

1 And he stood on the sand of the seashore.

And 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. 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 worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped 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 the 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 the 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 men and the slaves, to be given a mark on 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. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

visual aids are you ready to be beheaded for Jesus? by jesus (small j)

The following points can be concluded from the Hadiths:

1 He is the same Jesus son of Mary, who was sent to The Children of Israel as a Messenger Of God along with the Injeel, some two thousand years ago. (note: injeel, gr. evangelion, the gospel, - their's, not the Bible. Muslims believe this teaching that jesus brought has been corrupted and lost, mostly by the apostle Paul. It's a lost message. Corrupted and lost by the christians.)

2 He is the same personage who was miraculously born without a father and whose mother was Mary, daughter of Imran.

3 He and his mother were born in Palestine. His mother was an extraordinary lady given a high spiritual status by God.

4 Jesus miraculously spoke whilst in the lap of his mother.

5 He is a middle-statured man with a beautiful reddish white complexion.

6 He has shiny black hair.

7 He resembles in his appearance Urwah Ibn Masud, a companion of the holy Prophet (peace be upon him).

8 He used to perform extraordinary miracles, such as, giving life to the dead, curing the blind and the leper and breathing upon the clay models, so that they became live flying birds.

9 The Jews of Palestine failed in their efforts to execute or crucify him as he was raised by Allah to Himself.

10 Upon returning to this world, he will be wearing two yellow garments.

11 His main function will be the elimination of Dajjal. (sort of a muslim anti-christ. he is a ridiculous creature with crooked legs and arms and teeth and hair. Grossly ugly, and he has only one eye.)

12 He will come down upon the white minaret towards the east of Damascus, Syria, at the time of Fajr Prayer.

13 He will kill the Dajjal near the gate of the city of Lydda.

14 The incumbent Muslim leader will ask him to lead the prayer which he will decline and tell him to continue to lead the congregation in prayer.

15 After coming again to this world he will live for forty years.

16 He will marry and will have children.

17 He will abolish the cross and eliminate Christianity.

18 He will abolish the Jews and all other religious traditions except Islam.

19 With the disappearance of all non Islamic religious beliefs he will have no need to continue the Jihad or take the Jizya. (jizya is a tax)

20 His era will witness an unprecedented abundance of wealth so much so that no one on the surface of the earth will be liable to accept charity.

21 He will perform pilgrimage to Makkah and will pass by the place known as Fajj al-Rawah.

22 All mutual hatred, jealousy and grudge will disappear.

23 Peace, prosperity and security will prevail so much so that camels will not fear lions, cows will not fear tigers and sheep will not fear wolves.

24 The Dajjal will be an adversary of Jesus and will be killed by him.

25 The Dajjal is a definite person who has specific characteristics.

26 After passing away, Jesus will be buried near the Holy Prophet

So says Muslim eschatology. Did you know the muslims have a detailed eschatology? They DO. And the parallels are startling! It sounds like whoever wrote this stuff down read Revelation and Daniel first. The parallels are almost too great to not have.

Except for one thing. All of their good guys are all of our bad guys. Right down the line.

An important disclaimer -

Every Word of God is _____? True! That's why we teach with authority. Our confidence in this book is unshakable.

Do I believe there's anything to it?? Not going to stick my neck out that far. I believe the Word of God. Anything else is just interesting reading. But it's really interesting, and the parallels are right here, chapter 13, so I can't resist.

Maybe Satan fabricated the whole thing to "catch" christians like me. Or maybe it's exactly right and Satan just threw it out there because he figures only 1 in a thousand christians is going to put 2 + 2 together. I don't know.

So bear with a little foolishness and let's waste a bit of time looking at the teachings of the Shi-i moslems. The "twelver's"

Jews are waiting for Messiah. Christians are waiting for the return of Messiah. Moslems are waiting for the return of the 12th Imam. The Mahdi.

Mahdi = 'guided one'. Messiah = annointed one. The universalists say, see, it's the same thing. Umm . . . no . . . it isn't. Guided one. Annointed one.

We'll see in chapter 13 that "guided one" is actually quite accurate. The difference is our Bible says he's being guided by Satan. The Kuran says he's being guided by Ullah. Satan. Allah. Who am I to argue.

