

Glimpses of evil, then & now
Revelation 13

Canon City EFC

2-11-18

MAIN IDEA: The threat of deception and unfaithfulness is more subtle today but no less real.
We must choose to trust the true Savior, whatever the cost

SUPPORTING IDEAS:

Servants of dragon appears now

Predatorial nature, 1-2, cf. Daniel 7)

Comes out of **the sea**, v.1, in ancient world, seen as source of mystery, chaos, prompting fear

Beast-like nature of these in rebellion against God

Great power & authority

1. *It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them.*
2. *it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.*
3. Ability to defy / demean the one true God, v.5-6
4. Even an pseudo resurrection ("*seemed*") – repeated 3 times in chap 13; again in chap 17
5. Ability to deceive: - "*Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?*" futile to resist:
& the 2nd beast, the servant of the dragon's servant, also has great power & deceives, 13-14
a forced choice of worship

What will come to a head in those final days, is at work now,

1 Jn. 2:18 the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come.

1 Jn. 4:3 the spirit of the antichrist . . . even now is already in the world

II Thess. 2.6-7 *man of lawlessness" will be revealed, but secret power of lawlessness already at work*
same threats, if less obvious, less extreme - in one sense, more subtle, more deceptive

Beast will force a choice

But a choice is required now

This calls for *EARS TO HEAR*, v.3 *whoever has ears, let them hear*. THIS HAS TO BE US

God is speaking ['revelation'] – question: are we listening?

To hear what the world around us is deaf to

To recognize the reality behind the deception Who's at work; What's at stake

God's authority: beast "is given authority, v.5

God's time when God's enemies are given room to do their worst (11.2; 13.5)

when God protects His servants (11.3; 12.6 & 14)

This calls for PATIENT ENDURANCE, FAITHFULNESS Will I trust God in suffering?

This calls for WISDOM, v.18 Danger of deception – only protection – knowing Christ, v.8

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION

What is the greatest threat from antichrist & the false prophet for God's people? What is gained by bowing to him? What is lost?

Read II Thess. 2.6-7 & I Jn. 2.18 & 4.3. why is the threat of antichrist not just for the final generation? In what way is the threat greater in our culture?

A choice will be forced in that final era, 15-17. How is choice required today?

How do we avoid deception? How do we find strength against fear?