

Message 3: The Enemy Is Revealed

Big Idea: Revelation unmask the true enemies of Christ and His Church—not to scare us, but to strengthen us. These enemies aim to deceive, distract, and discourage—but the Lamb has already overcome.

“Some threats roar. Some whisper.”

Point 1: The Dragon – The Power Behind the Throne

Text: Revelation 12

“The great dragon... that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world.” (Rev. 12:9)

- Satan isn’t new—he’s the same enemy from Eden. His strategy is consistent: **deceive, accuse, and devour**. (Steal, kill, destroy)
- Revelation 12 shows him waging war against the woman (God’s people) and her offspring (the Church).
- The Church is caught in a cosmic battle—but it’s already won.

On Screen:

“The goal isn’t just suffering—it’s deception and despair.”

- He accuses (v.10), chases (v.13), and waits to devour (v.4)—but is thrown down by Michael and overcome by the Lamb.

Takeaway:

“The Lamb has already overcome. So we don’t fight for victory—we fight from victory.”

Revelation 12:11

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony...”

Summary:

- **The Dragon = Satan** (spiritual deception & accusation)
- **Strategy: Deceive, accuse, devour**
- **Our call: Hold fast to the Lamb, in patient endurance and loyalty, even to death**

Point 2: The Beasts – Political and Religious Corruption

Text: Revelation 13

Revelation 13 introduces **two beasts**—a parody of the Trinity:

- The **first beast** rises from the sea (political power)
- The **second beast** rises from the earth (religious propaganda)

Revelation 13 introduces **two beasts**, each with a distinct origin and function:

“And I saw a beast rising out of the sea...” (Rev 13:1)

“Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth...” (Rev 13:11)

1. The First Beast: Political Power / Empire

- This beast **demand worship** (v.4), **makes war on the saints** (v.7), and **rules over the nations**—clear signs of totalitarian political control.

2. The Second Beast: Religious Propaganda / False Worship

- Revelation later **calls this second beast “the false prophet”** (Rev 16:13; 19:20), confirming its **role as religious deception in service of empire**.

Together, the two beasts form a kind of **unholy trinity with the Dragon**—a satanic parody of Father (dragon), Son (first beast), and Spirit (second beast).

Summary

- **First Beast** = Political power claiming divine authority (empire)
- **Second Beast** = Religious/spiritual deception used to support corrupt power
- **Together** they demand allegiance, enforce idolatry, and persecute faithful witness.
- These beasts demand **allegiance**, enforce **idolatry**, and **persecute dissenters**.
- In John’s day, it was **Rome and emperor worship**. Today, it may look like **nationalism, authoritarianism, or religious manipulation**.

The world’s systems often demand loyalty that belongs to Christ alone.

Takeaway:

“Don’t buy into fear and compromise. You belong to the Lamb.”

Revelation 13:10

“Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.”

Summary:

- **The Beasts = Empire & false religion**
- **Strategy: Fear, control, imitation**
- **Our call: Endure without compromise**

Point 3: The Harlot – The Seduction of Comfort

Text: Revelation 17–18

“Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters...” (Rev. 17:1)

- Babylon represents the **economic, consumeristic, self-indulgent empire**—beautiful on the outside, but full of corruption.
- She seduces through **pleasure, wealth, security, and distraction**.
- Her fall is described in dramatic language: *“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!”* (Rev. 18:2)

“The enemy doesn’t always persecute—sometimes it just lulls us to sleep.”

Revelation doesn’t just warn us about **persecution**. It warns us about **comfort without conviction**.

Takeaway:

“Be alert—don’t settle for Babylon when New Jerusalem is coming.”

Revelation 18:4

“Come out of her, my people...”

Summary:

- **The Harlot = Babylon (seduction & distraction)**
- **Strategy: Comfort, luxury, complacency**
- **Our call: Stay awake and live for eternity**

Conclusion: Know Your Enemy—Trust Your King

- These enemies are **real**, and their strategies are **active today**.
- But none of them win.

“The Lamb overcomes them all—and invites us to endure with Him.”

“Don’t underestimate the threat. Don’t underestimate the victory.”

Revelation 10 Reminder: The Bittersweet Scroll

- John is told to eat the scroll (Rev 10:9–10)—it’s sweet like honey but bitter in his stomach.
- A reminder: **judgment is real, but we never take joy in it**. We proclaim truth with **urgency and compassion**, not gloating.

Call to Action: Where Are You Being Pressured?

Ask:

- Where am I being deceived or numbed?
- Where am I tempted to compromise or give in to fear?
- Where is the Lamb calling me to endure?

Takeaway:

Don’t be surprised by the battle.

Don’t be shaken by the enemy.

The Lamb has already overcome—and you belong to Him.