

## Series: Revelation

### Revelation 13:4-18 Handout

- I. Revelation 13:4
  - a. "...worshiped the beast..."
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_ worship.
- II. Revelation 13:5-7
  - a. "The beast was given..."
    - i. The four things "given" to the Beast, \_\_\_\_\_ came from the Dragon (Satan) but \_\_\_\_\_ they were allowed by God.
      - 1. See 13:2
  - b. "...a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies..."
    - i. Domitian was known for his incredible \_\_\_\_\_ and demand to be \_\_\_\_\_ as deity.
  - c. "...authority for 42 months..."
    - i. The same specific yet limited time frame.
  - d. "...power to wage war..."
    - i. See Revelation 12:17
    - ii. The Dragon and the Beast have the same \_\_\_\_\_ - to attack and destroy the Church.
  - e. "...authority over every..."
    - i. See Daniel 7:25
      - 1. The Roman Empire covered the known world.
- III. Revelation 13:8
  - a. "All inhabitants of the earth..."
    - i. The \_\_\_\_\_ of emperor worship will now be empire \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_ as it was under Nero.
- IV. Revelation 13:10
  - a. "If anyone is to go..."
    - i. Two possibilities:
      - 1. In the manner the world \_\_\_\_\_ the church, it will be \_\_\_\_\_ in the end.
      - 2. The church is to \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_ to the treatment they receive.
- V. Revelation 13:11
  - a. "...a second beast..."
    - i. The same \_\_\_\_\_ as the first beast.
  - b. "...out of the earth..."
    - i. See Revelation 12:16

1. This beast \_\_\_\_\_ on the lies and slander of Satan.
- c. "It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon."
  - i. It initially appears \_\_\_\_\_, and even \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, the Lamb.
    1. Attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the Lamb.
    - ii. Its words, however, reveal something different.
    - iii. The second beast is referred to as a \_\_\_\_\_ prophet in 16:13, 19:20, and 20:10.

VI. Revelation 13:12

- a. "...exercised the authority of the first beast..."
  - i. This beast is \_\_\_\_\_ by the Emperor.
- b. "...made the earth...worship the first beast..."
  - i. Clearly indicates that the purpose of the second beast was to \_\_\_\_\_ the worship of the first one.
    1. The second beast is the \_\_\_\_\_ formed to enforce Emperor worship.
  - ii. It was "\_\_\_\_\_" or the wound was "\_\_\_\_\_" under Domitian.

VII. Revelation 13:13

- a. "And it performed great signs..."
  - i. See Matthew 24:24 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9.
    1. Even Pharaoh's magicians \_\_\_\_\_ the first few plagues.

VIII. Revelation 13:14-15

- a. "...to set up an image in honor of the beast..."
  - i. The construction of statues and temples in honor of \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. "...the image could speak..."
  - i. The priests would use \_\_\_\_\_ to make it appear the images could pronounce oracles.
- c. "...cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed..."
  - i. The \_\_\_\_\_ the churches were already beginning to experience.
    1. See Revelation 2:13.

IX. Revelation 13:16-18

- a. "...to receive a mark..."
  - i. Just like God marked those who \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, the beast marked those who are his.
    1. See Revelation 3:12, 7:3

- ii. Just as the seal or mark on Christians was not an implanted micro-chip or tattooed bar code but a \_\_\_\_\_ depicted by their \_\_\_\_\_, so is this.
- b. "...on their right hands or on their foreheads..."
  - i. The distinction is visibly \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. "...could not buy or sell unless..."
  - i. Not worshiping the beast had \_\_\_\_\_ consequences.
    - 1. Refusal to declare "Caesar is Lord" would keep you out of the guilds.
    - 2. They often refused to use the local \_\_\_\_\_ if the inscription referred to the emperor as \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. "...mark, which is the name...or the number of the beast."

## WHAT IS THIS?

- I. There are several possibilities that hinge on our understanding of a phrase in verse 18 - "...for it is the number of a man."
  - a. The Greek does not use an indefinite article, so the word "a" is not in the original text.
    - i. Therefore, it is appropriate to insert it, if it clarifies the intent, based upon the context and structure of the sentence.
      - 1. So, this could refer to a specific individual's name or at least is title.
  - b. It is also justified to translate this phrase "for it is the number of man..." or "...this is a human number..." as this exact wording is found in Galatians 3:15
  - c. Since the number is the name is the mark, what does 666 mean?
    - i. This requires using "gematria" which is assigning a number to each letter of the alphabet. In English A=1, B=2, I=9, J=10, K=20, R=90, S=100, T=200 and so on. So, EVIL would be:
      - 1.  $E(5)+V(400)+I(9)+L(30)=444$ . The problem is, that would also be the number for LIVE. See the issue!
    - ii. The writers of the second and third centuries suggested the following:
      - 1. LATEINOS - Latin (one of the most accepted)
      - 2. ANTEMOS - Contrary to Honor
      - 3. APNOYME - I deny
      - 4. NOMNOS ADIKOS - Unjust lamb
      - 5. PALSI BASKANOS - Ancient Slanderer
      - 6. ALATHAS BLABEPOS - Truly Harmful

- a. These are all titles that can describe the adversary of God's people.
  - iii. Many modern scholars believe it refers to Nero.
    - 1. Using Greek letters, Nero's number would be 616.
      - a. There are a few ancient manuscripts that have the number 616 in this verse, but many believe it is a "typo" or an insertion to justify the belief in a legend that began in the later part of the first century and continuing well into the fifth century called *Nero redivivus*.
      - b. History tells us that Nero committed suicide in June AD 68 but many, particularly in the eastern portion of the empire, questioned this since he was not buried with the other emperors and with little fanfare.
      - c. Legend says that he fled to Parthia, from where he would one day lead an army against Rome and reclaim his place as emperor.
      - d. Many believed that Domitian was Nero reincarnate or "resurrected" because he also began persecuting Christians.
      - e. This explains John referring to "whose fatal wound had been healed" in 13:3, 12.
      - f. The initial wound was the ending or "death" of Nero's campaign against Christians, but that wound was "healed" when Domitian began his persecution in earnest.
  - iv. In order for Nero's number to be 666, it would have to be translated into Hebrew.
    - 1. All of these are possible if the "a" is intended to be inserted which would appropriate.
- d. But, if it means just a human number and not referring to a title or a proper name, what are we to understand 666 to mean?
  - i. Again, there are several options that have been presented:
    - 1. The number for "Jesus" is 888, three identical digits. Since throughout Revelation, the beast parodies, imitates, or at least put himself in place of Jesus, John may be using three identical numbers to bring clarity to the first recipients that the beast is the antithesis of Jesus. John uses 666 to do so, because, as we have discussed, 6 is the number for evil and confusion, falling short of the perfect number "7".

2. Another option has also been presented since the first centuries of the church.
  - a. The pre-flood world was the epitome of human evil and Noah was 600 when the flood was sent by God to punish it.
  - b. Nebuchadnezzar's image was 60 cubits by 6 cubits, and this was a time when the ruling power commanded worship of that image.
    - i. See Daniel 3:1-6
    - ii.  $600+60+6=666$
  - c. The idea behind this option is that the number 666 would remind the early Christians that God would punish evil that tries to force them to worship an idol.

II. So, which is correct?

- a. Knowing the intended purpose will determine which approach is correct.
  - i. The name and/or title of the beast, whose gematria number is 666, is a human in power who desires to be worshiped and will enforce that worship through brutality.

## NOTES

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