

REFUTING PM – PART 12 (THE SEA BEAST & THE ANTI-CHRIST)

I. The PM view:

A. A refresher on their Anti-Christ:

1. *“Like Hitler, he will have great charisma & speaking ability. The Antichrist will rise to power as he temporarily saves the world from its desperate economic, military & political problems with a brilliant 7-year plan for world peace and economic stability. The Antichrist could well rise out of the current chaos in the former Soviet Union. His power base will include the leading nations of Europe... the antichrist will not only be a master of political intrigue, but also a military genius. For awhile, most of the world is going to think the Antichrist is wonderful, as he will seem to have solved so many of the world's problems. But three-and-a-half years into his seven year reign he will break the covenant & invade Israel. At this time he will make Jerusalem his world capitol & outlaw all religions, except the worship of himself & his image. The Bible says that the Antichrist will sit in the Jewish Temple exalting himself as God & demanding to be worshipped.”* (www.countdown.org).
2. The above quote would make for an interesting Hollywood plot line, but, as we have seen, such is not close to biblical.



B. PM connect the sea beast of **Rev. 13:1-9** to their concept of The Anti-Christ.

1. They see the 10 horns as 10 nations (usually some sort of Euro-Alliance) that have grouped together to facilitate a common agenda of restoring order to the world after the rapture.
2. From this supposed alliance emerges on to the public scene their infamous Anti-Christ.
3. Note the following quotes:
 - (a) *“The Antichrist will rise out of the sea and claim to be The One Lord over all the earth”* (<http://watch.pair.com>).
 - (b) *“The details which describe the first beast of Revelation 13, commonly known as the antichrist...”* (<http://www.bibleprophecytruth.com>).
 - (c) In a section entitled: Identifying the Antichrist, [www.rapturealert](http://www.rapturealert.com) has the following words: *“He will be a leader from the European Union or of Roman descent. When John sees the coming Antichrist as he writes the book of Revelation, he sees him (the beast) rising from the sea. The sea near the Holy Land is the Mediterranean Sea. The sea John was in himself at the time of receiving this prophecy was the Mediterranean Sea as he was on the Isle of Patmos. I believe this tells us the Antichrist will come from a land across water.”*

II. Something we must be reminded of again and again:

- A. **Rev.** is time sensitive (**1:1, 3**).
- B. **Rev.** had a specific audience: the seven churches of Asia (**1:4**).
- C. **Rev.** had a specific goal: to encourage ancient saints who were being severely persecuted (**1:9**) with a message of hope and ultimate victory. Yes, they might be tortured, yet they would be vindicated. Yes, they might die, yet they would be the victors in the end (**Rev. 1:6**).
- D. To impose a futurist view on this particular text is either irresponsible or dishonest exegesis.

III. Refuting the PM view:

- A. As noted in an earlier study, PM stands or falls together. Remove one card from their house of cards and their whole doctrine falls.
 1. We have previously proven there will be no rapture. If there is no rapture the PM have no worldwide chaos for a one world government to deal with.
 2. We have previously proven that the PM view of a sole Anti-Christ is false. This being the case, even if the PM were right about the rapture, one man would not be able to emerge onto the scene and eventually deceive the nations.
 3. Since they are wrong about a sole Anti-Christ, then **Rev. 13:1-9** cannot possibly be talking about what they think it is. It must be talking about something else – it is referring to something evil for sure, but not what they would have it to be.

- B. It sure seems that the sea beast of **Rev.13:1-9** is the same beast referred to in **Dan. 7:1-8** – another highly symbolic portion of God’s Word.
1. Careful study shows that **Dan. 7:1-8** recounts the same information (via different symbolism) as does the great image Nebuchadnezzar saw while dreaming (**Dan. 2:31:35**). Thus, putting two and two together, inspiration tells us the beast was a first century kingdom (**Dan. 2:36-44**).
 2. Also, even if we leave **Dan. 2** totally out of the picture, the Word of God tells us the 10 horns of the beast in **Dan. 7:7-8** represent 10 individual kings of one kingdom, not ten different nations forming European Common Government or some other nonsense!
- C. Understanding the preceding facts, there’s just no way that **Rev. 13:1-9** is discussing “The Anti-Christ” who is much sought after by the PM camp.

