



Today's Message

Date: March 30, 2014
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *The Beast*

Text: Revelation 13:1–10 (ESV)

¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. ⁴ And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Introduction: The apostle John said that antichrist is coming, but in the meantime, his spirit already works in the world (1 John 4:3). Revelation 13 gives us a description of this future world ruler. What we learn about the future character and career of this enemy of God instructs us as to how we should face the spirit of antichrist today.

I. Antichrist is coming. 1-4

- A. He will be the embodiment of evil. 1
- B. He will be a political ruler. 2
- C. He will mimic Christ. 3
- D. He will seek universal worship. 4

II. He will be the ultimate enemy of God and is people. 5-8

- A. He blasphemes God and all that is holy. 5-6
- B. He wages war against God's people—and kills them. 7a
- C. He becomes the idol of all people—*almost*. 7b-8

III. God has determined that His people will persevere. 9-10

- A. God's people will endure captivity and martyrdom.
- B. To such endurance they are called.

Today's take-home truth: Evil is mighty, but God is almighty, so endure in faith