

REVELATION: CHAPTER 13

Continuing from chapter 12:17 “And he stood on the sand of the sea” (ESV). Some English versions say “he” while others say “I”. Interlinear: “I”. Who had power over these? See 10:5.

Rev 13:1 And I (He) stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

- sea- Isa 57:20; Jude 12-13.

- These are humanity without God, restless, Satan’s reinforcements. Satan is the enemy; his earthly agent, the beast (*Caesar*), who came from such restlessness (9:2), now carries out the war against the Jews.

- ten horns- ten kings (17:12).

- ten crowns (*Gk.1238- diadem*)- these are given authority **as** kings (17:12).

- seven heads- seven mountains (*authorities/ Caesars*) (17:10).

- name of blasphemy- the emperors were deified on the coinage after death. Some, such as Domitian, wanted to be addressed as Lord Caesar while alive (“*Caesar is God*”): 2 Thes. 2:3-12 (*The Eternal Kingdom- F.W. Mattox, pg. 65*).
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Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

- leopard- swift/ ferocious. (*like the Greeks- Dan. 7:6*)

- feet of a bear- voracious/greedy. (*like the Medo-Persians- Dan. 7:5*)

- mouth of a lion- devouring. (*like the Babylonians- Dan. 7:4*)

- Rome's rule was prophesied, thus permitted by God but influenced by Satan (17:8; Lk. 4:6; Rom. 13:1). The explanation Daniel gave in Dan 7:3-8 further illuminated Nebuchadnezzar's dream (*Dan 3*) showing how Rome emulated the descriptions of all the then known world powers that existed before it, all balled up into that one empire. All the consequences of the sins against God's elect (*under both Testaments*) were connected to Jerusalem here (*Lk 13:34*), with the combined punishment via God's righteous judgment (*Lk 11:50*).

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Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

- one of his heads... wounded to death- Nero committed suicide on June 9, 68 AD thus ending his persecution of the saints and his war against the Jews in Palestine. *Wikipedia*

- deadly wound was healed- With Nero's death (*and those of the three that followed him*), Vespasian, who was general at the time, returned to Rome at the bequest of the army to become Emperor, placing his son Titus over the campaign to resurrect and finally finish the siege against Jerusalem. The livelihood of the world at that time depended on their loyalty to Rome and their "god" Caesar for their sustenance and safety.

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Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

- The satellite nations felt Rome was invincible, thus their allegiance to Rome was allegiance to Satan; they sold out to Satan in support of Rome in destroying Jerusalem and in persecuting the church. Since only God can set up and destroy nations, the power Satan gave Rome was to deceive the world into believing Caesar was deity. Such worship only belongs to God (22:9)! Here, it was intentional. It fed Satan's ego because of his jealousy against God (*and His Christ*): Gen 3:4-5; Exo 15:11.
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Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

- great things and blasphemies- titles and claims of deity. Because of free agency he (*Neron Caesar*) was permitted to claim such things, but only for a while: 2 Thes 2:3-4, 11.
 - forty and two months- 3 1/2 years- 1260 days= incomplete or short time (12:6, 14; 11:2, 3). Here it had to do with Nero's reign until he committed suicide. Nero "reigned ten years when Rome burned in July of 64 AD. His blaming the Christians for the fire led to the first Roman persecution against the church. Beginning in November of 64 AD, this persecution was one of the most atrocious ever directed against the saints." "The period from the beginning of the persecution of the Christians in November of 64 AD until Nero kills himself in June of 68 AD is about forty-two months". Arthur Ogden- pg. 283 (*See also Dan. 7:25*)
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Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in Heaven.

- Caesar vilified God, His authority, His tabernacle (*the church*) and the angels of Heaven (*since Christ is the*

only “human” to have reached her shores- Jn 3:13) in his claim to be human deity (2 Thes 2:3-10).

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

- given- permitted.

