



Sermon Series: Revelation - Jesus Revealed
Sermon Title: The Beast's Empire & The Saints' Endurance
Scripture: Revelation 13:1-10
Pastor Chris Fritz
Sunday, January 21, 2024

INTRODUCTION

"Here is A CALL for the endurance and faith of the saints." (Revelation 13:10b)

Note: In many ways, chapter 12 shows us Satan's long (often hidden-from-our-eyes) war against God and His people, but chapter 13 reveals Satan's last and best attempt to rob Christ of His glory by putting his own wicked, blasphemous, hideous ruler into a place of global prominence.

Note: 1st John 2:18-25; 2nd Thessalonians 2:2-12; and Daniel 7:8, 21-22 show the consistency and the harmony of God's word on this topic, and they ALL emphasize the victory of Christ and His people over and against the brevity of Satan's "success".

"TODAY, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." (Hebrews 4:7b)

I. THE CALL FOR ENDURANCE AND FAITH

A. The Beast's Description, Deception, and Devotion (verses 1-4)

1) The Beast's Description: The Beast and his empire arises out of chaos and evil; possesses ferocious, overwhelming, destructive power; and wields global authority and dominance.

2) The Beast's Deception: The Beast is clearly a counterfeit Christ! He receives a throne from "his father" and he "miraculously" recovers/resurrects from some mortal wound or death experience.

3) The Beast's Devotion: The unbelieving world lines up to worship Satan, to worship his puppet, and to boast in his nature and power.

"Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?" (Exodus 15:11)

B. The Beast's Blasphemy and Brutality (verses 5-8a)

Note: Even while this beast blasphemes, mocks, curses, and wages war, God rules.

C. The Lamb's Book and The Saints' Victory (verses 7b-10)

1) The Lamb's Book of Life reminds us that God knows those who belong to Him; God will not fail in bringing His chosen, beloved people home to glory!

"And they have conquered him BY the blood of the Lamb and BY the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death." (Revelation 12:11)

2) The Saints' Victory and Enduring Courage is rooted in God Himself, in knowing, believing, and trusting that GOD KNOWS BEST!

"Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them." (Revelation 13:7a)

"And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire - and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands." (Revelation 15:2)

"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And THIS is the victory that has overcome the world - OUR FAITH." (1 John 5:4)

"Here is A CALL for the endurance and faith of the saints." (Revelation 13:10b)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What is the last sentence in verse 10? How do these verses support that "call"?
2. From passages like 1st John 2:18-25; 2nd Thessalonians 2:2-23; Daniel 7:8, 21-22; and Revelation 13:1-6, what do we learn about the attitude, nature, and work of "the beast" or Antichrist?
3. How is the beast a counterfeit Christ? How does he try to mimic and imitate Christ?
4. How does this passage emphasize God's rule over Satan and "the beast"?
5. Why should passages like this one strengthen our faith and resolve to live for Christ?