

CODE BREAKERS

THE BEASTS FROM THE SEA AND THE EARTH

September 24th & 27th, 2026

READ:

Revelation 7:1–4 | Revelation 12:11 | Revelation 13:1–18 | Revelation 14:1–5 |

Daniel 7:1-8 | Romans 13:1–7 | Deuteronomy 6:4–9 | Matthew 7:15–20

KEY POINTS:

- Beastly Power Demands Our Allegiance - The beast represents human power that becomes beastly when it takes God's place and demands the allegiance that belongs to Him.
- Faithfulness Matters More Than Winning - Revelation calls God's people to endurance and faithfulness, even when following Jesus becomes costly. The beast may appear to win, but it cannot take our loyalty to Jesus.
- Not Everything That Looks Like a Lamb Belongs to the Lamb - The second beast looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. Deception can look religious, so we must know Jesus and His Word well enough to recognize what does not reflect Him.
- The Mark Is About Allegiance - The mark represents more than a physical mark; it points to what we believe, who we identify with, and how we live. The deeper question is, "Whose mark does my life bear?"
- The Beast Is Not Just "Out There" - Revelation is also a mirror. We imitate the beast when we use power to control, compromise truth for comfort, demand misplaced loyalty, or let fear shape us more than faith.
- The Lamb Has Already Conquered - The beasts may appear powerful, but Jesus has already conquered through His death and resurrection. The beast has a season; Jesus has eternity.

QUESTIONS:

1. As followers of Jesus we must not confuse what is impressive with what is holy. Why can we be tempted to assume that power, success, popularity, or influence automatically means something is good or right?
2. The second beast looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. What are some ways something can appear Christian or spiritual while actually leading us away from the character and teachings of Jesus? How can Scripture help us recognize the difference?
3. The mark of the beast is ultimately about allegiance expressed through what we think and what we do. What competing allegiances can quietly begin to shape our identity, decisions, or priorities?
4. Revelation says the beast is allowed to wage war against God's people and even conquer them, yet the same passage calls believers to faithfulness. Since God is sovereign and evil is ultimately defeated, how does knowing that God allows us to experience suffering, persecution, and apparent defeat change the way you walk through challenges? How does the cross of Jesus help us understand this tension?
5. Spend a couple minutes reflecting on your own life and think about this question, where have you adopted the beast's methods in your life? What is one area of your life where Jesus is calling you to replace control with service, fear with faith, compromise with truth, or self protection with sacrificial love?

LIFE APPLICATION:

- Examine Your Allegiance - Ask yourself what you are tempted to look to for identity, security, meaning, or hope instead of Jesus.
- Learn the Voice of Jesus - Spend intentional time in Scripture this week. Pay attention to whether the voices influencing you reflect the character of the Lamb: truth, grace, humility, sacrifice, repentance, and love.
- Refuse Compromise - Identify one area where comfort, approval, money, relationships, influence, or fear is tempting you to compromise your faith. Choose one specific step of obedience.

- Bear the Lamb's Name - Look at the way you speak, work, spend, lead, disagree, forgive, and treat people who have less power. Ask, "Do my actions reflect the methods of the beast or the character of Jesus?"
 - Remember Who Has Already Won - When fear or uncertainty takes over, remind yourself that the outcome does not depend on your ability to control circumstances. The beast has a season. Jesus has eternity.
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PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

You alone are worthy of our allegiance. Help us recognize the things competing for our worship and give us courage to remain faithful to You. Teach us to live, speak, and serve in a way that reflects Your character. Thank You that You have already conquered and that You are Lord over all.

In Jesus' name, Amen.