

Dealing with Bullies

What bully do you remember from your childhood?

Read Revelation 13:1-18.

1. Where does the first beast of Revelation 13 come from?
 - A. The sea, which represented the underworld in John's day.
 - B. The dragon—Satan (see Revelation 12:7-9).
 - C. Russia, especially with its attack on Ukraine.
 - D. The United States and NATO.
 - E. Heaven.
 - F. Hell.
 - G. The animals of Daniel 7.
 - H. Hollywood.
 - I. Other.

2. What catches your attention the most about this first beast?
 - A. So fiercely animal-like.
 - B. All the "inhabitants of the earth" worship it.
 - C. It seems overpowering.
 - D. Diverts worship away from God and to itself.
 - E. It seems as if it dies, and then comes back to life.
 - F. Has earthly authority for a limited time.
 - G. Copies many things about the dragon.
 - H. Copies many things about Jesus.
 - I. Other.

3. What do God's people need when it comes to the first beast?
 - A. Lots of prayer.
 - B. Military power.
 - C. Patience.
 - D. Truth.
 - E. Trust.
 - F. Endurance.
 - G. A community of faith.
 - H. Christ's active presence through the Holy Spirit.
 - I. Other.

4. What Old Testament roots come to mind with the second beast?
 - A. I can't think of any.
 - B. Daniel 3—Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
 - C. Exodus 17—Amalekites defeated when Aaron and Hur assist Moses.
 - D. Ezekiel 9—A mark on the forehead of those who lament idolatry.
 - E. Joshua 3—Crossing the Jordan River.
 - F. 1 Kings 18—Elijah on Mount Carmel.
 - G. Deuteronomy 6—Put God's laws on your forehead and hand.
 - H. Other.

5. What is 666?
 - A. A number.
 - B. Code for the beast from the earth—the "mark of the beast."
 - C. The pope.
 - D. A U.S. president.
 - E. The number of school shootings this year.
 - F. Man (symbolized by 6) trying to be God (symbolized by 3).
 - G. Just about anything or anyone you want it to be.
 - H. It might have been clear in John's day, but it's not clear today.
 - I. Other.

6. What is your gut reaction to these two beasts?
 - A. Fear.
 - B. Excitement.
 - C. Dread.
 - D. Anger.
 - E. Hopelessness.
 - F. Optimism.
 - G. This is why I don't like the Book of Revelation.
 - H. Other.

7. Where do you see the activity and actions of either beast today?

8. What hope is there for God's people with such a powerful and ungodly trinity (dragon from Revelation 12, sea beast and earth beast from Revelation 13) out to get them (hint: Revelation 14)?