



## Today's Message

Date: April 6, 2014  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: ***Another Beast***

Text: Revelation 13:11–18 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, <sup>14</sup> and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup> And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. <sup>16</sup> Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, <sup>17</sup> so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. <sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

Introduction: The future political ruler we call “antichrist” appeared in the first part of Revelation 13. John called him a “beast.” In the second part of the same chapter, John describes the rise of a second “beast.” The first beast will be a political ruler; the second beast will be a religious leader or “false prophet” (cf. 16:13). His future career teaches us a vital principle and a corresponding responsibility.

**Today's take-home truth: Evil is deceptive, so "test the spirits."**

**I. Evil is deceptive . . . 11-17**

- A. A second beast completes an unholy "trinity." 11
- B. Together they unite the world: 12, 16
  - 1. Its government 12a
  - 2. Its religion 12b
  - 3. Its economy 16
- C. They enforce their agenda:
  - 1. Through deception and . . . 13
  - 2. coercion. 15, 17

**II. So "test the spirits." 18**

- A. The identity of antichrist remains unknown until he appears.
- B. But when he appears, God's people will need spiritual discernment to resist him.