**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Beware the Beast |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Revelation 13:1-18 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2177 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Only God can prophesy.
      1. Even when God inspires others, it is really God doing the prophecy.
      2. Men can be foolish when they try to look into the future.
   2. Isaiah 46:9-10
   3. The Bible is the one book that can tell us the future.
   4. The Scriptures tell of an individual, malevolent dictator who is yet to come.
   5. This arch-criminal has many aliases.
      1. He is known as the beast.
      2. He is known as the antichrist.
      3. He is known as the son of perdition.
      4. He is known as the man of sin.
      5. He is known as the little horn.
   6. Though this arch-criminal has many aliases, he has but one heart and one mind.
   7. In today’s Scripture passage, he is called the beast.
      1. Revelation 13:1-12
         1. The word “seat” in verse 2 of this passage means “throne.”
   8. Today’s message will focus on five specific things as we study about this beast.
2. The social agitation that delivers the beast (revelation 13:1)
   1. Revelation 13:1
      1. The beast comes up out of the sea.
   2. The sea represents society in turmoil.
      1. This is society in agitation and in distress.
   3. The Bible teaches that the wicked people of this world are like the troubled sea.
      1. Isaiah 57:20-21
   4. Revelation 17:15
      1. There is a seething sea of distress and agitation that is going to deliver to this world a beast.
   5. We see in our world today a rise in the occult, earthquakes, worldwide famines, natural disasters, and political intrigue.
      1. It is out of this seething sea that the beast is going to come.
      2. Perilous times will produce the beast.
      3. Historian Arnold Toynbee said that when the world has distress, economic problems and technology, that we are then ripe to produce a new Caesar (which refers to the antichrist).
3. the satanic attributes that describe the beast (revelation 13:1-2)
   1. Revelation 13:1-2
   2. The devil is the father of the beast.
      1. Like father, like son.
         1. The beast is described very much like the devil himself.
   3. Revelation 12:3
      1. The devil is described in this passage.
         1. The beast in Revelation 13 is described the same way.
      2. This dragon is the devil.
         1. Revelation 12:9
   4. The devil spawns this beast of a man.
      1. 2 Thessalonians 2:9
   5. Jesus, who is God in flesh, could say, “*He that hath seen Me hath seen My Father*.”
      1. John 14:9
      2. The beast, who will be Satan in the flesh, will be able to say, “He that hath seen me hath seen my father.”
      3. The beast will be the visible expression of the invisible devil.
   6. The beast will be a composite of all of the dictators and the great regimes of the past.
      1. Revelation 13:2
         1. The lion represents the ungodly rulers of Babylon.
            1. He will have the regal bearing of a lion, but also the ravenous mouth of a lion.
         2. The bear represents the ancient empire of Medo-Persia.
            1. He will have the strength of a bear whose claws grasp and shred.
         3. The leopard represents the Grecian empire under Alexander the Great.
            1. To spread with rapidity.
      2. He will inherit all the beastly characteristics of these former kingdoms.
         1. He will be a composite of the Nebuchadnezzars, the Caesars, the Napoleons, the Hitlers, and the Stalins, all melded into one.
   7. He will be a beastly creature, and the world will receive him.
      1. John 5:43
      2. The people will reject the Lamb; and they will embrace the beast, who is like a lion, a bear and a leopard.
4. the seductive appeal that disguises the beast (revelation 13:3-4)
   1. One would think that if he is a beast, then everyone would be afraid of him.
      1. But people will not be afraid of him because he will be disguised.
   2. When the Bible speaks of his beastly characteristics, it is referring to his nature, not his appearance.
      1. Satan himself often is transformed as an angel of light.
         1. 2 Corinthians 11:14
   3. This man will be very appealing in the eyes of the world.
      1. He will be followed with admiration.
         1. Revelation 13:3-4
            1. “Wondered after the beast” literally means that they followed him with admiration.
      2. Don’t think of him as hideous.
         1. He will be handsome, charming, clever and greatly intelligent.
         2. He will be a global charmer.
      3. One of the reasons for his popularity will be his resuscitation.
         1. Somehow, he will be wounded and will appear to come back to life.
         2. This will be Satan’s imitation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
         3. This will be a false miracle, and the world will fall at the feet of this false messiah.
            1. John 5:43
   4. The whole world will marvel after this man who disguises himself as a man of peace.
      1. Daniel 8:25
5. the sinister ambitions that drive the beast (revelation 13:4-10)
   1. Jesus came “to seek and to save that which is lost.”
      1. Luke 19:10
   2. What are the ambitions of the beast?
