WORKBOOK STUDY COMPANION · REVELATION 13

Rise of the *Antichrist*

REVELATION 13

Scripture written out in the NASB95, every question answered in one sentence, cross references, verse-by-verse commentary from three trusted teachers — and for each question, a point of critical thinking and a key question to carry into the week.

Amir Tsarfati
REVEALING REVELATION

John MacArthur
GRACE TO YOU

David Guzik
ENDURING WORD

01 CAPTURE THE SCENE

What do I see?

Using my Bible, working through Revelation 13 verse by verse.

1 Thinking back to the Old Testament prophets, who wrote about a beast similar to what we see at the beginning of chapter 13?

Revelation 13:1-2 NASB95

And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast 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. 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.

IN MY WORDS

Daniel did — his vision in Daniel 7 of beasts rising from the sea, including the "little horn," is the same beast John now sees gathered into one final world empire.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 7:3** "And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The leopard, bear, and lion reach back to Daniel 7 — Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon gathered into one final, revived-Roman world system; the pieces of that global platform are visibly moving into place in our own day, so watch the signs soberly.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

To Israel the sea meant chaos and evil resisting God, and from that place the beast rises; Scripture already knows him as Daniel's little horn, the prince who is to come, the man of lawlessness.

CRITICAL THINKING

John shows us nothing brand-new — the beast is Daniel's vision arriving on schedule. Prophecy interprets prophecy, and the last empire turns out to be all the earlier ones fused into one.

KEY QUESTION

Do I read the headlines through Scripture, or Scripture through the headlines?

2 What miracle will the Antichrist perform that will persuade people that he is supernatural?

Revelation 13:3 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

His fatal wound will be healed — an apparent death and resurrection that amazes the whole earth and counterfeits the resurrection of Jesus.

CROSS REFERENCE **2 Thessalonians 2:9** his coming is "in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Satan cannot raise the dead, but he can stage a spectacle — and this apparent death and recovery is his masterpiece, a counterfeit of the resurrection of Jesus; a world that shrugged at the empty tomb will be electrified by this.

CRITICAL THINKING

The counterfeit works precisely because it apes the real. The same crowd unmoved by Christ's true resurrection will worship a staged one — spectacle can persuade a heart that evidence never reached.

KEY QUESTION

Am I more easily moved by what is spectacular than by what is true?

3 The false prophet creates an idol of the Antichrist and forces people to worship it. What will be done to those who refuse to worship the image of the beast, and where have we seen them previously?

Revelation 13:15 NASB95

And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

IN MY WORDS

Those who refuse to worship the image will be killed — the very threat Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced before Nebuchadnezzar's golden image in Daniel 3.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 3:6** "whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The image the false prophet erects is the abomination of desolation, and refusing it becomes a capital crime; worship, at last, is the whole battlefield.

CRITICAL THINKING

History rhymes — Babylon's golden image and the beast's image ask the identical question: worship or die. The tribulation is Daniel 3 enlarged from one plain to the whole earth.

KEY QUESTION

Would my faith stand if obeying God suddenly carried a real cost tomorrow?

02 ANALYZE THE MESSAGE

What does this mean?

Using both my Bible and my copy of Revealing Revelation.

1 From whom does the Antichrist receive his power and authority?

Revelation 13:2 NASB95

… And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

IN MY WORDS

From the dragon — Satan gives the beast his power, his throne, and his great authority.

CROSS REFERENCE **Matthew 4:8-9** the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world: "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Mark the source and the limit: the dragon gives him his power, his throne, and his authority — Satan offers this man the very kingdoms Jesus refused in the wilderness, and even then none of it moves an inch outside God's sovereign decree.

CRITICAL THINKING

The beast's authority is borrowed twice over — Satan lends it, and God permits it. A leash held by the dragon is still a leash God measures.

KEY QUESTION

Whose permission am I forgetting stands behind every power that frightens me?

2 What is the meaning of the ten horns?

Revelation 17:12 NASB95

The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.

