

Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

Lesson #13: Revelation Chapter 13

Review

Act I: Understanding the Relationship with Christ (Revelation 1-3)

A glorified Jesus is shown "standing among the lampstands." This pictures Christ's presence in the midst of a hurting church.

Act II: Understanding the Judgment from God (Revelation 4-11)

Chapters 4 & 5 - Heaven, the Scroll, the Lamb

Chapter 6 – Opening of the First Six Seals

Chapter 7 – An Interlude

Chapters 8 & 9 -Opening of Seventh Seal, The First Six Trumpets

Chapters 10 & 11 -Interlude, Seventh Trumpet

Act III: Understanding Why There is Opposition (Revelation 12-14)

Featured in Chapter 12:

The Woman and the Dragon

A 'woman about to give birth' being threatened by a 'great red dragon'. The dragon's intent is to 'devour her child.'

The dragon (representing the Devil) was no match for the Child (representing Jesus).

The Background of Opposition

The reader is taken back in time to witness a war in heaven between Michael, a chief angel, and the dragon and his angels.

Main Lesson

The enemy wants to destroy the work of God and he never quits, but no matter how intimidating the 'red dragon' appears, salvation, power, and authority belong to God.

Revelation 13:1-18

The Beast of the Sea

Verses 1-2

beast – The word translated 'beast' here indicates something savage and untamed.

The word translated 'beast' in chapter 4 indicates 'living creature'.

ten horns/seven heads/crowns - This is an image of presumed power and authority.

blasphemous name - The misuse of holy things.

dragon gave the beast his power – The two (soon to be three) are working together.

His Power is Deceitful

Verses 3-4

seemed to have a fatal wound - The key word here is 'seemed'. This creature is doomed though there is an outward appearance of being healed.
people worshipped the dragon/the beast - Multitudes are easily taken in by the outward glitter.

Verses 5-6

proud words and blasphemies - The character of Satan is to be filled with pride.
2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
forty-two months - indicating that this situation is temporary

Verse 7

The purpose of the sea beast was to bring hurt to the people of God. (the forty-two-month kind)

The Effect of His Deceitful Power

Verse 8

inhabitants of the earth - a description of those who rebel against God

names not written in the Lamb's book of life - in other words, those who have chosen 'the beast' over 'the Lamb'.

Verses 9-10

whoever has ears—the reader is individually responsible for their response to this message.

"This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people."

This verse becomes a _____ for all overcomers.

The Beast of the Earth

Verse 11

beast - the wild untamed kind.

horns like a lamb/spoke like a dragon - deceitful in nature, a poser

The Power and Purpose of the Second Beast

Verse 12

Its purpose is to work against God and the people of God.

Verses 13-14

performed great signs - shows false signs of divinity

ordered them to set up an image - falsely setting himself up as an object of worship

wounded and yet lived - pointing to the truth that this beast is the doomed kind.

Verse 15

This 'false god' is compelling everyone to worship.

Verses 16-17

mark on hands and forehead – This is a clear reference to the Shema, an ancient Jewish prayer of allegiance to God found in the book of Deuteronomy.
Deuteronomy 6:4-8

The beast is now demanding his own allegiance.

could not buy or sell without the mark - Unless you identify with 'the beast' you cannot function freely in life.

Verse 18

calculate - 'count' 'recon' 'decide by voting'

the number of (a) man - The original Greek does not contain the article before the word 'man'.

What do we make of the number 666?

Two Approaches

ONE: The Number Points to an _____.

Hebrew letters were also numbers.

Nero Caesar = 666 Beast = 666

Weakness of this approach: any number of names could be added up to number 666.

TWO: The Number Points to a _____.

In the same way the number 7 or 12 are associated with being 'complete', this number is associated with being 'bad'.

The nations become 'beasts' when they become full of pride.

They rise up, intimidate, and dominate.

They demand total allegiance.

But ultimately fall.