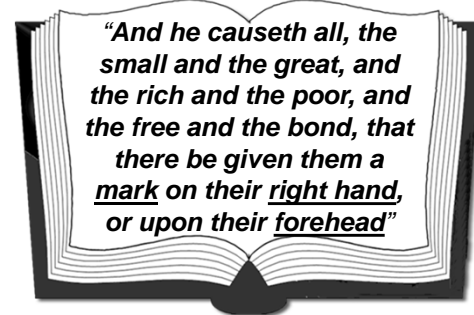


A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

February 28, 2021

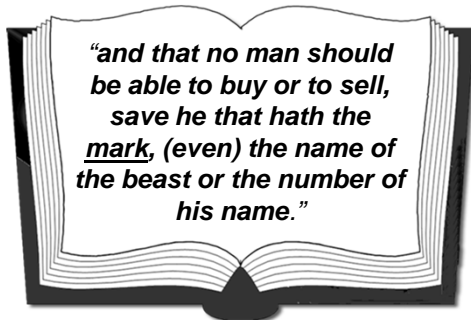
Revelation 13

Revelation 13:16



Revelation 13

Revelation 13:17



Revelation 13

Mark Of The Beast

- "Robert Mounce states that **religious tattooing** was widespread in the ancient world, and devotees of a particular god were often branded to indicate their loyal devotion ... Others take the passage as an apocalyptic description of **certificates** issued to those who had fulfilled the ceremonial obligations of emperor worship" (Robert Harkrider, *Revelation*, Truth Commentaries, Page 226)
- Slaves and members of the Attis-Cybele cult were sometimes **tattooed**, and it has been conjectured that people in Ephesus were given an **ink mark** on the wrist or forehead that allowed them access to the market. (Edwin Judge, *The Mark Of The Beast*, Revelation 13:16, Page 159)

Revelation 13

Mark Of The Beast

- "In one such document the person requests certification that they had sacrificed to the gods and tasted sacred things. The **certificate** itself reads: 'We, the representatives of the Emperor, Serenos and Hermas, have seen you sacrificing'" (Barclay, *Letters*, 29-30, quoted by Ferrell Jenkins, *Studies in the Book of Revelation*, Pages 27-28).
- Others suggest this was **coinage**, which bore the emperor's likeness long with divine titles. (Caird, Page 173)
- Under Augustus people who received government grain, received a **small tile** (engraved?) which would grant them access to the granary. (Edwin Judge, *The Mark Of The Beast*, Revelation 13:16, Page 159)

Revelation 13

Mark Of The Beast

Was this a physical mark?

- Remember, God has a **seal** (mark) upon those who belong to Him. (Revelation 7:3-4; 9:4; 14:1; 22:4).
- 2 Timothy 2:19, "Howbeit the firm foundation of God standeth, having this **seal**, The Lord knoweth them that are his: and, Let every one that nameth the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness."
- Can indicate a moral and spiritual distinction.
 - Exodus 13:9 Passover.
 - Exodus 28:36-38 Priestly garments.
 - 2 Chronicles 26:19-20 Uzziah's leprosy.

Revelation 13

The Demands

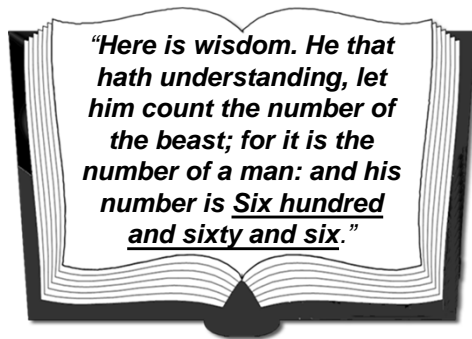
- The totality of the human society was under threat of persecution if they did not receive the “**mark**.”
- Whatever this mark was, it declared to those who saw it that the one who had the mark was **loyal to the empire and emperor!**
- Those who **worshipped** the beast – **belonged** to the beast.
- Unqualified allegiance to Christ required God’s saints to prefer **suffering martyrdom** over **compromising** their faith! (NOTE: Revelation 2:10, 13; 12:11)

Revelation 13

The Demands

- The mark stands for the name of his beast and the number.
- Those without the mark were **prohibited** from finding employment.
- Lucrative positions were **withheld** from them.
- They endured **economic discrimination**.
- Why would one endure such **hardships**?
- Why not find a way to **appease** the “*god of this world*” and still **serve** Christ?
- Christians would not and could not **compromise their faith** and **commitment** to the Lord! (NOTE: Revelation 12:11)

Revelation 13

Revelation 13:18

Revelation 13

The Number 666

- **What is the meaning of the mystical number 666?**
- It has been assigned **endless applications and to endless persons** ... Nero Caesar, the Catholic Pope, Napoleon, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Mussolini, Hitler, Saddam Hussein, or even the numbers used in the international trade system.
- Note: Identifying the number 666 with any individual is a highly subjective exercise.
 - Ray Summers, *Worthy Is The Lamb*, Page 176
 - Robert Harkrider, *Revelation*, Truth Commentaries, Page 227
 - William Hendriksen, *More than Conquerors*, Page 182
 - L. David McClister, *Overcoming With The Lamb*, Florida College Lectures, 1994, Page 114
 - Homer Hailey, *Commentary on Revelation*, Pages 297-299

