

**Gawler Baptist Church**  
***Revelation: God's Word to a Sent People***  
**Study 19 – Rev. 13:1-18**



Read chapter 13 together and share your impressions. How does this chapter link with chapter 12?

**The Beast out of the Sea** Rev 13:1-8

- What was your first impression of the beast from the sea?
- Where did his authority come from? What does this suggest to you?
- How did he exercise this authority and what was its extent?

Read Daniel 7:2-12. Both these passages are apocalyptic visions. They are similar but different. What are the key similarities and differences? They are both apocalyptic and speak of end times, but each speaks to its own time. Then people would have understood them fairly clearly. They also both spoke beyond their own times, when understanding becomes harder. Given this difficulty how much do you think we need to be concerned about details.

One of the heads of the beast had a fatal wound which had been healed. This suggests a miracle or a resurrection from the dead. John's creatures probably referred to actual men, so who would this beast have been? In the folk-lore of John's day many believed that the emperor Nero had not died and would return from the dead. Men feared Nero because of his fierce persecution of the church. Was this beast a prophecy of Nero's return? Domitian had instituted persecution during his rule. Was he Nero returned? This would have been in the minds of those early readers. Does this matter to us? What is the significance of the vision for us today?

Both Nero and Domitian (and other emperors) claimed to be divine and demanded worship from all. Domitian was actually addressed as 'Our Lord and our God'. Imagine you were a Christian of that day. How would you react to having to offer incense on an altar to your emperor as God?

Notice verses 10 and 11. 'He who has an ear ...' 'Listen carefully, this is important'. What does it speak of, and what does it demand from the saints? Where does this strength come from?

**The Beast out of the earth** Rev. 13:11-18

- Verse 11. '... a lamb ... a dragon.' What did Jesus say about wolves in sheep's clothing?
- Where did his authority come from?
- What did he do?
- What was the result of his miracles?
- What happened to those who would not worship the dragon?
- What would have been the result of not having the mark on a person's hand or forehead? What would have been the result of this?

Verse 18. His number is 666. John's readers would have understood his cryptic message, but even within one hundred years no-one knew who it referred to. Does it matter to us? Seven was considered a complete or perfect number, and therefore belonged to God; six was less

than perfect, and therefore was a man's number. What does that say of the beast who had such miraculous power? Imagine the power this trinity of evil – the dragon and the two beasts wielded - the evil of men, of the secular state when it set itself up as a God to be worshipped. Satan is behind it – but God is still in control.

The terrors are not hidden. The believers are warned of their coming. But God .... read chapter fourteen.