

## Have No Fear, The End is Near

A Practical Discussion on the  
Book of Revelation

1.27.10

<sup>10</sup> If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints. <sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, <sup>14</sup> and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup> And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. <sup>16</sup> Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, <sup>17</sup> so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. <sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

## Revelation Schedule

- Tonight – Chapter 13
- Feb. 3 – Chapter 14
- Feb. 10 – Chapters 15-16
- Feb. 17 – Chapters 17-18
- Feb. 24 – Chapter 19
- Mar. 3 – Chapter 20
- Mar. 10 – Chapters 21-22

## The Beast

- Active for 42 months, same period from the fall of Jerusalem until the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- Combines features from the four beasts in Daniel 7:1-8, 17-27
  - The beasts in Daniel represented specific earthly kingdoms.
  - As a combo, this beast is a broad representation of worldly kingdoms.
  - No specific persecuting state in view, but many different manifestations.

Revelation 13:1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. <sup>2</sup> And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" <sup>5</sup> And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain. <sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

## The Beast

- The beast's power is in idolatry
  - 1<sup>st</sup> century believers were opposed by Roman emperors who desired literal worship
    - Threatened punishment
    - Worked through direct fear of the leader
  - Democratic governments can easily lead to a different kind of idolatry.
    - The state as "messiah"
    - Economic, social, medical, moral, or even spiritual salvation
    - Advances through fear of human opinion, fear of poverty, pain, or death

## The False Prophet

- The beast from the earth – later called the “False Prophet” (16:13, 19:20, 20:10)
- Serves as P.R. for the beast and the dragon
  - The means by which people are deceived to worship the dragon.
  - Failure to comply means death
    - Literally, in some societies.
    - In democratic societies, we are “killed” by social engineering. Comply with our way or be marginalized and ignored.
    - In either case, Christians will find it difficult to “fit” in pagan society.

## Parallels

- The beast is the image of the dragon, just as Christ is the exact image of God, begotten by the Father.
- The beast has ten crowns. Jesus has many crowns.
- The beast has blasphemous names. Christ has worthy names.
- The dragon gives the beast power, a throne, and authority. Jesus receives these from the Father.
- The beast suffers a fatal wound, yet is healed. This is a counterfeit of Christ’s death and resurrection.
- Worship is directed at the dragon and the beast. Christians worship both the Father and the Son.

## The Mark of the Beast

- Indicates slavery to the beast / being owned by him/it
- 666 – a completely incomplete number
  - The numerical value of the name Jesus was “888” in Greek.
  - The number 666 relates to the beast being a counterfeit of Christ, that falls short.
  - 666 has also been correlated to all the prominent Roman emperors of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, but its impossible to know if that was intentional

## More Parallels

- The beast attracts worship from all over the world, as does Christ.
- The beast utters blasphemies. Christ utters praise for the Father.
- The beast wars against the saints. Christ wars against the beast.
- The false prophet mimics the Holy Spirit’s role in making the work of Christ known.
- He promotes worship of the beast as the H.S. promotes worship of Christ.

## A Counterfeit Trinity

- The Father – The Dragon
  - Originates, Plans
- The Son – The Beast
  - Executes the Plans
- The Holy Spirit – The False Prophet
  - Witnesses, Propogandizes

## Whose side are you on?

- There is a clear line being drawn in Revelation between the counterfeit forces of evil and the Church.
- But “out there” the lines may not seem so clear. The best lies are very close to the truth.
- The Church is called to recognize the deception at work in the world and to reject it for what it is.
- The beast may look different today than back then, but is still very much alive!