

³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. —
Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

A man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a simple brown robe, is shown in a desert landscape. He is sitting on the ground, writing on a scroll with a quill. The scroll has some text written on it, including the words 'KAAAGH' and 'TONT'. The background shows a rocky, hilly desert under a clear sky.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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- The **imagery** and **symbols** in Revelation are necessary in comprehending the **BIG PICTURE** - but if we focus too much on the imagery and symbols we can easily MISS the BIG PICTURE.
- Asia Minor, in the last decade of the first century, is set in the context of an eternal struggle, a world-shaking cosmic battle between good and evil.

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“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



**Revelation 8:4
(NKJV)**

⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

- A series of three “7's” — 7 seals (6:1-8:5); 7 trumpets (8:6-9:21); and 7 bowls of wrath (15:1-16:21).
- John describes them one after the other by revealing from different viewpoints the judging and restraining action of God.
- Those who prayed for help in their distress CAN know that God HEARS - it would be their prayers that initiate divine judgment.

Revelation 13:1–10 (NKJV)

¹ Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

Revelation 13:1–10 (NKJV)

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

■ THE BEAST DESCRIBED (13:1-2A)

- ▶ In this vision John is shown in what form Satan will fight against the “inhabiters of the earth” (12:12).
- ▶ This segment begins with what is most likely the great dragon, the Devil, standing expectantly on the shore of the sea, (*NKJV has I, but the NASB says “And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore”*).

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

- THE BEAST DESCRIBED (13:1-2A)
 - ▶ Emerging from the sea is a beast that possesses many of the same characteristics as the great red dragon - obviously an agent of Satan (12:3).
 - ▶ This beast rises up out of the sea reminds us of Daniel's vision in which he saw some great beasts come up from the sea (Dan. 7:2-3).
 - ▶ The “sea” represents the whole of human society, from which emerges a world empire (cf. Daniel 7:1,2)

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

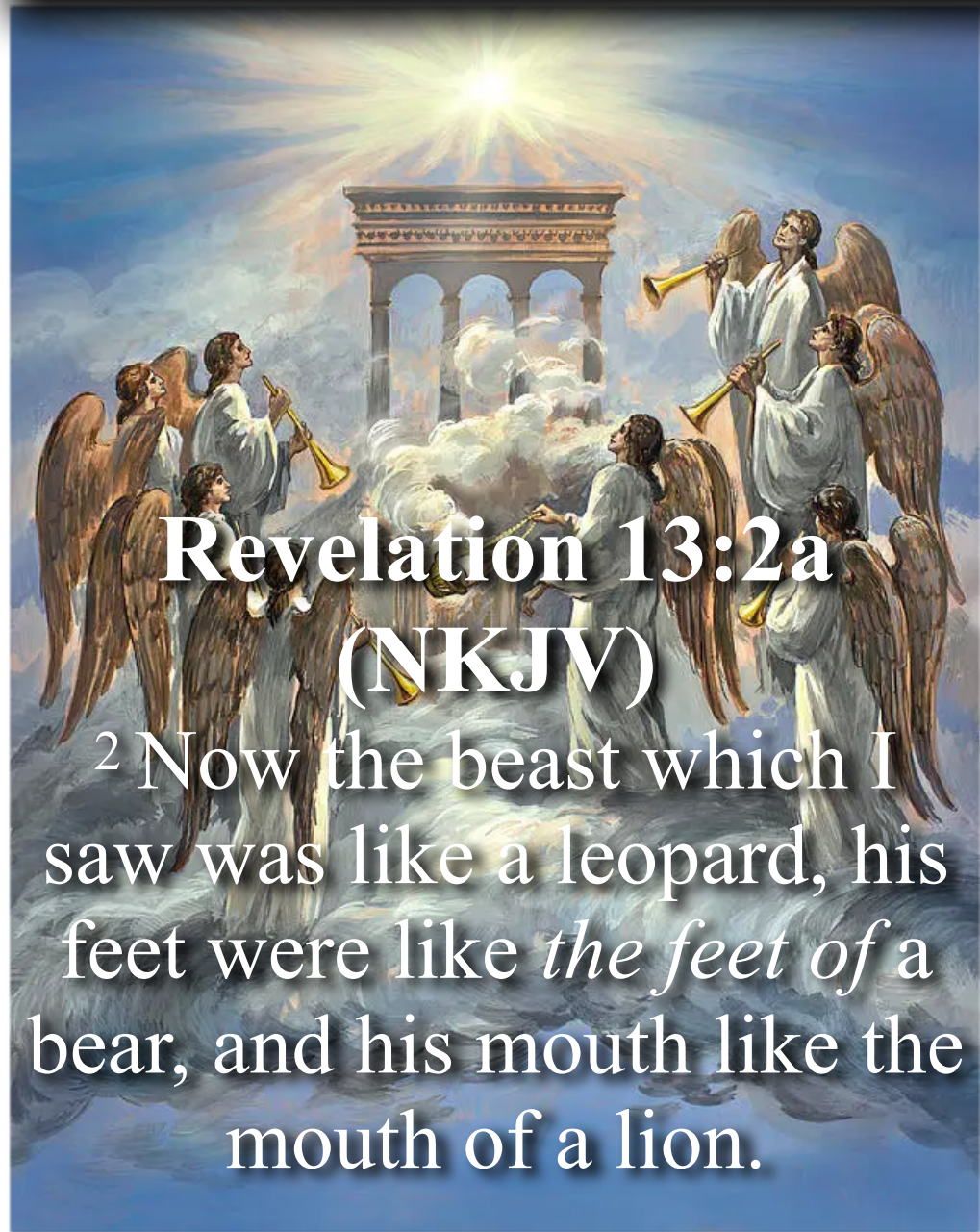
■ THE BEAST DESCRIBED (13:1-2A)

