

REVELATION

The False Prophet & '666'

Icebreaker

Which is more disturbing, a direct attack or a sneak attack? Why? How does Satan prefer to attack people: directly or secretly? (see 2 Corinthians 11:14)

Context

This week's lesson looks at the third person of the unholy trinity. The red dragon is Satan, the first beast from the sea is the antichrist, and now we are introduced to a second creature who rises from the earth. It is important to remember that these three beings are separate and distinct from each other, but Satan uses the other two to try and mimic God. This second beast tries to function like the Holy Spirit and influence people to worship the antichrist. This beast from the earth is a false prophet who encourages the people to give their worship to the antichrist and leads people to give their devotion and heart to the Enemy.

Discuss

- 1. What do you think of when you think about a lamb? What is John telling us about this beast when he says it looks like a lamb with two horns?**
- 2. What does it mean that this beast has the voice of a dragon? Read Matthew 7:15. How does Jesus' warning apply to this creature?**
- 3. Read John 16:13-14. Compare these verses in John to verse 12 in our passage today. What is the job of this second beast? How is that similar to the Holy Spirit's job?**
- 4. Do you think the "mortal wound" really does lead to death and he comes back to life, or does it just appear to be a mortal wound? What about the fire from heaven? (Alternative way to ask it: Does he really die and come back to life or is it a trick? Do the signs like fire from heaven really happen or is a trick meant to deceive?) Does it really matter if it is real or a trick?**
- 5. Read Revelation 11:1-12. Why do the "earth dwellers" respond in fear at the 2 witnesses coming back to life, but the earth dwellers respond with obedience when the images of the antichrist breathes and speaks?**
- 6. Read John 3:19-21. Why are people willing to believe a lie rather than to believe in truth, according to these verses? How are the people who follow the antichrist like the people described in the John passage?**



7. **In your opinion, who do you think is involved in putting to death those who will not worship the antichrist?** Read 2 Corinthians 4:4 and 1 John 2:11. **How do these verses help us understand how regular people become tools of the antichrist to hunt down Christians?**
8. **Why does the beast require people to get "a mark" to be able to conduct business? What is he trying to accomplish?**
9. Read Acts 1:7; Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32. **Do you think God wants us to know all the details concerning the end or to understand the results and implications of what is to come? Why?**

Next Steps

One of the results of studying this passage should be the understanding that it is normal for Christians to face opposition and persecution. It will one day be ramped up leading to all out war against Christians, and it will be universal in scope. We would be well served to read Paul and Peter's letters to help us understand how to live out our faith in the midst of persecution.

Today's passage points to a time when everyone who is not a Christian will be deceived and will follow the antichrist willingly. Our heart should break at the thought of people going to hell because they are blinded to sin. Again, I would encourage you to write down at least one name of a person you know who is not a Christian and begin praying for their salvation. Look for an opportunity to be used by God to share the Gospel and speak hope into their lives this week.

