

**REVELATION**  
**CHAPTER THIRTEEN**  
*Dan Trotter*

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- I. **Revelation 13:1 (NASB)** *And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.*
- A. “seashore”
    - 1. John’s vantage point moves from heaven in the throne room to the seashore
  - B. “beast”
    - 1. from the seashore in Israel, dramatically, it would look like Roman Empire coming out of the sea
  - C. “sea”
    - 1. a common symbol in both the OT and the NT
      - a. the “deep,” (Gen 1:2), the “abyss”, the abode of demons
        - i. the energizing power of the gentile nations (Chilton)
      - A/ Scriptures
        - 1/ **Revelation 17:1 (CSBBible)** Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me: "Come, I will show you the judgment of the notorious prostitute who is seated on many waters.
        - 2/ **Revelation 17:15 (CSBBible)** He also said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute was seated, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.
        - 3/ **Isaiah 57:20 (CSBBible)** But the wicked are like the storm-tossed sea, for it cannot be still, and its water churns up mire and muck.
  - C. “ten horns and seven heads”
    - 1. a mirror image of the Dragon (12:3)
      - a. **Revelation 12:3 (CSBBible)** Then another sign appeared in heaven: There was a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven crowns.
      - b. shows where the Roman Empire got its motivation from
  - D. “ten horns”
    - 1. the symbolism is explicitly given to us by John
      - a. governors of the ten imperial provinces (Farrar)(Poole)
        - i. **Revelation 17:12 (CSBBible)** The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.
      - b. listed
        - i. F.W. Farrar, *The Early Days of Christianity*, 1882, p. 532
          - A/ Italy, Achaia, Asia, Syria, Egypt, Africa, Spain, Gaul, Britain, and Germany
      - c. problem
        - i. the number of provinces changed dramatically over the course of the Empire
          - A/ answer
            - 1/ Strabo tells us that Augustus divided the whole empire into 20 provinces (Poole)(Gill)
              - a/ he reserved 10 provinces to govern himself
                - i/ gave the other 10 to the people to govern
                  - A/ this explains “authority *with* the beast”

E. “seven heads”

1. the symbolism is explicitly given to us by John

a. not merely once, but twice, in Revelation 17:9-10

i. the famous seven hills on which Rome was built

A/ **Revelation 17:9 (CSBBible)** This calls for a mind that has wisdom: "The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated. They are also seven kings:

B/ listed (Wikipedia)

A/ Palatine, Aventine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Caelian

1/ the modern city of Rome still has the same 7 hills with the same names

ii. seven particular emperors in Rome's early history

A/ **Revelation 17:9b-10 (CSBBible)** They [the seven heads] are also seven kings: <sup>10</sup> Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he comes, he must remain for only a little while.

1/ fuller exposition when we get to Revelation 17

a/ short summary

i/ “five”

A) five emperors before Nero (Wikipedia)

1) Julius Caesar

2) Augustus

3) Tiberius

4) Caligula

5) Claudius

ii/ “one is”

A) Nero (the “man of sin”, the “AX”)

iii/ “the other”

A) Galba

1) whose reign lasted only a matter of months (Jun 8, 68 – Jan 15, 69)

F. “blasphemous names”

1. we must go to the OT to get what John was alluding to

a. an evil parody of the biblical High Priest

i. who wore the Divine Name on his forehead

A/ **Exodus 28:36-38 (CSBBible)** <sup>36</sup> "You are to make a pure gold medallion and engrave it, like the engraving of a seal: Holy to the Lord. <sup>37</sup> Fasten it to a cord of blue yarn so it can be placed on the turban; the medallion is to be on the front of the turban. <sup>38</sup> It will be on Aaron's forehead so that Aaron may bear the guilt connected with the holy offerings that the Israelites consecrate as all their holy gifts. It is always to be on his forehead, so that they may find acceptance with the Lord.