- ▶ “Having 7 heads and 10 horns” — the 7 heads are the same as Satan’s description (12:3), indicating the completeness of authority, whereas the 10 crowned horns are identified as earthly kings (cf. also at 17:12).
- ▶ The beast assumes titles upon his heads that legitimately belong exclusively to God. (Just as Daniel saw in the “little horn” of the 4th kingdom) (Dan. 7:7-8, 17-27).

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“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)

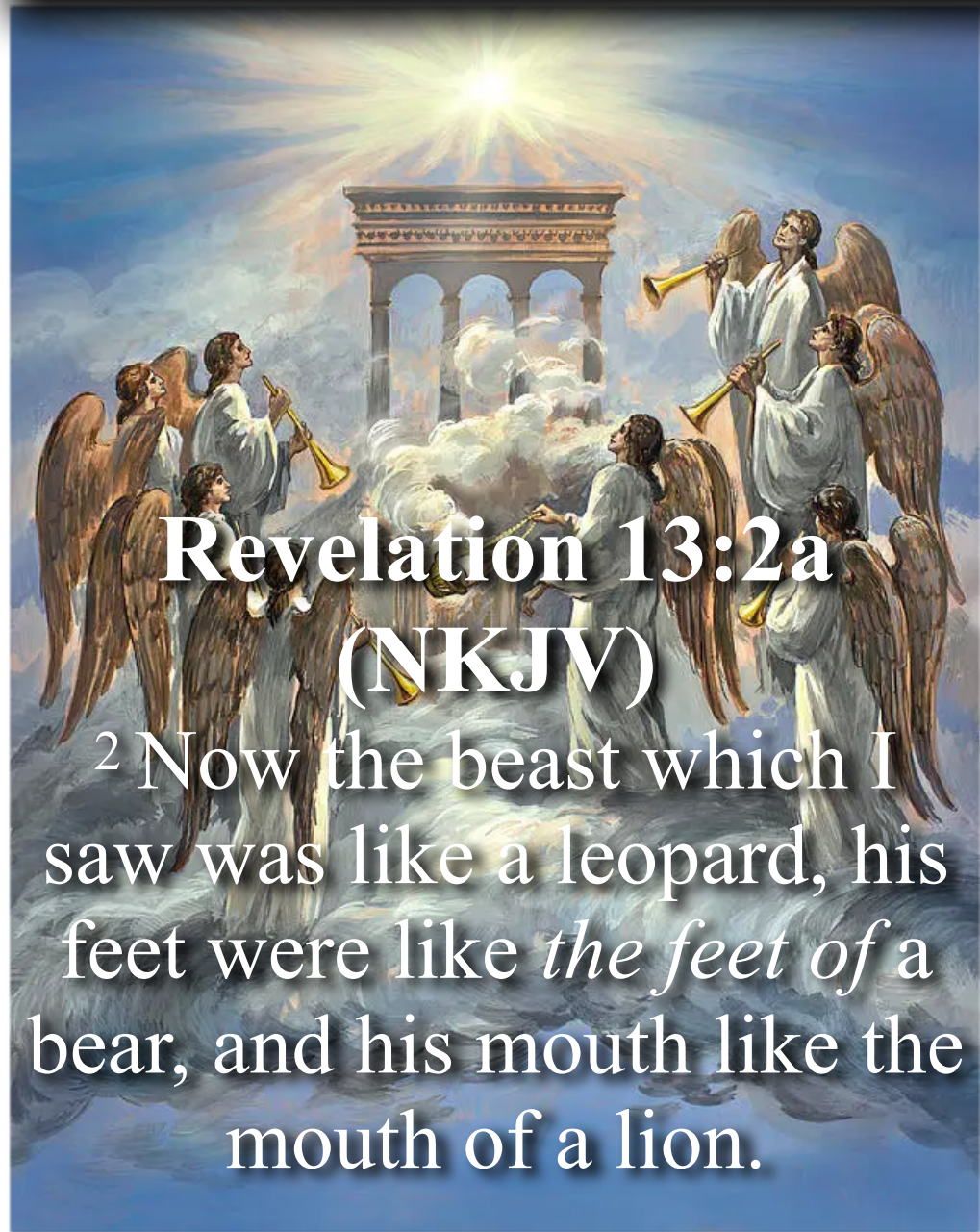


- THE BEAST DESCRIBED (13:1-2A)
 - ▶ This beast of John’s vision is the Roman Empire.
 - ▶ John sees embodied in this empire a combination of features of the four beasts of Daniel’s vision.
 - ▶ In Daniel’s prophecy, the fourth kingdom was “dreadful and terrible” which was preceded by the first that was “like a lion” (7:4); a second that was “like to a bear” (7:5); and a third “like a leopard” (7:6).

