

By Land and By Sea

Text: Revelation 13

So What: A campaign of counterfeit holiness or anti-holiness is at hand. Only by knowing what true holiness is can a person differentiate and stand against it.

Solid messaging can sell a product

Burger King: Have it your way, Verizon: We never stop working for you

Dynamic person to spread the message helps too (Verizon guy, Jared with Subway)

In the book of Revelation, there are numerous takes a person could walk away with

Various opinions trying their best to read the text and figure out what is meant

Seem to step back in time in Revelation 12, solid argument that we're still there in 13

Recap:

- John receives a message from an angel, reporting for Jesus, reporting for God the Father to 7 churches in Asia Minor (present day Turkey)
- Calls to faithfulness from the 7 churches
- Scene at heaven's throne with symbolism of God's majesty and power, establishes His supremacy
- 7 seals unleashed with an interlude showing a remnant of Israel
- 7 trumpet judgments with an interlude showing two witnesses who die for their faith
- The Dragon (Satan) declares war on "the woman and her offspring"

Revelation 13:1-10

Parallels to Daniel 7 (vision of the 4 beasts, Ancient of Days) Slide is a graphic only, no text

Imagery of animals, yet acts as Dragon's minions, do his work, culmination of the beasts from Daniel 7

Is this a person? A kingdom? A general spirit? Answer: yes

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4: point to a person, who or when is not known

Mimics Jesus-is worshiped, attracts followers, looks to have recovered from a fatal wound, yet speaks against God and wages war on the followers

Verse 5-use of 42 months used in other parts of the Bible “a time and times and half a time,” could be literal timeline or just symbolic, overall it points to a limited time the beast has power

Revelation 13:11-18

Does wonders and works, but not based from heaven

Signs meant to be confirmation of his authority, false signs and authority

Verse 15-parallels to Daniel 3 with the statue of Nebuchadnezzar

Verses 16-17-Mark of the Beast, could be literal mark, it does reference back to the Shema (mimic of what is holy)

Deuteronomy 6:4-8-idea that God would permeate everything they do and say, Mark of the Beast would promote the same idea

Shema was not about just hearing but about a pledge of loyalty that resulted in actions

It was not a legalistic plan of action to earn divine favor, rather it was about a dynamic relationship with the God of the universe and responding to His guidance

Verse 18-666 being a number related to a person, scholars still not sure who that is, sign of falling short of perfection

Some have thought Nero, but Revelation was written roughly 30 years after his reign

So what: A campaign of counterfeit holiness or anti-holiness is at hand. Only by knowing what is true holiness can a person differentiate and stand against it.

Anti-Christ will provide false wonders and signs, False Prophet will provide cover for them

Orwell's 1984: use of propaganda to deceive the masses, used here with the Dragon too

Orwellian-twisting the meaning of words, perversion of what they really mean

Twisting of words and their meanings happening today, it did long before this

Call of the seven churches in chapters 1-3: Remain faithful to the cause of Christ (relates to the concept of the Shema)

Where Do We Go From Here

- Be well versed in God's Word and know what is true

- Be able to articulate what you believe and why
- Be wise, yet gentle in your approach (Matt. 10:16)
- Stay the course, even when pressure and hardships come (James 1:12, Rev. 21:5-7)

Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 2:4-9 (signal worship team to come up)

What will you help usher in: heaven on earth or a living hell