



**Sermon Series: Revelation - Jesus Revealed**  
**Sermon Title: A Beast, A Temptation, and Great Hope**  
**Scripture: Revelation 13:11-18**  
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Sunday, January 28, 2024

## INTRODUCTION

*"HERE is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints." (Revelation 13:10b)*

Note: While God wants us to understand the "big picture" concerning what will happen in the future, He also desires for us to be discerning today, to be "on guard" against error today, to be rooted and firmly established in truth today, to be steadfast in our love for Christ today.

*"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 13:18)*

## I. ANOTHER BEAST... A HIDEOUS TEMPTATION... AND A BLESSED HOPE...

### Revelation 13:11 -

**1) This second beast looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. It looks innocent and harmless, but gives voice to very lies and deceptions of hell.**

### Revelation 13:12 -

**2) This Second Beast is a "worship leader" (of the worst kind!). He utilizes the power and authority of Satan to demand and to coerce idolatry.**

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:15-16a)*

Note: As we consider the work and mission of this Second Beast, we see that he functions like a false, counterfeit, diabolical "Holy Spirit".

John 15:26 and John 16:14-15

### Revelation 13:13-14 -

**3) Not all that glitters is gold! Impressive signs and miracles do not create truth and they cannot redefine what is good, right, and beautiful. WE must continually look to God and to His Word to have true wisdom and knowledge!**

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 and Galatians 1:8-9 and Matthew 24:11-13

Note: This Second Beast is specifically called "the false prophet" in Revelation 16:13; 19:20; and 20:10. He pushes his horrible idolatry by "preaching" the beast's miraculous recovery/resurrection and by commanding an image of the beast to be made and worshiped.

### Revelation 13:15 -

**4) The False Prophet "miraculously" gives "life" (literally gives a "spirit") to this image so that it can speak and call for the death of anyone who refuses to worship it.**

Philippians 1:21 and Luke 9:23-25 and 1 John 5:21

### Revelation 13:16-17 -

**5) Receiving this "mark" testifies to one's allegiance and submission to "the beast".**

Daniel 3:4-6 and Matthew 4:4 and Ephesians 1:13-14 and 1 John 4:4

### Revelation 13:18 -

**6) This number is not so much intended to reveal a specific name or a personal identity, but to unveil the wretched condition and looming failure (and insufficiency!) of "the beast".**

*"Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb..." (Revelation 14:1a)*

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

1. What is wisdom? Why does God's word continually tell us to seek it and ask for it?
2. What is unique about this "second beast" described in verses 11-13?
3. How does this second beast deceive so many? What tactics does it/he use?
4. What is idolatry? Why is it so deadly and dangerous? Where do you see temptation to pursue idolatry in your own life? What steps does God want you to take to deal with it?
5. What's the deal with the number "666"? What does it reveal about "the beast"?