

"THE POWER OF THE BEAST"

Rev. 13

This is a most fascinating chapter or picture, in which we read about the mystical number of 666. *Some folks me to think that was a type of medicine, how we find it in the Bible.* Now just to get the setting, we have completed the war as described, with the man-child. There was a battle that was waged in Heaven in which Michael and his angels defeated the old dragon. And cast him down to the earth and he no longer has access to the throne of God. But he is down here on the earth now waging a third war for a very short time. Forty-two months - three and a half years. And this red-headed dragon will be the enemy of God's people to the end.

Now we leave that to another vision in which John sees in the book - the first ten verses, a beast coming as a great political leader of this world. With the final and ultimate authority as the anti-Christ.

A second beast will appear in the same chapter--beginning in Verse 11. And going to the end. Who will be a great religious leader in the world - the false prophet. And the dragon will be warring against God and his saints. And this will continue until the great battle of Armageddon.

John is in the spirit - he has first stood on the Isle of Patmos, he was later taken up into Heaven, transported to the wilderness, and finally on a high mountain to see different visions. Here the Spirit comes to John as he stands on the sands.

of the seashore. There is a raging sea out before him.

Now this vision is described perfectly in Dan. 7. Where John stands on the sands of the turbulent, fearful sea. He is rising out of it. And ascending this monster. And the storm and fury that rage in the sea, he sees a beast emerge.

I. THE FIRST BEAST V.1-10

V. 1 - In the original language is denoted as a fierce, untamed animal. By his very nature and back ground - Dan. 7:2-7 portrays him as a demon with the powers of a beast. The sea out of which he comes is that of confusion, unstable, disorderly. A multitude of nations - the enemies arising. And there seems to be restlessness in the nation and among people. The sea is often associated with evil things in the writings of John.

There are seven heads symbolized - (universal) here or complete dominion. And there are ten horns which symbolize complete worldly or human power. The concentration of evil, had seven heads and ten horns. As has this beast. And that the beast and Satan have one in nature and have one function. And that is evil. There is a blasphemous name upon its head. And this beast is intent on conveying certain ideas.

Now John does not identify the beast out of the sea. And for centuries, many people have made attempts. Labeling this beast as a world power. In opposition to God and Christ - the kingdom of darkness, estranged from God - belonging to evil.

The dominion of the evil one and Satan holds sway as the ruler in this world.
This is a world power.

Dr. Ray Summers says this first feast is the Roman Empire. In league with the Devil to destroy the Christians - he is just like a jungle brute. He has these ten horns, symbolizing great power. And great durability.

These seven heads may have been the seven emperors. That had reigned in Rome. And there are lists of them Tiberius, Ad. 14-37. Caligula, Claudius, Ad. 41. Nero, Ad. 55. Vespasian, Ad. 69. Titus, Ad. 79. Domitian, Ad. 81-96. And these seven emperors have been classified as the seven heads that appear here. Now, another scholar has said that these were Kingdoms that opposed God. Being the Egyptians who wanted to destroy Israel. The second, being Assyria, who was the capitol in Ninevah who destroyed the ten tribes. And there was also Babylon - who captured Judah. And Persia who had a man who destroyed the Jews in Exile. And Greece, through Epiphanes - who sought to destroy the religion of the Jews. And so Daniel saw all four - Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. And now John writes about five of these world empires. Passing away. And they are under the persecution of Domitian. When John wrote this - he was still in power. And this holy Roman Empire was still a great persecutor of the Christians.

Caesar worship became compulsory for every Roman citizen. And this happened at the time of Domitian. He demanded to be addressed as Lord and God. He made a special decree - and it began - our Lord and God Domitian commands that Caesar is Lord.

V2
Now the second verse says, that the beast which I saw was like a leopard.

And his feet like the feet of a bear. His mouth like that of a lion. And the dragon gave them his power and his great authority. As he saw this beast coming out of the adgitated sea, he is a very vicious fighter. Partaking the nature of a leopard, a bear, a lion, and having great power as the dragon has conveyed it to him. And he wars against those who trust in Jesus. Now this is his vision. The same characteristics of the red dragon. It is represented here in the beast. Waring against the church and the great powers that be.

