

Issues of authority and loyalty regarding the beast from the earth (Rev 13.11-18): power, worship and economics interwoven

Which side will the “inhabitants of the earth” choose in the war?

Dragon	The inhabitants of the earth: small and great, rich and poor, free and slave	God
Sea beast		Jesus the Lamb
Land beast		“saints”

-) The land beast has horns like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon
-) The land beast acts on the authority of the sea beast
-) The land beast makes earth and inhabitants worship the sea beast
-) The land beast does great signs “before all” to deceive them into worshipping the sea beast by making an image of it.
-) The land beast is authorized to give breath to the image of the sea beast so that it can speak and cause the death of those who refuse to worship the image of the sea beast
-) The land beast makes all to be marked on the right hand or forehead to control their economic activity

The divine authority behind the scenes in Rev 13

The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. (13.5)

Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation (13.7)

and by the signs that it is allowed to perform on behalf of the beast (13.14)

and it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast (13.15)