



(Intro Slide)



Last week we were challenged to not sleep at our posts and to not hide under the bed.

-- Some of us really do want to be people of vigilance and readiness . . .

-- . . . but we wonder whether we've got what it takes to endure what may come.

TR: We're afraid that we won't be able to carry the weight . . .



. . . like this bridge.

TR: We are afraid that we won't only hurt ourselves, but . . .



**. . . also others who depend on us,
-- like those who depended on this span in Minneapolis.**

**TR: As we gear up to come out from under our beds, a question
haunts us . . .**



**WILL WE
CONQUER
OR CAVE?**

READ SLIDE

TR: Revelation 13 makes it clear that . . .

We will face “beastly” pressure

6

READ SLIDE

-- I'd like us to run through the text and then go back to make sure we welcome it into our lives.

TR: Read with me, beginning with the last sentence of chapter 12 . . .

And (the dragon) stood on the sand of the sea. 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.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- This beast reflects the dragon himself, with horns and heads and crowns.

TR: The description continues . . .

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.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- This seems to be a combination of the kingdoms of Daniel's vision.
- This beast is satanically empowered by the dragon.

TR: Verse 3

Revelation 13:3-4 p. 1137

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.
⁴And 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?"

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- Some will say the wound only seemed mortal, yet others point to the terms used elsewhere and say that the beast died and was resurrected.

-- Even as we sing, "Who is like you?" . . . so they worship the beast.

TR: Verse 5

And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and **it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.** ⁶It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- This beast has authority but only for 42 months, the 3 ½ years at the end of history before the return of Jesus.
- It blasphemes God and His people . . . what we do to God's people is what we do to God!
- They don't respect God's temple . . . which is His people . . . the "heaven dwellers"
- Not follow NIV that has "and" rather than "that is" (two separate groups rather than one)

TR: The words escalate to war . . .

Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- Like in Daniel 7:21, 25, the enemies of God are allowed to win for a time –

-- Daniel 7:21 *As I looked, this horn **made war with the saints and prevailed over them,** 22until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. . . . 25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.*

TR: Authority was given to this beast . . .

Revelation 13:7b-8 p. 1137

And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸and 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.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- [book of life]

-- [before the foundation of the world] – applies to when Lamb was slain or the names written in the book (predestination).

-- cf. 17:8 would suggest the latter. This emphasizes God's sovereignty and the security of the true believer.

TR: Then verse 9 gives us a bit of poetry with the call to really HEAR . . .

If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰If 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.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- This seems to describe a certain pacifism toward the persecution that will come.

TF: We must remember Peter's words:

But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example**, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³**When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.**

1 Peter 2: 20b-23 ESV

READ SLIDE

-- I'll leave it to your small group discussions to think through the balance of pacifism and the responsibility of those in power to protect the weak.

TR: What is clear is that at least at the end times, we will face

...

We will face “beastly” pressure

15

- the beast from the sea:
Antichrist

... beastly pressure from the Antichrist, as he is called later in the book of Revelation.

-- Note that I said “we.” I believe, if we are alive, we will go through the tribulation period.

-- Our hope is not to avoid the suffering, but to conquer and not cave.

-- It would be nice if we got to avoid it all, but if we are not ready to face the end times suffering, neither will we be able to face the now-times suffering as a follower of Jesus.

TR: But, this beast from the sea is not the only pressure we will face ...

Revelation 13:11-12 p. 1137

Then I saw **another beast rising out of the earth**. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹²It 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.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- We know from 16:13 and 19:20 that this is the false prophet.
- He mimics the Lamb Who was slain with his two horns, but clearly is empowered by the Devil.

TR: This false prophet . . .

Revelation 13:13-14 p. 1137

It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴and 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.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- If your faith rests merely on impressive miracles, you are open to being deceived.
- This second beast will do many “take your breath away” signs.

TR: This image that is created, this idol, is then animated by this second beast . . .

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.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- The image, or idol, is given the appearance of life, which is worse than the Daniel 3 image that the friends of Daniel would not bow down to. That landed them in a fiery furnace.

TR: The pressure goes beyond giving the place of ultimate authority, power, and hope to this image of the beast, for that is what worship really is, but . . .

Revelation 13:16-17 p. 1137

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, ¹⁷so 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.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- cf. the hands and foreheads in Deuteronomy 6:8
- This mark is in itself a parody of the sealing of God of His people.
- The unholy trinity of the dragon and the two beasts seek to exalt themselves and claim the throne of God for themselves.

