

## Revelation 13: 1-10

- A. The Sea Beast 13:1-2
  - 1. Sea Beast recalls Daniel 7:3-8
  - 2. 10 horns, 7 heads—suprahuman mentor, another beast—Psalm 74:14
  - 3. Blasphemes God and the saints in Rev 13:6
  - 4. vv. 1-7 mirror Dan. 7:2ff; new info in following verses.
  
- B. Nero Strikes Again? 13:3
  - 1. Nero—Roman emperor; 37 AD—68 AD.
  - 2. Persecutor of Christians (Paul and Peter); burned the Christians alive; war with Jews.
  - 3. False Nero phenomenon.
  - 4. Mortal blow to the head has healed v. 3
  - 5. Not literal return of Nero from the dead—but the final Antichrist figure will be like Nero, just as John the Baptist was another Elijah.
  
- C. The Dragon, the Beast, and the Lamb 13:4-10
  - 1. Contrast between the Beast and the Lamb
  - 2. Return from death—parody on Jesus, contrast 10 horned beast with the seven horned Lamb Rev. 5:6, Worship the emperor and the beast.
  - 3. Impressed by the resurrection (DECEPTION)
  - 4. Beast blasphemes and slanders the name of God and those who follow Him.
  - 5. The Beast was given power and authority in vv. 13:5,7
  - 6. The Devil is the immediate source of the beast's authority 13:2,4 just as other evil partners share their authority (13:12, 17:13).
  - 7. Authority is limited for 42 months.
  - 8. Patient endurance of the saints.
  
- 1. Many Antichrists.
  - a. Nero; Stalin; Hitler; Sadaam; Hussein, Osama bin Laden; etc....
  - b. Because Satan does not know the time of Jesus' return, he must always have antichrists waiting—until the last one is standing and Christ comes and wipes them out. Until then, the spirit of lawlessness continues in the world (II Thessalonians 2:7) and we continue to experience many antichrists (1 John 2:18).
  
- 2. Is armed resistance permissible?
  - a. 13:10 warns against armed resistance; point is taken to prohibit Christians who are *persecuted as Christians* from retaliation—but does not address participation in revolutionary movements that are not specifically Christian.
  - b. Just-war theory; Great Commandment; Dietrich Bonehoffer (Nazi Germany)
  
- 3. How the devil works.
  - a. The frequent denial of the devil in the Western world is less rational than it pretends to be.
  - b. Multiculturalism—“politically correct” to tolerate everything.