

Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation
“Who Will You Worship?” #17
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
November 29, 2020

Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

1. Be Careful Who You Worship

And the **dragon** stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a **beast** coming out of the sea. He had **ten horns** and **seven heads**, with **ten crowns on his horns**, and on each head a **blasphemous name**. The **beast** I saw resembled a **leopard**, but had feet like those of a **bear** and a mouth like that of a **lion**. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a **fatal wound**, but the fatal wound had been **healed**. The whole world was astonished and **followed** the beast. Men **worshiped the dragon** because he had given authority to the beast, and they **also worshiped the beast** and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" The beast was **given a mouth** to utter **proud words** and **blasphemies** and to exercise his authority **for forty-two months**. He opened his mouth to **blaspheme God**, and to **slander his name** and his **dwelling place** and **those who live in heaven**. He was given power to **make war against the saints** and to **conquer them**. And he was given authority **over every tribe, people, language and nation**. **All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world**. He who has an ear, let him hear. **Revelation 13:1-9 (NIV)**

2. Be Faithful Until The End

If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for **patient endurance** and **faithfulness** on the part of the saints. **Revelation 13:10 (NIV)**

- **A False Prophet Will Convince The World To Worship The Beast**

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had **two horns like a lamb**, but he spoke **like a dragon**. He exercised all the authority of the first beast **on his behalf**, and **made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast**, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he **performed great and miraculous signs**, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he **deceived** the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to **set up an image in honor of the beast** who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was **given power to give breath to the image of the first beast**, so that it could speak and **cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed**. **Revelation 13:11-15 (NIV)**

- **People Will Be Controlled By A Cashless Society**

He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to **receive a mark** on his **right hand** or on his **forehead**, so that **no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark**, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. **His number is 666**. **Revelation 13:16-18 (NIV)**

“The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents.” **1 Kings 10:14 (NIV)**

3. Praise Brings God's Presence

Then I looked, and there before me was the **Lamb, standing on Mount Zion**, and with Him **144,000** who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard **a sound from heaven** like the roar of **rushing waters** and like a **loud peal of thunder**. The sound I heard was like that of **harpists** playing their harps. And **they sang a new song before the throne** and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. **Revelation 14:1-3 (NIV)**

- **The 144,000 Are Faithful Followers Of Jesus**

These are those who **did not defile** themselves with women, for they kept themselves **pure**. **They follow the Lamb wherever He goes**. They were **purchased** from among men and offered as **firstfruits** to God and the Lamb. **No lie** was found in their mouths; they are **blameless**. Then I saw **another angel flying in midair**, and he had the **eternal gospel** to proclaim to those who live on the earth--**to every nation, tribe, language and people**. He said in a loud voice, "**Fear God and give Him glory**, because the hour of his judgment has come. **Worship Him** who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." **Revelation 14:4-7 NIV**

4. If We Reject Jesus, There Is Certain Unescapable Judgment

A second angel followed and said, "**Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great**, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries." A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "**If anyone worships the beast** and his image and **receives his mark** on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, **will drink of the wine of God's fury**, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for **ever and ever**. There is **no rest day** or night for **those who worship the beast** and his image, or for anyone who receives the **mark of his name**." **Revelation 14:8-11 (NIV)**

- **Everyone Will Hear The Good News Of Salvation**

This calls for **patient endurance** on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "**Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on**." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." I looked, and there before me was **a white cloud**, and **seated** on the cloud was one "**like a son of man**" with a **crown of gold** on his head and **a sharp sickle** in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and **reap**, because the time to reap has come, **for the harvest of the earth is ripe**." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and **the earth was harvested**. **Revelation 14:12-16 (NIV)**

- **Judgment Will Be Final**

Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and **he too had a sharp sickle**. Still another angel, who had **charge of the fire**, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "**Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe**." The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into **the great winepress of God's wrath**. They were trampled in **the winepress outside the city**, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. **Revelation 14:17-20 (NIV)**

➤ **Who will I worship?**

My next right step, I will:

- Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- Invite someone to church or join a watch party on Sunday
- Join our Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30 pm

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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honor your group’s time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourage you to live like Jesus?

How has God blessed you so far in this study of God’s Word?

Icebreaker: Who do you think is one of the most charismatic leaders of today? How has charisma helped him or her to lead?

1. Be Careful Who You Worship

Read Revelation 13:1-9

What is the beast from the sea like?

Isaiah 27:1

What is the source of his power?

How does it use its power?

What is the relationship between the beast and the dragon?

Who worships the beast?

2. Be Faithful Until The End

Read Revelation 13:10

What impact will this beast have on Christians?

How should they respond?

- **A False Prophet Will Convince The World To Worship The Beast**

Who are some of the beasts in your life that test your allegiance to Christ?

How is God helping you deal with that?

Is your name written in the book of life?

How do you know?

What kind of grade would you give yourself on patience and faithfulness?

Read Revelation 13:11-18

What is this beast from the earth like?

If the first beast exercises political power, what authority does the second beast exercise?

How are government and religion connected by these two beasts?

Since 7 is the number of completeness in Revelation, what might 666 mean?

How can we discern false religion and governments?

- **People Will Be Controlled By A Cashless Society**

Read Revelation 13:16-18

How close of a reality are we to having a cashless society? What kind of problems would this solve?

Read 1 Kings 10:14

How might this verse apply?

3. Praise Brings God's Presence

Read Revelation 14

Given the chaos described in chapters 13-14, what comfort do you find in this passage?

Who is the Lamb? Why are people following him?

How are you like or unlike the 144,000? Why do you follow the Lamb?

In verses 6-7, what is the essence of the eternal gospel by the angel of grace?

Who will hear it? Has this vision been fulfilled?

What response to the gospel is called for?

By contrast, what does the angel of doom spread in verse 8?

Who is the fallen Babylon?

Who has been infected by the spirit of Babylon?

How does Satan's ideology [13:11-18] differ from God's truth? [Rev.14:6-13]

What have you done to help proclaim the gospel to every nation, tribe, language and people?

How do you look upon death: As a rest? A reward? A new phase in the journey?

Who does the figure "like a son of man" [v.14] represent?

What does the image of harvest convey?

What is the nature of the judgment that will occur?

Read Matthew 13:30, 39

How ripe do you feel the world is now?

Do you feel that the end of the world is close at hand? Why or why not?

How does this affect your life?

Close in prayer: _____