II. **Revelation 13:2 (NASB)** *And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.*

- A. “beast”
  - 1. all the beasts are ferocious, vicious, dreadful, terrifying
    - a. sea beast plus leopard, bear, and lion
  - 2. Roman Empire contained all the characteristics of the other beasts
    - a. Roman Empire (and reigning emperor Nero) sunk in degrading, degenerate, bestial activities
      - i. what Nero did
        - A/ murdered numerous members of his own family
          - 1/ including his own mother
          - 2/ kicked his pregnant wife to death
        - B/ was a homosexual
        - C/ favorite aphrodisiac was watching people undergoing horrifying tortures
        - D/ dressed up as a wild beast to rape female prisoners
        - E/ burnt Christians at the stake to light up his garden parties
          - 1/ the original “Roman candles”
        - F/ launched the first imperial persecution of Christians at the instigation of the Jews
      - ii. Rome under Nero was the moral sewer of the world
  - 3. the three beasts are listed in reverse order from their appearances in Daniel
- B. “leopard”
  - 1. Greece (Alexander the Great) in Daniel
  - 2. swiftness and ferocity
- C. “bear”
  - 1. tenacity and dragging away of prey
  - 2. Medo-Persia in Daniel
- D. “lion”
  - 1. ravenous appetite for devouring
  - 2. Babylon

III. **Revelation 13:3-4 (NASB)** *I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth [land] was amazed and followed after the beast; (v4) they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast saying,*

- A. “healed”
  - 1. majority of preterist commentators
    - a. “healed” refers to the Nero Redivivus myth
      - i. what this myth was
        - A/ after Nero was killed, rumor began to spread that he would rise again, recapture throne
    - b. some preterist commentators
      - i. Vespasian
        - A/ he healed the Roman Empire
        - B/ put an end to the civil wars during the year of the 4 emperors (c. 69 AD)
        - C/ problem
          - 1/ this happened *after* the land had quit following the beast
            - a/ but we needn’t be too concerned about strict chronology with these visions (DT)

2. Chilton

- i. Nero Redivivus can not be what John was referring to
  - i/ reasons
    - A/ why would John refer to a myth that hadn't arisen yet?
      - i/ since Nero was alive as John wrote
      - B/ uses pagan fables rather than Scripture to interpret Scripture
    - ii/ the Nero Redivivus myth could have come from a misinterpretation of Revelation
  - ii. refers to Gen 3:15, where God speaks to the serpent
    - A/ **Genesis 3:15 (CSBBible)** I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.
      - 1/ "her offspring" is Eve's seed, Jesus
        - a/ how Jesus bruised the devil's head
          - i/ Christ's kingdom had come
          - ii/ devil had been defeated, disarmed, and bound
          - iii/ within first generation, Gospel spread rapidly around the world
          - iv/ churches sprung up everywhere
          - v/ members of Caesar's own household became Christians
            - A) **Philippians 4:22 (CSBBible)** All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.
          - vi/ the third Roman emperor Tiberius formally requested that the Roman Senate officially acknowledge Christ's divinity
      - 2/ looked like Roman Empire had been knocked in the head
        - a/ "as if it had been slain" (Revelation 13:3a)
        - a/ as per Daniel
          - i/ **Daniel 2:34-35 (CSBBible)** <sup>34</sup> As you were watching, a stone broke off without a hand touching it, struck the statue on its feet of iron and fired clay, and crushed them. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the fired clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were shattered and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors. The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
    - b/ but then the tables were turned
      - i/ the beast's head was "healed"
        - A) heresy and apostasy spread everywhere
          - 1) Chilton: "NT gives the definite impression that *most* of the churches fell apart and abandoned the faith"
            - a) **1 Timothy 1:3-7 (CSBBible)** <sup>3</sup> As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine <sup>4</sup> or to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. These promote empty speculations rather than God's plan, which operates by faith. <sup>5</sup> Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. <sup>6</sup> Some have departed from these and turned aside to fruitless discussion. <sup>7</sup> They want to be teachers of the law, although they don't understand what they are saying or what they are insisting on.
            - b) **1 Timothy 1:19-20 (CSBBible)** <sup>19</sup> having faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and have shipwrecked their faith. <sup>20</sup> Among

