

**Reflect**  
reflect

What is the nature of this power? Is it secular? Is it religious? Or is it both? Is it deceiving or is its opposition to Jesus self-evident?

**Background**

The beast from the sea is described to reflect the ministry of Christ. It exercises authority for three years, it dies, and returns to life. In this way the book of Revelation in a literary way highlights that this power presents a counterfeit of the sacrifice of Jesus.

## 4. An End-time Deceit



**Read**

Revelation 13:11-14

**Reflect**  
reflect

How is the deceitful nature of this beast expressed? What is the timing of its appearance in relation to the history of the beast from the sea? By what methods does the beast from the earth make people obey?

## 5. Repeating History



**Read**

Revelation 13:12



**Comment**

It is typical for the beast from the earth that it repeats what has happened in history. So the prophecies fulfilled in the history of the church (as during the 1260 years of Revelation 13:1-7) give the Christian a clear indication of the nature of future events.

## 6. A Worldwide Economic Superpower



**Read**

Revelation 13:15-18

**Reflect**  
reflect

How does this beast exercise its power? Are there any trends in modern civilisation similar to this description? Are principles of freedom to worship threatened by financial strength and power?

## 7. Bowing to the Image



**Read**

Revelation 13:14, 15

**Background**

The image calls to mind the story of Daniel's three friends who were thrown into the fiery furnace because they refused to bow to an image, an idol (Daniel 3).

**Summary**

The nature of the beasts opposing Christ is clearly understood by a series of identifying features. These beasts are deceitful. They appear Christlike, but are not. They represent systems, however, not individuals. Looking back at the historical fulfilment of part of this prophecy (Revelation 13:1-7), we are able to recognise the basic principles of deceit and to stand prepared for the final battle. Encouraged by the heroes of the past, we receive strength and confidence to remain loyal to God in a time of crisis.



## Number 18. The Law and the Survivors

# ClearView

## Bible study guide

In the global end-time battle envisioned in the book of Revelation "all who dwell on earth will worship" the beast from the sea (Revelation 13:8, 12). Are there no survivors? There is still a remnant, whose spiritual home is in the heavenly Jerusalem. They remain, representing and following Christ the Lamb, and proclaiming God's final message to the world. What are the characteristics of this people?

## 1. A Remnant Survives



**Read**

Revelation 12:17

**Reflect**  
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What would come to mind for the early Christians when they heard the expression "the commandments of God"? Is this a sign the end-time people of God are sinless?

**Comment**

The expression "the testimony of Jesus" is closely linked to the prophetic message Jesus shares with His people through His Holy Spirit (see Revelation 1:2 and 11:3, 4). In Revelation 19:10 the expression is explained by the term "the Spirit of Prophecy," a common designation for the Holy Spirit. The conclusion is that the Holy Spirit is present among God's people in the gift of prophecy.

## 2. God's Commandments and the Faith of Jesus



**Read**

Revelation 14:12

**Background**

This statement comes at the end of the three angels' messages and thus characterises those who respond to and share this message. That this message together with the extension in Revelation 18:1-5 is the last message to the world can be deduced from its worldwide proclamation to "every nation and tribe and tongue and people" (Revelation 14:6; compare Matthew 24:14).

**Reflect**  
reflect

What is "the faith of Jesus"? How does it relate to "the commandments of God"? Is it possible to have one without the other?

## 3. The Attack on the Law



**Read**

Revelation 13:4, 5 and 15