Dan 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them,

- The purpose of the judgment in 11:13 was that they “gave glory to the God of Heaven”. God permitted this persecution just as He did the persecution of Christ, for the conversion of the world (*Act 8:1, 4*). Caesar’s authority was worldwide and was used to this very end. See also Exo 9:16.
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Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

- The worldly people allied with Rome are the ones who practiced Caesar worship.
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- from- (*Gk.575- “off”, that is, away [from something near]*) Jn 17:24

Eph 1:4 even as He (*God the Father*) chose us in Him (*in Christ via Gal. 3:27*) **before** the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. (*Emp. added*) (*ESV*)

1Pe 1:18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was **foreknown** (*Gk.4267-known beforehand*) **before** (*Gk.4253-in front of, prior [figuratively superior]*) to the foundation of

the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you (*Emp. added*) (*ESV*)

- God (*the Father, Son and Holy Spirit*) knew before the creation of the world that Christ would suffer for the sin of mankind, because He loved(s) us (*Jn 3:16*) and gave (*gives*) us the choice (*free agency*) whether to return that love and devotion, or not. It is that choice that will determine our eternal destiny.
 - “Before” is different than ‘from’: *Heb 4:3; Gen 2:3.*
 - foundation of the world- creation. The book of life of the Lamb was written in eternity where God is all-knowing. We are the ones who choose to be in it (*through obedience*) because God gave us free agency. Christ wasn’t slain in eternity before the world was created since that would eliminate man’s choice. “From” has to do with Christ’s then future coming once man’s decision to sin was fulfilled.
 - book of life- Read *Ex 32:30-33; Psa 69:28; Isa 4:3; Php 4:3; Heb 12:22-24; Rev 20:15.*
 - Lamb- (*Who was*) slain- The same “Lamb standing” of *5:6*, thus showing His victory over death: *1 Cor 5:7.*
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Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

- ear- Gk.3775- *ear* (physically or mentally). hear- Gk.191- to hear: -understand. If you are mentally able to understand, you need to heed the warning: *Jn 18:37.*
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Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

- This is a warning against being in Jerusalem and/or participating in her sins no matter where the saints

were (2:14, 20, 23; 3:3). The siege ended with many being taken into captivity and of which many were sold into slavery or prostitution. Those who didn't die of starvation or famine were killed with the sword, either during the civil war that took place within the city or by the army of the Roman Empire that surrounded it (*Mat 24:33*).

- Those swords Jesus told His disciples to purchase (*Lk 22:38*) were not for fighting against the persecution but were for "beasts" (*1 Cor 15:32*) like the ones Paul "fought with" as well as against robbers they would encounter as they traveled between destinations. Here was the church's opportunity to endure through persecution and submission to God (1:9; 14:9-12). Both "sea" (*v. 1*) and "earth" beasts are restricted by the Angel of 10:2.
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Rev 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

- earth beast- having two horns (*suggesting it was a ram*) like (*Gk.3664- similar [in appearance or character]*) a lamb suggests innocence (*deceptive*) but it spake as a dragon: *2 Cor 11:3; 2 Thes 2:3-4*. If the "sea" beast arose from restless humanity, and land is calmer than sea, the conclusion would be that once the Roman Empire conquered the then known world, the next step would be to control these diverse nations and their citizenry (*v. 12*) with one pagan, earthly (*not of divine origin*) state sponsored religion. According to Daniel 2:43 such was not to be.
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Rev 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

- This beast is subordinate to the first (sea) beast whose authority was delegated by the emperor (before him), as was Joseph's by Pharaoh (*Gen 41:40-42*). In the religion of Rome at this time (*pre-Papal or Holy Roman Empire*), being a function of the state, state officials doubled as priests or cult officials. They led the way to deifying the emperor whose office still stood even after the death of Nero (*v. 3*).
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Rev 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

- As a false prophet he simulated the miracles of the true prophets. In the end, the word of God will reveal every, and all, such lies and false wonders: *Ex 7:11; Mat 24:24; Mar 13:22; Act 8:9-11; 2 Thes 2:7-9; Rev 16:14.*
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Rev 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

- had power to do- they were permitted by God for a specific purpose (*Rom 9:17*).
- the sight (presence) of the beast- at official state functions, with Roman representatives of the Caesar present and assisting. Any *likeness* of the reigning Caesar was an image/ icon that was considered an idol to be deified, representing the emperor's presence. A bust or statue is what's considered here.
- **G1504 εἰκών- eikōn- i-kone'**

From G1503; a *likeness*, that is, (literally) *statue, profile*, or (figuratively) *representation, resemblance: -image*.