them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

- c) **1 Timothy 4:1-3 (CSBBible)** <sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, <sup>2</sup> through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. <sup>3</sup> They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods that God created to be received with gratitude by those who believe and know the truth.
- d) **1 Timothy 6:20-21 (CSBBible)** <sup>20</sup> Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding irreverent and empty speech and contradictions from what is falsely called knowledge. <sup>21</sup> By professing it, some people have departed from the faith. Grace be with you all.
- e) **2 Timothy 2:16-18 (CSBBible)** <sup>16</sup> Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness, <sup>17</sup> and their teaching will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are among them. <sup>18</sup> They have departed from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and are ruining the faith of some.
- f) **2 Timothy 3:1-9 (CSBBible)** <sup>1</sup> But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people. <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who worm their way into households and deceive gullible women overwhelmed by sins and led astray by a variety of passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so these also resist the truth. They are men who are corrupt in mind and worthless in regard to the faith. <sup>9</sup> But they will not make further progress, for their foolishness will be clear to all, as was the foolishness of Jannes and Jambres. **2 Timothy 3:13 (CSBBible)** Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- g) **2 Timothy 4:10 (CSBBible)** because Demas has deserted me, since he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **2 Timothy 4:14-16 (CSBBible)** <sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. <sup>15</sup> Watch out for him yourself because he strongly opposed our words. <sup>16</sup> At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them.
- h) **Titus 1:10-16 (CSBBible)** <sup>10</sup> For there are many rebellious people, full of empty talk and deception, especially those from the circumcision party. <sup>11</sup> It is necessary to silence them; they are ruining entire households by teaching what they shouldn't in order to get money dishonestly. <sup>12</sup> One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." <sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. For this

reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith <sup>14</sup> and may not pay attention to Jewish myths and the commands of people who reject the truth. <sup>15</sup> To the pure, everything is pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; in fact, both their mind and conscience are defiled. <sup>16</sup> They claim to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good work. “ For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: <sup>11</sup> Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. <sup>12</sup> One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. <sup>13</sup> This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; <sup>14</sup> Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. <sup>15</sup> Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. <sup>16</sup> They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

- i) **1 John 2:18-19 (CSBBible)** <sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.

B. “followed after”

1. options

a. Israel is guilty of Emperor-worship

- i. this option assumes *ge* is translated as “land”

- i. faced with a choice between X and Caesar, they said...

- A/ **John 19:15b (HCSB)** “We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered.

- 1/ answering Pilate’s question in 19:15a “Shall I crucify your king?”

- B/ Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Vol 2, p581

- 1/ “With this cry Judaism was, in the person of its representatives, guilty of denial of God, of blasphemy, of apostasy. It committed suicide.”

- ii. Jesus himself calls their worship assemblies “synagogues of Satan” (Rev 2:9, 3:9)

b. whole inhabited earth followed after Rome

- i. this option assume *ge* is translated as “earth”

**IV. Romans 13:5-7 (NASB)** *There was given to him [the Sea Beast] a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. (v6) And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name and his tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (v7) It was also given him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.”*

- A. “forty-two months”
  - 1. not meant to be literal (Chilton)
    - a. a broken seven
      - i. time of sadness, despair, judgment
  - 2. interesting that Nero’s persecution of the Church was a full 42 months (Chilton)
    - a. from middle of November 64 to beginning of June 68
    - b. Hanegraff (*The Last Disciple*) calls this the “Great Tribulation”
    - c. the Jewish War also lasted 42 months
      - i. so, some preterists call the Jewish War the “Great Tribulation”
      - ii. I don’t think this applies to this verse (DT)
- B. “those who dwell in heaven”
  - 1. “the members of the true church” (Barnes)
- C. “tribe and people and tongue and nation”
  - 1. perfect description of the Roman Empire
    - a. it had authority over many nations
      - i. it was a polyglot, multi-ethnic empire
- D. “overcome”
  - 1. strange that the Sea Beast would overcome the overcomers
    - a. answer
      - i. Nero killed Christians
        - A/ but killing a Christian does not ultimately overcome him

V. **Revelation 13:8 (NASB)** *All who dwell on the earth [land] will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.*

- A. “worship”
  - 1. options
    - a. apostate Israel
      - i. **John 19:15 (CSBBible)** They shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Should I crucify your king?” “We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered.
      - ii. this option assumes *ge* is “land”
    - b. the Gentile nations of the earth
      - i. this option assumes *ge* is “earth”
      - ii. the Gentile nations did suck up to Rome pretty much

VI. **Revelation 13:9-10 (NASB)** *If anyone has an ear, let him hear. (v10) If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.*

