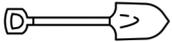




**DWELL** Listen and follow along as we read the passage together. Note repeated or familiar phrases. Briefly share initial observations and/or questions with your group.



**DIG** 1. Read 13:1-2 and note what you learn about the beast. Then skim Daniel 7. Quickly note significant similarities and differences between the four beasts of Daniel's vision and the first beast of Revelation?

SIMILARITIES	DIFFERENCES	THOUGHTS / OBSERVATIONS

2. Read Rev.13:5-6. What might "blasphemous words," "blasphemies" and "blaspheming" mean?
3. Read 13:3, 7, 14-17. What methods does the enemy use to draw people away from God?
4. Discuss the symbolism and meaning of 13:14-17 and 14:1,9 in light of Deuteronomy 6:5-6,8.
5. Who are the 144,000 here in 14:1-5 and 7:4-8?
6. Read about the two harvests (grain and grapes) in 14:14-20. Then read the Matthew and Joel passages. Discuss the meaning of these two harvests.
7. Read the end of 13:10 and read 14:12. In both chapters, John interrupts his description of these frightening things with a declaration for the people of God. What does he tell his readers? Do these words remind you of anything we read earlier in Revelation?
8. As you reflect on this passage, what are you learning about God (Father/Son/Spirit) that is encouraging, comforting and/or challenging to you?



**DEEPEN**

9. Think about the ways that Satan works to draw people away from God—even people in the church. What might "endurance and faith" (13:10, 14:12) look like in these days?
10. Think about the two different marks and the two different harvests. How do they make you feel, and why?

**Daniel 7 NIV.** <sup>3</sup>Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. <sup>4</sup>The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. ... <sup>5</sup>And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. ...there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule. <sup>7</sup>After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup>While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully. ... the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. <sup>12</sup>(The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) <sup>13</sup>... there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup>He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. ...<sup>17</sup>The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever. <sup>19</sup>Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. <sup>20</sup>I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. <sup>21</sup>As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, <sup>22</sup>until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment ... <sup>26</sup>“But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. <sup>27</sup>Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom...”

**Deuteronomy 6:5-6,8 NASB.** “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.... “You shall also tie them as a sign to your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead.”

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 NKJV.** Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’ “Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. “The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. “The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. “Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. “The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, “and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

**Joel 3:13 ESV.** Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.