**Lesson X**

**Revelation Chapter 13**

**The Enemy**

**INTRODUCTION:** In this chapter, we will discover two principal ways in which Satan wages war against the church.

1. **HE WAGES WAR THROUGH WORLD POWER (13:1-10)**
2. (vss. 1-3) A description of the beast.
3. Ten horns –
4. Seven heads –
5. Ten diadems –
6. Blasphemous names –
7. The source of his power
8. (vs. 2) See Daniel 7:17-20, 23, 24, 27, 28
9. The fourth beast is probably the Roman Empire.
10. Earlier in Daniel 7, he speaks of the characteristics of the lion, bear, and leopard as descriptive of the world powers.
11. The whole scene is to help the reader understand that the enemy of the church is threatening and horrible.
12. (vs. 3) The healing of the death—stroke
13. When Christ was victorious over death, he gave the death—stroke to world power.
14. However, world power continues to exist in spite of its fatal wound.
15. People are amazed and follow after the beast because world power is very persuasive and threatening. It is convincing and at times very attractive.
16. (vs. 4) Further response of the people.
17. To worship the beast is to worship Satan.
18. Descriptive of Caesar worship in John’s day.
19. The power of the beast is so convincing that people ask, “Who can war against the beast?”

1. The Power and Activity Of the Beast (vss. 5-8)
2. (vs. 5)
3. His purpose is to tear down the acts of God.
4. His period of activity is forty-two months— the Christian era, (see comments on 11:2, 3)

1. (vs. 6) Blasphemies spoken against God and His people.
2. (vs. 7) The apparent destruction of the church. (See comments on 11:8, 9)
3. (vs. 8)
4. Do not be surprised by the great number who worship the beast (Matthew 7:13).
5. All whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will worship the beast.

“It may prove to be a startling revelation to someday see the difference between God’s record and the local church membership records on earth.”

Glenn Bourne, Tower of Truth, p. 133.

1. An Appeal to Give Heed (vss. 9-10). The meeting of verse ten is that the Christian can expect persecution. In this the Christian must show perseverance.
2. **HE WAGES WAR THROUGH FALSE RELIGIONS (VSS. 11-18)**
3. (vs. 11)
4. The appearing of another beast.
5. His description. (See Matthew 7:15 and Revelation 19:20)
6. (vs. 12)
7. A definite relationship is shown between Satan’s power and Satanic religion.
8. The priests of the emperor cult in John’s day served the emperor and the empire by bringing people to worship the emperor
9. (vs. 13)
10. Matthew 12:24
11. The devil does a good job of imitating the miraculous.
12. (vs. 14)
13. See Deuteronomy 13:1-4
14. “An image of the beast” may refer to a painting, the imprint on a coin, a bust of stone, or any likeness before which the people could bow.
15. (vs. 15)
16. In John’s day, the image of the emperor contained again “the genius” of the emperor.
17. To refused to bow to it meant certain death.
18. (vss. 16-17)
19. The result in John’s day of failure to worship the emperor.
20. God’s people are ostracized.
21. The Christian is already sealed. (7:3)
22. (vs. 18) The Mark of the Beast.
23. God’s people are identified in Revelation with a number (144,000 in 7:4).
24. It is only appropriate that the non-Christians be identified with a number.
25. Why 666?
26. Six is the number of creation.
27. It falls short of the sacred and complete number seven.
28. Therefore, it is an appropriate number for those who fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
29. Three sixes make an unholy Trinity in opposition to God.

Note:

1. Beware of giving numerical values to the alphabet and coming up with names.
2. From early Christian history, interpreters have struggled with this verse. The variety of interpretations shows how little anyone can be trusted.
3. The best translation comes from the NIV. “The number of the beast is man’s number.”
4. This translation best carries the idea that characteristically man constantly falls short of God.
5. The false prophet as well as man falls short of God.
6. Nowhere does the text equate the beast with the antichrist. That is bad hermeneutics.