IN MY WORDS

The ten horns are ten kings who will receive authority together with the beast for one short, final hour of world rule.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 7:24** "As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The ten horns picture a revived-Roman, ten-king world system tied to Daniel's fourth beast; the pieces of that global platform are visibly moving into place, so we watch soberly rather than set dates.

CRITICAL THINKING

The last empire is not one strongman alone but ten kings handing him their crowns. Tyranny usually arrives by consent before it arrives by conquest.

KEY QUESTION

Where am I tempted to hand my allegiance to whoever promises order?

3 What is the meaning of the seven heads?

Revelation 17:9-10 NASB95

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

IN MY WORDS

The seven heads are seven mountains and seven kings — successive world powers through which Satan has worked, culminating in the beast.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 13:1** "on his heads were blasphemous names" — each head crowned with defiance of God.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The seven heads and ten horns tie him to Daniel's fourth beast, and the blasphemous names on his heads reveal his character before he speaks a word.

CRITICAL THINKING

The heads wear blasphemy like a crown — the empire's true religion is written on it before any policy is announced. What a power names itself tells you what it worships.

KEY QUESTION

What does the thing I most admire in the world actually worship?

4 Whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

Revelation 13:8 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

Everyone whose name was written from the foundation of the world in the book of the Lamb who was slain — the redeemed who belong to Christ.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 21:27** only "those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life" enter the New Jerusalem.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The book of life belongs to “the Lamb who has been slain”: before the foundation of the world, God already had this hour — and His people — secured.

CRITICAL THINKING

The roll was written before the world began and sealed by a slain Lamb. The believer’s security predates the beast by an eternity.

KEY QUESTION

Do I rest my confidence in my grip on God, or in His grip on me from before the world began?

03 COMPARE THIS CHAPTER WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE

Is this supported by other passages in Revelation, John's other books, the Old/New Testaments?

Letting Scripture interpret Scripture.

1 How does the false prophet's demand for worship of the beast compare with the order put out by King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:13–30)?

Daniel 3:15 NASB95

… but if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?

IN MY WORDS

Both compel worship of an image on pain of death — Nebuchadnezzar's furnace foreshadows the false prophet's edict, but the beast's version is global and inescapable.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 13:15** the image causes "as many as do not worship" it "to be killed."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The beast's worship will likely look the way Caesar's did — a compelled allegiance that those who refused paid for; but the true marks of God's work are love and truth, never coercion.

CRITICAL THINKING

The demand is identical; only the scale changed — one plain of Dura became the whole earth. Coerced worship is Satan's signature, because love can never be commanded at swordpoint.

KEY QUESTION

What do I truly worship when no one is forcing my hand at all?

2 How does the mark of the beast compare with God's mark on the foreheads of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7)?

Revelation 13:16-17 NASB95

And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will 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.

IN MY WORDS

The beast's mark on the hand or forehead is a deliberate counterfeit of God's seal on the foreheads of His 144,000 servants — one marks slaves of the beast, the other marks sons of God.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 7:3** "until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The mark is Satan's parody of God's seal on His own servants; everyone in that day wears somebody's mark — the only question is whose.

CRITICAL THINKING

Both marks sit on the forehead because both claim the same thing: ownership. The tribulation lets no one stay neutral — only differently branded.

KEY QUESTION

Whose name is effectively stamped on my daily choices?

3 Contrast the results of both marks.

Revelation 14:9-10 NASB95

... If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger.

IN MY WORDS

The beast's mark ends in the wine of God's wrath and the lake of fire, while God's seal guarantees protection, preservation, and a place before His throne.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 14:1** the 144,000 stand with the Lamb, "having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The beast blasphemes those who dwell in heaven — the raptured church, safely beyond his reach — while God's sealed ones are secured; the two marks part ways forever at the judgment.

CRITICAL THINKING

The same gesture — a mark received — sends two crowds to opposite eternities. In the end, everything hangs on whose name you agreed to wear.

KEY QUESTION

Am I living now for the crowd whose end I actually want?