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



■ THE BEAST DESCRIBED (13:1-2A)

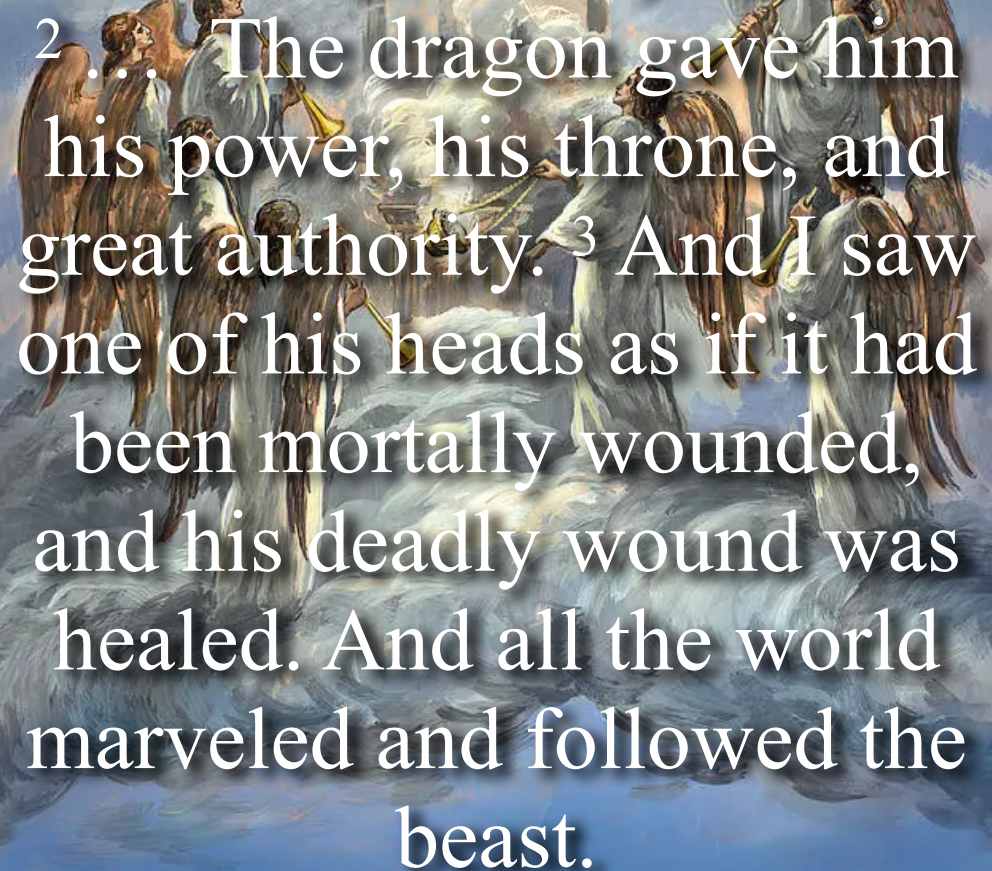
- ▶ Here is a plain description of the Roman Empire as the instrument of Satan’s diabolical and blasphemous power, cruelty, and opposition to God’s kingdom.
- ▶ To John, and the saints to whom he wrote, this beast definitely identified the empire of their day — Rome.
- ▶ There can be no doubt about the identification of this beast when compared to Daniel 7.

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)

**Revelation 13:2b,3
(NKJV)**

² ... The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

■ POWER OF THE BEAST (13:2B-7)

