



Worship Guide for August 1, 2021

Sermon Notes

The Beasts of Revelation 13: The Call to Endurance & Wisdom

Revelation 13 (pew Bible pg. 1035)

In chapter 12 of Revelation, we see a picture of a great dragon who wages war on God's people. Although he is a defeated foe, for "he knows his time is short" (12:12), his wrath is kindled as he rages and deceives. At the end of chapter 12, we are offered a picture of him standing on the sand of the sea. In chapter 13, we see two new characters introduced that arise from the sea to join him in his nefarious cause. While this thirteenth chapter (once again) includes a high degree of mystery surrounding the identity of these two new characters (beasts, as they are called), as well as the concept of the beast's name and its association with the numerical value of 666, the central message of this chapter is framed by two specific statements to John's audience. The first statement is offered after a vivid description of the first beast that calls for "endurance and faith of the saints" (13:10c). The second is offered just after the description of the second beast and within the context of aligning its name with "the number of a man," or 666, in exhorting believers to attain and exercise wisdom. Though we are immediately prone to want to try to once again seek to alleviate the mystery found within this passage, we must understand the highly theological nature of this passage, as well as its place within the entirety of the biblical narrative. This will help us to pursue both endurance and wisdom by keeping our eyes fixed not on a puzzle to figure out, but on the One who has conquered and reigns eternally as Lord and King!

The First Beast (v. 1-8)

The First Exhortation: A Call to Endurance (v. 9-10)

The Second Beast (v. 11-17)

The Second Exhortation: A Call to Wisdom (v. 18)

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

What are the dangers of too much speculation regarding the exact identity of the Beasts (or the Antichrist)?

How might it change the way we seek to proclaim the gospel in our world to understand that every person is a worshiper in identity? How should that define our deepest desire for every person?

How does this passage present to us the true nature of the deception of our enemy? How does it illustrate the need for us to pursue wisdom and discernment?

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

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