4 What two realities does the mark of the beast represent?

Revelation 13:17 NASB95

... and he provides that no one will 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.

IN MY WORDS

It represents worship — allegiance to the beast — and economic belonging: no one can buy or sell without it, so loyalty and livelihood are fused into a single choice.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 14:9** the warning joins the two: whoever "worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark."

> **Amir Tsarfati** REVEALING REVELATION
>
> The mark is loyalty made visible — worship enforced through the checkout line; no mark, no bread, and the shadow of that cashless, centralized day is already on the wall.

CRITICAL THINKING

Satan binds worship to bread so that faith costs a paycheck. He has always known that most people will bow to whatever feeds them.

KEY QUESTION

Where does my livelihood quietly pressure my loyalty?

5 What reality does the mark of God on the 144,000 Jewish evangelists represent (Revelation 7:1–8)?

Revelation 7:3 NASB95

Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.

IN MY WORDS

God's seal marks ownership and protection — these servants belong to Him, and He preserves them through the very judgments that fall on the beast's followers.

CROSS REFERENCE **2 Timothy 2:19** "The Lord knows those who are His."

> **John MacArthur** GRACE TO YOU
>
> Everyone wears somebody's mark; God's seal on His servants declares whose they are and that He Himself keeps them.

CRITICAL THINKING

God's mark is not something you achieve but something you receive — His seal says the security is His work, not the servant's grip.

KEY QUESTION

Do I know I am sealed, or am I still trying to earn what God has already stamped on His own?

6 How does the fourfold description of the Antichrist compare with the four beasts in Daniel 7:1–8?

Revelation 13:2 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

John's beast blends the leopard, bear, and lion of Daniel's four beasts into one — the final empire gathers up every earlier one, concentrating all their power in a single ruler.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 7:4-6** the lion, the bear, and the leopard — the successive empires John now sees fused.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The leopard, bear, and lion reach back to Daniel 7 — the empires gathered into one final, revived-Roman world system with the whole of Gentile history behind it.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel saw four beasts in succession; John sees them fused into one. History's empires were rehearsals for a single last act.

KEY QUESTION

Do I see world history as aimless drift, or as a story moving to an appointed end?

7 Compare the fatal wound of the Antichrist with the beast in Revelation 17:8.

Revelation 17:8 NASB95

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

IN MY WORDS

The healed fatal wound of chapter 13 matches the beast of 17:8 who "was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss" — a satanic parody of death and resurrection that dazzles the world.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 13:3** "his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

This is a head wound, a fatal one, and its healing is what vaults the beast to global fame; here is the Anti-christ in the fullest sense — he even imitates Jesus in death and resurrection, and the world believes it.

CRITICAL THINKING

The counterfeit resurrection is the hinge of the whole deception. Satan cannot create, only mimic — and here he mimics the one event that saves.

KEY QUESTION

Have I settled the real resurrection so deeply that no imitation could move me?

8 **Compare the beast coming out of the sea and the prostitute who sits on many waters (Revelation 17:1–2).**

> **Revelation 17:1 NASB95**
>
> … Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> The beast rises from the sea of restless nations and the harlot sits on "many waters" — the same peoples and multitudes — so the political beast and the false religious system both draw their strength from a God-defying world.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 17:15** "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."

> **David Guzik** ENDURING WORD
>
> To Israel the sea meant chaos and evil resisting God, and from that place the beast rises; the political power of the world is finally concentrated in a real person.

> **CRITICAL THINKING**
>
> Sea and many waters are the same restless humanity — one produces a tyrant, the other a false church. Both are the world in rebellion wearing different masks.

KEY QUESTION

Where am I drawing strength from the very "waters" God calls me to come out of?

04 EXECUTE

So what? How does this affect my life?

Principle: Without a biblical worldview, deception is inevitable. — Bringing Revelation 13 home to my own walk.

