

4. John's Vision of the Two Beasts in Revelation 13

- (1) And I saw a beast (θηρίον) coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.
- (2) And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.
- (3) And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;
- (4) and they worshipped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"
- (5) And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.
- (6) And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.
- (7) And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.
- (8) And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.
- (9) If anyone has an ear, let him hear.
- (10) If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.
- (11) And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon.
- (12) And he exercises all authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.
- (13) And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to earth in the presence of men.
- (14) And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.
- (15) And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.
- (16) And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free man and the slaves, to be given a mark of their right hand, or on their forehead,
- (17) and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

There are four key features in this passage: a beast, a dragon, another beast, and an image.