MAIN THOUGHT  

The UNHOLY TRINITY is introduced as SATAN (12:1-17), the ANTICHRIST (13:1-10), and the FALSE PROPHET (13:11-18).

THE ANTICHRIST – THE BEAST FROM THE SEA (1-10).

THERE WILL BE WONDER (1-3).

• SHORE OF THE SEA (1a) means the entire world is involved (17:15).
• This beast is the ANTICHRIST (1 Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 Jn. 7). Other beasts that came out of the sea are the four world empires Daniel saw (Dan. 7:3).
• His 10 HORNs (with 10 blasphemous CROWNS) are the 10 European nations (EEU – European Economic Union?) that he will lead – the revived Roman Empire.
• The 7 HEADs are the 7 hills that the Roman Empire was built upon. This is the 4th kingdom (Dan. 2:40) and 4th beast (Dan. 7:7, 23) that Daniel saw.
• This TERRIFYING and FRIGHTENING beast (Dan. 7:7) resembled Daniel's other great beasts (LION [Babylon], BEAR [Persia], LEOPARD [Greece]). John listed them in reverse order as he looked back to Daniel's day.
• This beast (ANTICHRIST) is Satan's masterpiece who will uproot and replace 3 of the 10 nations (as the LITTLE HORN – Dan. 7:8, 24) and begin to rule the world.
• During this time he SEEMED to receive a FATAL WOUND (12, 14) but then recovered. This could mean that he died and then was raised from the dead just like Jesus! Perhaps God allowed Satan to do this one time act just like he had the power to make the idol speak (15)?
• The result of this extraordinary deception – the whole world was now united behind the antichrist.

THERE WILL BE WORSHIP (4).

• In response to this miracle, men worshiped both the dragon and the beast (antichrist). Satan has always wanted to be worshiped (Matt. 4:9-10).
• This worship will be organized and promoted by the FALSE PROPHET (11).
• “Who is like” is how we praise God (Ex. 15:11; Deut. 33:29; Psa. 113:5).
• “Who can make war against him” is like might makes right (Nietzsche/Hitter).

THERE WILL BE WORDS (5-6).

• His BOASTFUL SPEECH (Nietzsche/Hitter) is that of the little horn (Dan. 7:8, 20, 25).
• His AUTHORITY was given to him by God for a time (4, 7; Luke 22:31-32).

THERE WILL BE WAR (7-10).

• He will make war against the saints (Dan. 7:25).
• The entire world is divided into two camps: (1) not in the book of life (20:15); (2) in the book of life (21:27).
• Divine retribution (Matt. 26:52) is predicted for these persecutors.
• The saints are asked to have PATIENT ENDURANCE and FAITHFULNESS (14:12) like John had in exile on Patmos (1:9).