



ClearView

Bible study guide

Reflect

Which of the commandments in the Decalogue is broken in this description of the activities of the beasts in the time of the end?

Background

In the context of the battle between kingdoms it is hardly surprising the law of God is in focus. Any lasting government is based on a foundational constitution.

4. The Counterfeit Law



Read

Revelation 13:16-18; 14:1, and Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Background

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is one of the most significant Old Testament texts. Every first-century reader of the book of Revelation would immediately see the connection between the mark of the beast, the seal of God (see Revelation 7:3) and the eternal law of God.

Reflect

Why is it necessary for the kingdoms of the beasts to establish a counterfeit law? What difference does it make?
What are the implications of having a mark on the hand and on the forehead? How are such marks to be understood?

5. Worshipping the Creator



Read

Revelation 14:6, 7

Reflect

Why is Creation such a central doctrine in the Christian faith? Why would this Christian doctrine be highlighted in the last days of the earth's history?
In a modern, humanistic society, do we still worship? What would make secular people pay tribute to or worship anyone?

6. The Sabbath



Read

Revelation 14:6, and Exodus 20:8-11

Reflect

What makes the Sabbath and Sabbath-keeping such a powerful symbol of loyalty to God?
Is it possible genuinely to worship God and keep the Sabbath commandment without having personal faith in Jesus?

Summary

It is the end of time. The final battle is at hand. God has His survivors. There is a remnant maintaining their relationship to Jesus and honouring God's commandments. The Holy Spirit is in the midst of His people through the gift of prophecy, and though the call is for perseverance, they do not need to fear for the outcome. They worship the Creator of heaven and earth on the Sabbath day as a real-life symbol of their loyalty to their God and His commandments and their relationship to Jesus Christ, their Redeemer.

Lesson 8 studied Christ's major enemy in the book of Daniel, "the little horn." Lesson 16 observed that the symbols of the beasts in Daniel 7 are summarised in Revelation 13. The symbols of this vision differ slightly, yet it is clear the beast from the sea in Revelation 13 points to the same historical power as the little horn in Daniel. This lesson will look at significant aspects of the beasts in Revelation 13.

1. Antichrist



Read

1 John 4:1-3, and 2 John 7

Reflect

What is the characteristic of the deceivers John speaks about? Why is it a deceit? When speaking about "antichrist," does John think of one power in particular?

Background

"Antichrist" means "against Christ." It is used only here in the Bible, but is generally applied to Daniel's "little horn" and Revelation's "beast from the sea."

2. Person or System?



Read

Revelation 13:1-5 and 11, 12

Comment

The beast from the sea is exercising power for a long duration of time.

Reflect

Is the antichrist an individual or a system of power? What difference does it make?

Background

The beast has seven heads. When one of these heads is killed, the beast itself dies, not only part of it (see also verse 14). The seven heads symbolise seven consecutive periods, culminating at the end of earth's history.

3. Religious Counterfeit



Read

Revelation 13:6-8

Comment

The description of the beast in verses 1-7 is primarily historical, but in verse 8 the verb changes to future, pointing toward the events at the end of time.