

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 30
The Two Beasts (Revelation 13)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The book of Revelation is a prophetic vision of what would happen in the first Christian Church— of how it would gradually become perverted, as all the churches before it had been, through the selfishness and worldliness of its members, and of how it would finally be judged and brought to its end and a new church raised up to take its place.
- B. The dragon and his beasts try to persuade us that we can get to heaven no matter what kind of life we have lived; as long as we acknowledge that Christ died for our sins, we will be saved. This is the doctrine of "faith alone."
- C. The Lord has opened the internal sense of the Word to us to save us from such false reasoning.
- D. Basic correspondences:
 - 1. Beast from sea = Laity who are in faith alone
 - 2. Beast from land = Clergy who are in faith alone
 - 3. A leopard = Love of falsifying truths of the Word
 - 4. A bear = Those who read the Word and don't understand it
 - 5. A lion = (In a bad sense) evil in its power falsifying the Word
 - 6. 666 = Every truth of the Word falsified

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. What book of the Word have we been studying? (Revelation)
- 2. And where in the Word do we find it? (At the end)
- 3. The book of Revelation is full of visions that the Lord showed to John while he was on the Isle of Patmos. These visions were of things happening in the spiritual world, so how was it that John could see them? (The Lord opened his spiritual eyes so he could see into the spiritual world.)
- 4. Last time we learned about the dragon who wanted to kill the woman clothed with the sun and her child. This is like the evil spirits from hell trying to destroy the New Church. We can fight the dragon and protect the New Church by obeying the Lord's commandments.
- 5. This week we will read about the dragon's two beasts which John saw, one rising up from the sea and one from the land. These beasts are like the evil spirits who try to convince us that we don't have to obey the Lord's commandments, and we can still get to heaven. Are

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they telling us the truth? (No! It is always a lie when we're told that we don't have to obey the Lord.)

6. Here is what John tells us in Revelation about the two evil beasts.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Revelation 13 in its entirety.

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. What did John see rising up out of the sea? (Beast with 7 heads, 10 horns, 10 crowns on horns)
2. What did the beast look like? (Leopard, feet of bear, mouth of lion)
3. What did the dragon give to the beast? (Dragon's power, throne, and great authority)
4. What did John notice about one of the heads of the beast? (It had been badly wounded, but the wound had healed.)
5. Where did the other beast come from? (Up out of the earth)
6. What did it look like? (2 horns like a lamb, spoke like a dragon)
7. The second beast put a mark on all the people who followed him. Where did he mark them? (Right hand or forehead)
8. What was the number of the beast? (666)

D. Further Ideas: The Mark of the Beast/The Seal of the Living God

1. When we do what's wrong, tell a lie, or take what doesn't belong to us, we receive the mark of the beast. We can't see the mark in this world; it can be hidden by polite manners and gentle speech. But the evil spirits see it, and they know who will become their servants and slaves.
2. Everyone who loves the Lord and keeps His commandments receives the seal of the living God on his forehead. This mark is made by how we think and live. When we do what's right, fair, and honorable, we receive the Lord's mark. No one in this world can see it, but the angels of heaven can, and then they can protect us from evil.
3. Any time we realize we've done what's wrong and feel sorry for it, the mark of the beast can be erased, and we can follow the Lord again and receive His mark instead.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Revelation," LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II, Side 2, first song. (Words attached to Lesson #1.)

B. Activities

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C. Project: The Two Beasts (Play dough)

1. Materials:

- a. Homemade play dough in 2 colors
(preferably not very attractive ones; e.g. blue and green) [recipe attached],

- b. Styrofoam meat trays

2. Guiding the Students

- a. Remind students of details about the 2 beasts:

The Beast from the Sea

- 7 heads, 10 horns
- 10 crowns on his horns
- Like a leopard (spots)
- Feet of a bear
- Mouth like a lion

The Beast from the Land

- 2 horns like a lamb

- b. Particularly if time is short and/or if you have rather young children in the class, you may want to limit them to making one beast, not both; perhaps they could make another if there is time after their first one is done. (The beast from sea would be more time-consuming, of course, due to the number of heads, horns, and crowns.)

- c. Children's names can be written with pen or crayon on the bottom of a styrofoam meat tray, and they can use the trays for carrying their beasts home.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Picture of the two beasts from Revelation coloring book. (Could photocopy for children to take home to color.)

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 6, "The Beast Overcome," (Rev. 13), pp. 272-285.
- B. *John in the Isle of Patmos* by Rev. George de Charms, "The Mark of the Beast," (Rev. 13:11-18), pp. 100-104.
- C. *Apocalypse Revealed*, "Chapter 13 - The Spiritual Sense," between #566 and #567 (about 4 pages).

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PLAY DOUGH

½ cup salt
1 cup flour
2 tablespoons cream of tartar
1 cup water
1 tablespoon salad oil
food coloring

Mix together in saucepan everything but food coloring. Cook over medium heat until it forms a ball, about 3-5 minutes.

Mix in food coloring. Let cool. Keep in airtight container.