PERSONAL REFLECTION

Attention | What caught my attention tonight?

Connection | How does this connect with my life right now?

Invitation | What is God inviting me to do in response?

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

11am Sat, Nov 7 | *What the World Needs Now* (followed by an Italian-themed potluck lunch)

6:30pm, Nov 13 & 20 | *Hope Keeps Rising*

Visit the Hope Rising archive at
littletonsdachurch.org/hoperising



DISCOVER BIBLE SCHOOL

Visit our Discover Bible School **online** or pick up study guides at the resource table to start deepening your Bible study journey at home!

Hope RISING

America in Bible Prophecy

 # 09

DISCOVERY TIME

1. Think of some of the most meaningful choices you've made in your life. How meaningful would those choices be if you were being forced to decide that way?
2. Read **John 14:15-16** and ask:
   a. From what motivation and by what power does Jesus look for obedience in my life?
   b. What are some practical ways I have sensed God inviting me to demonstrate my love for Him in response to the things I've studied in this seminar?

Revelation 13 visually depicts Satan's end-time schemes, opening to our eyes the devil's playbook so to speak. This kind of revelation can be intriguing but also somewhat unsettling. Regardless, our study of these significant prophecies ought to maintain a singular focus on the revelation of Jesus (Rev. 1:1) — His character, His purposes, His redemptive acts in the past, present, and future.

DESCRIPTION OF THE 2ND BEAST

- ☐ Revelation 13:11a — This beast is described as "another," a seemingly minor detail that highlights <u>similarity in kind</u> to the first beast in Revelation 13:1-10.
- ☐ Revelation 13:11b — While the two beasts may be similar in character and intention, the rest of the second beast's description points to several distinctive traits:

- "out of the earth" — arises out of a sparsely populated area of the world represented by the earth (in contrast to the sea symbolizing populated areas, Rev. 17:15). This is the same territory that God used to provide refuge during the 1,260 year period of apostate Christianity's oppressive rule (see Rev. 12:14-16).
- "two horns like a lamb" — possessing Christlike characteristics without kingly, monarchical government (horns with no crowns).

- ☐ What nation arose from a sparsely populated area, after having providing a safe haven for those undergoing religious persecution from the medieval church? What young nation would espouse Christlike freedoms without establishing a monarchy? The _____.
- ☐ Revelation 13:11b — Though lamblike in appearance, what this nation would eventually speak and influence others to do is more characteristic of the dragon, both the deceptive and coercive tactics of Satan.

ACTIVITIES OF THE 2ND BEAST

- ☐ Revelation 13:12 — The shift from past tense to present tense verbs reflects a shift of focus from this nation's history to its end-time activity.
- ☐ Revelation 13:12a — This beast exercises the coercive authority of the first, counterfeiting the way the Holy Spirit exercises the authority of Jesus (see Jn. 15:26; 16:13-14). It will leverage this authority to mandate _____ of the first beast on a global scale. How?
  - Revelation 13:13 — through extraordinary signs that appear to be a divine origin (compare 1 Kgs 18:36-39).
  - Revelation 13:14-15 — by breathing into (compare Gen. 2:7) or re-creating a state-supported religion that replicates the first beast's authority.
- ☐ Revelation 13:16-17 — Allegiance to the beast and its image will not just be an idea that's promoted, it will be a practice that's demanded in order to live and even in order to buy or sell based on receiving the mark of the beast (Session 8).

RISING HOPE?

- ☐ While Revelation 13 tells us that what started as lamblike will indeed eventually speak as a dragon, Revelation 14 reveals God's redemptive response to invite all people to worship Him! (More in Session 10.)
- ☐ John 14:29 — Revelation 13 does not provide pinpoint description of every detail of America's activity, but it provides sufficient principles to _____ it functioning as the counterfeit Holy Spirit when it comes to pass — not to fill us with fear, but with faith in the God who revealed it all.
- ☐ Daniel 3:16-18 — What gave these three men strength to stand faithful though threatened with death in the face of mandated false worship?
  - "we"(v. 16) — Though in the minority, they were not entirely solitary. They knew they were not alone (see 1 Kgs 19:14, 18) because they had invested in forging friendships of faith.
  - "our God whom we serve is able" (v. 17) — They knew who they truly served and were confident in His power to save.
  - "but if not" (v. 18) — Their belief in God was not contingent upon receiving blessings from God. They resolved to obey God rather than man (see Acts 5:28-29) no matter the outcomes.