

**The Mark of the Beast**  
Revelation 13-14

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**Track 2:** This is for those who wish to dig deeper and have more times to commit. Read the daily Scripture passage and work through the questions provided. Recording your insights in a journal will increase your retention and give you a record of what God is doing in your life!

*Let's refresh our memories with the main message of the book: The world is getting darker. Opposition to Christ and his church is getting stronger. But God is in control, and in the end, God wins. So stand firm in your faith.*

**Monday**

1. Pastor Dave referred to Revelation as an “apocalyptic literature,” which means it uses imagery and symbols to convey spiritual reality. Why are imagery and symbols in literature more powerful than merely using words?
2. Modern authors have used this method to convey and explain spiritual reality. Give specific examples of characters or events in books or movies that communicate spiritual truth to us in this way?
3. **Read Daniel 7** to see an Old Testament example of this in action.

**Tuesday**

**Read Revelation 13:1-10**

1. A dragon stood on the shore of the sea and a beast came out of the sea. Who does the dragon represent? Who do most Bible scholars say the beast represents? What is an alternate view that other Bible scholars have that the beast represents?
2. The beast coming out of the sea had seven heads and each head had a blasphemous name. What does it mean to have a blasphemous name?
3. Many Bible scholars believe that the heads most likely represent the seven world empires under the control of the dragon (Satan) and that the seventh head represents the antichrist's world empire. If this is true, then what previous six world empires do the other heads represent?
4. Why does Satan use governments (i.e. Legal pressure) to accomplish his will? Isn't he successful with using individuals?

**Wednesday**

**Re-read Revelation 13:1-10**

1. In which possible ways could the dragon give power and authority to the beast?
2. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 says that God will send a powerful delusion so that people will believe the lie. Why does God intentionally send a delusion if 1 Timothy 2:4 says that God wants all people to be saved?
3. Revelation 13:10 as well as Revelation 14:12 says this time calls for patient endurance (perseverance) and faithfulness from the saints. What makes this time more intense than

other times in history? Why are these two characteristics more important than love, forgiveness, or other strong attributes?

### **Thursday**

#### **Read Revelation 13:11-18**

1. The second beast is also called “the false prophet” later in Revelation. This indicates that the second beast is a religious leader who supports the political leadership of the antichrist. Provide examples throughout history where religious leaders supported the political leadership of their day.
2. Why does Satan use culture to accomplish his will?
3. The second beast had supernatural powers and now made the people worship the first beast. Why do humans desire to worship something or someone?
4. Why do unexplainable phenomena or supernatural signs create in people a willingness to trust and believe?

### **Friday**

#### **Re-read Revelation 13:11-18**

1. There have been many speculations as to what the mark of the beast is or what the number “666” represents. Can believers accept the mark of the beast accidentally?
2. Worshiping the image and receiving this mark will be mandatory. There will be no appeals or reasonable accommodations. Since Satan is empowering the beasts, why does he require full allegiance from people?
3. Verse 18 gives a poignant statement: This calls for wisdom. Specifically, what calls for wisdom and what makes it so important at this time?

### **Concluding Thought**

When it’s natural to plan a counter-attack, God asks us to think and do things differently. Give several Scriptures that reflect this strategy and then give several reasons why God calls us to patient endurance and faithfulness to Him instead of striking back.