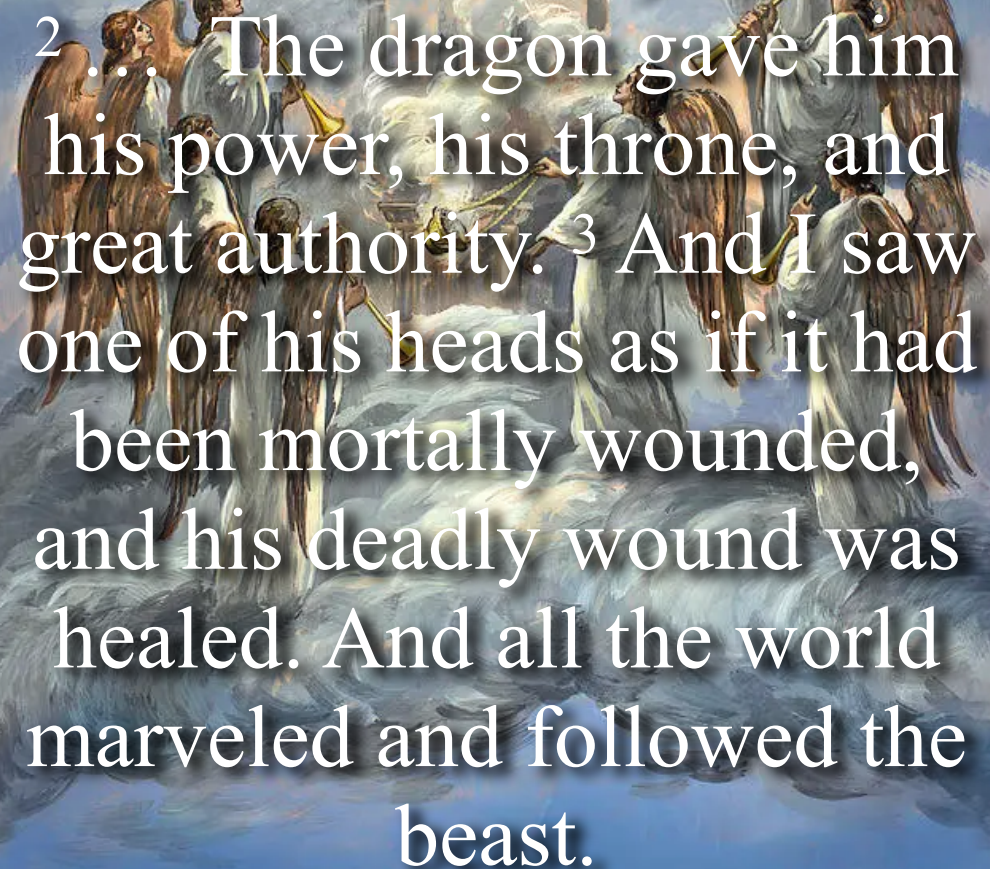
- ▶ The real force behind the imperial government which operated contrary to the reign of God, is Satan.
- ▶ The authority of the state has been ordained by God (Rom. 13:1-7), but when the people who make up the state cease worshiping God, then the state is given over to the enemy.
- ▶ Satan gives the beast all of the power he could possibly give to work as his ally (2 Cor. 4:4; Dan. 4:17)

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**Revelation 13:2b,3
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■ POWER OF THE BEAST (13:2B-7)

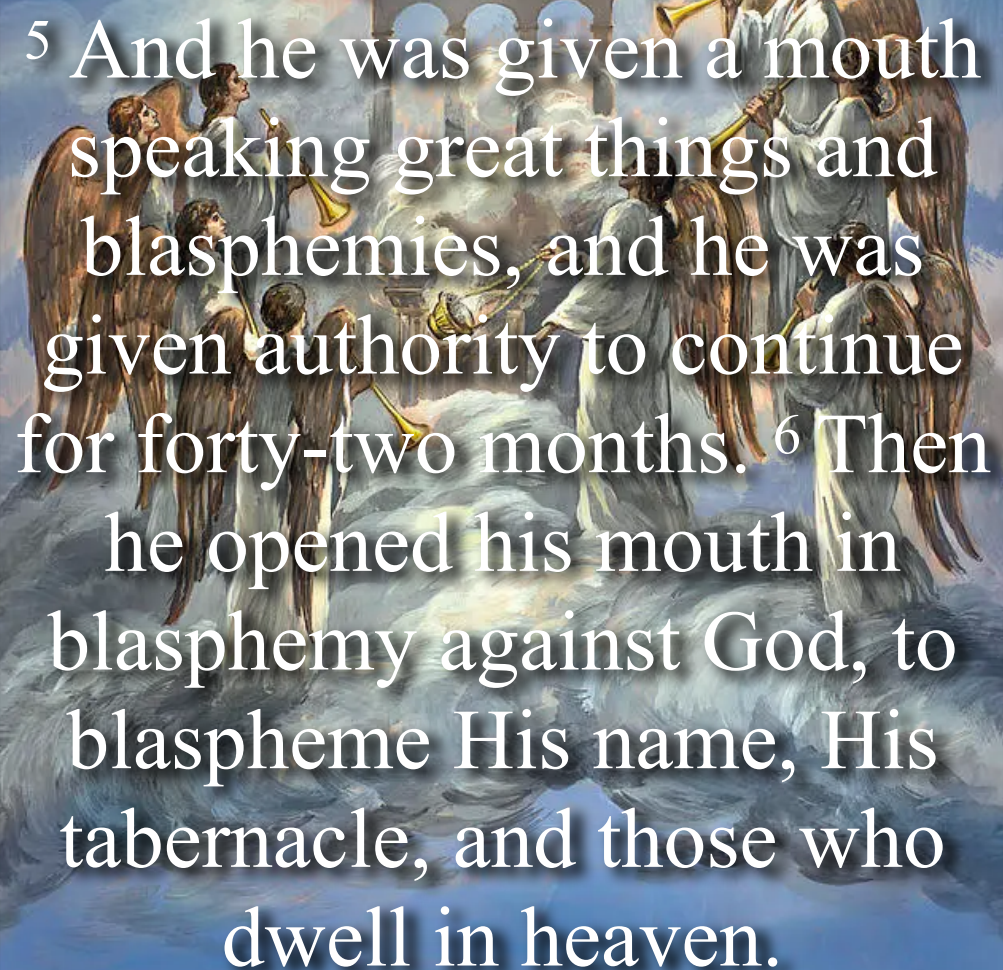
- ▶ Nero was the first Caesar who vented his fury against Christians, but he committed suicide in A.D. 68.
- ▶ Indeed, persecution against Christians in Rome ceased after the death of Nero and was not revived until late in the reign of Domitian (A.D. 81-96).
- ▶ Nero's spirit of persecution against the kingdom of God was revived in A.D. 95-96, and appeared intermittently several times later until A.D. 313.

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)

Revelation 13:5,6
(NKJV)



⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

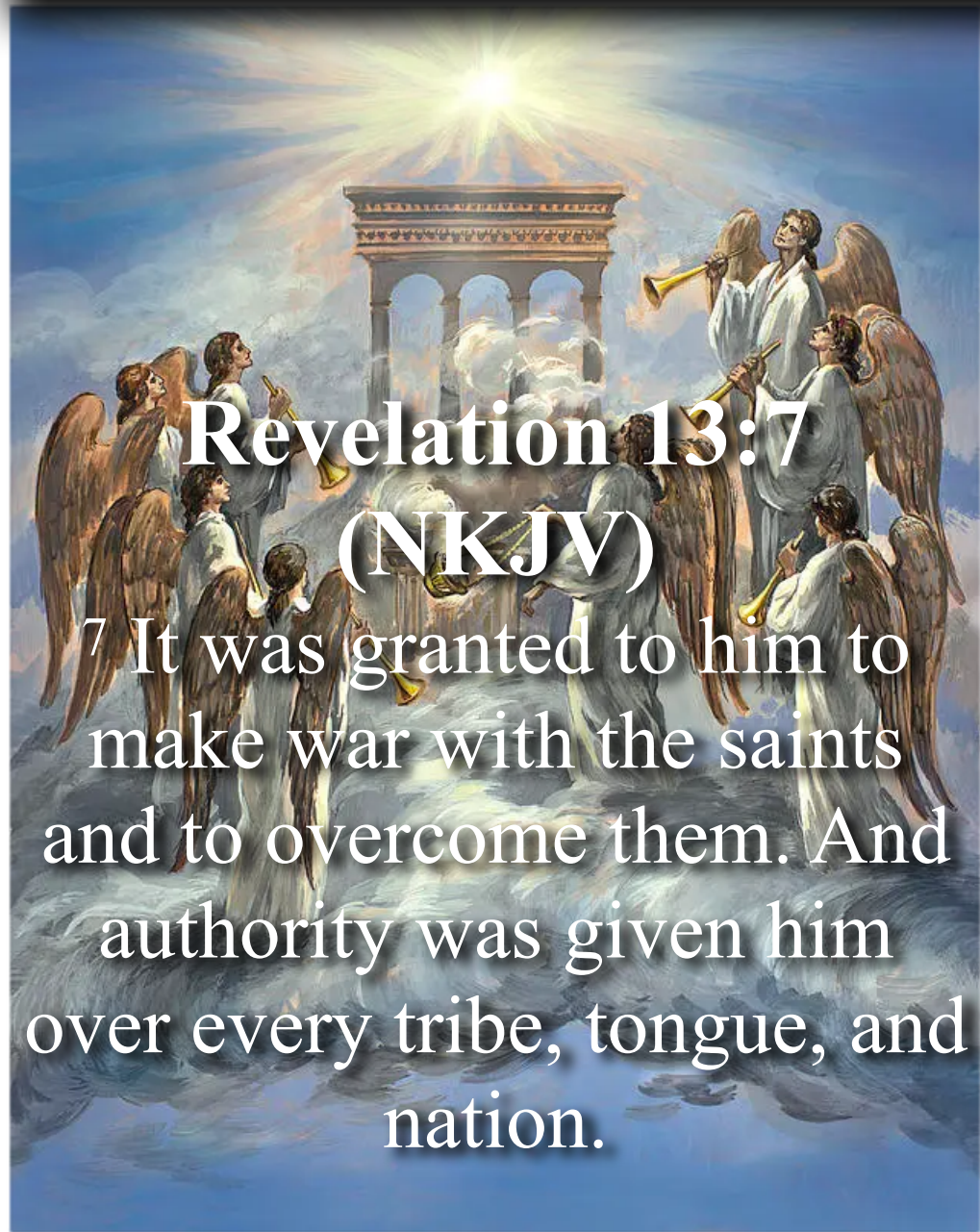
■ POWER OF THE BEAST (13:2B-7)

- ▶ He blasphemes, speaking against God's eternal nature and authority. (His power lasts forty and two months, a broken, incomplete period of time).
- Against his name = to speak against all that he is and stands for.
- Against his tabernacle = against His dwelling place (21:3), (the church)
- Against them that dwell in heaven is to slander angelic beings and the heavenly hosts (7:14-17).