Now this monstrous beast is here recognized as a great political power or ruler that will come in the form - in the final end of things.

We find in Chapter 17 there described a great scarlet woman - a prostitute of God's faith and religion in the earth. We know that ancient empires had preceeded the day of John. But here is the Roman Empire - there is yet one to come - one ultimate government that will be set up. And God's beast and image here that he uses here for this false ruler, is one damnation and horror. The final sovereignty of the government implies that there must be a leader. And the beast is not the only figure of God's symbol, of world government. But it is an inscription of a man - the ultimate anti-Christ.

We may deduct this from what Paul says in 2 Thess. 2:2 - Paul describes the anti-Christ as that man of sin. Now, you would know that person from many passages in the Bible. Remarkable statement by John I John 2:18 - little children, ye have heard that anti-Christ shall come. And when did they hear that the anti-Christ was to come. They heard that he was to come because all of the teaching and the testimony of God says that here is one that is going to be an antagonist against the Lord Jesus. It is common doctrine - that here is the message. And there was war

against the seed of the woman. The story of conflict has continued through the centuries. There never has been an Abel without a Cain. Or a Jerusalem without a Babylon. Or a John the Baptist without a Herod. Or an Apostle Paul without a Nero. Or a Christ - the Christ without the anti-Christ.

Now this anti-Christ, this last great ruler, this is described here as the dragon - firey red, gives over to him, his power and his authority. And we get from the beast - that which is a leper, a bear, a lion. It comes on the stage of human history. And he gave them this power - who is like the beast. And who can war like him. And Satan gave him this power and this authority.

And this is the (same authority) that Satan offered Jesus - when he said, I give you the kingdoms of this world if you will bow down to me. But, Jesus did not yield.

V, 3 In V. 3 - I saw one with his head as it were wounded to death. John looks very carefully here, and he sees one who more or less has his throat cut. He has received the death stroke. On one of his heads. It seems to be a fatal wound - but he lives. However, these attacks did not render him helpless.

In this he seems to be restored. The anti-Christ seems to be resurrected.

V, 4 In V. 4 - We read, and they worshipped the dragon. Which gave power to the beast. The people of the world worshipped this dragon - he had Satanic power. And which Christ refused to pay worship too. Matt. 4:8-10. But they are convinced that the dragon will succeed in the war with the lamb. And they say, who

is like this beast. Who is like God. And so there were questions being thrown around by them and they thought that it was impossible.

Now, as you read this, we say - well, in this enlightened age - nothing like this would be possible would it. It would be impossible, you would say. But in my lifetime, I have been able to listen to the radio, and listen to thousands of Italians cry out to the name of Mussolini. I have heard thousands of Germans crying hail Hitler. And they were the most cultured, enlightened, and civilized nations, that ever existed.

Romans - Iran - Melvin Follow Hill a

The final anti-Christ will be received with gladness and the kings of the earth and the peaceable will yield him authority. That there is none like him. How will that come to pass, we say.

John says he stood here by the sand on the raging sea, and here is a symbol of violent mass of humanity, in a crisis of revolution. And out of that chaos, why the bloody French revolution took place. Napoleon was born. And Linnen was born, and Hitler was born. Turmoil of social chaos, these anti-Christ come. And when that first seal in Rev. 6, in keeping with the opening of the first seal, we find that certain things took place. And the anti-Christ appeared. Here was one riding on a white horse. He had a bow - he didn't have any arrows. But he became a conquerer. There was no war, no battle, he just came. And the earth gladly yielded to him. Dominion and governments of this world. This is the man who can lead us out - they said. So the people will be attracted to him and they will wonder have him.

Rev. 17:8 - It says that John beheld the beast - arise out of the abyss.

