

Revelation: Chapter 13

Opening Question: Describe the who, what, where, when, and why of this scene. Who is acting? What are they doing? Where and when is this scene taking place? Why is it occurring?

Key Takeaways:

1. The imagery of the “land” and the “sea” is developed throughout the Old Testament in passages such as Isaiah 27 with the “land” representing the land promised to Israel by God and the “sea” representing the nations, Satan’s domain.
2. When Satan is thwarted in his pursuit of the woman Israel (12:17) he is enraged and focuses his attention on the rest of the believers from every tribe and nation (13:1).
3. The imagery of the “sand of the seashore” has been established in Genesis 22, Isaiah 10, and Romans 9 and refers to those formerly from Satan’s domain, or Gentiles, who have believed in Christ.
4. Two beasts are described in this chapter one coming up from the sea (the nations which are Satan’s domain)(v.1) and one coming up out of the land (that is the land of Israel) (v. 11) both empowered by the “dragon” Satan to deceive and persecute believers in both Israel and in the unbelieving nations.
5. The first beast, coming out of the sea, is given power for forty-two months or three and a half years, the second half of the seven-year tribulation, in which he blasphemies God and His holy ones (v 5-6).

Discussion Questions:

1. Reread Revelation 10:11-13:18 and discuss the scenes taking place in heaven and on earth as John’s second pass through the seven year tribulation unfolds.
2. What imagery is being used by John in Revelation chapter 13 that has already been established in the Old Testament? What imagery does John use that he goes on to explain in this chapter? What imagery has not yet been explained?
3. Read Revelation 13, Genesis 3:1-15 and Luke 4:1-13. What has always been Satan’s enticement and desire?

Practical Application:

1. Reread Revelation 13. Where is this scene taking place? When is it taking place? Who is involved?
2. Reread Revelation 1-13. Use the literary markers to track what is happening in the book up to this point.
3. In what ways is using a “literary” approach to your study of Revelation, informed by the previous 65 books and the overarching biblical narrative, helpful in understanding John’s letter?

Closing Prayer:

Father, We give You thanks for Your Word and ask that You grant us wisdom to understand it correctly. May we approach the Scriptures with humility and a desire to know You more through Your Word.
Amen.