

Examples of the Beast's Activity

Government

Rev. 13:4 says people worshiped the serpent and the beast. Roman emperors required people to worship them as gods.

The Soviet Union destroyed churches, killed Christians, and made the government the only authority.

If you become a Christian in Iran, Saudi Arabia, and several other countries, the government can kill you.

“One nation, under God” is ruled unconstitutional.

Economics

Pressure to work on Sunday instead of going to church.

Using tax money to fund anti-Christian things (abortion, pornography, atheism, etc.).

Schools

Education in the old Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, and other similar countries taught students that religion is foolish and forced students to learn the ways of the state.

Some schools teach the students must accept homosexuality and other “alternative” lifestyles.

Many schools teach science theories (ideas, not proved) like they are fact, and mock what God says.

To Think About...

The unbelieving world will always be against Christians. Jesus said in John 16:33, “In the world you’ll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world.” We don’t need to fear! Jesus shares His victory with us.

The Book of Revelation God’s Picture of History and Heaven

Lesson 11, Revelation 13:1-10

To Begin...

Think of every powerful ruler in the history of the world. Can you think of anyone who ruled alone, by themselves, with no help? Almost every powerful leader has one or two trusted people that he works through.

The Devil’s Trusted Helpers

Many people spend a lot of time studying Revelation 13. Many of them are looking for clues about the end of the world. This chapter talks about two of the devil’s helpers – the beast from the sea and the beast from the earth. We will see (1) who or what these beasts are and (2) how they work with the devil. In this lesson, we will look at the first beast. We will examine the second beast in the next lesson.

Description of the Beast from the Sea

Revelation 13:1-3

Do you remember what the sea represents (shows)? What does it mean that the first beast is from the sea?

This beast is described with heads, horns, crowns, and animals. The prophet Daniel saw a vision with things like that. Read Daniel 7:2-7, 16-18 (1114).

In Daniel, each animal means or shows a _____.
In Revelation, the beast is like 3 animals together. That means the beast is not necessarily only one kingdom. The beast shows what many nations or kingdoms will do.

Heads mean or show _____ or _____.
Horns mean or show _____ or _____.
Crowns mean or show _____.

Where did the beast get its power and authority?

What could the fatal wound mean? What does it mean that it was healed?

What the Beast Does

Revelation 13:4-10

What do people think of the beast and the serpent?

For 42 months (3 ½ years, 1,260 days), the beast is allowed to do things. What things?

Speak _____ and _____ things.

Insult God, His _____, His _____, and His _____.

War against _____ and defeat them.

Who will worship this beast? Who will not worship this beast?

Can anyone on earth stop this beast? Read verses 7 and 10.

Can or should Christians avoid persecution? Read Matthew 5:38-42 (1215), 1 Peter 2:18-23 (1526), 1 Peter 3:14-15 (1527), 1 Peter 4:12-19 (1528).

How do God's people get endurance (not give up) and confidence from these verses?

Who or What is the Beast from the Sea?

In Daniel, the beasts were kingdoms, political powers. In Revelation, it is more than a kingdom. Many people think John was first talking about Rome and how the devil used the Roman Empire to fight against Christians. That is probably true, but the beast means more than that. The beast from the sea means every human authority that the devil can use against God's people. For example, the devil can governments to persecute and oppress Christians. The devil can also use economic systems, schools, etc., to fight against Christians.

What About...