And when he rises out - he describes his political origin. And he arrives out of trouble and turmoil. And when he sees him come - he is coming as a monster. And Dan. 7 - the prophet looks ahead and describes the coming of the great kingdoms and their glory. First, he sees a lion. Second, he sees a bear. Third, he sees a lion - and finally he looks. And each succeeding the other, and John looks and he sees. Here is coming one who is going to lead people and take over the authority of this world. And in V. 6 - he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God. To blaspheme his name and his tabernacle, that dwell in Heaven.

v.7 V. 7 - And it was given to him to make war against the saints.

We find that he blasphemed God - the name and the sanctuary of God. (Domitian appropriated to himself the titles of deity. He demanded as supreme Lord and God. The word here used for beast is a wild savage brute. And the government of this Roman Emperor in John's day could be accurately compared to what he is talking about.

The ultimate source of all of his power is the dragon. And the beast was attempting to say or do things that only God can say and do. But there is a limit to what he can do. There are 42 months - the end of time is going to come. And the saints will not escape wrath. And the beasts - if they fail to worship him. The beast is alive to defeat, the church in some ways. He overcame Christ - he succeeded. Some saints suffer and submit to his punishment. V. 7.

v.8 We find it was given unto him to make war unto the saints. V. 8 - And all that dwell upon the earth will worship him whose name is not written in the book

of the life of the lamb. And so only those who had their names in the lamb's book - but he was worshipped by all except the Christians. Even the Jews compromised by praying to their God for the emperor. And their loyalty to him. And only the Christians refused this worship.

V. 8 - All we have to do is think about these majestic mighty countries like Babylon and think of Rome and her laws and order and justice. Cyrus, Julia Caesar, Alexander the Great, they were spell bound. They were bewitching rulers of the world system. They are Satan's masterpiece. And this is the best that Satan can do. And Satan gave glory unto this beast - this monster. And he has blasphemy in his mouth against God. Against God's name, and God's tabernacle in Heaven, and makes wars against his saints.

And the beast that slays God's two witnesses in the earth - Chapter.11. And the beast in Chapter 12 - the dragon - he persecuted the woman. In this passage - is now persecuted and leading astray.

V. 9 - It says, if any man have an ear, let him hear. Now this expression is found many times in the world of God. In the word of the Lord - he that have an ear, let him hear. And this is a solemn appeal. And really an encouragement for God's people. If any man has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. And the Lord said that over and over again. But what - the Spirit said to the churches - here look, the churches are gone. And God has taken them out of this awful trial and tribulation. But to the saints who turn to God in that fearful bloody hour - if any man will hear, let him hear.

God's message has been a message of prophesy to man.

V. 10
In V. 10 - He has some lessons to give - very briefly. They are symbolic messages. He that leadeth into captivity - shall go into captivity. Listen, God's message first concerns judgement. He that leadeth into captivity - goeth into captivity. He that killeth with a sword, must be killed with a sword. That is according to the moral government God in this universe. When Peter pulled out his sword to cut off the right ear of the priest, the Lord Jesus said, put the sword down. They that take the sword perish by it. The weapons the Christians use - that of loyalty, steadfastness, and love. But he never depends on force or sword.

So these are lessons that no tyrant can go any farther than God's will. Than God lets him go. Six times these words appear - (it was given unto him). As in V. 7 - there was no authority except God allowed him to do this.

Now, I really do not understand this. This seems to be a part of the mystery of God. And it shall be finished in the days when the seventh trumpet - and it is not for us to really understand, the answer to God's permission in this. There seems to be no answer in Heaven for us in this. And it is given unto him, because God holds this creation - in the destiny of his hands. And he watches over his own. The same principle governs here in this book of Revelation. We have to look up in faith and patience - and say that the future belongs to God, in this book.

Now there are some things that I do not understand about this mystery - and we will have to wait for the answer of this. But we come now to a new day.

II. THE SECOND BEAST

Now this beast that we read about in V. 11 - and I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth. And he had two horns like a lamb.

The picture is here that he is a very quiet beast - he acts like a lamb. But, listen to his voice - his voice, he spake like a dragon.

