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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Frauds, Fake News & Faithfulness

Revelation 13:1-18

Series: The Return of the King – The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Central Passage

Revelation 13:5–8 (ESV) — **5** And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. **6** It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. **7** Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, **8** and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

Central Thought: As the Beasts of intimidation, imitation and deception increase at local, national and international levels, followers of Jesus are called to endurance, faithfulness and discernment as we await the return of the King.

In These Last Days...

- ❖ We need to Endure the bluster and violence of self-centered leadership.

Mark 13:19–20 (ESV) — **19** For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. **20** And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.

- ❖ We need to be Faithful to the gospel of King Jesus.

Matthew 24:11–14 (ESV) — **11** And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. **12** And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

2 Timothy 3:10–13 (ESV) — **10** You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, **11** my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. **12** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, **13** while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- ❖ We need to the Discernment of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13–15 (ESV) — **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.