## Lesson 6: Revelation 13

Opening Question: Who is one of the most patient people you know?

Opening Prayer: We long for the day of your return Jesus We long for every wrong thing to be undone May we your saints have patient endurance and faithfulness as we await your return Amen

Read aloud Revelation 13:1-

But the central and important feature which all his readers would have recognized at once is that the monster claimed worship and shared that worship with the dark pagan gods that stood behind it. A glance at Roman coins of the period tells its own story as one emperor after another not only up in the garb traditionally associated with this or that ancient pagan divinity. And of course once the emperor becomes a god, there is no local and tribal deities are still worshipped, so long as one worships the new god. Rome and the emperor. But if one refuses as the Christians knew they were bound to refuse then a collision course is set. Like Daniel and his friends in the early chapters of the book from which John drew so richly all the world seemed to be worshipping the monster. Only the faithful few, here described in terms of their names being in the

The last verse of this section may refl when contemplating the scene he has now drawn. Some people are going to be taken captive. Others are going to be killed with the sword. Tha response is not to kick and scream but to hold firm to patience and faith. Chapter 11 meant what it said. It is through the faithful witness unto death that the lamb wins the replaces the kingdom of the monster, that the dragon himself is to lose the last remains of his power. How this is to be worked out we have yet to see. But what John is doing at this point is sketching the larger, darker e. 49, 19503, 11 Tmgt.

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