1 What can you do to avoid the tribulation and help others elude it?

1 Thessalonians 1:10 NASB95

… and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

IN MY WORDS

I can put my faith in Jesus Christ, who rescues His own before the wrath comes, and urge others to trust Him now while the door is still open.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 Thessalonians 5:9** "For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The mark belongs to the Tribulation, after the church is gone; the sign of a soberly watching believer is not date-setting but readiness — and calling others in before that day.

CRITICAL THINKING

The surest escape from that hour is not a strategy for surviving it but a Savior who removes His people before it. Evangelism is the only rescue mission that reaches into the future.

KEY QUESTION

Who in my life have I not yet warned, simply because it felt awkward?

2 What evidence do you have that you are a believer, and therefore your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life?

1 John 5:11-12 NASB95

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

IN MY WORDS

My evidence is that I have the Son — trusting Christ, loving what He loves, and being changed by His Spirit is the fruit that confirms my name is written in His book.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 John 5:13** "These things I have written to you who believe… so that you may know that you have eternal life."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The safest posture is knowing the genuine Christ so well that no counterfeit can pass; real assurance grows where Christ is truly possessed and known.

CRITICAL THINKING

Assurance rests not on the strength of my feelings but on the fact of the Son. The test is possession of Christ, not perfection of performance.

KEY QUESTION

Is my assurance built on my experience, or on the Son I actually have?

3 Whose names are definitely not in the Lamb's Book of Life?

Revelation 20:15 NASB95

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

IN MY WORDS

Those who worship the beast — everyone who finally rejects Christ and belongs to the world system rather than to the Lamb.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 13:8** "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written… in the book of life of the Lamb."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Instead of obsessing over the number of the beast, be expert in the genuine — the tragedy of the lost is never a mysterious mark but a refused Savior.

CRITICAL THINKING

The dividing line is not intelligence or morality but worship. The book is a record of allegiance, and neutrality toward the Lamb is itself an answer.

KEY QUESTION

Have I ever actually crossed the line from admiring Jesus to belonging to Him?

4 How can you protect yourself from Satan's deceptions?

Ephesians 6:11 NASB95

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

IN MY WORDS

I protect myself by putting on the full armor of God and knowing the genuine Christ and His Word so well that no counterfeit can fool me.

CROSS REFERENCE **John 8:44** of the devil: "he is a liar and the father of lies."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Signs and wonders authenticate nothing by themselves — a prophet's wonder must be judged by his word (Deuteronomy 13:1–5), so the safest defense is a heart saturated with Scripture.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The true marks of God's work are love and truth; don't obsess over the imitation — be an expert in the genuine, Jesus Christ.

CRITICAL THINKING

You spot a counterfeit not by studying every fake but by knowing the real so intimately that the fake feels wrong on sight.

KEY QUESTION

Am I spending more energy decoding the darkness than deepening my knowledge of the Light?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Revelation 13 assembles the darkest cast in the book — a beast out of the sea, a second beast out of the earth, and the dragon standing behind them both. It would be easy to read it and feel dread. But John did not write this chapter to frighten the church; he wrote it to steady her.

For the believer, the timeline itself is grace. Everyone whose name was written from the foundation of the world in the Lamb's book of life will be kept — and, as Amir reminds us, caught up to be with Christ before the beast is ever revealed. The 666 that unsettles the world is a number that falls forever short of seven; the counterfeit trinity of dragon, beast, and false prophet is a parody, not a rival. Satan can only mimic — even his masterpiece is a staged imitation of a resurrection that already really happened.

That is why the chapter's own charge is not "take up arms" but "here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints." The defense against deception is not decoding the darkness but knowing the genuine Christ so well that no imitation can pass. The name of Jesus in Greek totals 888; the beast totals 666. Be an expert in the 888.

> ***"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."***
>
> **REVELATION 13:10**

You may never see the beast, but you will meet his method — the pressure to bow to whatever feeds you, the spectacle that dazzles, the lie dressed up as light. The safeguard is the same in every age: belong so completely to the Lamb that His seal, not the world's mark, is already on you. Know the genuine Christ, and the counterfeit loses its power.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

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