Revelation 13

The Beast from the Sea: verses 1-10

1. **Beasts in the Bible**
	1. Wild and evil
		1. Acts 28:3-5
	2. Can refer to evil people
		1. Titus 1:12
	3. Can be a form of God’s judgment
		1. 2 Kings 2:23,24
		2. Ezekiel 14:21
2. **Control of the beast**
	1. The dragon, i.e. the Devil, controls the best.
		1. The dragon conjures the beast up from the sea.
			1. The sea in the Bible often represents chaos and evil.
				1. Only God can control the sea.

Psalm 74:13,14

Matthew 8:26

* + - * 1. In Daniel 7 there are four beasts that come out of the sea.

The fourth terrorizes the saints of God.

1. **Description of the beast**
	1. Ten horns and seven heads
		1. The crowns are on the horns of the beast.
			1. The dragon wore the crowns on its 7 heads. This signifies again that the dragon is in control.
		2. The horns represent earthly power.
	2. The names/titles of blasphemy
		1. The beast shows contempt toward God and His people.
	3. The beast’s appearance
		1. This seems to be a composite of the four beasts from Daniel 7.
	4. The beast’s duration
		1. The beast will wage war for 42 months. This roughly corresponds to 1,260 days or 3 ½ years.
			1. We have already seen that this time frame represents the time between Christ’s ascension and His return.
2. **Identification of the Beast**
	1. Roman Empire
		1. When John wrote this letter the Roman Empire was the dominant power.
	2. Today
		1. The beast represents every human authority and everything of human nature that the beast can corrupt and control and use in his warfare against God and His church.
			1. The beast seeks to corrupt government, education, economics, philosophies, as well as individuals.
		2. The beast desires to be worshiped.
			1. Emperor worship in the early Christian church:
				1. Polycarp, who was a disciple of John, was told his life would be spared if he would just burn some incense before a statue of Caesar.

“Eighty and six years I served Christ, and he never did me any injury; how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?”

* 1. Spiritual warfare
		1. We must view this as spiritual warfare.
		2. We can enjoy victory even today, even through times of persecution because our names are written in the book of the life of the Lamb who was slain.
			1. The call today is for patience in faith in light of the beast’s attacks.