

LEARNING TO INTERPRET REVELATION

Rev. 13:11-18

Introduction: Revelation 13 is one of those places in this mysterious book that many people throw up their hands and exclaim, "Who can know what this means?" But we have seen that there is no reason for such despair. Certainly, if a person just opens their Bible to this chapter and begins to read, without having read hardly any of the rest of the Word of God, and if they have not learned some of the principle steps of understanding Scripture, such as reading the context and letting other Scriptures explain Scripture, they will indeed be clueless.

But when we read God's Word as was intended, and take each part one step at a time, learning to let other passages of Scripture guide us through present passages we are studying, the task of understanding is not burdensome. Neither does it require a seminary degree. God's Word is for _____ of us. If we will commit to being _____ students of the Word, we can _____ what the Lord is saying to us.

We spent two weeks applying the principles of interpretation to the first half of Rev. 13. Because of its importance, and because it will aid us in understanding the second half of the chapter, let's review the things we have learned that John saw in chapter 12 and 13.

I. THE WORLD WILL BE DOMINATED BY THE UNHOLY _____.

A. The Dragon - _____ - is ultimately behind it all. (12:7-17)

1. Satan is now on the _____ "full time." (12:7-9)

Revelation 12:12 "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

B. The Beast from the Sea is the _____. (13:1-10)

1. He has consolidated his control of world power.

Revelation 13:1-2 1 Then I 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.

2. He has received his power, political control, and authority from the _____.
3. The people of the earth are in awe of him because of a psuedo-_____.

Revelation 13:3-4 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

4. He blasphemes the Father and _____ himself in the place of Christ.

Revelation 13:5-6 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6

Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

5. He makes war on the _____.

Revelation 13:7 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.

6. He seeks and receives the adoration and worship of all the lost people on the face of the earth. Only the _____ refuse.

Revelation 13:8 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.

Before we finish our outline with the third member of the unholy trinity, we need to do our homework to study through Rev. 13:11-18.

Revelation 13:11–18 *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. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth— by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

18 *Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.*

Let’s just go through this passage verse by verse, and try letting the _____ sense make sense.

<p>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.</p>	<p>The second beast came up out of the earth. He looked like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. He is trying to _____ the Lamb of God, but only has two horns instead of _____ as Christ the Lamb did in the throne room. But he is not like the Lamb on the _____. When he speaks he sounds like the dragon, the devil.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>He works by the _____ of the antichrist and his purpose is to cause people to _____ the one who would substitute himself in the place of the Savior.</p>
<p>13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.</p>	<p>He is allowed to perform signs, _____, even calling down fire from heaven, reminding us that not everything supernatural is _____.</p>

<p>14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth— by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.</p>	<p>Men, impressed by the signs, are _____. He leads them to make an _____ of the antichrist so that it may be worshipped.</p>
<p>15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.</p>	<p>Then he uses his miraculous power to give _____ or some semblance of life to the image so that it can both _____ (communicate) and cause those who refuse to worship it to be killed.</p>
<p>16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,</p>	<p>This beast from the earth, obviously a man, forces everyone to receive a _____ on either their right hand or forehead.</p>
<p>17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.</p>	<p>This mark will be necessary to participate in the _____ of the antichrist's world government. It is easy for us in this day to understand how such a mark can be a code that is necessary for any financial transaction.</p>
<p>18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.</p>	<p>There are many _____ as to how the number of the antichrist – 666 will appear. We are not told, but people who live in that place and time will understand. They will not take the mark _____. It will be clear.</p>

This beast who rises out of the earth completes the unholy trinity which will rule the earth for the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation. This beast is later also given the title The _____ Prophet (Rev. 16:13, 19:20, 20:10)

C. The Beast from the Earth - the False Prophet (13:11-18)