



Sermon Discussion Guide¹ *Rev 13:1-10* | Kevin DeYoung

“A Call for Endurance and Faith”
Sunday Morning, January 21st, 2024

1. **Copy-cat:** Kevin said that the devil and the beasts are not creative, but copy-cats.² How do we see the beast try to copy Christ in this passage? How do we see evil disguise itself as truth in our day?
2. **News:** Do you think churches in our day view the Bible as the ultimate source of what’s really going on in the world rather than news media? How can news media become addictive? ...ultimate?
3. **Politics:** Kevin said that not all political disagreement is light v. darkness and angels v. demons. Yet, “There are spiritual powers behind political events.” How the book of Revelation inform the way Christians think about politics?
4. **Empires:** History has shown us that every empire falls. Why does it always come as a surprise when they do? What can we learn from this as Christians?
5. **Church:** Kevin said that the church is simultaneously invincible *and* vulnerable. How can both be true? How does this reality encourage you today?
6. **Mouth:** “Through the beast, the devil inflicts damage on the people of God with his mouth.” How do we see Satan’s deception in Scripture? How do we guard our hearts from the lies of the devil?
7. **Endurance:** How is the Lord calling you to endure in this season?
8. **Pray:** It’s easy to give too much authority and power to the state in our own hearts.³ Take a moment and pray that the Church would look to God alone for her provision and salvation.

¹ SDGs are put together by Small Groups Ministry to aid group discussion. They are available every week on the [small groups page](https://www.christcovenant.org/small-groups-page) of the church website. Please send questions or feedback to calebjohnson@christcovenant.org.

² Kevin said, “He has no currency of his own. He only deals in counterfeits.” Also, “On the cross, the Chosen of God died, came back to life, and the world said it was a lie. Here, the chosen of Satan appears to live and the whole world worships in amazement.”

³ From Kevin’s sermon:

There is a temptation in every age to look to our earthly kings, or princes, or presidents, or prime ministers as messianic figures. (...) So much about our contemporary political environment conditions the heart to think that salvation will come from the state, that provision comes from the state, that everything that gives life meaning, and purpose, and happiness will come from the state. (...) But let’s also guard our own hearts lest we think that every word from the president’s mouth is somehow the most important thing going on in the world. Or every problem going on in our world has a solution at the state. Or everything that ails the human race is just one election away from either being solved or from everything falling apart. That is to give to the state too much power and authority.

General Outline

- I. Introduction
 - a. 2 beasts:
 - i. The political sphere: perversion of good government
 - ii. The religious sphere: perversion of true worship
 - b. Unholy trinity: copy-cat, not creative.
- II. 5 Characteristics
 - a. *It has great power. (v. 1-2, cf. Dan 7)*
 - b. *It has a loyal following. (v. 3-4)*
 - i. Copycat of the Christ
 - c. *The beast is full of blasphemous ideology. (v. 1, 5-6)⁴*
 - d. *It has a hatred for the saints. (v. 7)*
 - i. Culture warriors?
 - e. *It has apparent invincibility.*
- III. Response: Endurance and faith.

Potential questions for kids

- From which book of the Bible is Pastor Kevin preaching?
- What do you remember from the sermon?
- Can we be confident even though the devil doesn't like Christians? Why?

⁴ Kevin referenced G.K. Beale: both Christ and the beast were slain, both rise to newness of life, both have followers with names on foreheads, horns, authority over tribe tongue nation, worship from every corner of the globe, both have cataclysmic coming on the earth.