

THE REVELATION

LESSON 22: BEHEMOTH- THE POWER OF DECEPTION

Intro:

BIG IDEA: Satan seeks to _____ all humanity, but the saints stand firm by _____.

The Power of the 2nd Beast

¹¹ Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² 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. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.

- The 2nd beast arises out of the _____.
- It _____ the Lion of the Tribe of Judah with 2 horns like a lamb.
- But it speaks like a _____.
- It doesn't possess authority on its own, but _____ that authority of the first beast.
- It is the _____ of the 1st beast, directing people to _____ the 1st beast.
- There are false _____ to lead the people astray.
- His is the power of _____. He leads people astray as a false _____ (16:13).
- It makes a _____ of the beast, like in Daniel 3. It seems _____.
- Those who fail to worship the image will be _____.
- It is a counterfeit of the _____, leading people to worship Leviathan instead of Christ.

Historicist	Preterist	Futurist	Idealist
The majority identify the 2 nd beast as the papacy. Some of the Popes wore outfits made of wool and hats with 2 points. The church of Rome repeatedly makes claims to miracles to support the power of	3 main views. 1 st , the cult of the emperor (Chilton & Adams). 2 nd , a beast from Israel. Its sphere of influence is but a part of the Roman Empire. It is the Roman procurator or governor of Judea	Ryrie- the horns suggest less strength than the 1 st beast. It may appear innocent, but isn't. Most futurists believe this is a religious leader, a counterfeit messiah, who heads an apostate church (often Rome).	While supporting the 1 st beast, the 2 nd seems harmless in order to deceive. It symbolizes false religion. In John's day it operated through the priests of the emperor cult. Some see the 2 horns as

THE REVELATION

<p>the Church of Rome. Some claims include images starting fires, or seeming alive (sweating, bleeding, moving etc.).</p>	<p>(Russell). 3rd, Israel itself, referring to the Jewish religious system and leadership.</p>	<p>Some think it refers to a concept rather than a person- like organized religion. But most link him to the man of lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2), the little horn of Daniel 7. They think the image will be set up in the rebuilt temple as the abomination that causes desolation (denying the fulfillment in AD 70).</p>	<p>reflecting the dual aspect of civil and religious administration (Proconsul & Commune). The emperor cult was particularly powerful in Asia Minor. The most dangerous religious movements are those tied to nationalism.</p>
---	---	---	--

Talk it Out:

“Institutional religion too often plays into the hands of the state, supporting its pseudo-messianic claims and justifying its persecuting aggression against those who will not confess, “We have no king but Caesar.”” **Dennis Johnson**⁷⁶

The Number of the Beast

¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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.

- Everyone is forced to wear a _____, identifying them as a _____: a counterfeit of the _____ of the Spirit seen earlier.
- Israelites would wear the law of God on their _____ and _____ to show that their thoughts & actions were supposed to be in submission to God.
- _____ is tied to the mark.

Options for 666

Gematria	The Number of Man	False Religion	The Beast
An ancient code in which letters have numerical value. To	There is no code. If 7 is the number of completion, 6 is the	It does not refer to Nero or Rome, but simply the beast (wait,	Very similar to false religion. It points to the Beast

⁷⁶ Johnson, pp. 197-8.

THE REVELATION

make it more difficult, the word was often translated into a different language. “Emperor Nero” in Hebrew is calculated to 666. (Johnson, Metzger, Gentry, Adams, Chilton)	number of failure. Man apart from God fails, repeatedly. The Hebrews repeated things for emphasis. 3 was essentially ‘most’. John uses the 6 3 times- utter failure. (Hendriksen, Thomas)	isn’t that Rome?) which is the object of false worship. (Wilcock) Many historicists use various ways of pointing to the Church of Rome (Latin basileia, Apostaths, Hebrew for Roman, and Victarius filii Dei).	who falls short of the glory and accomplishments of Christ (Poythress)
--	---	--	--

Talk it Out: Which of these views seems most realistic?

“It is to such coins (that bear the likeness of the emperor) that John refers to as bearing the mark of the beast, without which ‘no one can buy or sell.’” **Bruce Metzger**⁷⁷

Historicist	Preterist	Futurist	Idealist
The mark was often thought to be Latin, the language of the Roman Catholic Church. The Popes often forbid commerce with heretics or Protestants.	The mark functioned to deprive Christians of the common rights of citizens. The economic distress was meant to produce conformity.	The cashless worldwide economy instituted by the anti-Christ. The number would be placed on the body via implanted computer chip or tattoo. It would be necessary to conduct business- like a worldwide labor union.	Often this is viewed as invisible, just like the seal it counterfeits. To receive the mark is synonymous with worship of the beast.

Conclusion:

⁷⁷ Metzger, pp. 76.