- A. “destined”
  - 1. the following interpretation is Chilton’s
    - a. he thinks these verses refer to apostate Jerusalem, not the Roman Empire
      - i. I think he’s wrong
        - A/ because John is talking about the SEA beast, not the LAND beast
  - 2. it is absolutely too late to intercede for apostate Jerusalem

3. John quoting loosely from Jeremiah 15

- a. **Jeremiah 15:2 (CSBBible)** If they ask you, 'Where will we go?' tell them: This is what the Lord says: Those destined for death, to death; those destined for the sword, to the sword. Those destined for famine, to famine; those destined for captivity, to captivity.

i. context

A/ **Jeremiah 14:10-12 (CSBBible)** <sup>10</sup> This is what the Lord says concerning these people: Truly they love to wander; they never rest their feet. So the Lord does not accept them. Now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. <sup>11</sup> Then the Lord said to me, "do not pray for the well-being of these people. <sup>12</sup> If they fast, I will not hear their cry of despair. If they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. Rather, I will finish them off by sword, famine, and plague."

1/ Jerusalem is about to be judged

a/ and no intercession is possible ("do not pray")

i/ because they are "destined" for destruction (Revelation 13:10)

B/ **Jeremiah 15:1 (CSBBible)** Then the Lord said to me: "Even if Moses and Samuel should stand before me, my compassions would not reach out to these people. Send them from my presence, and let them go.

1/ not even Moses or Samuel could save Israel

B. "sword"

1. alternate translation

- a. **Revelation 13:9-10 (CSBBible)** <sup>9</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen. <sup>10</sup> If anyone is to be taken captive, into captivity he goes. If anyone is to be killed with a sword, with a sword he will be killed. This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.

i. NIV is the same

ii. KJV is like the NASB

A/ **Revelation 13:10 (KJV)** 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.

iii. << If we read the verse thus, it is generally understood to be a caution to the suffering saints that there is nothing for them but to endure, just as Jeremiah told his countrymen that those who were for death must go out to meet it, and those who were for sword or captivity must face them (Jeremiah 15:2).>> (Ellicott)

iv. Cambridge commentary says the active voice is best attested (NASB, KJV)

C. "perseverance"

1. options

a. faith and perseverance of saints shown by submitting to death (Cambridge)

b. faith and perseverance of saints sustained by knowing oppressors will be killed (Cambridge)

VII. **Revelation 13:11 (NASB)** *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth [land]; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.*

A. "earth (land)"

1. 2d beast comes from Israel itself

a. Revelation identifies the Land Beast as the False Prophet

i. Scriptures

A/ **Revelation 16:13 (CSBBible)** Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming from the dragon's mouth, from the beast's mouth, and from the mouth of the false prophet.



B/ **Revelation 19:20 (CSBBible)** But the beast was taken prisoner, and along with it the false prophet, who had performed the signs in its presence. He deceived those who accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image with these signs. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

ii. represents false prophets J foretold would infest Israel before destruction of AD 70

A/ **Mat 24:5,11** “<sup>5</sup> For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”

B. “lamb”

1. false prophets are seductive, appear to be gentle as lambs

a. **Matthew 7:15 (CSBBible)** "Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves.

C. “spoke as a dragon”

1. devil speaks...

a. deceptively

b. subtly

c. seductively

d. as a liar

e. slanderously

f. blasphemously

2. examples of how apostate Jews spoke against the early Church

a. Scriptures

A/ **Acts 6:9-14 (CSBBible)** <sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from some members of the Freedmen's Synagogue, composed of both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, and they began to argue with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they were unable to stand up against his wisdom and the Spirit by whom he was speaking. <sup>11</sup> Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God." <sup>12</sup> They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; so they came, seized him, and took him to the Sanhedrin. <sup>13</sup> They also presented false witnesses who said, "This man never stops speaking against this holy place and the law. <sup>14</sup> For we heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth, will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us."

B/ **Acts 13:6 (CSBBible)** When they had traveled the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. **Acts 13:10 (CSBBible)** and said, "You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery, you son of the devil and enemy of all that is right. Won't you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord?"

