

Revelation 13

Revelation 13.1-6

V1 – Seashore? See *Rev. 10.5* (on beach?)

- Beast = Dragon?** No – See v 4
- The beast worshipped the dragon; they were related in appearance- also see *Rev. 12*
- 10 horns?** Power and force (for oppression)
- 7 heads?** Shrewd and very smart
- 10 crowns?** Great authority
- Names on his heads?** Blasphemous names (names attacking God)
- Beast?** Roman Empire (with its arrogant emperors)

See *New International Commentary, Rev.*, p. 250c

V2 – Leopard-bear-lion

- Theory: National symbols common in the first century
- USA?** Eagle
- Russia?** Bear
- Great Britain?** Lion
- Where did the beast from the sea get its authority?** Satan
- The government from Satan?** Sometimes governments get taken over by Satan
- What about Romans 13?** A case of Satan taking over the government to try to kill the Christians in the first century

V3 – How would the First Century Christians have viewed this?

- For more information, see *New International Commentary, Rev.*, p. 252c

V4 – They? Whole world

- Why were people amazed?** There was a belief by some in the late first century that Nero was resurrected from the dead – known as the theory of "Nero redivivus"
- We still have people today who think that Elvis Presley is still alive, etc.

V5 – Period of time the beast could persecute Christians? Three and a half years

- Where else have we seen three and a half years?** *Rev. 11.2*

V6 – Read 2 Thess. 2.1-4 – A human man who rased himself up and sat in the seat of God (blasphemy)

Revelation 13.7-10

V7 – "It was given to him"? By Satan

- "Overcome Christians" Only temporarily
- Area of his reign?** All people
- See *Rev. 12.17* – to make war with her offspring
- Remember the theme of *Rev.*: the church is at war with Satan

V 8 – Are we predestined to be saved?

-See *Rev. 3.5* – our names can be blotted out in the Book of Life

V 9 – Warning – Where else have we seen this? Letters to the 7 churches of Asia – each ended with this statement

-In our language: "*Now hear this! Pay attention!*"

V 10 – The chickens come home to roost

See *Matt. 26.52* – those who take up the sword will die by the sword....

Revelation 13.11-18

V 11-12 – The beast from the earth? Possibly some regional ruler in Asia Minor

-**Number of horns?** 2 (like a lamb) = very deceptive, appeared to be kind, but was not

-**Role of the second beast?** To get people to worship the 1st beast

-Maybe local priests and regional councils were appointed to enforce the worship of emperor

V 13 – Able to deceive people (characteristic of Satan)

-**Name for Satan?** "Great Deceiver"

V 14 – Ventriloquism was commonly practiced in emperor worship (*New International Commentary, Rev.*, 261)

-Archaeologists have found pipes under statues (to pipe human voices to the people worshipping)

V 15 – We know in Emperor Trajan's day that failure to worship the emperor was a capital offense

V 16 – What did the second beast require? Some sign of loyalty to the emperor (today like flying the flag on July 4)

V 17 – Economic boycott of those without the mark

V 18 – A game in the first century: assigning numbers to each letter of the alphabet and giving the number of a person's name

-Inscription found in Pompeii: "*I love her whose number is 545*"

A = 1

B = 2

C = 3

-etc.

-people would try to figure out someone's name by its number

-There is much discussion about the number 666

2 theories:

1. In Hebrew: Nero Caesar = 666 (*Living Word Commentary*, 116)

2. 777 = perfection; therefore, 666 = failure (constantly falling short of perfection)

-In one early document (*Symbyllene Oracles*), Jesus is referred to as the 888

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