IV. What then is the Sea Beast of Rev. 13:1-9?

- A. Again, **Rev. 13:1-9** is symbolic language – an apocalyptic figure used to convey someone or something.
1. Whatever that someone or something is, it must find its identity within the contextual parameters of the book and in the extended context of the rest of scripture.
 2. When one considers the time sensitive context of **Rev.** and also considers that the message was addressed to, and had immediate application for, the seven churches of Asia, and when one also considers the extended context of **Dan.** the conclusion that must be drawn that the sea beast represents one king/emperor (**cf. Dan. 7:7-8**) who reigned over the Roman Empire (**Dan. 2:4--44**) in antiquity – one who was causing trouble and severe pain for saints then living. There is no way the sea beast represents the PM Anti-Christ.
 3. Yes, the Sea Beast is contextually to be understood as a Roman Emperor.
- B. The natural question then is, “Which one?”
1. Hint #1:
 - (a) Read again **Rev. 1:9**. Who does history say had John put there? Note the following quote about an Emperor named Domitian.
 - (b) *“Among the numerous martyrs that suffered during this persecution was Simeon, bishop of Jerusalem, who was crucified; and St. John, who was boiled in oil, and afterward banished to Patmos”* (FBM).
 2. Hint #2:
 - (a) The sea beast (Roman Emperor) would make war with the saints (**Rev. 13:7**).
 - (b) Note also the following quote depicting Domitian’s brutality.
 - (c) *“The emperor Domitian, who was naturally inclined to cruelty, first slew his brother, and then raised the second persecution against the Christians. In his rage he.... commanded all the lineage of David be put to death. A variety of fabricated tales were, during this reign, composed in order to injure the Christian... If famine, pestilence, or earthquakes afflicted any of the Roman provinces, it was laid upon the Christians.... Another hardship was, that, when any Christians were brought before the magistrates, a test oath was proposed, when, if they refused to take it, death was pronounced against them; and if they confessed themselves Christians, the sentence was the same.”*
 3. Hint #3:
 - (a) The sea beast (Roman Emperor) would be worshipped (**Rev. 12:4, 8**).
 - (b) Does this fall in line with Domitian? Note the following quotes concerning Domitian and his reign.
 - (c) *“The imperial cult in ancient Rome was the worship of a few select emperors as gods once they were deceased; the only emperor to declare himself a god while still living was Domitian”* (wikipedia).
 - (d) *“Under Roman Law, Christians were liable to suffer penalties imposed by Roman law just because they were Christians, Christian continued to protest that they were innocent of any crime but their protests went unheeded...those who voiced such protests were told that they might easily prove their loyalty by burning incense to the emperor’s image or swearing by his divinity* (Bruce: The Defense of the Gospel, p. 67).
 - (e) Durant notes in his book, The Roman Empire (p.292) that, *“In 93 Domitian executed some Christians for refusing to offer sacrifice before his image.”*

V. **Conclusion:**

- A. I encourage you to engage in a detailed study of **Rev. 13:1-9** – it is a very profitable and rich study. You will not regret the time you'll have to invest (at least I never have).
- B. Hints for proper study:
 - 1. Remember the book is apocalyptic in nature – do not look for more than is there.
 - 2. Remember the occasion for the writing – to encourage ancient saints.
 - 3. Remember the message is time sensitive – soon to take place.
 - 4. Remember to study in light of context – a Roman Emperor in the 1st century is severely persecuting ancient saints.
 - 5. If you do the four things just noted, you will be okay.
- C. Biblical context and history bear out that the sea beast of **Rev. 13:1-9** is not going to be the PM Anti-Christ, but was a Roman Emperor. I believe that the specific emperor was Domitian.
- D. Sadly, once again, the PM are wrong.