

# *Beware of the Beast*

Revelation 13:1-10

Big Idea: Satan is a defeated foe, but he's still thrashing. The Antichrist will rise, but Christ has already won. Don't be deceived—get back on the slide and share Jesus boldly. Weep for the lost, stand in the gap, plant seeds. Today is the day to trust in the Lamb.

Day 1: The Defeated  
Serpent

Reading:  
Genesis 3:14-15;  
Revelation 12:7-12

Like the missionary's snake that thrashed violently even after decapitation, Satan knows his defeat is certain yet continues his destructive work. The promise given in Eden—that the serpent's head would be crushed—was fulfilled at the cross. Jesus has already won the victory. Yet we live in the "thrashing time," when the enemy still causes damage. This reality shouldn't discourage us; rather, it should fuel our urgency to share the gospel. Every person we reach is rescued from the serpent's final fury. Today, remember that you serve a victorious Savior. The snake is defeated—he just doesn't know it yet. Let this truth embolden your witness.

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Day 2: Weeping for  
the Lost

Reading:  
Matthew 24:3-14;  
Romans 9:1-3

When we understand the coming tribulation and eternal consequences facing those without Christ, our hearts should break. Paul said he would forfeit his own salvation if it meant Israel could be saved. Do we weep for people without Christ? The young hitchhiker, the neighbor next door, the coworker in the cubicle beside us—each faces an eternity either with God or separated from Him. The Holy Spirit may prompt you toward someone this week, just as He did with that girl and her cat. Don't drive past. Turn around. Make a friend. Ask yourself: when did I last weep for someone's soul? Let compassion move you to action today.

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Day 3: Standing in the  
Gap

Reading:  
Exodus 32:7-14;  
1 Timothy 2:1-4

Moses stood between God's righteous anger and Israel's rebellion, interceding for a people who deserved judgment. This is the ministry of intercession—standing in the gap through prayer. Who are you praying for consistently? Your children, grandchildren, neighbors, coworkers, even enemies—all need someone to stand in the gap for them. Intercessory prayer isn't passive resignation ("whatever will be, will be"), but active participation in God's redemptive work. The tribulation will be terrible, but we can pray now for seeds planted that will bear fruit even then. Make a list today of five people without Christ and commit to standing in the gap for them daily.

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Day 4: Back Up  
the Slide

Reading:  
2 Timothy 1:7-12;  
1 Peter 3:13-17

Parker's courage challenges us all. When called "stupid" for sharing Jesus, he didn't retreat—he went back up the slide. How often do we shrink back from witness because we fear rejection or ridicule? Jesus promised we'd be blessed when people speak evil of us for His sake. Paul said he wasn't ashamed of the gospel. The question isn't whether people will mock our faith, but whether we'll persist despite it. Someone needs to hear about Jesus from you today. They may reject it, but that doesn't make you stupid—it makes you faithful. Get back up the slide. Plant the seed. Your boldness may be the very thing that saves a soul from the coming wrath.

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Day 5: Names Written  
in the Book

Reading:  
Revelation 13:8;  
Philippians 4:3;  
Luke 10:17-20

The most important question facing every person is simple: Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? This isn't about religious performance or moral achievement—it's about calling on the name of the Lord. Romans 10:9-10 promises that whoever believes in their heart and confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord will be saved. Have you done this? If so, rejoice that your name is written in heaven! If not, today is your day of salvation. Don't wait for a "better time"—the tribulation is coming, and none of us knows when our last opportunity will be. Call on Jesus today. Trust Him. Let Him write your name in His book.

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