

A stage with red curtains and spotlights. The stage is set with a wooden floor and a white archway. The red curtains are drawn back, revealing the stage. There are four spotlights on the floor, casting a warm glow. The text is centered on the stage.

Watching Revelation

The Two Beasts

Rev. 13

Stage Shift from Heaven to the Earth

**Chapter 12 concluded with the
Dragon making war on the earth**



Interpretation



Picture



Principles



Practice

Revelation 13 - Picture

- Where is the dragon at the beginning of Chapter 13?
- What comes from the sea?
- Describe the beast from the sea.
- Is a similar beast described elsewhere in the Bible?



Revelation 13 – Picture the Sea Beast

- Similar to Daniel 7
- Repeated use of “authority” (vs. 2, 4, 5, 7, 12)
- Emperors – Lord, Savior, Our Lord and God
- Satan uses political, military, and economic influence
- Beast mortally wounded, but healed – only the Lamb can overcome the beast (19:20)



Revelation 13 - Picture

- The whole world worships the Dragon because he gave power to the beast
- Beast utters proud words and blasphemes God for 42 months
- Cannot worship the beast and have your name in the book of life (Ex. 32:32-33)
- A call for endurance

Revelation 13 – Picture the Earth Beast

- Counterfeit lamb – speaks like the Dragon (Mt. 7:15-20)
- A false prophet leading the earth in worship of the first beast (16:13, 19:20, 20:10)
- Deceiving the world to practice idolatry (images of emperors)
- Gives breath to the image which slays any who refuse to worship
- Marks followers
- Number of the man is 666



Principles - What Are the Underlying Lessons?

- Your government, your school, your job, your media can be hijacked for evil purposes
- Christians are to submit right up to the point of disobeying God
- We must “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29)
- We can only worship God (not images, governments, creation, or philosophies)



Principles - What Are the Underlying Lessons?

- God and the Dragon mark their followers – marks portray a person's commitments and loyalties
- Our ethical choices and objects of worship determine who has marked us
- Beware the counterfeit “lambs”



Practice – How Do We Apply This?

- Recognize that Satan is a humbug
- Conquer evil by following Jesus' example of suffering
- Sometimes evil is hard to discern
- Be careful what you worship (American "Idol")