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



■ POWER OF THE BEAST (13:2B-7)

- ▶ Daniel foretold that the beast would prevail (Dan. 7:21), but he used the apocalyptic symbol of “a time and times and the dividing of time” (Dan. 7:25) which is equivalent to forty-two months. (cf. 11:2 and 12:14.)
- ▶ The extent of his reign is worldwide. In fact, the political power that ruled over the world at the time of this vision could only have been the great empire of the Romans.

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



**Revelation 13:3b,4
(NKJV)**

And all the world marveled and followed the beast.⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

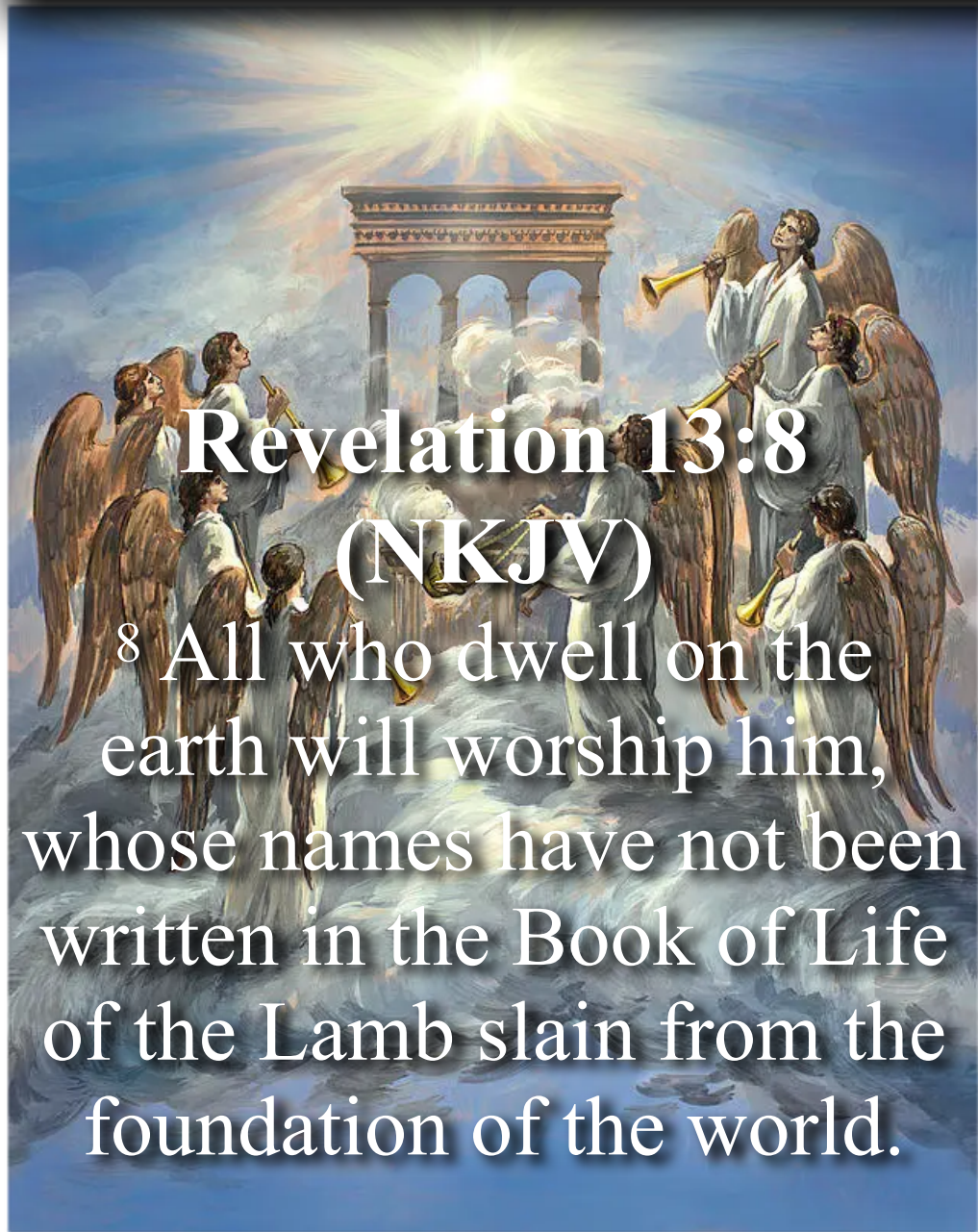
■ **WORLD’S SUBMISSION TO THE BEAST (13:3b.4,8)**

- ▶ His power and authority seems invincible, causing all the lost world to marvel and adore him.
- ▶ The world is so enamored of the power of the beast is wooed by the worldly wealth, glory, and influence the empire supplies. In the eyes of worldly wisdom, Christians appear foolish when they refuse to worship the emperor of the Roman Empire.

