

The Great Reversal | A Series through Revelation

Earthly Battle

Text: Revelation 13-14:13

Synopsis: That cosmic battle manifests itself in military and economic power. Babylon is the beast that shows up in every history. All secular powers eventually become Babylon.

Twist: 666 is not a stamp but an allegiance to the power of Babylon. The church resists!

**The cosmic battle manifests itself in real time (based on imagery from Daniel 7-12)
Two beasts powered by the dragon (Satan). These beasts are earthly idols of power.**

Beast #1 Rev 13: 1-4

Military power--this beast conquers through violence.

1. Global: war, violence, force
2. Personal: coercion + manipulation + control

Beast #2 Rev 13: 11-15

Economic power--this beast conquers through wealth and power

1. Global: profit (e.g., social dilemma)
2. Personal: getting things done eclipses relationship, integrity, greater good

The cosmic battle manifests itself in military and economic power.

- 2nd Beast represents what we want for our own selfish gain
- 1st Beast represents the force we need to take it for ourselves
Our environment demands allegiance to these "beasts."

The way we follow the beasts Revelation 13: 16-18

- The nations *become* beasts when they exalt their own power and economic security as a false god and demand total allegiance.
- All secular powers become Babylon. Even ours.
- Taking the mark of the beast is bestowing allegiance to any entity, ideology, country, party, or platform other than Jesus Christ and his church.
- We are called to trust in a different way of power

The slain Lamb and his army stand in the way Revelation 14:1

- A reversal of Babylon's methodology.
- Instead of looking to power and wealth, we trust in the slain Lamb, and imitate Him.

Choose who you will follow Revelation 14:6-13

God or beast?

Come out of Babylon! How?

1. Become as familiar with Jesus as you are with politics
2. Belong to a local expression of the faith (church)
3. Embrace the tension--you will never fit in nicely down here (that's OK)
 - a. We navigate it together