

Revelation 13

The Beast

Revelation 13:1-4 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of* a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

Comments: Notice that John has been brought down from heaven back to earth. He is on the sand of the sea and he sees a beast rising out of the sea. Chapter 12 is pivotal because we see Satan is cast out of heaven for good, and from this point we begin to see evil creatures operating on earth to deceive people. The beast of chapter 13 is not the dragon that appears in chapter 12, but the beast is under the authority of the dragon or Satan. The beast in reality looks like the beasts of the animal kingdom that people are afraid to encounter. Since the beast has seven heads and only one has been mortally wounded, it shows how difficult it is to totally defeat it.

Revelation 13:5-9 ⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ **All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.** ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

Comments: Notice that the beast has a limited time, has world-wide influence, and speaks blasphemously against everything about God: God Himself, His name, His tabernacle, and those in heaven.

Question: What do you make of the statement in verse 9: "If anyone has an ear, let him hear."?

Revelation 13:10-14 ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. ¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

Question: What do you think it means: "Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 ¹³ For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Revelation 13:15-18 ¹⁵ He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ **Here is wisdom.** Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, **for it is the number of a man:** His number *is* 666.

Comments: Idolatry will become the dominance of the end-times. The idolatry will be very powerful but not beyond resistance for many, and those who do resist will be confronted with death as was the case of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. Also notice that the number of the beast is also the number of a man.

Daniel 3:9-12, 16-18 ⁹They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰ "You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; ¹¹ "and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ¹² "There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up." ... ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ "If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

Questions: Is the number of the man beyond determining? What is required to determine the number of the man? Why would the number of the man be determinable?