And in V. 12 - He exercises all the power of the first beast. And he causes the earth to dwell therein. To worship the first beast - whose deadly wound was healed.

We learn that as this beast comes up out of the water, John links this political leader - which we learn is a political anti-Christ is now alone. John saw something that Daniel was not privileged to see. Here comes another one out of the earth. And this first beast was symbolized with world power. The second beast signifies that he is more suttle. And more deadly - and more powerful.

And the best thing that I can determine about this is, that he must be represented of false religions. This comes with Godless authority. The inventions of man's creeds. He has no foundation of truth and reality. And, this is one way that man attempts to escape from his restless conscience. Here is superstition. And it makes God out of God's gift. By rights of worship and inward holiness. And it frustrates true religion. Isaiah 5:20. It teaches that unrighteous lives can be compensated by formal acts of religion. Plato says to the Greeks - that they commit any number or kinds of sins and crimes. And they can obtain a pardon. At the hands of the Gods - if they offer the proper sacrifices.

The second beast represents false religion. Which uses force. And persuasion.

And right away uses magic. And so he sees this anti-Christ, and this beast coming out of the earth as a false prophet. And he looks like a lamb, and he has two horns. And he speaks - but his voice betrays him. He has a voice of a dragon. And he does the most miraculous things. He uses the power of the state and the most unusual figure found in all the world as he comes forth. And he saw this beast as a moral state of mind. Running through all the end of time. He is a false prophet.

V. 12 - He says the beast has authority over men. All the authority of the first beast. He has no rival - for he makes men worship the first beast. And he advocates religion and he is anti-religious. The function is to make all people worship the first beast.

Now B. H. Carroll designated this one as the Pope. And said that he uses the state power etc. to protect and carry on his type of worship. And he has great authority.

V. 13 - The Bible says that he does great wonders - even makes the fire come down from Heaven. The magicians in Egypt brought signs before Moses and in Ex. 7:8-19. And Elijah on Mt. Carmel. I Kings 8-10. And some religious leaders today, some false prophets, have some of the most impressive signs. And some tricks of fraud that deceive people. Mere signs are no sure credential, of a true prophet. Deut. 13:1-3. Matt. 24:24. I Thess. 2:9. And John gives a true test. To discover a false prophet. I John 4:2-3.

How deceiving.

V.14
In V. 14 - and deceiveth them that dwell upon the earth. Those kinds of miracles.

How many of you have looked at some religious program and probably right much programming. And you have seen some thing going on on the stage. The camera just sweeps around a little bit. Picks up a battery of telephone operators over here. And as the camera gets on this one - he picks up the telephone as though he is receiving a call. Somebody is calling in a thousand dollar donation. And the camera moves on and another person picks up a phone and begins to talk. She is dealing with some great problem somewhere in the world. And so every telephone seems to be so active and hot. As the camera moves across the scene. What deceit! People tell me who have been in some of these programs - that those people have been instructed to lift up those phones at the proper time when the camera comes their way - to look busy. To be sure that they are working for God. And Satan uses religious leaders to use Satanic authority. In deceiving people and persuading them to worship the world that it is valid and right. With signs they deceive men. Matt. 24:24, And establish their position - seemingly supernatural. And they lead people to believe these signs - and how people can look and see some people perform some miracle - in which just the mere human touch. And they pass out cold right on the spot.

V.15
In V. 15 - And had great power to give life unto the image of the beast. And the image of the beast should both speak. And we find that here it relates how false religious aids world power. They go hand in hand. The giver of breath - Satan here comes to breathe life into things.

5! b-17
In V. 16-17 - This second beast claims universal jurisdiction. The mark of the beast here is a mark of God that rests upon the faithful ones. In Chapter 7:3. It figuratively denotes everyone's evidence of loyalty. And so here is a mark put on the right hand of the forehead.

As Israel in Deut. 6:8 - the mark cannot be hidden. A person here in the image of his master, shows his loyalty and he is marked and stamped with this mark.

