

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Revelation 13:1-6

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Revelation 13:1-6 aloud.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

[1] And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea,
having ten horns and seven heads,
and on his horns were ten diadems,
and on his heads were blasphemous names.

[2] And the beast which I saw was like a leopard,
and his feet were like those of a bear,
and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.

And the dragon gave him his power
and his throne
and great authority.

[3] I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain,
and his fatal wound was healed.

And the whole earth was amazed
and followed after the beast;

[4] they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast;
and they worshiped the beast, saying,
“Who is like the beast,
and who is able to wage war with him?”

[5] There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words
and blasphemies,
and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

[6] And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God,
to blaspheme His name
and His tabernacle,
that is, those who dwell in heaven.

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1. After reading the passage aloud, and before diagramming/structuring the passage or reviewing the provided block diagram, attempt to summarize the sequence of events as best as you can from memory. Once you've tried it from memory, go back and check. What did you miss? What did you get right? What details stood out to you as primary and easier to remember?
2. Some versions of the Bible place the sentence "And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore" as the last sentence of Revelation 12:18, rather than at the beginning of 13:1. Based on your observation of the text of 13:1, in context with what we have seen so far, why might some Bible editors consider this sentence as belonging in Chapter 12, rather than Chapter 13?
3. In Revelation 12:9, the dragon is identified as Satan. 12 more times throughout Revelation, as well as in Nehemiah 2:13, Isaiah 27:1, and Isaiah 51:9 (NASB95), the word "dragon" is used. Think through what we have learned regarding hermeneutics and Biblical interpretation: is every use of the word "dragon" in the NASB95 a reference to Satan? Why or why not?
4. In Revelation 11:7, we find a mention of a beast. What similarities and differences can we glean from a side-by-side comparison with the beast in 13:1-6?
5. Is the beast in Revelation 11:7 the same as the beast in 13:1-6? Why, or why not? How might what we have seen so far in John's writing style and the development of the Book of Revelation influence your perspective, either way?

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6. In 13:2 and 13:5, we see that the beast receives five things. What are they?
7. In 13:2 and 13:5, what is different about the sources of the five things that the beast is given? In light of what we have previously seen, is this distinction significant?

❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 13:1-6 again.

8. Overall, is this passage in 13:1 literal or figurative?
9. Some commentators suggest that the sea from which the beast arises is an allegory for “the mass of humanity.” Do we have the liberty to apply our own representative ideas to the text? What reasons does the text provide us for understanding this one way or another?
10. This beast is described as coming from the abyss in Revelation 11:7, and in 13:1 he is identified as coming from the sea. Is there a contradiction here? Read Deuteronomy 30:13 and Paul’s citation of that verse in Romans 10:7. How might Deuteronomy 30:13 and Romans 10:7 shed light on the origination of the beast in Revelation 11:7 and 13:1?

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11. In Revelation 13:1, “diadem” is not a common word in modern English. Use biblegateway.com or blueletterbible.org to compare different versions. What other words are used in English to refer to these?
12. In reading Revelation 13:1 and the description of the seven heads, ten horns, ten diadems, and blasphemous names, what is unexpected about the placement of the diadems?
13. These “diadems” which the beast wears on its horns are derived from the Greek διάδημα/diadēma, which relates to “ruling authority”, rather than στέφανος/stephanos, a crown of victory or award. How does this specificity of word usage inform us about the rule that the beast has?
14. The description of the beast has some overlap with the description of the dragon in Revelation 12:3. What elements are the same? What details are different between these two descriptions?

❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 13:1-6 again.

15. How do the descriptions of Daniel 7:3-7 match up with the component parts of the beast in Revelation 13:2?
16. The beast is given authority to act for 42 months. Where else have we seen this reference to 42 months—and should this time period be understood literally or figuratively?

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17. In 13:5, what are the two characteristics of the beast's speech? What is the difference between them?
18. The beast—previously identified as the antichrist—is not just *against Christ*. He would also appear to be a counterfeit Christ. What descriptors in this passage demonstrate parallels to Christ, as previously described in Revelation?
19. Considering God's perfect, authoritative revelation (2 Timothy 3:16-17), how can we submit to what God has revealed in this passage?
20. Personal Application: How should this passage reassure us and cause us to act?
21. Summarize this passage in 21 words or less.