C/ **Acts 14:2-5 (CSBBible)** <sup>2</sup> But the unbelieving Jews [at Iconium] stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. <sup>3</sup> So they stayed there a long time and spoke boldly for the Lord, who testified to the message of his grace by enabling them to do signs and wonders. <sup>4</sup> But the people of the city were divided, some siding with the Jews and others with the apostles. <sup>5</sup> When an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat and stone them,

D/ **Acts 17:5-8 (CSBBible)** <sup>5</sup> But the Jews [at Thessalonica] became jealous, and they brought together some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city. Attacking Jason's house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly. <sup>6</sup> When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside

down have come here too, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has welcomed them. They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king — Jesus." <sup>8</sup> The crowd and city officials who heard these things were upset.

- E/ **Acts 18:5-6 (CSBBible)** <sup>5</sup> When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself to preaching the word and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. <sup>6</sup> When they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his clothes and told them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." **Acts 18:12 (CSBBible)** While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack against Paul and brought him to the tribunal.
- F/ **Acts 19:8-9 (CSBBible)** <sup>8</sup> Paul entered the synagogue [at Ephesus] and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.
- G/ **Acts 21:27 (CSBBible)** When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd, and seized him,
- H/ **Acts 24:1 (CSBBible)** Five days later Ananias the high priest came down with some elders and a lawyer named Tertullus. These men presented their case against Paul to the governor.
- I/ **Acts 25:2-3 (CSBBible)** <sup>2</sup> The chief priests and the leaders of the Jews presented their case against Paul to him; and they appealed, <sup>3</sup> asking for a favor against Paul, that Festus summon him to Jerusalem. They were, in fact, preparing an ambush along the road to kill him. **Acts 25:7 (CSBBible)** When he arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him and brought many serious charges that they were not able to prove.

VIII. **Revelation 13:12 (NASB)** *He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth [land] and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.*

A. "authority"

- 1. the Jews were constantly using the imperial power of Rome to persecute the Christians
  - a. Scriptures showing Jews (land beast) and Romans (sea beast) in cahoots
    - i. **Acts 4:27-28 (CSBBible)** <sup>27</sup> "For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your will had predestined to take place.  
A/ unnamed members of the church in Jerusalem speaking
    - ii. **Acts 12:1-3 (CSBBible)** <sup>1</sup> About that time King Herod violently attacked some who belonged to the church, <sup>2</sup> and he executed James, John's brother, with the sword. <sup>3</sup> When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter too, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
    - iii. **Acts 14:2-5 (CSBBible)** <sup>2</sup> But the unbelieving Jews [in Iconium, first journey] stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. <sup>3</sup> So they stayed there a long time and spoke boldly for the Lord, who testified to the message of his grace by enabling them to do signs and wonders. <sup>4</sup> But the people of the city were divided, some siding with the Jews and others with the apostles. <sup>5</sup> When an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat and stone them,  
A/ these Gentiles were Roman subjects

- iv. **Acts 17:5-8 (CSBBible)** <sup>5</sup> But the Jews [in Thessalonica] became jealous, and they brought together some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city. Attacking Jason's house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly. <sup>6</sup> When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has welcomed them. They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king — Jesus." <sup>8</sup> The crowd and city officials who heard these things were upset.
- v. **Acts 18:12-13 (CSBBible)** <sup>12</sup> While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack against Paul and brought him to the [Roman] tribunal [in Corinth]. <sup>13</sup> "This man," they said, " is persuading people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."
- vi. **Acts 21:11 (CSBBible)** He came to us, took Paul's belt, tied his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him over to the Gentiles.'" <sup>1</sup>
- vii. **Acts 24:1-9 (CSBBible)** <sup>1</sup> Five days later Ananias the high priest came down with some elders and a lawyer named Tertullus. These men presented their case against Paul to the governor. <sup>2</sup> When Paul was called in, Tertullus began to accuse him and said: "We enjoy great peace because of you, and reforms are taking place for the benefit of this nation because of your foresight. <sup>3</sup> We acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with utmost gratitude. <sup>4</sup> But, so that I will not burden you any further, I request that you would be kind enough to give us a brief hearing. <sup>5</sup> For we have found this man to be a plague, an agitator among all the Jews throughout the Roman world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. <sup>6</sup> He even tried to desecrate the temple, and so we apprehended him. By examining him yourself you will be able to discern the truth about these charges we are bringing against him." <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> The Jews also joined in the attack, alleging that these things were true.
- viii. **Acts 25:1-3 (CSBBible)** <sup>1</sup> Three days after Festus arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. <sup>2</sup> The chief priests and the leaders of the Jews presented their case against Paul to him; and they appealed, <sup>3</sup> asking for a favor against Paul, that Festus summon him to Jerusalem. They were, in fact, preparing an ambush along the road to kill him.