Revelation 13

The Number 666

- One of the most frequently used theories is one called *gematria*. This is where letters are given a numerical value. (Cryptographic method)
- Gematria – “The use of the letters of a word so as by means of their combined numerical value to express a name, or a witty association of ideas.” (I.S.B.E., Vol. IV, Page 2162)
- One of the earliest church writers to apply this method of interpretation was Irenaeus (AD 120-202), who offered three suggested names for the number:
 - Euranthas, which seems to have no significance;
 - Lateinos, from an early king of Latium, but not of Rome for “Latium at the present bear rule”;
 - Teitan or Titan, a name which caution would be given to the Antichrist who was to come. But Irenaeus urged caution in accepting any of these. (*Against Heresies*, V. 30.3.A-N-F., I. Page 559). (Quoted by Hailey, Pages 297-298)

Revelation 13

The Number 666

- “The general consensus among scholarly commentators is that the numbers refer to Nero Caesar. Kepler (148) says, ‘Some take the Latin word *Neron* and apply numerical equivalents for each letter in such fashion’”

N – 50**E – 6****R – 500****O – 60****N – 50**

“The final *N* can be dropped, and the total would be 616. Others have transliterated the Greek or Latin for *Neron* Caesar into Hebrew letters and come up with a total 666. By omitting the final *N* in *Neron* the total comes to 616. There is a slight amount of evidence for the 616 reading. *Irenaeus*, before the end of the second century, was critical of manuscripts which had the number 616 (*Against Heresies* V, xxx.1)”

(From Ferrell Jenkins, *Studies in the Book of Revelation*, Page 26)

Revelation 13

The Number 666

- What is not generally made known is that this solution asks us to calculate a Hebrew transliteration (given a defective spelling) of the Greek form of a Latin name.
- The book of Revelation was written in Greek to a predominantly Gentile audience, so why should there be a shift to Hebrew to solve this riddle?
- Are all of the numbers in Revelation to be understood symbolically or literally, and is there justification to alternate between the two? 144,000 (Revelation 7, 14); 1000-year reign (Revelation 20); 3½ days (Revelation 11:9); 3½ years; 42 months; 1,260 days ... (Revelation 11:3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

Revelation 13

Numbers In The Book Of Revelation

- 1 – Unity (Deuteronomy 6:14) One Jehovah God.
- 2 – Strength (Revelation 11:3)
- 3 – Divine number (see Matthew 28:19)
- 4 – Nature, Creation, World (Revelation 7:1)
- 5 – The whole man is represented by this number example (Revelation 17:10)
- 6 – Short of 7 – failure (Revelation 13:18)
- 7 – Completeness – perfection, totality, sometimes the combination of 3 and 4
- 10 – Power – world power Number 5 multiplied twice.
Refer to Revelation 13:1. Ten horns.
1000 – Multiple of 10 X 10 X 10. Whole or fullness
- 12 – Religious number.
3½ years; 42 months; 1,260 days ... (Revelation 11:3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).
Broken 7 – incomplete – indefinite period.

Revelation 13

The Number 666

Proper use of Numbers and Objects in Revelation.

- “Understanding the symbolic meanings usually attached to numbers in this style of literature is necessary; numbers do not have real numerical value.
- “We must discard our mathematical ideas and seek to discover their symbolical significance.
- “A large part of the unscriptural dispensationalism of the day is based upon a false view of the value of numbers employed in Revelation.” (Robert Harkrider, Revelation – A Study Workbook, Page 5)

Revelation 13

The Number 666

- The number 666 falls short of perfection ...
- It means that **the combined forces of evil – dragon, Roman political power, and false religion** – equal the number of “**man**” and “**the beast**”
- Evil to the highest degree – will not win!
- All who trust in man are destined to lose!
- The **fundamental difference** between the lost and saved is the one in whom one places his **trust – God or man?**
- This was true at this time – and it remains true in our time!

Revelation 13

“Here Is Wisdom ...” (cf. Matthew 6:24; 12:30)

Read the Text!

- Revelation 13:18, “*Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of **a man**: and his number is Six hundred and sixty and six.*”
- “psephizo (5585); from psephos (5586), a small stone or pebble used particularly by the Greeks and Egyptians in their calculations. To reckon, compute, calculate, **figure out** (Luke 14:28; Rev 13:18). In the classics also in the mid. meaning to give one’s vote, vote for, decree.” (from The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

Revelation 13

“Here Is Wisdom ...” (cf. Matthew 6:24; 12:30)

Read the Text!

- Revelation 13:18, “*Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of **a man**: and his number is Six hundred and sixty and six.*”

Read the next verse ...

- Revelation 14:1, “***And I saw**, and behold, **the Lamb** standing on the mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty and four thousand, having **His name**, and the name of **His Father**, written on their foreheads.*”