TR: All this calls for . . .

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.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- cf. gematria – in Hebrew, 666 could be “beast” or “Nero Caesar”
- It is doubtful that the number today can be determined with any level of confidence, but perhaps the first century believers would have immediately said, “This is that!”

TR: So, as we let the book of Revelation stir us to alertness and a gearing up as we climb out from under the bed . . .

We will face “beastly” pressure

- **the beast from the sea:
Antichrist**
- **the beast from the earth:
False Prophet**

. . . we realize we will face beastly pressure.

TR: But, how are we to understand these beasts?

TYPE	TYPE(S)	ANTI-TYPE
1 st Century	History	Great Tribulation

In your notes you see a small chart that looks something like this.

- God has often revealed Himself and His plans through types and anti-types.
- The anti-type is the event or person that is foreshadowed or prefigured by a type.
- King David is a type of the greater son of King David, Messiah Jesus.
- While there is usually only one true, complete fulfillment of the type in an antitype . . .
- . . . there may also be “smaller” types throughout history, all pointing forward to the final antitype.
- In the book of Revelation, the original type or picture is often tied to the historical events of the 1st century.
- The final anti-type looks at the end of history before the

return of Jesus, especially the final 3 ½ years called the great tribulation.

-- Yet, there are also types (some might call them precursor anti-types) that take place throughout the history between the time of the writing and the fulfillment of the prophetic symbolism.

TR: Though scholars use other names, I think we can look at these three as . . .

TYPE	TYPE(S)	ANTI-TYPE
1 st Century	History	Great Tribulation

PAST-ist **PRESENT-ist** **FUTURE-ist**

READ SLIDE

- Preterist = Past-ist
- Futurist
- Idealist = Present-ist

TR: How would this apply to the beasts?

TYPE	TYPE(S)	ANTI-TYPE
1 st Century	History	Great Tribulation
Caligula, Nero, Domitian		

There were a number of beastly emperors in the near history to the writing of Revelation. There was . . .

- Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 BC, who Daniel seems to clearly point to in his prophecies,
- Caligula in AD 40 threatens to set up image,
- Nero Revived legend . . .
- Domitian, who ruled AD 81-96

TR: But, the book of Revelation, though using these historical references as “redemptive analogies”, isn’t just focused on the first century.

TYPE	TYPE(S)	ANTI-TYPE
1st Century	History	Great Tribulation
Caligula, Nero, Domitian		The Antichrist

The futurists are right, in my opinion, that the time limiter of 3 ½ years and the extend of the suffering and persecution would point to a “literal” fulfillment in the Anti-Christ.

TR: Is there biblical precedent for the middle column of thinking?

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that **antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come.** Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

ESV

**Yes. It is the same John who wrote down Revelation who wrote 1 John. There he says . . . READ SLIDE
-- Your sermon discussion questions will take your small groups through the other references in John's letters to the many antichrists and the spirit of antichrist.**

TR: So, the idealists, who we called PRESENT-ists, are also partially correct.

TYPE	TYPE(S)	ANTI-TYPE
1 st Century	History	Great Tribulation
Caligula, Nero, Domitian	“anti-christs”	The Antichrist

There are many antichrists.

-- This is why so many were convinced that Hitler was THE antichrist. Which history revealed that he was not, but he was AN antichrist.

TR: So, there was, is, and will be BEASTLY PRESSURE put on Christ followers. And the truth is that . . .

**We will be tempted
to relieve the pressure**



**Caused by a fear of
death and suffering**

READ SLIDE

-- As we seek the courage to crawl out from under the bed . . .
-- . . . we have to admit that we have a fear of death and a fear
of suffering . . . for ourselves and those we love.

**TR: We will be tempted to give up on being a conqueror and
just . . .**

**We will be tempted
to relieve the pressure**

- **cave in worship**

. . . CAVE in to the pressure.

-- Specifically, we will be tempted to cave in our worship.

-- That is, cave into the pressure to declare with our words and our ways that our ultimate respect is for something or someone else that God.

TR: We saw that throughout the text . . .

Revelation 13:3-4 p. 1137

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. ⁴And 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?"

ESV

In verse 4 they worshiped the dragon and the beast he empowered.

TR: In verse 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.

ESV

... the earth dwellers worship the beast under the pressure of death threats.

TR: The second beast gets involved in worship as well ...

Revelation 13:11-12 p. 1137

Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹²It 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.

