

## REVELATION 13 The Wild Things

WE ARE NOW ENTERING THE WILD PART OF REVELATION. REMEMBER, THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN PRIMARILY FOR THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AT THE END OF THE FIRST CENTURY. OUR IMAGINATIONS CAN RUN WILD WITH THE IMAGERY, BUT WE FIRST NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE VISIONS MEANT TO THOSE WHO ORIGINALLY RECEIVED THEM. A COUPLE OF THINGS TO REMEMBER: BABYLON REPRESENTS THE SYSTEMIC ORDER OF POWER CREATED BY THE DRAGON AND THE WILD THINGS. IT SIGNIFIES THE ORDER OF THE WORLD. WHEN JESUS SPEAKS OF THE WORLD, HE IS NOT SO CONCERNED WITH PERSONAL PIETY; HE REFERS TO THE WORLDLY ORDER OF POWER, WEALTH, AND CORRUPTION, THE SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT AND RULE THAT CORRUPT AND EMPOWER THE FEW AT THE TOP OF THE PYRAMID, ALONG WITH THE SUBSEQUENT UNDERLINGS WHO GAIN POWER AND WEALTH BY SUBMITTING TO THOSE AT THE TOP. I WOULD VENTURE TO SAY THAT GOD IS MOST CONCERNED WITH THE EVILS IN A SOCIETY THAT ALLOW THE RICH TO HOARD WEALTH AND TRAMPLE ON THOSE WHO LACK POWER AND CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN AN HONEST, STABLE ECONOMY. WE WILL DISCOVER THAT THE DREADED "MARK OF THE BEAST" (666) INVOLVES ECONOMIC PERSECUTION.

IN CHAPTER 12 THE SEVEN HEADS OF THE DRAGON EACH BORE A CROWN (DIADEM) SYMBOLIZING WORLD DOMINATION, AND THE HORNS REPRESENT POWER. WE WILL NOW SEE THAT THE DRAGON STANDS BY THE SEA, SYMBOLIZING THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS.

Read REVELATION 13:1-4

1. Describe what you think the Sea Beast's (Wild Thing #1) appearance symbolizes:
  - a. Out from the sea
  - b. Ten crowned horns
  - c. Seven heads
  - d. A healed fatal wound (Rome's)
  - e. Followed the beast; worshipped the dragon & the beast
  - f. Who can fight against the beast?

Read REVELATION 13:5-10

1. Who gives the beast its authority?
2. How vast is the beast's authority?
3. Why does the world follow this beast with wonder and excitement?

## REVELATION 13 THE WILD THINGS

4. What does unchecked, unlimited power inspire people to do?
5. What does verse 10 say to you about violence and endurance?

WILD THING #1 (BEAST FROM THE SEA) SYMBOLIZES THE OPPRESSIVE FORCE OF THE DRAGON (SATAN) FUNCTIONING THROUGH VARIOUS NATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS WORLDWIDE. #1 IS ALL ABOUT POWER, WHEREAS WILD THING #2 IS ALL ABOUT PROPAGANDA.

READ REVELATION 13:11-18

1. Describe the second beast (Wild Thing #2).
2. Where does he come from?
3. What powers does he possess?
4. By verse 15, are there any souls remaining who will not bow down to the dragon or either beast?
5. Who is responsible for the mark or brand on the forehead or hand?
6. Why is this linked to the economy?
7. Do you remember, from our introduction, whose names (in Greek) add up to 666?