

# A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

June 6, 2021

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Revelation 17

## REVELATION 17:9

Revelation  
13:18

*"Here is the mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth"*

Revelation 17

## HARLOT AND BEAST IDENTIFIED

- Seven **heads** – seven **mountains**
- Rome was built on seven hills
  - "Latin literature is replete with references to Rome being built on seven hills" (Caird, page 216)
  - Revelation 17:9-10, "The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth: and they are seven kings" ASV
  - Revelation 17:9-10, "The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings" ESV
- Seven kings – The whole of the **emperors** of Rome
- Kings represent **kingdoms** ...

Revelation 17

## REVELATION 17:10

*"and they are seven kings; the five are fallen, the one is, the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a little while."*

Revelation 17

## REVELATION 17:11

*"And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is of the seven; and he goeth into perdition."*

Revelation 17

## HARLOT AND BEAST IDENTIFIED

- What is John being told by the angel?
- Is the angel referring to kingdoms of men that reigned as world empires?
- Should we continue to follow the meaning of the "**numbers**" and **symbols** they mean?
  - **Seven** – whole
  - **Five** – broken number
  - **One** – current reigning
- Consider ...

Revelation 17

## THE KINGS ...

- Seven kings (17:10-11)
  - A brief look at various commentaries show how difficult it is to know with which emperor to begin and which ones to count. (For several approaches, see Homer Hailey, *Revelation – An Introduction and Commentary*, pages 350-353)
  - “But does the list begin with Julius Caesar or Augustus? Or does it begin with the first emperor to be hated and feared by Jews and Christians – either Gaius (known as Caligula) or Nero?
  - Another question is: What should be done with the three emperors Galba, Otho, and Vitellius who reigned within the single year 68-69? Should they be counted separately, ignored or counted as one” (Michaels, page 44, Quoted by Ferrell Jenkins, *Studies in the Book of Revelation*, page 30)

Revelation 17

## THE KINGS ...

- Seven kings (17:10-11)
  - “Seven kings are a symbolic number, representative of the whole series of emperors, and they would remain seven no matter how long the actual list happened to be.” (Caird, page 218; cf. Beckwith, page 708; Hughes, page 185)
  - (Above quotes cited by Ferrell Jenkins in *Studies in the Book of Revelation*, pages 30-31. See also Chart of Kings listed by Jenkins)
  - Note: Most lists begin with Augustus.

Revelation 17

## THE KINGS ...

- Seven kings (17:10-11)
  - “To start with, consider the meaning of the number **seven**. Throughout Revelation this number consistently has a symbolic reference to that which is complete and whole. It is the perfect divine number. Since seven represents the whole, **five** is a broken, incomplete number. This suggests that of the total number of kings who have been and shall be, the greater part has come and gone. One is refers to the current reigning power. The seventh king is yet to reign, and that only for a brief time.”  
(Robert Harkrider, *Revelation, Truth Commentaries*, page 264)

**The Kings – Revelation 17:10-11 (Ferrell Jenkins, page 31)**

Date	Emperor	Summers	Wallace	Swete	Hendriksen
44 BC	*Julius Caesar		1. Julius		1. Ancient Babylonia
31 BC – AD 14	*Augustus	1. Augustus	2. Augustus	1. Augustus	2. Assyria
AD 14-37	Tiberius	2. Tiberius	3. Tiberius	2. Tiberius	3. New Babylonia
AD 37-41	Gaius (Caligula)	3. Caligula	4. Caligula	3. Caligula	4. Medo-Persian
AD 41-54	*Claudius	4. Claudius	5. Claudius	4. Claudius	5. Greco-Maced.
AD 54-68	Nero	5. Nero	6. Nero	5. Nero	6. Rome
AD 68-69	Galba				
AD 69	Otho				
AD 69	Vitellius				
AD 69-79	*Vespasian	6. Vespasian		6. Vespasian	
AD 79-81	*Titus	7. Titus		7. Titus	7. All Anti-Christian Governments
AD 81-96	Domitian		7. Domitian	8. Domitian	

\*Deified by an act of senate. Most lists begin with Augustus.