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Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

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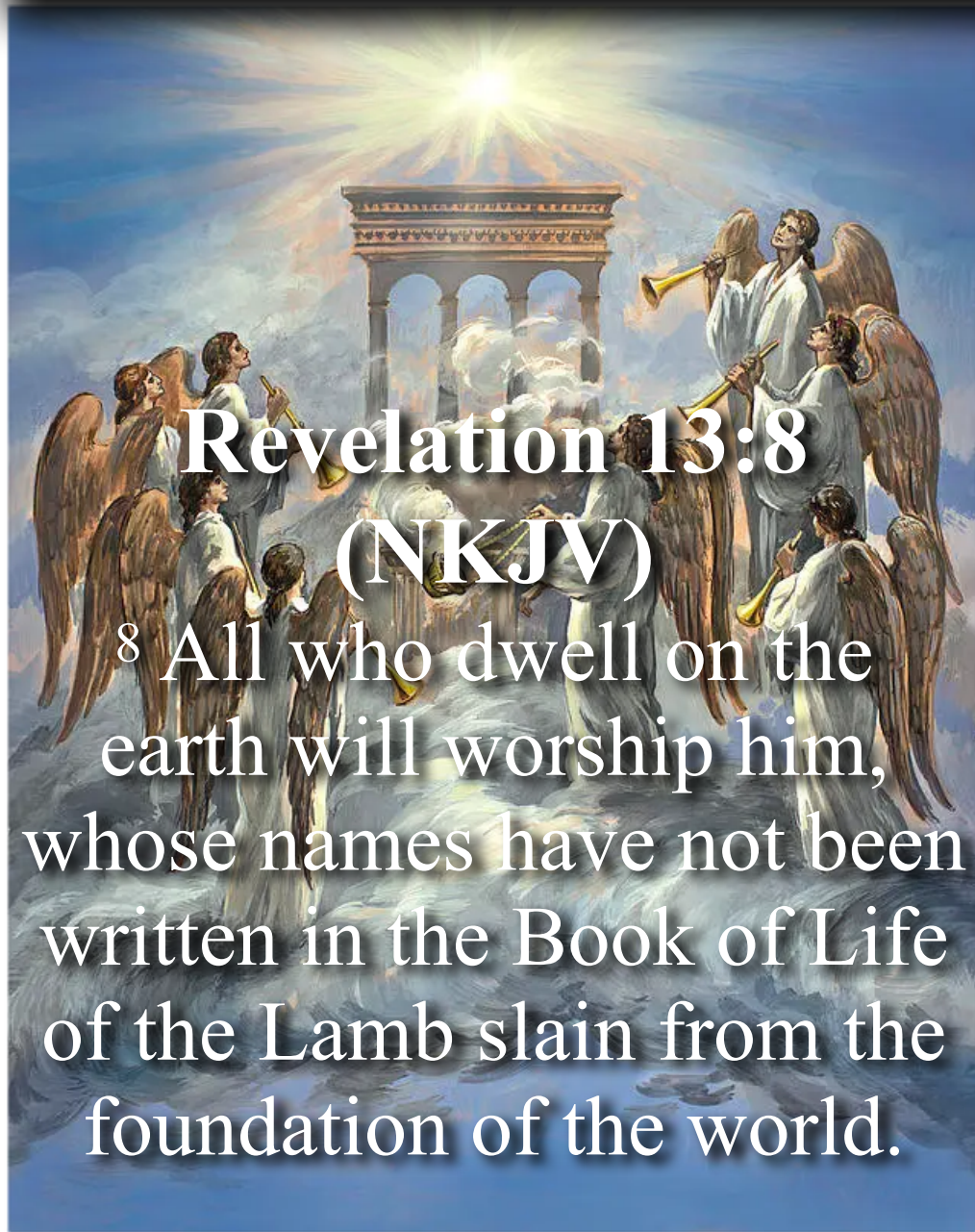


- **WORLD’S SUBMISSION TO THE BEAST (13:3b.4,8)**
 - ▶ Worldwide worship of the beast did not occur in Nero’s reign, whose persecution was limited to Rome, but only during the reign of Domitian and later emperors.
 - ▶ Emperors demanded to be addressed with the special nomenclature of deity, divine epithets reserved for God alone, titles which the idolatrous world readily embraced.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



- WORLD'S SUBMISSION TO THE BEAST (13:3b.4,8)
 - ▶ The death of Christ was by “the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23).
 - ▶ The names of saints, (*those who have believed in Christ, having been baptized into Him*), are written in the book of life (Ex. 32:32; Re. 20:12–15)
 - ▶ The names of the unfaithful are not written in the book of life, and thus surrender to the demands of the world.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



Revelation 13:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

- SAINTS RESPONSE TO THE BEAST (13:9,10)
 - ▶ Those willing to know the Lord and the truth can - IF THEY ARE WILLING to HEAR (Jn 7:17; Re. 2:7)
 - ▶ At the present moment the provincial courts may be exacting tribulation upon the saints of God, but one day the tables will be turned.
 - ▶ Their faith in the power of God to overcome enabled them to endure while the purposes of God were being worked out in the history of man.

