



Date: 10-04-2026

Who Gets Your Worship?

What You Love and How You Live Reveal Whom You Serve

Text: Revelation 13

1. The First Beast

Revelation 13:1-10 (NLT)

1 Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. 2 This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority. 3 I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery--but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. 4 They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. "Who is as great as the beast?" they exclaimed. "Who is able to fight against him?" 5 Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever

he wanted for forty-two months. 6 And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his dwelling--that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. 8 And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made. 9 Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand. 10 Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.

The _____ to allegiance to Christ is allegiance to the world.

Notes:

1. The Second Beast

Revelation 13:11-18 (NLT)

11 Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. 12 He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. 13 He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. 14 And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. 15 He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die. 16 He required everyone--small and great, rich and poor, free and slave--to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. 17 And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. 18 Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

Our _____ is revealed in our innermost person and in what we do.

Notes:

Close: Who Gets Your Worship?

What we love and how we live reveal whom we serve.

So how do we respond?

- 1. Examine what has your heart.**
- 2. Test the voices you follow.**
- 3. Make your allegiance visible through obedience.**
- 4. Endure by keeping your eyes on the Lamb.**

So before we leave, ask yourself:

Who gets your worship? Jesus is worthy of your heart, your obedience, and your whole life.

Life Group Questions — Revelation 13

1. Get to Know You

If our group entered a talent show where ordinary talents were banned, what ridiculous or oddly specific talent could you contribute to help us win?

2. Digging Deeper

Read Revelation 13:1–18. How do the two beasts use power, deception, and pressure to draw people's worship away from God? How would the call to endurance and faithfulness in verse 10 have helped the first Christians when following Jesus could cost them their livelihood or their lives?

3. Application

Which of these four actions do you most need to practice right now: Examine Your Heart, Test the Voices You Follow, Make Your Allegiance Visible, or Endure with Your Eyes on the Lamb? Why? What is one specific step you can take this week?

Expanded Notes:

Revelation 13: The Futurist / Dispensationalist View

The futurist approach understands Revelation 13 as describing events that will reach their fulfillment shortly before Christ's return. In its common dispensationalist form, the chapter portrays a future alliance of political power and religious deception that demands worldwide allegiance.

The **beast from the sea (13:1–10)** represents the Antichrist and his empire, empowered by Satan. The **beast from the earth (13:11–18)**, identified later as the false prophet, uses miraculous signs to promote worship of the first beast. Together, they enforce loyalty through persecution and restrictions on buying and selling.

Additional notes

- **Futurism and dispensationalism are related but distinct.** Futurism places these events in the future. Dispensationalism adds a broader framework distinguishing Israel and the church; its common pretribulational form places the church's rapture before the tribulation. Not every futurist accepts that framework.
- **The forty-two months:** Dispensationalists generally understand this as a literal three-and-a-half-year period, usually the second half of a seven-year tribulation. The seven-year framework comes from connecting Revelation with Daniel 9:27; Revelation 13 itself specifies forty-two months.
- **The healed wound:** Futurist explanations vary. Some understand it as the ruler's apparent death and recovery; others connect it with the revival of an empire, often identified with Rome.
- **The mark and 666:** These are commonly understood as a future, concrete means of identifying allegiance to the beast and controlling commerce. The passage does not specify a modern technology, and

identifying the number with a present-day person remains speculative.

The chapter's practical emphasis is faithful endurance: believers must resist deceptive worship and remain loyal to Christ under pressure (Revelation 13:10).