

PREACHING CURRICULUM

Enduring Frontal Assaults

Revelation 13:1-10

"Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints."

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Revelation 13:1-4. Who is the beast, and what are his defining characteristics? Refer as well to 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and 1 John 2:18-23 as you answer this question.

Is it possible to identify the beast with any particular person, nation, or political regime? Why or why not? Have there been people or groups in history who have fit the 'beastly' description given in this passage?

Read Revelation 13:5-10. Why are we being warned in advance about the beast's successful onslaughts against God's saints? Why does God want us to know this, and how are we to respond to this warning in the present?

In this passage, what distinguishes God's people from the rest of the people on earth?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Have there been times during your life as a Christian when you have endured hardship and difficulty? If so, what was it like for you to go through those times? At any point, were you tempted to 'throw in the towel' and give up on your faith? What helped you to pull through those difficult times?

What are some of the biggest challenges facing the Church in the West today?

On a personal level, what do you consider to be the biggest challenge to your faith right now? Why?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

How can we recognize beast-like figures in our world today, and how can we resist their influence?

How do we develop endurance in our faith? What can we do, as individuals and as a church, to prepare ourselves and our children to endure in the faith over the long term?

Where do we ultimately get the strength to persevere in our faith in the midst of hardship? What gives us the confidence that we can endure present and future hardships?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How might we help one another develop strong endurance in the faith? What practical steps can we take to assist those who are experiencing difficulties and challenges in their faith?