

“A Call for the Endurance and Faith of the Saints”
Revelation 13:5-10

Last Sunday: The Beast Rising Out of the Sea

Two challenges from last Sunday:

1. What is holding THE Antichrist back? The Restrainer, 2 Th. 2:5-8
2. Test the Spirits (teaching). 1 Jn. 4:1, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for *many* false prophets have gone out into the world."
Acts 17:11, "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, *examining the Scriptures* daily to see if these things were so."

Today: A Call for the Endurance and Faith of the Saints

OUTLINE

- 13:5, The Beast is given a mouth to blaspheme and an authority for forty-two months.
- 13:6-7, The Beast blasphemes God and His dwelling, and is allowed to conquer the saints.
- 13:8, All will worship the Beast = all whose names are not written in the Book of Life.
- 13:9-10, A call for endurance and faith of the saints.

13:6/ "It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies...."

The Beast blasphemes in two ways:

1. He blasphemes God's name
 - a. 2 Th. 2:4, He "opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God." What does the word "temple" refer to here?
 - i. The church...yet could it be the "apostate church?"
 - ii. The physical temple in Jerusalem...yet could it be a rebuilt temple?
2. He blasphemes God's dwelling (those who dwell in heaven)

13:7/ "It was allowed to make war on the saints..."

What exactly is the Beast's blasphemy, his war with the saints, and the 42 months?

1. Preterist (*past*):
 - a. Beast's blasphemy: All early Roman emperors encouraged/enforced emperor worship (divine titles). All who dwelt in the "land" (Israel) did so (Jn. 19:15).
 - b. Beast's war with the saints: the Roman Empire's persecution of believers.
 - c. 42 months (3 ½ years): Symbolic. Yet strangely enough, Nero's persecution fit the time period: Nov. '64 – June '68.
2. Historicist (*timeline*):
 - a. Beast's blasphemy: Examples of blasphemy appear in the gospels as making oneself equal to God (Jn. 10:33) and claiming authority to forgive sins (Lk. 5:21):

- i. Pope Nicholas (1447-1455), "I have the authority of the King of Kings. I am all in all and above all ... what can you make me, but God?"
 - ii. Pope Pius X (1903-1914), "The Pope ... is Jesus Christ himself, hidden under the veil of flesh."
 - iii. Pope Pius XI (1922-1939), "You know that I am the Holy Father; the representative of God on earth, the Vicar (substitute) of Christ, which means that I am God on the earth."
 - b. Beast's (pope's) war with the saints: thousands of Lollards (1300's) and Hussites were killed (1421); 50,000 hanged, burned, buried alive under Charles V, Germany (1546), 5,000-60,000 Huguenots killed in French St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre.
 - c. 42 months (3 ½ years): the-day-for-a-year hermeneutic means that 1,260 days = 1,260 years of persecution of the saints (true believers).
3. Idealist (***spiritual***):
- a. Beast's blasphemy: Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Darius of Medo-Persia, and many Roman Emperors demanded worship as god.
 - b. Beast's war with the saints: demanding loyalty to the state that belongs to God alone. Examples include modern-day Communist nations, etc.
 - c. 42 months (3 ½ years): the entire church age. It also lines up with the times the holy city is trampled (11:2), the two witnesses preach (11:3), and the woman is taken care of by God in the wilderness (12:6).
4. Futurist (***future***):
- a. Beast's blasphemy: Dan. 9:27 refers to the "Abomination of Desolation," meaning something that is a disgusting astonishment.
 - b. Beast's war with the saints: His war against the Jews OR against believers.
 - c. 42 months (3 ½ years): Last half of the Tribulation, called the "Great Tribulation."

13:9-10/ What does this passage mean?

- 1. If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword (Mt. 26:52). An unbeliever would be punished in the same way for what he did to a believer.
- 2. Embrace the suffering as your calling for being a witness for Christ (Jer. 29:11).