



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

St Mary's Cathedral

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

A Call To Endure (Revelation 13:1-14:5)

As John's vision continues, we see the dragon's strategy for making war on the saints.

Read Revelation 13:1-10

1. How is the beast described? Compare this with **Daniel 3:3-7, 17-18**. What clues does this give as to what this beast represents?
2. What is its source of authority?
3. How does it exercise its power?
4. In what ways does this beast mimic Jesus?
5. Who doesn't join in the worship of the beast? Why not?
6. What are we told will happen to the saints? How are they to respond?

Read Revelation 13:11-18

7. How is this beast described?
8. What is its source of authority?
9. How does it exercise its power? How is this different from the first beast?
10. What are we told happens to those who won't worship the image of the beast? How are they to respond?

Read Revelation 14:1-5

11. After the horrors of his beastly visions how do you think John felt seeing the Lamb?
12. Those with the Lamb have a different mark on their foreheads. Who do they belong to?
13. What does John hear?
14. Recall that in chapter 7 the 144000 were symbolic of the multitude John saw before the throne. How does the description of the 144000 in chapter 14 add to our understanding of how God views his people?
- 15. *John's original hearers lived under Roman rule. Who would they identify the beasts to be? How do you think this vision would help them to endure?***
- 16. *Why do you think there have been so many 'beasts' through the ages?***
- 17. *What can we be praying for those presently living under beastly rule, where false religions and governments are working together to oppress God's people?***

A Note on 666

Verse 18 has given rise to much speculation over the centuries! It could be that 666 simply represents beastly rule in opposition to God (7-1=6). Alternatively, John might have a specific man in mind, and he's giving clues to his identity for the original readers by means of gematria (the ancient practice of substituting numbers for letters and so calculating the number of people's names). In this case, the number 666 would be the number of the beastly man for the believers under Roman rule, but not necessarily for every subsequent generation.