

## **Rev. 13:11-18 “An Answer to the Beasts”**

**For the Children:** Have you heard the expression, “I’m one step ahead of you”? It means that when you go to do something, someone else is ahead of you and has already done it; or, it can mean that someone has figured out how to beat you at something before you realized what was going on. Well, the Lord is one step ahead of Satan, “every inch of the way.” He knew from before the world began all the tricks Satan would try. He shows that He has all Satan’s work under His control both by punishing those who follow the devil and attack His people; and by saving His people, leading us to the joy of heaven. **Questions:** What will the Lord do to those He judges on the Day of Judgement? What will heaven be like? In what way will heaven be “restful”?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Beast Does Not Claim All**

- 1) The 144,000: We have seen a similar picture before (5:4). It is repeated here (vss. 1-5) to show that the Beast cannot prevent God from gathering an uncountable multitude from the OT and NT – the 144,000 symbolizing all the redeemed from both eras, who follow Christ wherever He goes
- 2) The New Song: The elect are so numerous that their song – a victory song learned only by those who believe in the Lamb’s victory – is like a loud flood, thunder or the playing of many harps. This triumph song is also an answer to the Beast
- 3) Uncorrupted and undefiled: The Beasts use fear and deception to lead sinners astray into spiritual adultery and compromise. But this vision shows the elect to be spiritually chaste, loyal to God, committed to the truth – a faithful “Bride”
- 4) Perseverance of the Saints: God’s work of judging the Beast and his followers, while purchasing the elect in the Lamb’s blood, is our perseverance (v. 12) – stronger than the destructive work of the Beast

#### **Second Point: The Beast Does Not Prevent God’s Judgement**

- 1) The Fourth Vision: In vss. 6-13 an angel brings the Gospel to all the world. Those who do not heed it are judged by it. See 11:1-13. A second angel announces the fall of “Babylon,” the world-system opposed to God. A third angel announces the eternal torment of all who have followed the Beast
- 2) The Fifth Vision: Vss. 14-20 refer to this final judgement in even more graphic terms, when the angelic messengers from God tell the Son of Man it is time to judge. The angels assist Him as He applies His “sickle” to mow down the fields ripe with sin and crush all opposition in the wine-press of God’s wrath. The blood from this destruction is pictured as rising to a horse’s bridle for 300 km’s around
- 3) The Sixth Vision: 15:1 gives a preview of the next scene, the judgements of the “7 Bowls,” which include other temporal actions against God’s enemies. All this action helps deliver God’s people from the Beast

#### **Third Point: The Beast Does Not Prevent the Heavenly Reward**

- 1) The Fourth Vision: In v. 13, John is told to write about the blessedness of those who die in Christ after he has finished His work. They enter His “rest,” instead of the eternal loss of rest of the wicked – though their labours built on Christ go with them as an eternal testimony to His work. The Spirit assures us of this
- 2) The Seventh Vision: The joy of this victory and blessing is expressed in song in the 7<sup>th</sup> vision (15:2-4). The elect are seen standing on the Sea of Glass (the barrier between heaven and earth; or the place where God’s victory over our enemies is outworked, like the Red Sea). The Sea is mixed with fire (judgement or purification). They sing the Song of Moses and the Lamb – a song celebrating God’s victory, as Moses once sang (Ex. 15, Dt. 32); but also in light of the Lamb’s work of salvation. The details combine many OT passages. The point is not an exact copy of Moses’ Song, but a repeat of Israel’s celebration of deliverance. This Song is already ours in principle

### **Conclusion:**