## B. "presence"

- 1. a true prophet stands "in the presence" of the Lord
  - a. **1 Samuel 1:22 (CSBBible)** Hannah did not go and explained to her husband, "After the child is weaned, I'll take him to appear in the Lord's presence and to stay there permanently."
  - b. **1 Samuel 2:18 (CSBBible)** Samuel served in the Lord's presence—this mere boy was dressed in the linen ephod.
  - c. **1 Kings 17:1 (CSBBible)** Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command! "
  - d. **Jonah 1:3 (CSBBible)** Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the Lord's presence. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the Lord's presence. **Jonah 1:10 (CSBBible)** Then the men were seized by a great fear and said to him, "What is this you've done?" The men knew he was fleeing from the Lord's presence because he had told them.

**IX. Revelation 13:13-14 (NASB)** *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth [land] in the presence of men. (v14) And he deceives those who dwell on the earth [land] because of the signs it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth [land] to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life."*

A. "fire"

1. this is for the purpose of a "sign"
  - a. like the false prophets of Baal were trying to do, but failed
2. this is in the vision, not actually (DT)

B. "deceives"

1. reminiscent of Jesus' warning
  - a. **Matthew 24:24 (CSBBible)** For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

C. "signs"

1. examples of miracle-working Jewish false prophets
  - a. **Acts 8:9-24** Simon Magus
    - i. note: ISBE says he was Samaritan, doesn't say he was a Jew  
A/ but Encyclopedia Britannica says Samaritans are Jews (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Samaritan>)  
1/ << Samaritan, member of a community of Jews, now nearly extinct, that claims to be related by blood to those Jews of ancient Samaria who were not deported by the Assyrian conquerors of the kingdom of Israel in 722 BCE.>>
  - b. **Acts 13:6 (CSBBible)** When they had traveled the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. **Acts 13:9-11 (CSBBible)** <sup>9</sup> But Saul — also called Paul — filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at Elymas <sup>10</sup> and said, "You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery, you son of the devil and enemy of all that is right. Won't you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> Now, look, the Lord's hand is against you. You are going to be blind, and will not see the sun for a time." Immediately a mist and darkness fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.
    - i. "sorcerer"  
A/ worked "signs"
    - ii. "false prophet"  
A/ the same name as the land beast
    - iii. "Jewish"  
A/ fits in with idea of the Beast from the LAND
2. Jesus himself predicted miracle working false Jewish prophets
  - a. **Matthew 7:22-23 (CSBBible)** <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers! '
    - i. Jesus was talking to JEWS
    - ii. they "prophesied" falsely
    - iii. they did "wonderful [i.e., marvelous] works

D. "image"

1. the Jews were committing idolatry by rejecting Jesus in favor of Caesar
  - a. common objection to this view
    - i. Jews were noted for not making graven images after Babylonian captivity
    - ii. Answers
      - A/ the Jews didn't literally pull out idols and worship them
        - 1/ idolatry can be done without physical idols
          - a/ people may worship nature, money, mankind, power, history, social systems, political systems
          - b/ who would deny that Americans are not idol-worshippers of Mammon?
        - B/ the "image" was in the vision, not actually in Israel
          - 1/ symbolic of the idolatry that Israel was committing
            - a/ even if that idolatry did not currently involve gold and silver statues

E. "beast"

1. the sea beast (Rome)

XI. **Revelation 13:15 (NASB)** *And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed."*

A. "him"

1. the land beast (apostate Israel)

B. "beast"

1. the sea beast (Rome)

C. "breath"

1. normally idols are lifeless
  - a. **Psalms 135:15-17 (CSBBible)** <sup>15</sup> The idols of the nations are of silver and gold, made by human hands. <sup>16</sup> They have mouths but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. <sup>17</sup> They have ears but cannot hear; indeed, there is no breath in their mouths.
  - b. but the apostate Jews are so demonic, they are giving life to the idolatry of the Roman Empire
    - i. Jews were helping the pagans out by killing Jesus

