose heart and faint. To make sure this does not happen, the Sovereign Spirit cautions the saints against becoming weary. He reminds them that God will never be mocked, and that His law of vindication will prevail in the end. In an earlier parabolic illustration Jesus had already reassured us of this fact, *“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily”* (Lk. 17:7-8a). Now the Spirit assures the child of God that pay day awaits the Beast. Just as he leads many into captivity, so even more shall the Sovereign Lord lead him into eternal captivity in the Lake of Fire. Just as he kills with the sword, even more will the Sovereign Lord execute him with the eternal death of the Lake of Fire. Faith in God's faithful retribution is the source of every saint's persevering patience.

### III. The **INTERPRETATION** of John's Vision of the Beast – 17:7-15

A. The Angelic **MESSENGER** – *“And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel?”* – What John had seen in his earlier vision of the Beast out of the Sea, is now clarified by the inspired commentary of a heavenly messenger. To avoid erroneous conjecture and assure clear and comprehensive understanding, this interpreting angel guides John into the literal substance behind the symbols concerning the Beast.

B. The Acknowledged **MYSTERY** – *“I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns”* – The interpreting angel himself identifies the apocalyptic imagery of the Beast out of the Sea as an apocalyptic “mystery” (Gk. *mysterion*). In the language of the New Testament this word does not carry the normal English connotation of a “who done it” type mystery which is to be humanly discovered by riddles and clues. In the New Testament the word speaks of a “sacred secret which was once concealed, but now revealed by the gracious disclosure of God.” Such “sacred secrets” are mysteries which cannot and will not be known through human reason. Their unveiling requires divine revelation through the Word of God and the Work of the Holy Spirit. God was now revealing these sacred secrets to John through His angelic minister for the benefit and blessing of His saints. Every serious and sober saint does well to pay close attention to this interpretation of the sacred secrets once concealed through prophetic symbolism.

C. The Amplified **MESSAGE**

1. *“the beast which hath the seven heads and ten horns”* – This is the Beast out of the sea of unsaved humanity identified in John 13:1 and now interpreted with greater detail. He is identified by means of the “seven heads” and “ten horns”!
2. *“The beast that thou sawest”* – The past tense refers back to John’s earlier vision recorded in chapter thirteen and now expanded and explained.
3. *“was, and is not, and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition”* – John’s Beast, the Antichrist, shall exist among the masses of unregenerate humanity and shall arise from that godless pagan society. During the middle of the Week he shall face off in battle as the Beast out of the Sea against the king of Syria and shall be defeated and suffer death. He shall then descend down into the bottomless pit until he is raised back unto life to deceive the non-elect of humanity and proclaim himself the Abomination of Desolation. As the Beast out of the bottomless pit he shall be energized by Satan, the Great Dragon, and shall ultimately stand against the Lord Jesus who shall destroy the Beast and forever cast him down into the depths of endless and eternal perdition.
4. *“and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is”* – When the Beast out of the Sea becomes the Beast out of the Bottomless Pit the great deception shall occur such as the world has never known before. The entire world of the non-elect shall be sovereignly turned over by God Himself with such a strong and seductive delusion that they will wonder at the Beast and give themselves over to the wholesale worship of the Beast who declares himself to be God from within the very Temple of Yahweh. Paul speaks of this strong delusion from the Lord when he states: *“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause, God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”* (2 Thess. 2:8-12). It cannot be overemphasized that this deception will only fall upon those of the non-elect. Only those whose names were not sovereignly recorded in the Lamb’s book of life, BEFORE, the foundation of the world, will be turned over to delusion and deception so as to take the mark of the beast and render worship to the beast. It is no wonder the Lord Jesus admonished the elect of God to rejoice in the fact that their names were written in the Lamb’s book of life (Mt. 10:XXX).
5. *“And here is the mind which hath wisdom”* – The mind of wisdom is the mind of the Word. Wisdom comes from the Word. Wisdom is the mind that allows Scripture to interpret Scripture. Wisdom places Scripture over

sensationalism and speculation. In the case of the Beast the mind of wisdom is the mind that permits the vision of Revelation 13 to be interpreted by the vision of Revelation 17.

6. *“The seven heads are seven mountains”* – The seven heads of the Beast symbolize a dual literal connotation. It first denotes the seven mountains of ancient Rome. The city was built upon seven hills depicted by the seven heads of the Beast to identify the system of the Beast with the Revived Roman Empire.

7. *“And there are seven kings”* – The seven heads of the Beast also symbolize a second literally historical connotation, seven ancient Roman Emperors. While the seven hills of Rome tie the System of the Beast to the Revived Roman Empire, the seven kings of Rome tie the Person of the Beast to the Revived Roman Empire.

8. *“five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space”* – Regarding the seven historical kings symbolically illustrated by the seven heads the Holy Spirit proceeds to provide more additional light. Five of the seven Roman Emperors had already ruled and died by John’s vision. The sixth of the seven kings was actually alive and ruling at the time of John’s vision. This Roman ruler was Domitian, the very one who banished John to the Isle of Patmos. The seventh Roman monarch would follow Domitian and was yet to come in reference to John’s time. This king would be Diocletian, the final Roman ruler to persecute the Church. He was yet to come in John’s day and when he comes, he would continue for a “short space”!

9. *“And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition”* – The Beast himself represents an eighth European Ruler who was yet to come on the future scene. It must be emphasized that since the seven heads represented seven literal and historical Roman rulers, the eighth Roman ruler, will certainly be a literal historical figure. The eighth ruler who is yet to come will be “of the seven,” meaning that he himself will come out of the roots of ancient Rome in a yet to be Revived Roman Empire and will himself be the last days pre-eminent European Leader. His ultimate end is already predestined by the Sovereign Lord of the universe. He will be finally and fully damned to the regions of perdition at the appearing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:8).

10. *“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings”* – Note carefully once again that the symbolism of the Revelation has a literal prophetic referent. The ten horns upon the head of the Beast represent ten literal kings that shall form a European Coalition during the days of the Beast himself. These ten horns, which are ten kings, correspond with the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s great image. Just as the toes pointed prophetically to ten literal future revived Roman rulers, so the horns symbolize the same ten literal Roman rulers.

11. *“which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast”* – The ten kings are yet future from John’s time. They are purely prophetic future awaiting the last days. They take power as actual political rulers during the rule and reign of the Beast.

12. *“These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast”* – The ten kings form a one-world coalition dominated by a unified antichrist mindset that opposes God and the people of God. They cast their lot with the Beast and give their power and strength to the Beast in rebellion against the Kingdom of God.

13. *“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful”* – Together with the Beast the ten king federation will align themselves against Christ and willfully array themselves in war against the Lord and against His Anointed. In the end, the Lord shall appear with the title written upon His thigh, “King of kings, and Lord of lords, and shall vanquish them with the sword of His mouth. In that day the word shall be fulfilled: *“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure”* (Ps. 2:1-5).

14. *“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues”* – Once again prophetic imagery speaks of a literal historical reality. Scriptural symbolism always has substance behind it. The substance behind the shadow comes to light once Scripture is permitted to interpret Scripture, rather than appealing to vague speculation and sensationalism. The Beast comes out of the Sea, and the sea represents peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. The Sea finds its referent in the unregenerate masses of corrupt and condemned Christ-less humanity that will wonder at the Beast and ultimately worship the Beast in hatred and hostile opposition to Christ and the people of Christ.