ESV

- . . . in verse 12, stirring people to worship the beast, the Antichrist, whose mortal wound was healed.
- Some think the first beast is focused more on a governmental leader . . .
- . . . and the second more of a religious leader.
- That may be, but both are demanding from people a deference that only God is worthy of.
- They demand that we become “patriots” in the highest extreme.

TR: Verse 15 punctuates this call to the highest loyalty and allegiance when . . .

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.**

ESV

. . . the image of the first beast, animated by the power of the second, speaks.
-- The second beast causes those who would not worship the image to be slain.

TR: If the pressure to bow the knee in allegiance doesn't get to folks, then they will seek to relieve the pressure by . . .

**We will be tempted
to relieve the pressure**

- **cave in worship**
- **cave in economics**

. . . caving in economics.

TR: Verses 15-16 point us to this

Revelation 13:16-17 p. 1137

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, ¹⁷so 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.

ESV

. . . when they speak of the famous “mark of the beast.”
-- Critical to understand is that without this symbol of submission, you can't buy or sell.
-- It is economic pressure, when you can't stand the being under the thumb of you or your loved ones not having enough to eat or a place to lay their heads.

TR: Again, in the notes, look at the little chart I included.

TYPE	TYPE(S)	ANTI-TYPE
1 st Century	History	Great Tribulation
Emperor worship		

The top two rows are the same as we just saw.

-- But the question is, what is past-ist, present-ist, future-ist?

-- In the first century, the potential types of the Antichrist that may have been in John's mind as Jesus revealed things to him, were a number of emperors.

-- Most of emperor-worship waited until the guy was dead, but Nero and Domitian certainly demanded it in a great way.

-- EX: On Turkey trip, we saw ruins of what would be today the city council building. Center was a column, an altar. Every person coming before the commissioners and the commissioners themselves would have had to make a small offering to the emperor, to show their allegiance to him, in order to take part the meeting.

TR: In the future, this mark of the beast may be a . . .

TYPE	TYPE(S)	ANTI-TYPE
1 st Century	History	Great Tribulation
Emperor worship		Literal Mark?

... literal mark.

-- The question mark is because it could be symbolic of buying into the civic religion of the day so that it impacts your head and your hands.

TR: How about for all the believers between the first century and the final 3 ½ years before Christ's return?

TYPE	TYPE(S)	ANTI-TYPE
1 st Century	History	Great Tribulation
Emperor worship	“of this world”	Literal Mark?

Certainly the symbolic concept of the mark of the beast that I just mentioned would apply to all of us.

-- When our ultimate loyalty, allegiance, is to a government or religious hierarchy, then we probably have slipped into being OF THIS WORLD.

-- NOT just in the world, but actually OF IT.

-- Our minds are not set on things above.

-- Our loyalty is not first and foremost to the Lamb Who was slain.

-- Caving in to these pressures will be the easy way out. It was in the first century. It will be under the reign of terror of the Antichrist. And it is now, in the midst of the influences of the many antichrists who are here presently.

TR: The answer is not to stay under our beds. It is not to let fear rule the day nor our hearts. Rather . . .

**We can conquer as
“faithful skeptics”**

**. . . we must become what I call “faithful skeptics.”
-- READ SLIDE**

**TR: To conquer and not cave we must be faithful, meaning that
we are . . .**

**We can conquer as
“faithful skeptics”**

- **full of faith in God and His Christ**

1) Heaven-dwellers whose names are in the book of life.

READ SLIDE (full of faith . . .)

-- Specifically, Revelation 13 teaches us that we must be . . .

-- READ SLIDE (Heaven-dwellers . . .)

TR: Remember the end of verse 6 . . .

And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, **those who dwell in heaven.**

ESV

... when the arrogant beast is uttering blasphemies against God and His people.

-- Blasphemy is the act of cursing or reviling God. It is the crime of assuming to oneself or to anyone other than God the rights or qualities of God. It is the irreverent behavior that treats God as less than holy.

-- It is against the heaven-dwellers that the beast's mouth is opened.

TR: This is in contrast to verse 8 where we read of ...

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.**

ESV

. . . the earth-dwellers.

-- These folks, who are not followers of Jesus and will not inherit eternal life, are those whose name is not in the Lamb's book.

-- If you and I want to conquer, the first of first things is to make sure our name is in the book of life.

-- We must be changed from being earth-dwellers to heaven-dwellers.

-- Even we are still on earth, we know that this is not our home any longer.

-- If you wonder why you keep caving to the pressures of this world . . . examine yourself to be sure that you are saved.

TR: Faithful skeptics are also full of faith because they are .

