

Midweek Bible Study

The Number of the Beast

Rev. 13:18

Historicist School

Irenaeus thought it was *lateinos* The Papacy, the latinizing machine of the West.

Preterist School

Hebrew form of Caesar Nero (Neron Kaiser) = numeric value is 666

Futurist/Dispensationalist

An actual mark (a bar code tattoo or an implanted chip), in a cashless society.

The number 666 has been applied to a multitude of individuals

Redemptive-historical

Receiving the mark is not a literal thing, but pledging allegiance to the beast

The number itself is symbolic for the beast in all its forms and manifestations.

It is the number of humanity, of humanism if you will, humanity in his sinful, rebellious incompleteness, seeking to build a kingdom apart from God, in fact, in opposition to God.

- I. The number of the first beast (18)
 - A. Here is wisdom
This wisdom prevents deception.
 - B. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast
 1. Hebrew and Greek letters had numeric significance
 2. The call is to calculate
 - C. For the number is that of man (human or a man)
 - D. And his number is 600 60 6
- II. The symbolism of the number
 - A. The triple 6 indicates incompleteness, as 7 symbolizes completeness
 - B. Three sixes are a parody of the divine Trinity of three sevens.
 - C. The 6th seal, trumpet, and bowl were all final judgments before the consummation of the kingdom
 - D. The number of a man can be a human number/number of humanity
Man created on the 6th day



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- E. Now the weight of gold which came in to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold, (1Ki 10:14)

Application

1. You cannot accidentally receive the mark of the beast!
2. We need wisdom to see the Satanic counterfeits, the false Christs, the false antichrist teachers.

Conclusion

1. A false church, a false spiritual leader, even one with miracles and signs and wonders, promotes false worship, and demands loyalty and obedience. Often, this false church etc is the spiritual “validity” to a tyrannical state.
2. In the end, there will be a miracle worker, a cheer-leader par excellence, for the beast. He will be the religious force behind the first beast. He will deceive, he will coerce.
3. But the ethical requirement for God’s people is: be loyal to the Lamb, don’t compromise with idolatry, don’t tolerate false religion or false teachers, who look good and do powerful stuff. Stay wise, stay discerning, stay faithful.

