

Endurance: Most of us like to think we know what we would do under pressure

We tell ourselves, “I’d stand firm. I wouldn’t compromise. I know what I believe.”

External pressure has a way of exposing what is really in us

It is easy to be courageous when nothing is at stake. It is easy to hold convictions when those convictions cost us nothing

It is easy to say, “Jesus is first,” when following Jesus **does not threaten our comfort, our reputation, our security, or our future**

But what happens when faithfulness gets expensive or costs us something?

That is the world **Revelation 13** brings us into

This chapter describes a ruler who **speaks against** God, **persecutes** God’s people, **demand**s worship, their allegiance, and appears to have **enormous** power

Revelation 13 not only asks, “Who is the **beast**?” The **deeper question is**, what kind of people will the saints be when the **beast** turns against them?

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Revelation 13:5 NKJV

satan gives the **beast** outstanding speaking ability so that he can persuade people of all cultures

The beast blasphemes God - **Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. Revelation 13:6 NKJV**

“he opened his mouth in blasphemy”

The Greek word translated **blasphemy** (**SG988**) the idea of speaking irreverently against God

To blaspheme God: refers to pride and the proud mouth that comes from the heart. This is who Daniel was warning about **Daniel 7:8-25; 11:36**

The Bible tells us some of what Antichrist will be saying

Jesus is not the Christ. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. 1 John 2:22 NKJV

He might be saying that Jesus is “a” Christ

Jesus didn't come in the flesh. and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. 1 John 4:3 NKJV

The Bible says that He took on human flesh

I am God. who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV

That's what's at the heart of modern New Age teaching: that we are all "gods."

Christians should not be surprised when opposition to God eventually becomes opposition to God's people, because Jesus warned: **If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.** John 15:18 NKJV

Grace: The Bible teaches that worship and allegiance to Christ will eventually collide with the systems of this world, and they will demand worship and allegiance

When a culture demands what belongs only to God, **faithfulness will become costly**

War against the Saints - **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.** Revelation 13:7 NKJV

"it was granted to him" - This phrase is extremely important. The beast **does not possess unlimited autonomous authority**

His authority **is permitted**. The book of Revelation repeatedly emphasizes this

Authority was given, power was granted; his time is short **Revelation 12:9**

God remains sovereign even while evil is active, even today, especially today

"and to overcome them" John says that the **beast** is permitted to **make war with the saints and overcome them**

That phrase can initially sound alarming. How can the beast overcome the saints

The answer depends upon what **"overcome"** means

Overcome ([SG3529](#)) to subdue (literally or figuratively):—conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory

The beast may **overcome believers physically**, but he **cannot overcome them spiritually or eternally**

Jesus had already said: **And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul Matthew 10:28 NKJV**

The book of Revelation itself makes this distinction

The martyrs will lose their earthly lives, but they remain victorious before God

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony... Revelation 12:11 NKJV

There will be seasons when evil appears to be winning, but appearance is not sovereignty

God permitting something temporarily does not mean God has surrendered control at all

Joseph understood this: **But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good... Genesis 50:20 NKJV**

God does not have to approve of evil in order to remain sovereign over it

John continues by saying that **“authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation”**

The language describes humanity across **religious, ethnic, linguistic, and national divisions**

Compared to the sealed of Israel: **After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” Revelation 7:9-10 NKJV**

The **beast's** kingdom: he seeks control over nations, tribes, languages, and peoples

Christ's Kingdom: Jesus redeems people from nations, tribes, languages, and peoples

satan attempts to **dominate** the nations. Jesus **redeems the nations** because of His love

The counterfeit kingdom of the **beast** will never become the final Kingdom

Daniel had already seen what ultimately happens: **Then the kingdom and dominion... shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High Daniel 7:27 NKJV**

The **beast's** reign **has an expiration date** on God's calendar. Christ's does not!

Verse 8 reveals the **real issue** behind the **religious, ethnic, linguistic, and political** power of the **beast**. **It is worship!**

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8 NKJV

All who dwell on the earth will worship him- Those who dwell on the earth worship the **beast**, specifically those whose names are **not written in the Book of Life**

The Book of Life represents those who belong to God. Jesus spoke about this

rejoice because your names are written in heaven Luke 10:20 NKJV

Paul also refers to believers: **whose names are in the Book of Life** Philippians 4:3 NKJV

Revelation returns to this theme repeatedly. **...And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire** Revelation 20:15

...but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life Revelation 21:27

Good News- There is a way to know that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life

By accepting God's gift of grace, the sacrifice of Jesus who died for our sins

When Jesus died on the cross, He was paying the price for sins. He paid a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 NKJV

When we choose to follow Jesus, to believe in Jesus, to believe that He is the One who has paid for our sins, we are saved from having to face the penalty for our sins, and we are saved from having to spend eternity in hell

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 NKJV

Who are the people who will be deceived by the antichrist? They are those who refuse to believe the truth about Jesus

Is that you? Do you love the truth about Jesus? Have you made up your mind about Jesus?

"from the foundation of the world"

Translating Greek texts into English is sometimes as much an art as it is a science. It's not always an exact thing, and that's why you can see differences in Bible translation

Greek translation doesn't always follow the word order in a sentence. Sometimes Greek reads more like Yoda talking: "Help you I will".

But here, the Greek order follows the NKJV. What takes place "from the foundation of the world"? The "Lamb being slain"

From God's eternal perspective, Jesus has been slain since eternity past

Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'The LORD God of your fathers... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.' Exodus 3:14-15 NKJV

Yahweh- It comes from the Hebrew letters YHWH — often called the *Tetragrammaton* — it is closely connected to the Hebrew verb meaning "to be"

Yahweh means: "I AM — the eternal, self-existent God who always has been, always will be, and needs nothing outside Himself"

It has always been Yahweh's plan for Jesus to die for our sins

In **Revelation 13** the beast demands worship, but Yahweh alone possesses eternal existence and is therefore the only one worthy of our worship