D. "killed"

1. here is what apostate Jews did to the early church
  - a. Chilton
    - i. synagogues organized economic boycotts against those refusing to submit to Caesar as Lord
      - A/ sometimes killed those who even dealt with those who refused to submit to Caesar
    - ii. enforced submission to Caesar
2. Scriptural references to organized Jewish persecution of the church
  - a. Acts 4:1-3,15-18; 5:17-18, 27-33,40; 6:8-15; 7:51-60; 9:23,29; 13:45-50; 14:2-5; 17:5-8, 13; 18:17; 20:3,19; 22:22-23; 23:12,20-21; 24:27; 26:21; 28:17-29, I Thess 2:14-16, I Cor 15:32; Tit 1:14-16

XII. **Revelation 13:16-17 (NASB)** *And he [land beast] causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, (v17) and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the [sea] beast or the number of his name.*

A. “mark,” “hand,” “forehead”

1. << The passage is also seen as an antithetical parallelism to the Jewish institution of tefillin— Hebrew Bible texts worn bound to the arm and the forehead during daily prayer. Instead of binding their allegiance to God to their arm and head, the place is instead taken with people's allegiance to the beast.>> (Paul Spilsbury (2002), *The throne, the lamb & the dragon: A Reader's Guide to the Book of Revelation*, InterVarsity Press; p. 99)
2. Satanic parody of the seal of God on the foreheads and hands of the righteous (Chilton)
  - a. Scriptures
    - i. **Revelation 3:12 (HCSB)** The victor: I will make him a pillar in the sanctuary of My God, and he will never go out again. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God—the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God—and My new name.
    - ii. **Revelation 7:2-4** “<sup>2</sup> And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup> Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were sealed* an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”
    - iii. **Revelation 14:1** “<sup>1</sup> And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his father's name written in their foreheads.”
    - iv. **Deuteronomy 6:6-8 (CSBBible)** <sup>6</sup> These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead.
    - v. **Ezekiel 9:4-6 (CSBBible)** <sup>4</sup> "Pass throughout the city of Jerusalem," the Lord said to him, "and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the detestable practices committed in it." <sup>5</sup> He spoke to the others in my hearing: "Pass through the city after him and start killing; do not show pity or spare them! <sup>6</sup> Slaughter the old men, the young men and women, as well as the children and older women, but do not come near anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.
    - vi. **Exodus 28:36-38 (CSBBible)** <sup>36</sup> "You are to make a pure gold medallion and engrave it, like the engraving of a seal: Holy to the Lord. <sup>37</sup> Fasten it to a cord of blue yarn so it can be placed on the turban; the medallion is to be on the front of the turban. <sup>38</sup> It will be on Aaron's forehead so that Aaron may bear the guilt connected with the holy offerings that the Israelites consecrate as all their holy gifts. It is always to be on his forehead, so that they may find acceptance with the Lord.

B. “mark”

1. common preterist interpretation (Wikipedia)
  - a. the stamped image of the emperor's head on every coin of the Roman Empire
    - i. quotations
      - A/ NT scholar Craig C. Hill ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Number\\_of\\_the\\_beast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Number_of_the_beast))
      - 1/ << "It is far more probable that the mark symbolizes the all-embracing economic power of Rome, whose very coinage bore the emperor's image and conveyed his claims to divinity (e.g., by including the sun's rays in the ruler's portrait). It had become increasingly difficult for Christians to function in a world in which public

life, including the economic life of the trade guilds, required participation in idolatry.">>

B/ Adela Yarbro Collins, Yale Divinity School ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Number\\_of\\_the\\_beast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Number_of_the_beast))

1/ refusal to use Roman coins resulted in the condition that “no man might buy or sell” (Rev 13:17)

C/ Craig R. Koester ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Number\\_of\\_the\\_beast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Number_of_the_beast))

1. << As sales were made, people used coins that bore the images of Rome's gods and emperors. Thus each transaction that used such coins was a reminder that people were advancing themselves economically by relying on political powers that did not recognize the true God.>>

C. “number of his name”

1. six hundred and sixty-six
  - a. see on next verse, 13:18

D. “buy or sell”

1. no Jew could buy or sell without the Roman coins with Nero’s head on them
2. trade guilds require worship of Roman emperor to join
  - a. [get more info]
3. [\*\* get more historic info on economic boycotts by Jews vs Xns]