..

We can conquer as
“**faithful** skeptics”

- full of faith in God and His Christ

*2) Those who rest in the
sovereignty of God.*

READ SLIDE

TR: Notice the repeated phrase in our chapter today . . .

And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and **it was allowed** to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

ESV

“It was allowed”

TR: Verse 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,

ESV

“It was allowed”

TR: Verse 14

Revelation 13:13-14 p. 1137

It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴and 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.

ESV

“It was allowed”

TR: Verse 16

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.

ESV

“It was allowed”

TR: If we are to conquer we need to be faithful, with our names in the book of life and confident in the sovereignty of God.

C	A person who has COMMITTED themselves to Christ,
R	RESTS in the providence of God's control,
O	OPERATES through the filling of the Holy Spirit,
S	STUDIES the Bible well,
S	SITS and reflects on the applications the Spirit prompts,
W	Faithfully makes sure the WORD IS APPLIED ,
O	Remains OPEN TO THE LEADING of the Spirit,
R	And is willing to use REASON while praying for wisdom,
D	Can go ahead and confidently DECIDE .

This made me think of the path I have presented many times to people who want to know how to “find” God’s will.

-- The first two steps are foundational . . . READ SLIDE

TR: I said we can conquer as faithful skeptics. Skeptical of what?

**We can conquer as
“faithful **skeptics**”**

- **full of faith in God and His Christ**
- **skeptics of blasphemous claims and counterfeit faiths**

READ SLIDE

TR: Revelation 13 is presenting to us a false trinity, making false messianic claims of death and resurrection, showing us false signs.

Revelation 13:3-4 p. 1137

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.
4And 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?**"

ESV

In verse 4 we read of worship that attributes the greatest power of all to the beast.

TR: Verse 6

And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth **to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.**

ESV

... highlighted the irreverence to God and His temple, that is, the heaven-dwellers.

TR: Verse 11

Revelation 13:11-12 p. 1137

Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. **It had two horns like a lamb** and it spoke like a dragon. ¹²It 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.**

ESV

Shows the second beast imitating the Lamb Who was slain, with his two horns.

-- And the mortal wound that was healed seems to be a sham resurrection claim.

TR: Verses 13-14

Revelation 13:13-14 p. 1137

It performs **great signs**, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴and **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.

ESV

. . . point us to the great signs that are used to substantiate the demands for ultimate loyalty.

TR: In a related passage, that you will read if your small group is working through the sermon discussion questions, Jesus says . . .

Mark 13:22

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

ESV

54

READ SLIDE

TR: We must be skeptics . . . faithful skeptics.

**We can conquer as
“faithful **skeptics**”**

- full of faith in God and His Christ
- skeptics of blasphemous claims and counterfeit faiths

READ SLIDE

-- It will take faith toward God and His Christ, and skepticism toward the world, the devil, and even our own flesh.

TR: But, the question of the day remains . . .

Will we conquer or cave?



READ SLIDE

-- Will we come out from under the bed?
-- Or will we be like -- story of Florida deputy who was uniformed and armed, arrived within one minute of reported shooting, but stayed outside in a defensive posture. He never went in. He caved!

TR: For all the questions that we may not be able to answer from the book of Revelation, don't miss what Jesus had John underline and highlight . . .

If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰If 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.**

ESV

This chapter is a call for our endurance and faith.

TR: This chapter is a call . . .

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.

ESV

. . . for wisdom.

-- Whether in the 1st century, the last 3 ½ years before Jesus' return, or now . . .

-- . . . we need endurance, faith, and wisdom.

TR: Will we conquer or cave? Do we have what it takes? We don't . . . not in ourselves.

Will we conquer or cave?

In Christ, we can do this!
*Don't hide under the bed
anymore.*

If we have asked Christ to be our Savior, we have received the Holy Spirit.

-- God has written our name in the Lamb's book of life.

-- He Who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.

-- The key is walking in step daily with the Spirit with Whom we have been sealed.

-- God hasn't given us the book of Revelation in order for us to hide under the bed.

-- He has given it to us to call us to endurance and faith, having wisdom as we look with skepticism at what the world throws at us.

-- Through Christ, everyone of who are truly sealed by God will prevail . . . we will conquer, this week and in the last 3 ½ years if that is what God calls us to do.

TR: With confidence we can say with the Apostle Paul, as he faced death at the hands of Nero . . .

2 Timothy 4:18

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SAFELY HOME

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- In Christ, we can and we will make it “safely home.”