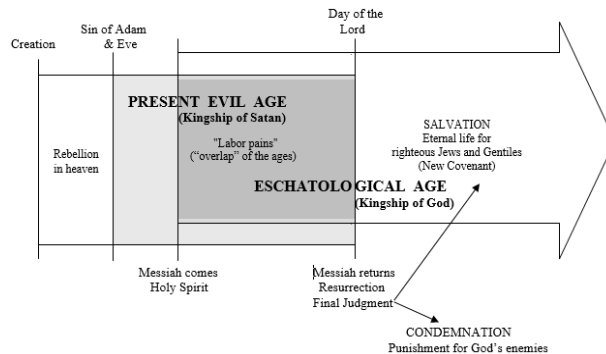


## APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

### Session 18: The Beast from the Land (Revelation 13:11-18)

#### REVIEW



#### John's Third Vision of the Future (Rev. 12:1-22:6)

1. Basic Structure:

- a. Revelation 12-13: The "Labor Pains" pictured as the dragon's war against Christ and Christians through the beast from the sea and best from the land
- b. Revelation 14:1-22:6: The Final Judgment, which brings salvation to God's covenant people and destruction to his enemies

2. Revelation 12:

- a. The dragon symbolizes Satan
- b. The male child symbolizes Jesus the Messiah
- c. Satan fails to defeat Christ but attacks his followers (Revelation 12:4b-6, 17):

<sup>4b</sup> . . . The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. <sup>5</sup>She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. . . .

<sup>17</sup>Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

3. Revelation 13 describes two ways in which Satan "makes war" against Christians:

- a. The beast from the sea symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ powers (verses 1-10)
  - (1) 7 heads, 7 crowns, 10 horns; like a leopard, bear, lion (Daniel 7:1-8, 23-25)
  - (2) Blasphemes God
  - (3) Fatal wound healed
  - (4) Makes war against the saints "for 42 months"
  - (5) Examples:
- b. The beast from the land symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ powers (verses 11-18)

## **THE BEAST FROM THE LAND (Revelation 13:11-18)**

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup>He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. <sup>13</sup>And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. <sup>14</sup>Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup>He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. <sup>16</sup>He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, <sup>17</sup>so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.

<sup>18</sup>This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

### A. Revelation 13:11-12a:

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. <sup>12a</sup>He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf . . . .

1. The “two horns like a lamb” identify the beast as a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (see Revelation 5:6 and below).
2. The beast from the land acts as a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the beast from the sea and therefore the dragon (compare Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10, which describe this beast as a "false prophet").

### B. Revelation 13:12b-15:

<sup>12b</sup>[The beast from the land] made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. <sup>13</sup>And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. <sup>14</sup>Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup>He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

1. The second beast acts as a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the beast from the sea and therefore the dragon (compare Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10, which describe this beast as a "false prophet").
2. The beast from the land encourages others to \_\_\_\_\_ the beast from the sea.

3. This second beast probably symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ powers who support the \_\_\_\_\_ powers allied with the dragon or Satan.

4. John is probably thinking of:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

See Steven J. Scherrer, "Signs and Wonders in the Imperial Cult: A New Look at a Roman Religious Institution in the Light of Rev 13:13-15," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 103 (1984): 599-610.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ with Satan (compare Revelation 2:14, 20)

C. Revelation 13:16-17:

**<sup>16</sup>He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, <sup>17</sup>so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.**

D. Examples of the Beast from the Land:

E. Revelation 13:18:

**<sup>18</sup>This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.**

1. Background:

a. Numerical Values of Greek Letters in the First Century (see next page):

b. Calculate the numerical value of a Greek word by adding up the \_\_\_\_\_ of its letters.

c. The Numerical Value of the Name “Jesus” (Ἰησοῦς): \_\_\_\_\_

A α (Alpha)	=	1	Π π (Pi)	=	80
B β (Beta)	=	2	(Koppa)	=	90
Γ γ (Gamma)	=	3	Ρ ρ (Rho)	=	100
Δ δ (Delta)	=	4	Σ σ,ς (Sigma)	=	200
E ε (Epsilon)	=	5	Τ τ (Tau)	=	300
(Vau)	=	6	Υ υ (Upsilon)	=	400
Z ζ (Zeta)	=	7	Φ φ (Phi)	=	500
H η (Eta)	=	8	X χ (Chi)	=	600
Θ θ (Theta)	=	9	Ψ ψ (Psi)	=	700
I ι (Iota)	=	10	Ω ω (Omega)	=	800
K κ (Kappa)	=	20	(Sampi)	=	900
Λ λ (Lambda)	=	30	α	=	1000
M μ (Mu)	=	40	β	=	2000
N ν (Nu)	=	50	γ	=	3000
Ξ ξ (Xi)	=	60	δ	=	4000
O ο (Omicron)	=	70	etc.		

