



PART 4: THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH

Sermon Notes

Text: Revelation 13:11-18

Intro:

The Dragon and the two beasts form a counterfeit trinity working together to battle for the loyalty of humanity.

1. The Work of the Earth Beast (v. 11)

The beast looks like a lamb, but talks like a dragon.

Also known as "the False Prophet" (16:13; 19:20; 20:10).

Mark 13:22-23; Matthew 7:15

Dragon manipulated religious powers and institutions.

1 Kings 18 - Elijah and the prophets of Baal

These Dragon inspired political powers can't exist on their own. They need the "breath" of the earth beast.

2. The Mark of the Beast (16-17)

The mark is a mimicry of the mark God puts on us: Revelation 14:1; Ephesians 1:13

The Mark of the Beast is the character of the beast under the skin, implanted in the soul.

3. The Number of the Beast (v. 18)

- i. Gematria: Each letter of the Hebrew alphabet represents a numerical value.
- ii. Symbolic Number: a human number. An imperfect number.

Application:

- 3) Have a healthy suspicion of the spectacular (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- 4) Remember that religion can lose its way

Three of the seven churches in ch. 1-3 had false prophets in them.

- 5) Worship Jesus!

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What have been your major takeaways from this sermon series?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Mark 13:22-23, Matthew 7:15-20, 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 1 John 4:1-3. What do these passages say about false prophets/teachers? How do we recognize them? What makes us vulnerable to their work? How do we guard ourselves and our church?
2. Have you ever wondered what the Mark of the Beast is? What are the top ideas you or others have had? Have you ever considered that it is not a physical, visible mark or item?
 - Read Revelation 14:1-5 & Ephesians 1:11-14. What do these say about the mark or seal of God on us? If Satan is a mimic, then what could these passages tell us about what his mark could be?
 - How do you know if you have the mark of God, or the seal of the Spirit on you?
3. Calculate the number of your name based on this english version of Gematria: A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9 J=10, K=20, L=30, M=40, N=50, O=60, P=70, Q=80, R=90, S=100, T=200, U=300, V=400, W=500, X=600, Y=700, Z=800.
 - Is anyone in your group the beast? Of course John's calculation would have been based on the Hebrew alphabet, not the english one. Why do you think John used this method to represent the beast? Do you think the number was meant to be symbolic, or that it was a coded name using Gematria? Or both?
4. It is important for Christians to remember that even good religion can go astray. It is easy for us to stop relying on the power of God and start relying on human generated powers to provide salvation. What

are the dangers of mixing religion (potentially the beast from the earth) with politics (potentially the beast from the sea)? What are the benefits of these two working together?

Prayer:

Requests

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