

BEAST

The background of the entire image is a close-up of a creature's face. The creature has large, glowing green eyes with black pupils. The skin is a mottled, greyish-green color with a cracked, stone-like texture. The word "BEAST" is written in large, black, block letters across the top of the image, with a white glow around the letters.

The imagery of the Beast in *Revelation* comes from another vision in the Bible from Daniel 7. There Daniel saw four beasts coming out of the sea: a lion, a bear, a leopard and one with iron teeth.

Daniel is told that they represent four Kings or Kingdoms to rule the earth.

Human empires, seemingly grand, at the same time can be savage and bestial.

But after the beasts from the sea, Daniel saw another figure coming on a cloud to rule all nations forever.

In contrast to these beast-like Kingdoms, God's ruler is pictured as a 'Son of Man'.

Revelation refers to Jesus as being this 'Son of Man' (as did Jesus himself) and indeed from Daniel to Jesus there were four great empires: Babylon, Persia, Greece then Rome.

John's vision in *Revelation* combines these beasts into a ferocious monster.

The picture is of a Kingdom set up in hostile opposition to God and His people.

Some see this primarily referring to the Roman Empire, others believe it to be a future 'Anti-Christ'.

It might be best to say that whenever the power of the state turns against the purposes of God (like Babylon in Daniel's day and Rome in John's) the Beast rises again.