2. Interpretation of Revelation 13:18:

a. “the number of the beast...is man’s number (*arithmos anthropou*)”:

b. “His number is 666.” [*NOTE*: A few ancient manuscripts read “616.”]

F. SUMMARY: The beast from the land symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ powers who support the \_\_\_\_\_ powers through which the dragon makes war against the saints.

## SATAN'S PARODY OF CHRIST: A MAJOR THEME IN REVELATION

A parody is a \_\_\_\_\_ of something else.

### **GOD**

#### A. The "Trinity":

1. God, the Creator
2. Christ the Lamb through whom God acts/makes war against Satan
3. The Holy Spirit by whom God speaks through the prophet John and calls all people to worship Him

#### B. God:

1. Sits on the Throne of the universe (4:2)

#### C. The Lamb:

1. Wears many crowns (19:12)
2. Has seven horns signifying complete power (5:6)
3. Wears names such as "King of kings" and "Lord of lords" (19:16)
4. Has authority over all nations (12:5)
5. Receives power, throne, and authority from God; shares God's throne (5:6)
6. Dies and is then raised from the dead (1:5; 5:6)
7. "Overcomes" Satan and his allies by dying as a sacrifice (12:11)
8. Reigns for 1000 years—and this is only the beginning of an eternal reign (20:4; 11:15)
9. His number is "888" (not explicitly stated in Revelation)

### **SATAN**

#### A. The "Evil Trinity" (a unit in Rev 16:3):

1. Satan, the Destroyer
2. The Beast from the Sea—i.e., political powers through which Satan makes war against Christ and his saints
3. The Beast from the Land/False Prophet – i.e. religious powers through which Satan speaks and calls all people to worship him

#### B. Satan:

1. Wears crowns as a usurper of God's throne (12:3)

#### C. The Beast from the Sea:

1. Wears crowns (13:1)
2. Has ten horns signifying power (13:1)
3. Wears blasphemous names—i.e., takes to itself names that rightfully belong to Christ (13:1, 5-6)
4. Has authority over all nations (13:7)
5. Receives power, throne, and authority from Satan; shares the dragon's throne (13:2)
6. Seems to have a fatal wound that has been healed (13:3)
7. Seems to "overcome" Christ and his people by killing them (13:7)
8. Reigns for 42 months (13:5)
9. His number is "666" (13:18)

D. The Holy Spirit:

1. The Spirit of God/Christ (3:1)
2. Empowers John to speak for God/Christ (1:10; 2:7; 19:10; etc.)
3. "The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy" (19:10)
4. Gives resurrection life to Christ and Christians (11:11)
5. Through the Revelation, calls all nations to worship God/Christ

E. The People of God:

1. "Overcome" Satan by dying (12:11)
2. Worship both God and His Christ (5:13)
3. Are "measured" and "counted" by God (11:1), and sealed with the seal of God (7:3-4; 14:1)

D. The Beast from the Land:

1. Has two horns like a lamb—a parody of Christ (13:11)
2. Speaks like the dragon (13:11)
3. Exercises the authority of the beast from the sea (13:12)
4. Gives life (lit. "spirit") to the image of the beast from the sea (13:15)
5. Makes all the earth worship the beast from the sea (13:12, 14)

E. The People of Satan:

1. "Overcome" Christ and his servants by killing them (13:7, 15)
2. Worship both the beast from the sea—and the dragon that gives it power—as if they were God and Christ. They ask, "Who is like the beast?" (13:4), which is a parody of Exodus 15:11: "Who among the gods is like you, O Lord?"
3. Are marked with "666," the number of the beast from the land (13:17-18)