



-- **Big Idea: Institutionalized evil on earth calls for patient endurance of the saints.**

-- v. 1

- Though this beast is different from the devil, it is clearly satanic in origin.
- The beast is symbolic of the ungodly **GOVERNMENTS** and fallen **CULTURES** of earth.
- The agent responsible for the deaths of the most innocent lives, especially Christian martyrs, is the godless state.

-- v. 2

- John's vision draws upon and is dependent upon the vision given to Daniel in **DANIEL 7:2-7**
- The beast represents governing authorities that embody Satan's hatred, malice, unrighteousness, and woe.

-- v. 3

- The perpetual recurrence of institutionalized evil is one main explanation for the mortal **WOUND** that has been healed on the beast's head.
- Even while Satan often seems to have success in his war against God's people on earth, he himself is destined for destruction (Genesis 3:15).
- Repudiated evils keep coming back because the mortal wounds inflicted upon ungodliness are continually resurrected by governments, institutions, and cultures.

-- v. 4

- The inhabitants of the earth are continually captivated by the beast.
- Like the dragon (Satan) who gives it power, the beast has power only to **DESTROY**

-- v. 5

- In this church age, we are warned to watch out for the beast's **MOUTH**
- Words and ideas are the principal means by which Satan makes his attack.

-- v. 6

- Perhaps the most distinguishable characteristic of institutionalized evil is the **BLASPHEMY** it espouses against God and His people.
- Wherever hateful and blasphemous views of God are institutionalized and celebrated, there you find the satanic beast of Revelation 13.

-- v. 7

- The beast will pursue a diverse group of followers to fight against God's people and purposes on earth.

-- v. 8

- The redeemed in Christ will have power to resist the beast; but those who reject Jesus will embrace institutionalized evil.

-- v. 9-10

- A challenging word about the **PATHWAY** to the promise of victory in Christ (Acts 14:21-22)

Application

- 1.) Fight institutionalized evil, but don't **EXPECT** it to go away (1 Peter 4:12-14).
- 2.) Endure **HARDSHIP** and be patient, because victory is assured (Revelation 15:4).

-- Persecution from the beast is not punishment from God, but a **POSSIBILITY** to magnify His infinite worth through faithful endurance.