

CMPC Sermon Notes

Series: *Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*

Text: *Revelation 13.1-10*

Message: *Triumph of the Beast*

Who is the Beast? 1-2

- Ten horns with ten diadems (crowns), seven heads: extraordinary power and authority
- Receives this power and authority from the Dragon who also had seven heads (with crowns on the head) and ten horns
 - Some see this beast as an individual, comparing him to Paul's anti-Christ.
 - More probably represents a human kingdom
 - The sea itself as a symbol of the state – cf. Isaiah 17.12
 - Its reference point is Rome, but applies to all evil governments throughout history
 - Comes out of the sea like a leopard with feet like a bears and a mouth like a lion's. Cf. Daniel 7. It is a combination of all earthly kingdoms

The World's Worship 3-6

- The Dragon... and the Beast
 - A mortal wound
 - Some say Nero- a tradition he would return
 - But if Revelation is written in the 90's, that would be forgotten
 - More likely, it represents the demise of earthly kingdoms, yet they keep coming back
- A marveling world: worship, 4
 - Astonished by the recovery, people will follow the beast and the hope of the kingdom of this world.
 - In a parody of Christ's resurrection, the kingdom resurrects itself.
- The dragon is worshiped for granting authority to the beast
 - The beast is worshiped for his "resurrection"
 - Since the beast is a winner, he is worshiped
 - "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against him" is a parody of Exodus 15.11, Psalm 35.10
- Blasphemy, 5-6
- The beast is given a mouth and authority for 42 months.
 - Go back to Daniel 7.8,11,20
 - Seven blasphemous names- Roman emperors blasphemously claimed deity with Lord, Son of God, Savior
 - Points to the statements pagan governments make... their slogans and creeds
 - Caesar as "lord and god"
- In imitation of God giving authority to his son
 - God allows this
 - God's motivations are not like Satan's;
 - Satan wants to replace God
 - Like Antiochus Epiphanes IV
- 3 ½ years: the whole time between Jesus' ascension and second coming
- Haughty and blasphemous words
 - Blasphemy is ridiculing anything that is holy
 - Focus is on the blasphemy of God and his name, cf. Daniel 7.25

- God's names reveal who he is
- Blaspheming God's created order
 - The current explosion of STD's and HIV
 - The physical mutilation and hormonal destruction of confused children
- The claim that men can have babies
- Uphold the death of the innocent instead of the sanctity of life
- Practice immortality instead of living moral and righteous lives

"We shall soon be in a world in which a man may be howled down for saying that two and two make four, in which furious party cries will be raised against anybody who says that cows have horns, in which people will persecute the heresy of calling a triangle a three-sided figure, and hang a man for maddening mob with the news that grass is green." GK Chesterton

- Also on the dwelling, literally tent/tabernacle
 - God's dwelling place in the midst of his people
 - Immanuel principle parodied: God's desire to dwell in the midst of his people
 - Those who dwell in heaven: those who tent in heaven
 - In blaspheming God's people, he blasphemes those whose citizenship is in heaven, cf. Philippians 3.20
 - Satan desires to dwell

The Beast's War against the Saints, 7

- The saints on earth are one with the saints already in heaven; yet the beast can only touch those on earth
 - Opposes God and his people: he hates anything and anyone devoted to God
 - To conquer, cf. Daniel 7.21; also Reve 11.7
- The cry of the martyrs
 - But wait: you said...
- Authority parody
- He will be worshiped
 - The desire to worship the kingdom of this world
 - "All who dwell on the earth" is a technical term in Revelation for unbelievers.
 - Believers are not worshipping the beast- whoever's name is in the Lamb who slain's book of life.
 - The Lamb's Book of Life- written before the foundation of the world, cf. 17.8
 - (some: Jesus crucified before the foundation of the world)
- Verse 9 takes us back to chapters 2 and 3
 - Hence, we learn in advance about the beast's authority, persecutions and slayings of believers.
- When the world worships the beast, we must be ready, cf. Jer 15.2 with verse 10
 - While Jeremiah was warning unbelievers, John is preparing believers
 - For persecution, captivity and for death
 - Does not mean the Lord has lost control; he will ultimately protect

So What About Us?

- The Call to Endure and Believe
- Toughness...
- Faith
- The seeming triumph...