This world has repeatedly brought suffering to the people of God, but the day will come when God will avenge His saints, and glorify His people.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

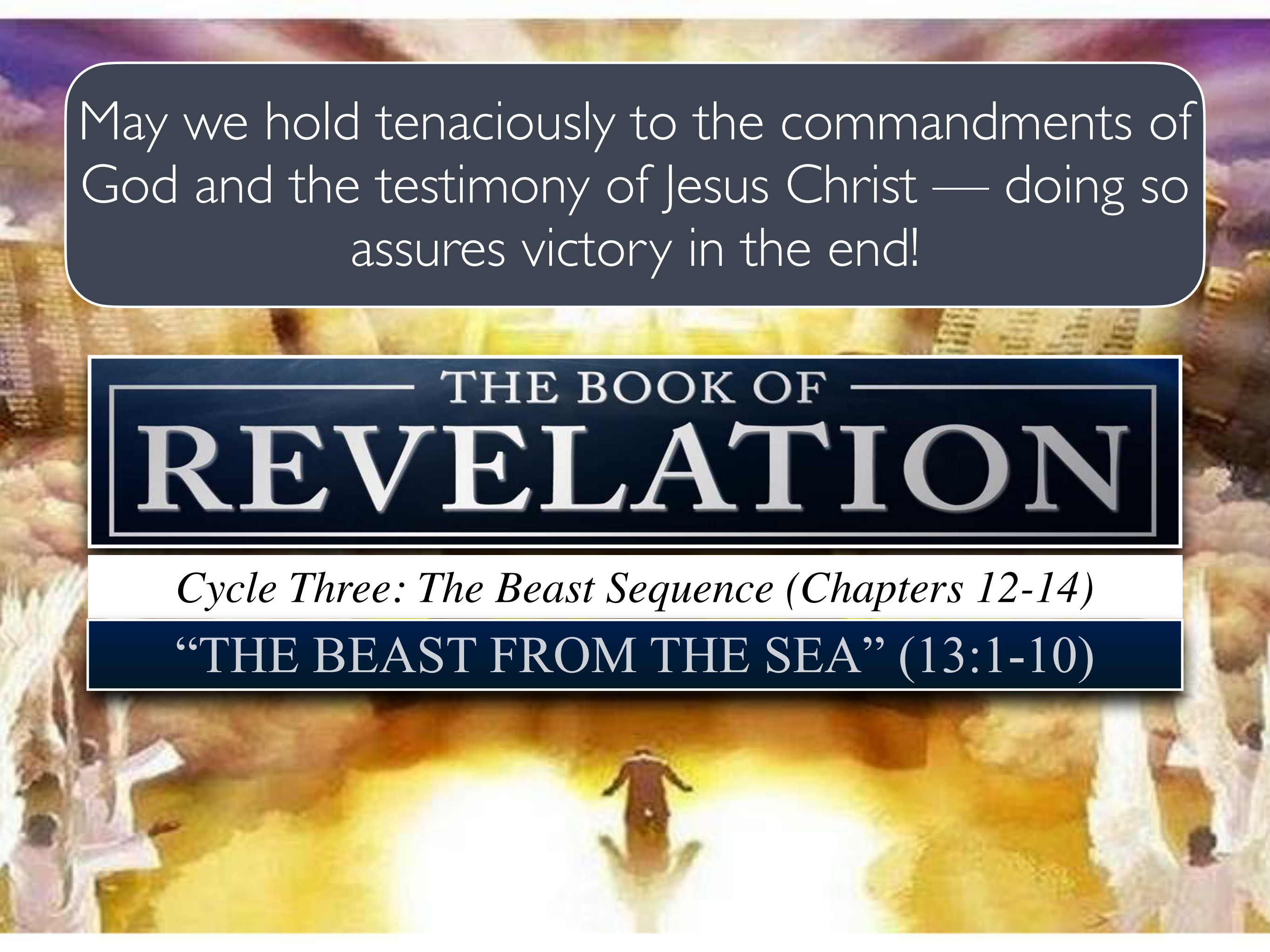
“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)

God would, by His sovereign power and might, preserve the gospel and His people in spite of terrifying odds which seemed at the moment to be so unassailable.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)



May we hold tenaciously to the commandments of
God and the testimony of Jesus Christ — doing so
assures victory in the end!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)

**IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN IN
THE BOOK OF LIFE!**

Believe — John 3:16;

Repent — Acts 17:30;

Confess — Romans 10:9,10;

Be baptized — Acts 2:38;

Endure by faith — I Corinthians 15:58

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)

“THE BEAST FROM THE SEA” (13:1-10)

Charts by Don McClain

Preached September 11, 2022

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Daniel 7:1–8 (NKJV)

¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. ² Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. ³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. ⁴ The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it. ⁵ “And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’

Daniel 7:1–8 (NKJV)

⁶ “After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. ⁷ “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. ⁸ I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.