

Central Study Hour – Sabbath School Lesson Notes

The Book of Revelation: Lesson 9, “Satan and His Allies”

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read the title. This is the trinity of evil. **1.** The dragon (Rev. 12). **2.** Beast from the sea (Rev. 13). **3.** Beast from the earth with lamblike horns that sets up an image to the first beast (Rev. 13).

The Memory Text refers to the dragon and a woman, but before reading the MT let's concisely review Rev. 12 (Suggest verses 1,3,6,13-15,16+17) about the work of the dragon.

Rev. 13 “describes in more detail Satan’s attacks during Christian history” through the two allies “portrayed as beasts,” one from the sea and one from the earth. “Under Satan’s direction, the dragon and these two beasts will unite at the end of time to oppose God’s redemptive activities and seek to win the allegiance of the world.”

(The final 2 paragraphs have a caution that may be important depending on the class need.)

SUNDAY: THE BEAST FROM THE SEA

We will be reading **Rev. 13:1-4** to identify characteristics of the beast.

Read Rev. 13:1. *What characteristics of the beast can be found in this verse?*

- 1.** Beast = Kingdom (Dan. 7:23) and “blasphemy” indicates that this beast is a religious political power (vs. 4 says it will be worshipped).
- 2.** Sea = Multitudes and nations (Rev. 17:15). The beast rising out of water symbolizes its emergence from the largely populated area of Europe after the fall of Rome.
- 3.** “The beast has 7 heads and 10 horns, the same as the dragon” (Rev. 12:3-4), “showing its close connection with pagan Rome.” The beast is a continuation from the dragon in some way.
- 4.** The 10 horns (Dan. 7:24) represent nations that rose up out of the fall of pagan Rome. These 4 “characteristics of the sea beast all point to the papacy that grew up out of the pagan Roman Empire.”

Read Rev. 13:2. *What additional identifying marks do we find in this verse that fit the papacy?*

- 5.** The sea beast has traits of a leopard, bear, and a lion indicating it will have a key trait of Babylon (Forced worship - Dan. 3), Medo-Persia (Claimed infallibility – Dan. 6), and Greece (Trust in the wisdom of the philosophers over the Word of God). The papacy fits all of these.
- 6.** “The dragon (the pagan Roman Empire empowered by Satan) gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority.” The pope became ruler in Rome which had been the seat or throne of power and authority of the Roman emperor.
- 7.** Rev. 13:5-7 says that the beast would rule and persecute for 42 months. This same period of persecution is noted as a “time, times, and half a time” in Rev. 12:13-14; and 1260 days in Rev. 12:6. All of these time periods are the same if a “time” means a year with 30 days in a month. 42 months X 30 days = 1260 days. In Bible prophecy a day can be a symbol for a year (Num. 14:34, Ez. 4:6) meaning that the reign of the beast could be 1260 years. This fits the length of time that the papacy was in power (more on this on Monday’s page).

Read Rev. 13:3a. *What ends the power of the beast after 42 months or 1260 days/years?*

8. It receives a deadly wound bringing its reign to an end. *When was that? 1798* (more on that on Monday's lesson).

Read Rev. 13:3b + 4. *What change would come some time after the deadly wound?* The wound would be healed and the world will worship the beast.

What are the 3 phases of beast's existence that are clear in the first few verses of Rev. 13?

First, Power and persecution for 42 months/1260 years.

Second, it receives a deadly wound in 1798.

Third, Healing of the wound allows it to return to power and persecution.

(If time, note the same three phases in Rev. 17:8.)

MONDAY: ACTIVITIES OF THE SEA BEAST

Read Rev.13:5. *What specific time period of persecution is given here?*

42 months = 1260 days. 42 prophetic months is 1260 prophetic days meaning 1260 years.

Read the 2nd part of the opening paragraph ("The year A.D. 538...a temporary end."). In 1798 the pope was taken captive by one of Napoleon's generals.

Read Rev. 13:5-8. *What additional activities or traits of the sea beast do we see in these verses?*

9. Verse. 6: "blasphemed against God."

10. Verse. 7: "make war with the saints" (vs. 5 says for 42 months).

11. Verse. 8: "all that dwell on the earth shall worship him."

Read Dan. 7:25. *What descriptions of the little horn are the same as the sea beast?*

The little horn speaks "great words against the Most High" which is blasphemy.