Now it is well known that the emperor in Roman history in the time of Domitian had many golden images and people who refused to worship, and they were refused the privilege of buying and selling in the marketplaces. They could not sell their property unless they worshipped and received the mark on the forehead or on the hand. And the custom of pagan cults was that they had to have a particular mark of the deity, stamped upon them. This was a sign that they could deal with and use as really slaves were branded by their owners. Sometimes soldiers were branded - but every contract, buying or selling, had to have this seal on it. And had to have this notation upon it.

Now the beast that rises out of the sea, and the one that rises out of the earth, out of social chaos and revolution, this final tyrant that comes forth - out of the land. The first being the political sovereign. And the second one, being that of religion. A self-chosen deity - a final anti-Christ in the history of mankind.

In the days of Pharaoh, Moses stood before the sovereign of Egypt. And they

called out their magicians. The religion of their day - and they opposed Jehovah.

When Balak, the king of Moab sought to destroy Israel, he hired the services of Baalim to curse Israel.

When Absalom entered revolt, and wanted to destroy David - he did so by the wisdom and advice of the religious leader Ahithophel.

When Jeroboam revolted against Judah, he felt compelled to build Gods of gold at Bethel and Dan.

When Jezebel, unable to do with Israel what she wanted, she led them to the false prophet of Baal.

You can compare these beasts in any way. And the two stay together - the political anti-Christ and the religious false prophet. And they support one another and they work together. In Acts 19 - we find that vagabound Jews sought to cast out devils in the name of Paul and of Christ. And the demons said, Christ I know, but who are you.

We find that when Napoleon gained sovereignty over Europe, he and the Pope had nothing to do with each other but to damn each other to the kingdom of darkness and of evil. And they began to tare one another apart.

The same thing happens in gang warfare, in gambling rackets, and in prostitution and in the underworld practices. Wherever the kingdom of Satan is - there is also that anti-Christ - that false religion that fights against that which is real. And there are those false Christs that come up - he is like a lamb. He is soft - but he is dangerous.

And sad to say, he performs miracles and he is able to do them. And the use of this false prophet - he uses the authority of the idolatrous political power, to foster his work.

And John tells us that you cannot - the most terrible instrument of persecution, is the false prophet. Because he fixes it so that you have to have a ration card and you cannot buy and you cannot sell - except for a little innocent card. If you please, you can starve to death. We can take away - but we cannot trade.

Think about today how these numbers are taking hold. You have a Social Security number, don't you. You have more numbers than that - when you think about your banking and other things that you have to go through, and if you don't have the mark. Then what happens. There is some authority in that mark.

V. 18 - Here is wisdom. Let him that understands count the number of the beasts. For it is the number of a man, and his number is 600 - 3 score and six. 666. Now here is a call for wisdom and a pause for emphasis. The highest moral wisdom was needed to understand this truth. It's mark is at the same time - it's name or the number. It's name is 666.

From early Christian history, men have labored without much success in trying to find the answer to this. Most commentators take the letters or the numbers and make them numbers - by a variety of names. And the possibilities are almost limitless - using this method and the most favorite solution in the past century. Has been Nero - Caesar. And if the Greek form of the Latin name is translated into Hebrew, the final letter is omitted - the name will yield 666.

Now the symbolic method is that here is repeated number 6. It symbolizes incompleteness. Sham, deceit, unrest. It represents all that is good and perfect and complete. It represents that which is evil. And it is tripled because it is an unholy trinity of evil. Man's number - or a number of man, and it is characteristic of mankind, and false religion.

Now, what does it mean. The righteous will understand what that means. When the time comes - God's saints will understand, what that refers too. We do not know now. There may be a thousand speculations. But no man knows what 666 - this number, the mark of the beast, the final anti-Christ. No man will know until that day and that hour. But God's children will know when the times arrives. It will be revealed to the saints.

Now, it has been said, an amazing thing that the number is that of the Latin language that was used by Rome. And promoted among all people.