Revelation 17

## THE KINGS ...

- Here is one arrangement of the Seven kings
- **Five have fallen:**
  - **Augustus** (Octavian)
  - **Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus**
  - **Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus**
  - **Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus**
  - **Nero**

Revelation 17

## THE KINGS ...

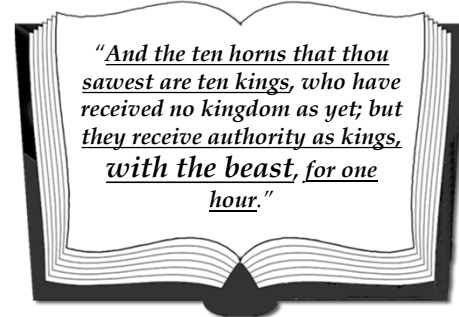
- Seven kings ...
- **One is**
  - **Galba (68), Otho (69), Vitellius (69)**
- **One is not yet come**
  - **Vespasian (69-79)**
  - **Titus (79-81) – continues for a short time**

Revelation 17

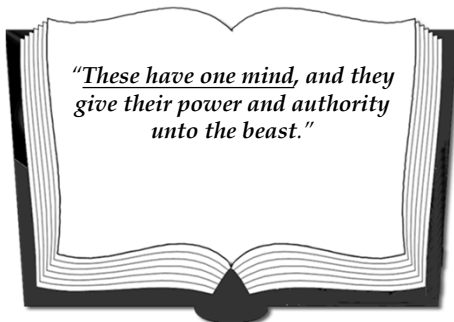
**THE KINGS ...**

- The beast that **WAS**, and **IS NOT**, is himself also the **EIGHTH**
  - Domitian
- Is one of the **seven**
  - Kingdoms of men are not invincible!
- Is going to **perdition**
  - Needless to say all the “**seven +1**” have been the puppet for the power behind them – Satan! His end and the “kings” are the same!

Revelation 17

**REVELATION 17:12**

Revelation 17

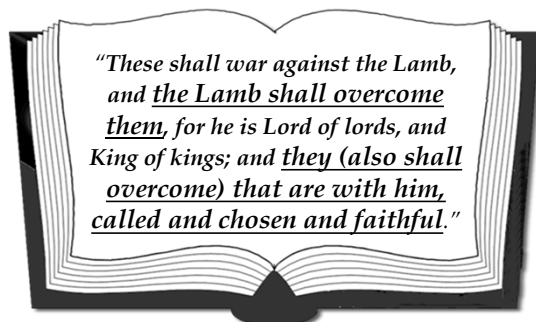
**REVELATION 17:13**

Revelation 17

**TEN KINGS ...**

- Horns indicate **power and strength**
- Some have **not yet** received kingdoms
- **Vassal kings** – put into power by Rome the real power/authority (Kings like Herod and Agrippa; nothing but puppets of Rome)
  - Conquered kings and rulers of countries allied with Rome – **depend on Rome** for favor
  - This is how they **retain** their power
- All have one mind – **OBEY ROME!**

Revelation 17

**REVELATION 17:14 – THEME OF THE BOOK**

Revelation 17

**WAR WITH THE LAMB!**

- Can Christ **overcome** such powerful foes?
- This one verse defines the **whole message** of the Apocalypse!
- Yes, the **Lamb will overcome** them!
  - He shall overcome all enemies!
  - Doomed to defeat. Revelation 12:7-10
  - Christ has all authority. Matthew 28:18
- All who ally with Rome face the same fate!
- Why? (Revelation 1:5; Ephesians 1:20-23)
  - **He is Lord of Lords and king of kings!**

Revelation 17
<div><b>WAR WITH THE LAMB!</b></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All those who are <b>with the Lamb</b> ...</li><li>• Share in <b>His victory!</b> (cf. Isaiah 53:12)</li><li>• <b>Called</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– By the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Chosen</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– By obedience (Ephesians 1:4, 13)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Faithful</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Steadfast have not compromised (cf. Revelation 12:11; Ephesians 6:10-18)</li></ul></li></ul></div>