The little horn tries to "wear out the saints" which is warring against the saints.

The little horn rules for a "time, times, and a dividing of time" which is the same time as 42 months. Obviously, the little horn and the sea beast are the same power.

Read 2 Thess. 2:3-4. *What characteristic of the "man of sin" is the same as the sea beast?* The "man of sin" seeks to receive worship just as does the sea beast.

We have brought forth 11 identifying marks of the sea beast (there are more). All of them fit the beliefs and history of the papacy.

(If time, the bottom half of the page covers important points about blasphemy.)

TUESDAY: THE BEAST ARISING OUT OF THE EARTH

Read Rev. 13:11a. *What are the first two characteristics of the second beast?*

This beast comes up out of the earth and it has two horns like a lamb.

What is the significance of the fact that this beast emerges out of the earth?

Read the 2nd paragraph of the narrative ("John observes...to be Christlike."). In some ways it was Christlike. It helped the woman in Rev. 12:16.

Read most of the 3rd paragraph ("This power arises...the deadly wound.") in 1798.

Read the GC 440 quotation (next paragraph).

Read Rev. 13:11. Share highlights or Read the last paragraph.

Read the box and question at the bottom of the page. The principles of interpretation used were clear enough even when the USA wasn't a powerful nation. The characteristics and time in history fit perfectly, and as time passed the USA fulfilled its part for power as well.

WEDNESDAY: THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

Read Rev. 13:12-13. *How do 1 Kings 18:38 and Acts 2:3 help us to understand the nature of the lamblike beast's deceptive activities?* **1 Kings 18:38** is about Elijah on Mt. Carmel where literal fire came down from heaven and consumed his altar and sacrifice. This proved Elijah served the true God. The beast with the lamblike horns seems to be proven as genuine because fire comes down from the sky. In **Acts 2:3** tongues of fire appeared on the followers of Christ at Pentecost showing that the Holy Spirit was on them. What Rev. 13 12-13 is showing us is that the earth beast will seem like the prophet Elijah and to have the power of the Holy Spirit. The beast with the lamblike horns turns out to be a false prophet with a counterfeit spirit.

Read Rev. 13:14-15. Read the first sentence of the narrative and the short GC 588 quotation.

“These miracles help the lamblike beast to persuade the inhabitants of the earth” to worship the sea beast whose deadly wound was healed by making “an image to the sea beast.”

Read the 1st sentence of the 2nd paragraph. Speaking of the lamblike beast enforcing worship of the sea beast, Ellen White wrote...(Share or read most of the GC 442-445 quotation as needed)

THURSDAY: THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Read Rev. 13:16-17. *Where can a person get the mark of the beast? Right hand or forehead. What does putting the mark on the right hand or in the forehead have to do with the commandments of God?*

Read Deut. 6:4-8. God's commandments were to be bound on the hand meaning obedient actions and between the eyes meaning in the frontal lobe of the brain which indicates understanding and believing. It's God's law in your mind and in your actions.

Share highlights from 2nd and 3rd paragraphs (“People of all...system of worship.”).

What is the real issue with the mark of the beast?

Read the 4th paragraph (“The central issue...allegiance to the beast.”).

Cite from memory or Read Ez. 20:12, 20. The Sabbath is God's mark or sign.

What is the beast's mark or sign?

Read the following from the 5th paragraph (“The mark of...by our Creator.”). It was prophesied that the little horn would try “to change” God's “times and laws,” an obvious reference to the Sabbath, the only commandment about time. “The attempt to change the sign of God's authority to another day is an attempt to usurp the role and power of God Himself.”

CONCLUSION

“We have to remember, however, that a person's observance of Sunday *now* does not itself mean that he or she has the mark of the beast.”

Read the full quotation from *Evanqelism*, pp. 234-235 from Friday's page.

If time, read question #2 from the box at the bottom of Friday's page. Without much discussion, if any, go to the Teachers' Comments p. 123 and read #2. Some discussion may be useful, if desired, and if there is time.