It is also been designated by Ezra 2:13. To the name of Adonikan. And it says his children equal 666. And in Neh. 7:18 - his children number 667. Now where he got that extra one from - I don't know. But it says that he rose up against the

Lord's anointed. And he was a type of anti-Christ that spoke of this coming. The Hebrew letters of Balaam, amount to 666. His spiritual knowledge was perverted to sin. And to Satan.

Solomon in I Kings 10:14 - 2 Chron. 9:13. The Bible says that he received 666 talents of God. How are you going to get something out of that - but here it is. Among the corrupting influences that misled Solomon, was one thing that caused his downfall.

From early Christianity, and history, men have been counting names about this beast. David Smith in his commentary said it is Nero-Caesar. That adds up to these numbers.

Others have said, that it was the Roman-Catholic apostasy idea when he, the ruler, was named Latinus. They say that it totaled 666. The beast is a Latin church.

But we wonder what possible meaning that could have had to those early Christians. They were having trouble with Domitian.

The Latin expression - in place of the Son of God - is made to represent 666 - which is reported to be jewels which are lettered on the Pope's crown. Used in the ceremony of his coronation. Thus again, they put it on the Pope.

Well, there were a group of students in 1941, in Dr. Ray Summers class who worked

on this thing, and they found that the total Hitler - when they started with the English alphabet, A, B, C. - and let those letters stand for 100 and add one each time. That Hitler totalled 666. Now doubtless many people in the world, would have subscribed to that interesting result. Because it is a mathematical mystery. They would have said, that is it.

So the letters are used in different ways. And it has been designated as Luther said, it was the Pope and others have listed other leaders.

Weather is given in Norfolk then you dial 666-

But it is a man's number - the number six. Man was created on the sixth day. His appointed days of labor and toil are six. The Hebrew slave was to serve six years. 6 Years the land was to be sown. Under the sixth seal, and an appalling and a universal thing happens to mankind. As a number - 7 denotes what is perfect and complete. Six being short of that human perfection. So man - 666 he goes from bad to worse.

Hence the beast in this - represents that mankind will ever be able to reach perfection. It will always be six. And here is an age of discouragement - of death, failure, sin, and defeat. And the religion of a false prophet. Is the religion of an institution that arises here out of anarchy.

And the thing about it is, the world will want to hear what he says. It is pleased with the itching ears. And this can be illustrated by the Bible story of Micaiah when Ahab said to Jehoshaphat - let us go up against Gilead - it belongs

to us - let us take it, from the Syrians. Well, said the kings, before we go - let us call in the prophets and see whether or not God will bless this war. Ahab gathered 400 of his prophets and they all said - go on up. The Lord will deliver them in your hands. The king said, well, these 400 - is there not yet another prophet in this land whom we might inquire of. Ahab said, yes, there is another prophet - but I hate him. He always speaks evil - never good. And so Jehoshaphat replied, let not the king say - go call him. So Ahab sent for him - Micaiah came in - 400 standing there. And he said, I will prophesy - what God says I will say. And "I saw Israel like sheep scattered over the mountains. Because their leaders were dead, Ahab turned to Jehoshaphat and said, isn't that what I told you. I hate him. He is blasphemous. He said, take him, put him in the dungeon and feed him bread and affliction. And until I come back and triumph. So the story goes, Ahab went on out to war. A man drew his bow until venture - and he did not aim it. And the arrow went and guided right between the joints of the harness of Ahab. The blood flowed and the wound covered the floor of the chariot. And when they washed it, the dogs licked the blood, just like Elijah the prophet had predicted. Well, you tell Ahab something good, say it beautifully. And that is what he wants to hear.

*Said will draw in st clothes - clothes -
 Jehoshaphat - now draw in King clothes
 Bible was let they searched for King & I said this was King of Israel -*

And that is the way it is with counterfeit religion - and that's the way it is with false prophets.

It is a rare thing when a true prophet of God comes, and will tell you what God wants you to hear - but the world does not want to hear it.

Zedekiah said to Jeremiah - is there any word from the Lord. And Jeremiah said - there is! What does God have to say. And Jeremiah said, I will tell you what

he says . But you will slay me and you will put me to death . Your life is precious .
What does God say .