

A dramatic landscape painting. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and a bright, golden light source is visible at the top center, casting a beam of light down. The foreground shows a lush forest with green trees and rocky terrain. The overall mood is one of awe and grandeur.

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REVELATION

COURAGE FOR TODAY,
CONFIDENCE FOR THE FUTURE.

EARTHLY BATTLE

Week Thirteen (Revelation 13)



EARTHLY BATTLE

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¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.
13 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.

Revelation 12:17–13:18

EARTHLY BATTLE

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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.

Revelation 12:17–13:18

EARTHLY BATTLE

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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.

Revelation 12:17–13:18

EARTHLY BATTLE

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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,

Revelation 12:17–13:18

EARTHLY BATTLE

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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.

Revelation 12:17–13:18

EARTHLY BATTLE

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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,

Revelation 12:17–13:18

EARTHLY BATTLE

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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.

Revelation 12:17–13:18

EARTHLY BATTLE

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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.

Revelation 12:17–13:18

THE FIRST BEAST: ANTI-CHRIST AUTHORITY

13 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.

Revelation 13:1–2

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What then is the “beast from the sea”? It is the state - human kingdoms that have ejected the living God from the centre of their lives. At the time John wrote Revelation, the beast was manifested in Rome...but not just Rome. Before Rome the beast is manifested in Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. And after Rome the beast is manifested in empire after empire...What John wants us to see is that the beastliness of political power is born of blasphemy. Political powers do not set out to be bestial. They set out to be their own master, and in the process they turn bestial. No one can be God but God. When the state seeks to be God, it does not become divine, it becomes demonic.

– Darrell Johnson

THE SECOND BEAST: ANTI-CHRIST IDEOLOGY

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Revelation 13:11–18

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Revelation 13:11–18

“Dragon, sea beast, and land beast are a satanic trinity that infiltrates the political world in order to deflect our worship from the God whom we cannot see to the authorities that we can see, and to deceive us into buying into a religion or belief system that has visible results in self-gratification.”

– Eugene Peterson

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Revelation 13:11–18

EARTHLY BATTLE

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¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

Matthew 24:11

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²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:24

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Revelation 13:11–18

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The 'forehead' represents ideological commitment and the 'hand' the practical outworking of that commitment.

– G.K. Beale

AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN, WE HOLD
OUR POLITICAL ALLEGIANCES LIGHTLY

² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Colossians 3:2

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, WE RESIST
COUNTERFEITS, BY KNOWING THE REAL THING

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

Revelation 13:10

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, WE RESIST COUNTERFEITS, BY KNOWING THE REAL THING

...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the
throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1–2