THE GREATEST FORCE

As we study end-time events related to the mark of the beast, one crucial point that comes through is the difference between how God operates and how the enemy does.

As we have been studying, the central issues in the great controversy between Christ and Satan focus on authority, loyalty, and worship. The prophecies describing the beast in Revelation 13, the little horn in Daniel 7, and the “son of perdition” in 2 Thessalonians 2 all speak of a power that usurps God’s authority, commands loyalty, and introduces a counterfeit system of worship. They do so using force, coercion, and at times bribes and rewards—all to control worship.

In contrast, love is the great motivating force of the kingdom of God. Rather than worshiping the beast, God’s people find their greatest joy and highest delight in worshiping Him. They are committed to Him because they know how committed He is to them. There is only one thing that will keep any of us from receiving the mark of the beast in the end-time: a love for Jesus so deep that nothing can break our hold upon Him.

In this lesson we will explore these themes further.
Write out Revelation 13 from the translation of your choice. If you are pressed for time, write out Revelation 13:7–9. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Revelation 13. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How faithful are you in the little things? What might that tell you about how you will be when the real trial comes?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am11-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do you personally live a life that embodies a faith that “endures to the end”?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am11-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Satan’s final deceptions?

Revelation 14:4, 12
Luke 16:10
Matthew 10:22
Ephesians 2:8–10
Romans 8:1–4
Colossians 1:29

What other verses come to mind in connection with Revelation 13?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 13.
Where are other forms of blasphemy have you witnessed?

How has Jesus been your personal meditator?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on this week's passage again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/3am11-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what has personally impacted you?

What are the implications for your social circles?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/3am11-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Which appeals to you more, the faith that Jesus had or the faith that we have in Jesus? Why?

What does Matthew 27:45–50 teach us about what Christ experienced on the cross?

What did Jesus mean by asking God why He had forsaken Him? How does this scene help us understand what it means to have “the faith of Jesus”?

What are the basic principles behind the sea beast’s claim to authority? In what ways can those same attitudes be lodged in our hearts without our knowing it?

How do you respond to those who argue that the idea of a literal Satan is a primitive superstition that educated (or at least intelligent) people can’t take seriously?

What are areas in your life in which you need Christ to reign rather than the antichrist/antichrists?