The Mahdi they say, is the conqueror who appears in Revelation on the first horse. The white horse. That's the Mahdi. Again, who am I to argue.

The red horse is pestilence. Between the 2 of them 1/2 the worlds population will perish. That squares with Revelation, 4 horsemen of the apocalypse.

He will rule for 5 - or 7 - or 9 years and then the end comes.

People will initially fear him and flee. But later on they will flock to him and prostrate themselves before him. There will be a symbol.

He comes on the scene from nowhere. He appears when it's Allah's will to reveal him.

He has a big forehead and a prominent nose. Stop it now. That's not nice. I'm just telling you what Wikipedia says about him. Big forehead and a prominent nose.

He re-establishes morality on the earth.

He destroys his enemies. All who oppose him - destroyed.

That's a big order, but he has a helper. Isi.

Isi is the moslem name for Jesus. Isi will come back to earth at the same time

the 12th Imam, the Mahdi, appears.

Isi comes back to earth, he descends in a white column, near damascus. Many moslems believe he'll return to the eastern minaret of the Umyyad Mosque in Aleppo, Syria. Luckily, the minaret they knocked down with tank fire was the wrong one, and Isi can still come.

Isi, this moslem Jesus, is going to turn the hearts of the whole world to the Mahdi.

Isi didn't ever die when he was on earth the first time. That was some imposter on the cross, not Jesus. Allah took Jesus to heaven without dying. No death for sins. No resurrection. He'll set it all straight when he gets here.

He's going to destroy all the other false religions, like the Cross, and the Pigs (Jews). He's going to unite the whole world under the correct religion. The worship of Allah, and the Mahdi.

OK, enough of that. But as we explore the second half of Revelation 13, some of the parallels must certainly jump out at you. Satan is the big imitator. But you can see how such a ruse will fool the entire world, and if it were possible, even the elect.

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.

Make no mistake. This beast is not descended from heaven. That is a lie from the pit of hell. He may claim to be Jesus, returned from heaven, but this beast is from the earth. He is from the family of the sons of men. An ordinary man, until he becomes Satan's man.

Perhaps the 'from the earth' is a veiled reference to Damascus, Syria. It is no where near any seashore. Just saying.....

and he had two horns like a lamb

Traditionally interpreted simply to mean, he's far less significant than the first beast with 10 horns and seven heads.

But also interesting that in the muslim scheme, this beast claims to be Jesus. He's *like a lamb* ...

But that's where the likeness ends. He opens up his mouth, and satan comes out. *and he spoke as a dragon.*

How does a dragon speak. He's going to persuade the entire world to jettison the truth and believe a lie. If you ever studied Satan, that is his persona. He lies, and then he lies some more. And he murders.

This persons identifying characteristic is that he will blaspheme the God of heaven. Continuously. And the whole world will fall under his spell. Well, they have a choice. Fall under his spell, or be murdered.

vs. 12He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence.

The beast controls a one world government. He rules over the entire earth. No one challenges him. "Who is like the beast. And who is able to make war with him??"

That is his authority. Remember last week. Given to him.

God is sovereign even over the anti-christ. He has zero authority unless it is "given" to him. And for 3 1/2 years it pleases God to give Satan free reign over this earth. A true reign of terror. Unimaginable.

This second beast 'exercises' that authority in the presence of the beast. He is like a 'right arm' to the antichrist. *in his presence*

This may be important. I don't know. Satan is neither omnipresent nor omnipotent. Maybe the magic and the miracles only happen when they're

present with Satan.

And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.

Our translation doesn't relay a piece of important information here. I'm a poor grammar student, so I'm in over my head almost immediately.

And he makes. The word for makes is a common greek word. Poy eh o But what's interesting to us is the force in the word that is lost to us. It is a verb. Action. And it is 'present - indicative - active'. It is a word that means force.

I compared some of the other translations. He compels. He causeth. The NIV says he 'required'. There is force behind the 'making'

He uses the authority of the beast, and forces the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the beast.

It isn't a suggestion. It's a command with the authority of the one world ruler backing it up. *he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast*

13He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14And 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.

Counterfeit miracles. But real miracles none the less. Great signs. Fire from heaven in the presence of men.

14And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs

The people of earth just fall in line. Totally deceived by these miracles. It should break our hearts that the God of heaven came to earth and performed

miracles, real ones, greater than these, and no one believed.