      1. To deify Satan.
         1. Revelation 13:4
         2. Satan has always had the burning ambition to be worshipped.
            1. He wants to cause all the world to worship him.
            2. The closer we get to the antichrist, the more we will see of open, blatant devil worship and Satanism in our society.
      2. To defy the Savior.
         1. Revelation 13:5-6
         2. Satan cannot touch the saints in Heaven, so he is reduced to name calling.
         3. He will belch forth blasphemies with burning eloquence to turn people away from God, and they will believe his lies.
         4. “Antichrist” means “against Christ” and “instead of Christ.”
      3. To destroy the saints.
         1. Revelation 13:7
         2. The beast will want every true believer in Jesus Christ destroyed.
         3. The tribulation saints (who will be on Earth after the church is raptured out) will face the guillotine, firing squads, gas chambers, concentration camps, torture and terror.
            1. This will be the devil’s last fling against the people of God.
      4. To dominate society.
         1. Revelation 13:7
            1. He will have global control.
         2. He will unify the people of this world.
            1. He will dazzle some with his miracles, and he will brow-beat others.
         3. It will be a regime of war and intimidation, but all of the world will worship the beast.
      5. To delude sinners.
         1. He wants to keep them condemned and doomed.
         2. Revelation 13:8-10
         3. He is the devil’s messiah.
6. the supporting agent that declares the beast (revelation 13:11-18)
   1. The beast will have a sinister minister of propaganda who will present him to the whole world.
      1. Revelation 13:11
         1. “Two horns like a lamb” shows us that he imitates Jesus, but he speaks as a dragon.
         2. He is satanic in his motivation.
      2. He will be a propaganda agent for the first beast.
      3. He will look like a lamb, but he will speak like a dragon.
         1. He has the voice of Satan.
   2. There is an unholy trinity.
      1. The devil always mimics God.
      2. The holy Trinity consists of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
      3. The unholy trinity consists of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet.
   3. The false prophet will be to the beast what the Holy Spirit is to Jesus Christ.
      1. The Holy Spirit causes people to admire, to worship and to glorify Jesus.
      2. The false prophet will cause people to admire, worship and glorify the beast and his father, the devil.
   4. In order to cause the world to worship the beast, this minister of propaganda will have three major weapons in his arsenal.
      1. The fire
         1. Revelation 13:13
         2. He will be able to set the heavens ablaze.
            1. Perhaps this will be a nuclear explosion in the atmosphere or some classic miracle.
      2. The image
         1. Revelation 13:14-15
         2. This is an image that can speak.
         3. This may be virtual reality, but it will not be virtuous reality.
      3. The mark
         1. Revelation 13:16-18
         2. If you are not sealed by the Spirit, then you will be branded by the beast.
         3. Everybody will be forced to take a mark in order to do commerce.
            1. We are headed to a cashless society.
            2. Rather than carrying a credit card or cash or getting a paycheck, people will take a mark.
            3. No seal, no sale.
         4. This mark, 666, is the number of a man.
            1. Man was created on the sixth day.
            2. Seven is the number of perfection.

Man is not perfect, so he is a six.

* + - * 1. There are three sixes.

Three is the number for God.

Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

With three sixes, we have man making himself God.

* 1. We may not be exactly certain what the fire, the image and the mark will be, but we do have clues.
     1. We already have microchip technology today.
  2. The world will become a vast concentration camp with all of the inmates numbered.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. The apostle John saw a roiling sea.
      1. Out of that sea, which represents the distress of the nations, he saw a beast come forth.
   2. Out of the turmoil, societies will unravel.
   3. There is going to rise another Caesar, who will be the devil’s messiah.
      1. Matthew 4:8-10
      2. He will be appointed and anointed by Satan, who will give him great authority.
      3. He will want to cause the world to worship the devil.
      4. He will want to deify himself.
         1. He will sit in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.
         2. He will burn with hatred against the people of God and the things of God.
      5. He will have a sinister minister of propaganda.
         1. The false prophet – who by causing fire in the heavens, by causing an image that speaks, and by controlling the world’s commerce – will bring the entire world to the feet of this beast.
   4. Don’t think that this could only happen at some distant date in the future.
      1. It could happen next week.
      2. Jesus may come today.
      3. Jesus is coming, and we need to be ready.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16