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

Wed, Nov 4 | *How to Escape the Mark of the Beast*
Fri, Nov 6 | *America in Bible Prophecy*
11 am Sat, Nov 7 | *What the World Needs Now*

Visit the Hope Rising archive at
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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!

DISCOVERY TIME

1. What's the difference between knowing about someone and actually knowing that someone personally? Share about a friend you at first only knew about, and discuss what was involved in getting to know that individual personally.
2. Read **John 17:3** and ask:
   a. Is eternal life found in only knowing factually about God or in getting to know Him personally?
   b. What steps do you take (or want to take) in order to know God personally?

In John 10:10, Jesus contrasts in broad strokes the mission of Satan versus the mission of the Savior. God's enemy is bent on robbing us of life, but Jesus has come to give us abundant life. In light of Jesus' definition of eternal life in John 17:3, we could say that God's objective in sending Jesus Christ is that we would come to know Him and thus experience eternal life. If that is God's goal, it should come as no surprise to find that Satan's objective in sending the Antichrist is to keep us from knowing Jesus and thus fall short of experiencing salvation.

UNDERSTANDING THE TITLE

- ☐ 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7 — The term "Antichrist" is used only five times in the New Testament and all in John's epistles. However, the concept permeates prophecy in both the Old and New Testaments — the expectation of a power that would both 1) violently oppose God and 2) deceptively stand in place of God, resulting in a departure from the faith.

- [ ] 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 — Paul's description captures this dual dynamic (v. 4) and uses additional titles to suggest both the motivation and origin of this rebellious power:
    - "man of sin" — pointing to the Antichrist's abandonment of God's law (see Session 6).
    - "son of perdition" — a title only shared with _____ (Jn. 17:12) who worked against Jesus from within, not from without (see also Acts 20:29-30).

DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAST

- [ ] Revelation 13:1-2 — These strange but significant details reveal that this beast resembles the dragon and is meant to be identified as the same Little Horn power of Daniel 7.
- [ ] Revelation 13:2-4 — The description of this beast mirrors the experience of Jesus, thus posing as a counterfeit Christ, a substitute in the place of Jesus.

Beast of Revelation 13:1-10	Jesus Christ
Begins by coming up from sea	Begins ministry after coming up from waters of baptism (Lk. 3:21-23)
Resembles the dragon	Resembles the Father (Jn. 14:9)
Receives power & authority from the dragon	Receives power & authority from the Father (Rev. 2:27)
Is wounded to death but healed	Is slain but resurrected (Rev. 5:6)
Is worshiped as: "Who is like the beast?"	Is called Michael, meaning "Who is like God?" (Rev. 12:7)

ACTIVITIES OF THE BEAST

- [ ] Revelation 13:5 — The great things spoken by this power are described as "blasphemies," that which claims equality with God (see Jn. 10:33; Mt. 26:63-65) and the very prerogatives of God, namely to forgive sins (Mk. 2:7).
- [ ] Revelation 13:5b — The beast exercises this counterfeit authority for 42 months, the time period during which God preserves His covenant people (see Rev. 12:6, 14).

Beast of Revelation 13:1-10	Little Horn of Daniel 7
Has a mouth speaking great things	Has a mouth speaking great things (Dan. 7:8, 11, 20)
Speaks blasphemies against God	Speaks blasphemies against God (Dan. 7:25)
Wages war with the saints and overcomes them	Wages war with the saints and overcomes them (Dan. 7:21, 25)
Exercises authority for 42 months	Exercises authority for a time, times, and half a time (Dan. 7:25)

PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT

- [ ] Has this happened? Has there been a power on earth that fulfills the description of the Little Horn/Antichrist power described in both Daniel 7 and Revelation 13? Yes, it happened through the apostate _____.
- [ ] This history is humbling and sobering. But in the context of Satan's end-time schemes against God's remnant, the more relevant question is: Will it happen again? Revelation 13:3 points to a time when this history will be _____, when there will be a resuscitation of relying upon secular power rather than the Holy Spirit that moves people to worship the counterfeit Christ rather than Jesus Christ.

PROPHETIC HOPE

- [ ] While it is heart-wrenching to imagine that God's bride could fall from her covenant standing and rely upon secular power in pursuit of spiritual agendas, the good news is that God does not give up (see Rev. 14:8; 18:1-2)!
- [ ] Revelation 12:17 — In the last session we saw the necessity of keeping God's commandments. Here, this understanding of the Antichrist underscores the necessity of personally holding to the testimony of Jesus — both the Spirit's revelation of Jesus in prophecy (Rev. 19:10) AND the first-hand experience of knowing Jesus as our personal Savior (Rev. 12:11; Jn. 17:3).