



PART 3: THE BEAST FROM THE SEA

Sermon Notes

Text: Revelation 13:1-10

Intro:

At the end of the 1st century BC, Christians were being forced to pledge their worship & allegiance to the Roman Empire. If they refused, they were cut off from accessing civil, commercial, industrial, and legal systems.

The Dragon's Henchmen, the two beasts

The unholy trinity battling for the loyalty of Jesus followers.

Ephesians 6:12

The Beast from the Sea (v. 1-2)

Daniel 7:3 - beasts representing 3 great empires

The beast from the sea = dragon manipulated political powers.

When someone or something tries to be God, it doesn't become divine; it becomes demonic.

A mortal wound (v. 3)

When Emperor Nero was 32, he committed suicide. A rumour emerged that he had come back to life.

John is emphasizing the resiliency of the beast. Just when you think it's dead, it comes back - often in a different form.

The beast mimics the resurrection of Jesus (Revelation 5:6)

The Dragon & the beast will do anything to attract our worship and loyalty.

Application:

- 1) Have a healthy suspicion of political institutions.
- 2) Maintain loyalty to the kingdom of God.

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What is your definition of loyalty? Do you think people value loyalty more or less today than they did a generation ago? Why?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-17. What is this passage talking about? How does it relate to Revelation 13? What is our defence against these “powers” and “spiritual forces” (v. 12)?
2. Read Daniel 7 together (maybe have each person read 5 verses). How does this passage relate to Revelation 13? Why do you think these kingdoms are represented as “beasts”? What makes them “beastly”? What do we learn about the beasts? What do we learn about the fate of the beasts?
 - Now read Revelation 19:11-21. What do we learn about the fate of the beast? What does it show us about Jesus?
3. Read Romans 13:1-5 & 1 Peter 2:13-17. What do these passages say about our relationship to the government?
 - Politics can create plenty of controversy & debate. How do we balance the passages above with the knowledge that the Beast can be lurking behind political powers?
 - As citizen’s of God’s kingdom first, at what point should we stop obeying our government? Can you think of some examples in the bible?
4. What does it look like for a Christian to maintain a “*healthy skepticism*” of political powers?

Prayer:

Requests

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