**XIII. Revelation 13:18 (NASB)** *Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.*

A. “understanding”

1. you have to calculate it by understanding the gematria applies to Nero’s *Hebrew* name

B. “man” (i.e., a human number)

1. reasons why
  - a. man was created on the sixth day of the week (Gen 1:24-31)
  - b. six days out of the week were given man to labor (Ex 20:8-11)
  - c. Hebrew slave was in bondage for six years before his release ((Ex 21:2)
  - d. six cities of refuge were appointed for the accidental slaying of a man (Num 35:9-15)
2. both Nero and the Roman Empire ruled
3. Chilton → six is also the number of beast, as well as number of a man
  - a. beasts created on day six when men were (Gen 1:24-31)
  - b. six days beasts can labor, must rest on day 7 (Ex 20:8-11)

C. “six hundred and sixty-six”

1. it’s not 6-6-6
  - a. Chilton: its 600 (Gk: X) + 60 (Gk: epsilon) + 6 (Gk: sigma,)
    - i. the number of a man is multiplied by ten and added to the number of a man
      - A/ to show completeness
      - B/ the number of a man is then multiplied by 10 X 10, and added to the product
        - 1/ intensified completeness
  2. humanism to the max
    - a. with its fist raised up in arrogance against God

3. who in particular does 666 refer to?
  - a. by using various systems of computation, we can make it refer to anybody
    - i. examples
      - A/ the Pope
      - B/ Martin Luther
      - C/ Napoleon
      - D/ Adolf Hitler
      - E/ Henry Kissinger
      - F/ Ronald Reagan
    - ii. but, we shouldn't look for any possible solution
      - A/ we should look for a relevant solution
        - 1/ since we've already seen that the Sea Beast in the Roman Empire
          - a/ it makes sense to give the number to Nero Caesar
  - b. how the calculation is done so that 666 = Nero
    - i. intro
      - A/ In Hebrew, as in most ancient languages, the alphabet served double duty
        - 1/ each letter was also a numeral
          - a/ so any word had an associated numerical value
            - i/ you just added up the value of the letters in the word
          - 2/ so, the ancients could go back and forth naturally between word meaning and number
            - a/ the probably saw and comprehended both aspects at once
            - b/ F.W.Farrar, *The Early Days of Christianity*, 1882, p. 540
              - i/ "the Jewish Xn would have tried the name as he *thought* of the name – that is *in Hebrew letters*. And the moment he did this the secret stood revealed."
      - ii. why the calculation must be done for Nero's name in *Hebrew*
        - A/ a Roman official scanning Revelation for subversive content would immediately work out the name if the code was done for Nero's Greek name
        - B/ at least some members of the church would know Hebrew
          - 1/ so, the one who had understanding would know immediately
      - iii. the calculation
        - A/ Neron Kesar is English translation for Hebrew
          - 1/ this has six Hebrew letters
            - a/ Hebrew has no vowels
            - b/ add those six Hebrew letters up, and you get six hundred sixty-six
              - i/ NRWN QSR is the transliteration from Hebrew to English
                - A/ calculation
                  - 1/ n=50
                  - 2/ r=200
                  - 3/ w=6
                  - 4/ n=50
                  - 5/ q=100
                  - 6/ s=60
                  - 7/ r=200
                  - 8/ total = 666
                    - 1/ it's not three sixes
                      - a/ it's six HUNDRED and SIXTY-six



- c. most early Xns took 666 to refer to Nero, or at least a Roman emperor
  - i. F.W. Farrar, *The Early Days of Christianity*, 1882, p541
    - A/ “all the earliest Xn writers on the Apocalypse, from Irenaeus down to Victorinus of Pettau and Commodian in the fourth, and Andreas in the fifth, and St. Beatus in the eighth century, connect Nero, or some Roman Emperor, with the Apocalyptic Beast.”
  - ii. Edward Champlin, *Nero* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2003). ISBN 0-674-01192-9
    - A/ revisionist, trying to say that Nero is not as bad as history judges
      - 1/ his main line of proof was that the Xn church so long considered the AX, it gave Nero an undeserved bad name