Rom 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an **image made like to** corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. (*Emp. added*)

- wound (ed) by a sword, and yet did live- Nero committed suicide June 9, 68 AD thus ending his persecution of the church. With his death the church had a good but brief opportunity to flee Jerusalem (*Mat 24:22*). See notes v. 3.
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Rev 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

- Modern archeology has discovered piping beneath altars of busts that reverberated a human's voice through the image. (*Gospel Advocate- April 2007*) The purpose was to **catch and put to death any who would not worship the image.** (*The Eternal Kingdom- A History of The Church by F.W. Mattox, pages 35-37. IV. Pliny*) This type of deception to catch non-conformists was not practiced first by the Romans: Dan 3:4-6.
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Rev 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Rev 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

- Coinage of Rome so claimed Caesar as God (*Dominus et Deus- Domitian is God*). The refusal to use coinage thus stamped, or to participate in the pagan guilds (*which promoted temple prostitution and idol worship- 2:20*), either would effectively limit or cut off a Christian's participation in trade. The mark here is figurative but does indicate ownership (*3:12*).

Everything from their associations (*fellowship-right hand*) to the very thoughts in their heads must have been in allegiance with, thus belong to, Rome: Rom 6:16-17; 2 Cor 10:5.

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Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore *and six*.

- This numeral calls for understanding-
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- count-

G5585- ψηφίζω- psēphizō- *psay-fid'-zo*

From G5586; to *use pebbles* in enumeration, that is, (genitive case) to *compute*: - count.

- The beast here is represented by the first persecuting Caesar, Neron Caesar. To compute this “number of a man” Arthur Ogden wrote (pg. 288), “Many ancient languages used alphabetical characters as numerical figures with specific values attached to the letters. The process is known as **gematria**. ...the number of the name Neron Caesar is 666 and identifies the specific emperor ruling Rome at the time of the apocalypse.” John’s audience would have known since among them there would have been those endowed with the gift of wisdom or of knowledge (1 Cor 12:8). The number “six” was known to the Jew, and thus the Christian, to be a number of imperfection (*five being the number representing the human [five complete digits per hand and foot], seven being a number of completion [seven churches, seven Spirits, earth created and God rested in seven days, etc.], and thus six as a number pertaining to neither which doesn’t add up*). Therefore “666” would also represent the ultimate number of imperfection thus denoting an imperfect person who is without God. Anyone who was owned by Rome (*Caesar and thus Satan*) was without God. (Mat 6:24)

Just as 12 is a number of perfection, the numbers 144 (12×12) and 144,000 ($12 \times 12 \times 1000$) are indicative of the ultimate numbers of perfection (7:4-8; 14:3).

"The two-horned land beast (Revelation 13:11-18), who enforced worship of the sea beast, referred to the official governmental organization known as the Roman Concilia that was responsible for supporting and regulating all details relative to emperor worship (Summers, pp. 178-179; Swete, pp. 168ff.). This evil legal entity was authorized to instigate economic sanctions against those who refused to appropriate the "mark" of the beast, "mark" being a symbol for proof of their submission to Caesar worship (vs. 17)." Copyright © 2003 Apologetics Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

Worksheet **Revelation: Chapter 13**

1. Out of what did the first “beast” rise and what does it represent? (v. 1)
2. Explain the beast’s “ten horns”, “ten diadems”, “seven heads” and “blasphemous names”. (v. 1)
3. Name the animals “the beast” resembled and what they represent. (v. 2)
4. Why did “the whole earth [marvel] as they followed the beast”? (v. 3)
5. Who did the whole earth worship and why? (v. 4)
6. How long was this beast “allowed to exercise authority”? Explain what is equal to. (v. 5)
7. When John wrote that he “saw another beast”, where did this one come from? (v. 11)
8. What was its relationship with “the first beast”? (v. 12)
9. How was it “allowed to work in the presence of the beast”? (v. 14)
10. What was given “to the image of the beast” and why? (v. 15)
11. What did everyone need in order to “buy or sell”? (v. 16)
12. Explain “the number of the beast”. (v. 18)