

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Welcome to our study of the book of Revelation using *Victory Assured!* as our guide.
- B. Purchasing the book is not necessary but will help deepen your understanding of the lessons.
- C. *Victory Assured!* is a thematic (or subject study) of the book of Revelation. *Victory Assured!* does not focus on the various details of the Revelation but rather stressed the main subjects and themes to help the reader gain the overall teachings of the book.
- D. Last week, Overcoming Political Persecution (13:1-10).
- E. This week, Overcoming False Religion (13:11-18).

OVERTCOMING FALSE RELIGION

I. TWO BEASTS.

- A. The sea beast (13:1-10) is **the Roman empire**.
- B. The earth beast (13:11-18) is **the religious enforcement for the worship of the sea beast**.
- C. Another view is that: one is **pagan** Rome, and the other is **papal** Rome.

II. THE EARTH BEAST (13:11-18).

- A. This beast is described as **being like a lamb**.
- B. The purpose of the earth beast is **to get people to worship the sea beast**.
- C. The earth beast **performs great signs**.
- D. The earth beast is trying to **look** like the real thing;
act like the real thing; and
perform like the real thing, but it is **not the real thing**.

III. THE MARK AND THE NUMBER.

- A. The earth beast is to give those who worship the sea beast a **mark**.
- B. It allows the bearer to **buy and sell in the marketplace**.
- C. This helps explain **the third seal of chapter 6:5,6**.
- D. This mark is not **social security numbers** to PINs, from swastikas to computer passwords.
- E. John gives the sea beast a number: **666 or some translations say 616**.
- F. Seven is the perfect number, so God the Father, Son, and Spirit is **777**.
- G. The number of the beast is that of a man, not God.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Overcoming false religion means to keep one's loyalty to the true Lamb. Don't allow substitutes masquerading as the real thing to draw you away from the Lord. Don't allow false religion's big claims, fancy fronts, and big productions, to be so pleasing to the eye that you leave the safety of the Lamb's true fold.
- B. And always remember, no matter how good some religions might look on the outside, it is the examination of what is being taught on the inside that makes it right or wrong. Be sure to rightly divide the word of truth and you will be putting false religion where it should be--out of sight and mind.
- C. God is still the perfect 777; don't settle for man's substitutes. You can overcome false religion--know the signs, do what is right, and victory is assured!
- D. Next time: Overcoming Materialism (Rev. 18:1-24).