

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 13:11-18 we meet the beast from the earth, the false prophet, who entices the world to worship the beast through 6 types of deception which call for wisdom.

The false prophet is deceptive in his:

- I. Appearance (v. 11a).
- II. Speech (v. 11b).
- III. Authority (v. 12).
- IV. Signs (vs. 13-15).
- V. Power (vs. 16-17).
- VI. Identity (v. 18).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 28, 2018

Passage: Revelation 13:11-18

Memory Passage: Revelation 13:18

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 13:11-18.** What is significant about this beast “rising out of the earth?”
- (b) Explain how this beast is related to the dragon and beast from the sea, both in appearance and activity.
- (c) Why does this beast have “2 horns like a lamb” (cf. Dan. 8:3, Rev. 5:6, 11:3ff, & Matt. 7:15-20 with Rev. 13:13-14)?
- (d) What do these horns represent? Why is it important to note that this beast “spoke like the dragon?”

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 13:11-18.** Why is the healed mortal wound of the first beast mentioned again (v. 12)?
- (b) What is the significance of this beast working and exercising authority “in the presence of” the first beast (vs. 12, 14)?
- (c) What is the primary purpose of this 2nd beast?
- (d) Explain the phrase, “the earth and its inhabitants” (i.e. how do each functionally obey the beast)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 13:11-18.** Why is this sign (v. 13) mentioned (cf. Deut. 13:1-3, 1 Kgs. 18, esp. vs. 39-40, & Rev. 11:3-6)?
- (b) How does this beast “give breath to the image of the beast” resulting in it “speaking,” especially in light of Rev. 9:20?
- (c) What is the name of this beast throughout the rest of Revelation (cf. 16:13, 19:20, & 20:10) and how does it help you understand its mission as described in 13:11-18?
- (d) Before we investigate what the mark is, what is its purpose according to vs. 16-17 and how would this affect those who refused this mark (chapters 17-18 give more specific details of this in action)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 13:11-18.** Consider the following verses and then describe the ultimate purpose of the mark of the beast: Deut. 6:1-8; 11:18; Rev. 7:3; 9:4; 14:1, 9; 20:4.
- (b) Our approach to numbers in apocalyptic literature has been to expect a symbolic meaning unless there is evidence to the contrary. What evidence do you find in this passage, if any, that demands we change our approach as we consider “666?”
- (c) Given the symbolism of other numbers in Revelation (especially the number 7), what does the number “666” symbolize? Who is this beast in John’s day? In Daniel’s day? In the Reformers’ day? Today?
- (d) Why does “this call for wisdom?” Wisdom concerning what?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 13:11-18.** Remember that the dragon and these 2 beasts operate during the same inter-advent age as the 2 witnesses (cf. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5). In what ways did you see this false prophet at work in the 7 churches in chapters 2 & 3? In what ways do you see this false prophet at work today throughout the world?
- (b) How does this false prophet have influence in the US in the 21st century? In what ways might people be forced to worship the beast or face death?
- (c) How does the false prophet have a foothold in the professing church in the United States today? In what areas must you, and the Bible Church, exercise discernment so as not to be deceived?
- (d) How does the prospect of not being able to buy and sell goods present temptations for God’s people to compromise, specifically God’s people in 21st century Arkansas? In what ways must we heed the call for wisdom in understanding the deceiving work of this false prophet (13:18)?

DATE: October 28, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 13:11-18

The Beast from the Earth