



VISION OF VICTORY

A STUDY OF REVELATION

#23: WHEN SATAN WEAPONIZES THE STATE—13:1-18 (PART 1)

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I. A BIBLICAL VIEW OF GOVERNMENT

1. **Government is authorized by God to promote good, prevent evil and protect its citizens**

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.
Romans 13:1-2 (NLT)

2. **However, the state can be used by Satan to oppose God**

But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority... When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them.
Acts 5:29,33 (NLT)

II. HOW THE DRAGON USES THE STATE TO OPPOSE GOD AND PERSECUTE HIS PEOPLE—REVELATION 13:1-18

1. **The Dragon:** Satan is the power behind evil governments (v.1a)
2. **The Sea Beast:** Symbolizing the political power of the state that is used by Satan against God and His people (v.1b-8)
 - **What the Sea Beast looks like:**
 - ⇒ **Seven heads** symbolize intelligence, leadership and worldly wisdom
 - ⇒ **Ten horns and ten crowns** symbolizing governmental power, authority and control
 - ⇒ **Each head had a name that blasphemed God** symbolizing a state that denigrates God
 - ⇒ **Resembles the most ferocious animals** symbolizing how vicious it can be
 - ⇒ **Had a fatal wound that healed** symbolizing the resilience of governmental power
 - ⇒ **All this entices people into worshipping the beast** symbolizing how people deify the state
 - **What the Sea Beast looks does:**
 - ⇒ **Speaks blasphemies against God** symbolizing an evil state’s verbal attacks on God

- ⇒ **Does whatever it wants for 42 months** symbolizing the persecution of the church between the ascension and return of Jesus
- ⇒ **Slanders “The Temple”** symbolizing an evil government’s verbal attacks on the church
- ⇒ **Wages war against God’s holy people and conquers them** symbolizing the enemy’s temporary victories over the church
- ⇒ **Rules every tribe, people, nation and language** symbolizing the control that people give their evil governments

They won the victory over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the truth which they proclaimed; and they were willing to give up their lives and die.

Revelation 12:11 (TEV)

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

3. **The people of God:** Be prepared for persecution (v.9-10)

If the people of this world hate you, just remember that they hated me first. If you belonged to the world, its people would love you. But you don’t belong to the world. I have chosen you to leave the world behind, and that is why its people hate you.

John 15:18-19 (CEV)

Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT)

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 (NIV)

III. **WAYS TO RESIST SATAN’S WEAPONIZATION OF THE STATE AGAINST US**

1. **Make sure that your hope is in Jesus and not governments or political leaders**
2. **Choose to be faithful to the Lord even in the face of persecution by the state**
3. **Remember that no matter how great the power of the state becomes – God’s power is greater**