After His resurrection, 120 believers cowering in an upper room.

Satan throws a few miracles around and the whole world gets in line.

Notice a couple of interesting truths here. *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*

God sovereignly allows Satan to give this second beast the ability to do miracles. In the presence of the beast, who is in the presence of who? Satan. This is Satan's hour.

And what do the miracles buy him?

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

All who dwell on earth compelled to make an image. There was something in the wikipedia piece about Mahdi that made me think of this passage about the beast.

When matters are entrusted to competent [the Mahdi], Almighty God will raise the lowest part of the world for him, and lower the highest places. So much that he will see the whole world as if in the palm of his hand. Which of you cannot see even a single hair in the palm of his hand?

In the time of the Mahdi, a Muslim in the East will be able to see his Muslim brother in the West, and he in the West will see him in the East.

That's what some of their ancient hadith's say.

Now don't get me wrong. I have no idea how this image thing works. But doesn't the possibilities of technology in the last 5 years make you wonder if

this thing isn't high tech.

Notice that this beast tells those who dwell on earth to make an image. Then sometimes the image seems to be central with the beast and the false prophet in the temple of God.

This will come up again, with more detail, but does this not sound like technology under satanic control?

15And 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.

Nobody really knows what this means. Let your imagination run wild. Or not.

The people who are living during this nightmare will read this and the next and it will be self evident to them. We can only imagine.

I picture a massive computer system where all of mankind is connected and your 'image' lets you join in worship from anywhere on earth. And if you decide not to worship, your computer kills you.

Apple's already got the 'cloud'. They just have to figure out how to make it kill you. Maybe demons are involved. I don't know. Anybody got anything better? We're just trying to imagine how this text might play out literally.

Bottom line is this. The image knows if you're worshipping or not worshipping, and if you decide NOT to worship, somehow death ensue's. Everyone on earth. That much is clear. The 'breath' and the 'speaking', no clue.

Worried about your civil rights and privacy? Best for you to miss *this* day.

16And 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, 17and 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.

The so called "mark of the beast". I understand we've had the technology to begin this, for years.

There's that word again. he causes. He forces . . all.

Without the mark, death ensues. Starvation. Commerce ends.

And finally, what you've all been waiting for;

18Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Now I know that all of you, all 3 of you came tonight because you said to yourselves, Jim will solve this, once and for all.

Sorry, I don't have a clue.

I think this is a 'need-to-know' riddle. I think God has a way of making riddles that no one except those He illumines can figure out. I think once again, that this will be self evident, if God pleases it to be so, for those who are alive during the tribulation.

I think God's elect will pick up a copy of the real Bible and read these words and they'll say 'of course!'

And then they'll die.

I think all of the current bad math coming to pre-disposed conclusions about

what this number means, are ridiculous.

Sidebar: Progressive revelation. Don't denigrate a literal view because it wasn't held by Calvin and Luther. I believe God reveals His word sometimes, progressively. The perfect example is Daniel. God was throwing numbers at him right there at the end and Daniel is saying Whaaaaaaaaa???

And God says, don't worry about it Daniel. It's for the time of the end.

Don't look down your nose at the rapture and a literal time line in Revelation because the church fathers and reformers didn't see it. They didn't need to see it.

Now I'm not talking about extra biblical revelation. Do look down your nose at that stuff going on. But things that are in God's word, that perhaps it pleased Him to save for a later day. Don't miss out because of some pride issue that says "I can't believe anything that Jonathan Edwards didn't see or believe."

Instead of trying to solve God's puzzle, maybe we should be thinking about how quickly these things are going to be taking place, and begging God for mercy for our in-activity.

A final word about the Muslim's. I would say this; Of all the people groups on earth, I can most easily imagine a moslem conquerer killing 1/3 of the people on earth.

They're ready to go. They're marching around Iran with their black flags just waiting for the Mahdi to show up. Syria's on fire. Russia and the US are holding hands like junior high kids.

I can see the pope and the roman church saying, *of course jesus never died*, and joining hands with the Mahdi and Jesus. (apologies to any catholics present, but even the catholics are starting to call this pope with his universalism, the anti-pope, which is a play on 'anti-christ'.)

It could happen before tomorrow morning. The world is like an oozing pack of old dynamite sticks.