The Revelation Stand Your Ground Revelation 13:10; 14:12

Two beasts rising and an encouragement to be patient are all part of the imagery and message of Revelation 13. Who are the two beasts, and what is our word of encouragement? Let's find out.

I. THE TWO BEASTS

Revelation 13:1 Then I (*he, dragon*) stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. **2** Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of* a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. NKJV

The dragon frustrated with his defeat at the Cross and the consequent restraints placed upon his activity, and desperate to thwart the purposes of GOD before his inevitable doom, develops a counterfeit trinity "to make war" on the saints.

1st beast: Anti-Christ; Anti-Christian government & political power warring against saints

Image like Dan.7-8; Sea=nations Rev.17:15; Heads/Horns=complete worldly authority;; wounded head=parody of the Lamb; Mouth=Deception & blasphemy (irreverent speech calling what is human divine and what is evil good and what is good evil)

8 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.**

2nd beast: False Prophet; Anti-Christian religion, philosophy and ideology (system of social beliefs)

Revelation 13:11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. **12** And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

NKJV

Like a lamb=a symbol of all satanic religious cults; Great signs=demonic magic that deceives all earth dwellers; Mark=a counterfeit of "the seal of the living God"; Forced idolatry!

666 - who is it? STAY FIXED ON JESUS!!!

Together they produce the ultimate deceptive and seductive anti-Christian secular society, commerce, and culture, which are referred to as the harlot, Babylon composed of all earth-dwellers. These earth-dwellers bear the "mark" of the monster and are not registered in the "LAMBS Book of Life". The dragon continues

to delegate his restricted power and authority to the two beasts (monsters) and their followers in order to deceive and discourage anyone from GOD'S creative-redemptive purpose.

II. STAND YOUR GROUND!

Revelation 13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. **10** He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. NKJV

In this spiritual battle don't use the methods of the unholy trinity!

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. **18** If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. **19** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. **20** Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. NKJV

Patience=steadfastness, constancy, endurance, perseverance – trusting King Jesus, living for Him no matter how severe the trial or the suffering – BY FAITH!

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

NKJV

Be strong in the LORD!

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all

perseverance and supplication for all the saints...

NKJV

Truth – Righteousness – Gospel of peace – Faith – Salvation – Word of GOD – PRAYER

STAND YOUR GROUND!