SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Revelation

Chapter 13

Two Beasts: The Great Counterfeit

MEMORY VERSE · REVELATION 13:10

"If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Revelation 13

This week we walk through the darkest chapter in Revelation — and find that even here God holds the leash. Revelation 13 asks every man the same question: whom will you follow when the crowd follows power? Read slowly, write honestly, and keep your eyes on the Lamb who was slain.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Revelation study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Beast Everyone Follows

READ · REVELATION 13:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three animals does the beast look like, and where do his power, his throne and his authority come from (v2)?

REFLECT

The whole earth "was amazed and followed after the beast" (v3). What impresses you most quickly — money, strength, a crowd — and how has following it worked out for you in the past?

REFLECT

The world asks, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" (v4). Michael's name means 'Who is like God?' How would you answer the world's question in your own words?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one "strong man" you once followed. Then thank Jesus out loud that His resurrection is real, not staged, and tell Him He is the One you choose to follow today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 13:10)

DAY 2 OF 5

On God's Leash

READ · REVELATION 13:5–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Underline every time verses 5–7 say something "was given" to the beast. What was given, and for how long (v5)?

REFLECT

The beast's authority was limited to forty-two months (v5). What fear or pressure in your life do you need to see as having an end date that God has already set?

REFLECT

Verse 8 says the dividing line is whose name is written "in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain." What does it mean to you that your security rests on what the Lamb did, not on how strong you are?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write your name in the margin beside verse 8 and thank God for writing it in His book. If you are not sure it is there, talk with your group leader about it this week.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 13:10)

DAY 3 OF 5

Ears to Hear

READ · REVELATION 13:9–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does verse 10 say is the mark of the saints when captivity and the sword come?

REFLECT

Verse 10 offers no escape by fighting back — only "the perseverance and the faith of the saints." Where are you tempted to fight a battle the world's way instead of enduring it God's way?

REFLECT

Perseverance means staying under the load. What does staying under the load one day at a time look like for you right now — in recovery, in your cell, at work or at home?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one hard thing you will not run from today. Pray: Lord, give me the perseverance and faith of Your saints — just for today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 13:10)

DAY 4 OF 5

Looks Like a Lamb

READ · REVELATION 13:11–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does the second beast look, and how does he talk (v11)? What does he make people do (vv12, 15)?

REFLECT

The second beast "had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon" (v11). When have you been fooled by someone who looked gentle but led you toward harm — and when have you been that person for someone else?

REFLECT

He even makes fire come down out of heaven (v13). Why is it dangerous to trust something just because it looks powerful or miraculous, and how can you test what you hear against God's Word?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read 1 John 4:1 and write it on a card. Before you follow any voice today, ask one question: does this point me to Jesus?

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 13:10)

DAY 5 OF 5

Whose Name Do I Wear?

READ · REVELATION 13:16–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Which groups of people does verse 16 list, and what can no one do without the mark (v17)?

REFLECT

The mark ties worship to buying and selling (v17). Where does your need for money, a job or approval quietly push against your loyalty to Christ?

REFLECT

Verse 18 says "the number is that of a man." How does it help you to remember that the beast, for all his wonders, is only a man — while Jesus is the risen Lord?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one small compromise you have been making to keep your standing or your paycheck. Bring it to Jesus, who already paid for it, and tell one brother you trust.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 13:10)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Which beast seems more dangerous to men today — the one with raw power (vv1–8) or the one who looks like a lamb (vv11–15)? Why?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Where did you practice "the perseverance and the faith of the saints" (v10) this week, and where did you struggle?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

God seals His servants (7:3) and the beast marks his (v16). What would the people closest to you say is stamped on your daily choices?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Lamb who was slain, keep me from bowing to whatever promises to feed me, and…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · REVELATION 13:10

"If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints."