

The Book of Revelation Week 5

The book of Revelation is FROM Jesus written BY John as a letter TO seven specific churches but FOR all of the church of Jesus Christ throughout all generations.

Revelation is written in the apocalyptic literary style which expresses messages through symbols, like images or numbers or colors that have their meaning rooted in the Old Testament.

Revelation is not written chronologically (meaning each chapter does not follow the next on a timeline) & is not ALL futuristic descriptions of the end of the world.

Revelation 13 (NLT)

1 Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. 2 This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority. 3 I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. 4 They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?” 5 Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months. 6 And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his dwelling—that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 And the beast was allowed to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. 8 And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made. 9 Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand. 10 Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful. 11 Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. 12 He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. 13 He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. 14 And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the

first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. 15 He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die. 16 He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. 17 And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. 18 Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

What is the beast of the sea?

Daniel 7:17 (NLT)

*“These four huge beasts represent four **kingdoms** that will arise from the earth.”*

The beast of the sea represents “dragon manipulated political power.”

“John is opening up for us a sobering unseen reality of the present: governments which step out from under the rule of God do not become more divine. They become demonic. Governments that exalt humanity as the measure of all things do not become more humane; they become more bestial.” -Darrell Johnson

What is the beast of the earth?

The beast of the earth represents “dragon manipulated religious power & institutions.”

“There has always been a symbiotic relationship between religion & government. Governments use religion to enforce their edicts. Governments use religion to control their population. The old Soviet Union used the religion of atheism to enforce the draconian system of communism. Arab states use Islam. America & European nations now use secular humanism. Some have used Catholicism & others used Protestantism to control their people. Religion is a powerful force for corralling people.” -Van Gill

John 19:15 (NLT)

“15 “Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!” “What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back.”

What is the mark of the beast?

Deuteronomy 6:8 (NLT)

*“8 Tie them to your **hands** and wear them on your **forehead** as reminders.”*

Exodus 13:9 (NLT)

*“9 This annual festival will be a visible sign to you, like a mark branded on your **hand** or your **forehead**.”*

The “forehead” represents belief and the “hand” represents the application of that belief.

“The ‘forehead’ represents ideological commitment and the ‘hand’ the practical outworking of that commitment.” -G. K. Beale

What does this mean for us?

WE FIGHT BACK! THIS IS HOW:

- 1.) Connect with God in His word & through prayer & worship.
- 2.) Pursue holiness.
- 3.) Overcome a “me-centered” life.
- 4.) Commit to the masterplan of discipleship enforced by Jesus.