

# Revelation

## Chapter 13, Verses 11-18

# Review

- The Revelation to John
  - A prophetic writing with features of a letter and of the form of literature called Apocalyptic
  - Written by John to Christians during the second half of the First Century
  - Placed at the end of the New Testament because of its concern with the “end times.”
  - So far we have studied the first 10 chapters.
  - My review of this material has been shortened

# Review

- Introduction (1:1-8)
- First Vision (1:9-20)
- 7 Letters (Chapters 2 & 3)



# Review

- Heavenly Throne Room (Chapters 4 & 5)



# Review



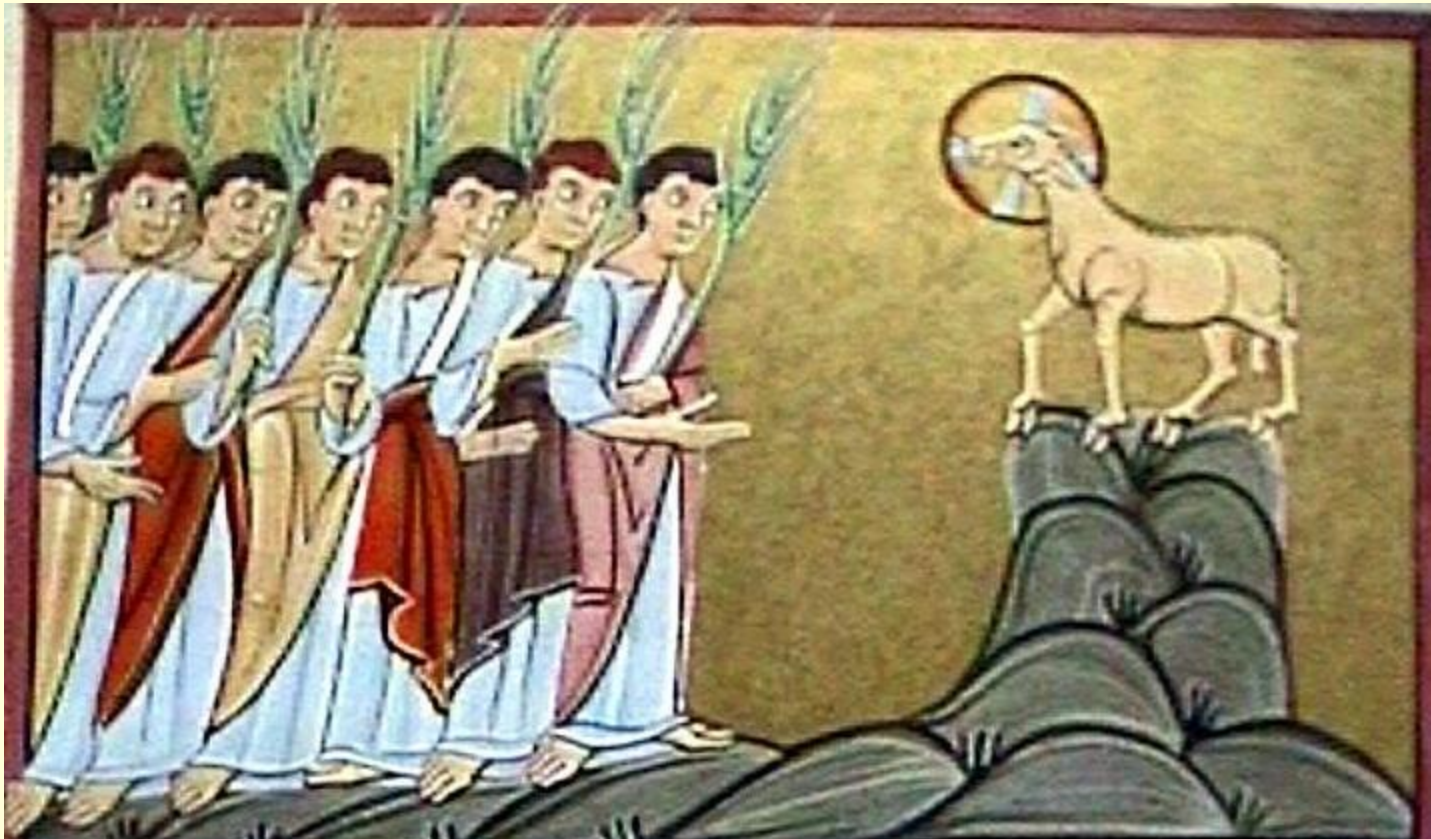
- The First Six Seals (Chapter 6)
  - The 4 Horsemen
  - Souls of Martyrs
  - Vision of the End

*Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,<sup>16</sup> calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"*

**--- Revelation 6:15-17**

# Review

- The Servants of God (Chapter 7)



# Review

- The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal (Chapter 8)
  - Silence in Heaven
  - Prayers of the Saints
  - The First 4 Trumpets



Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!" (**Revelation 8:113**)



# Review

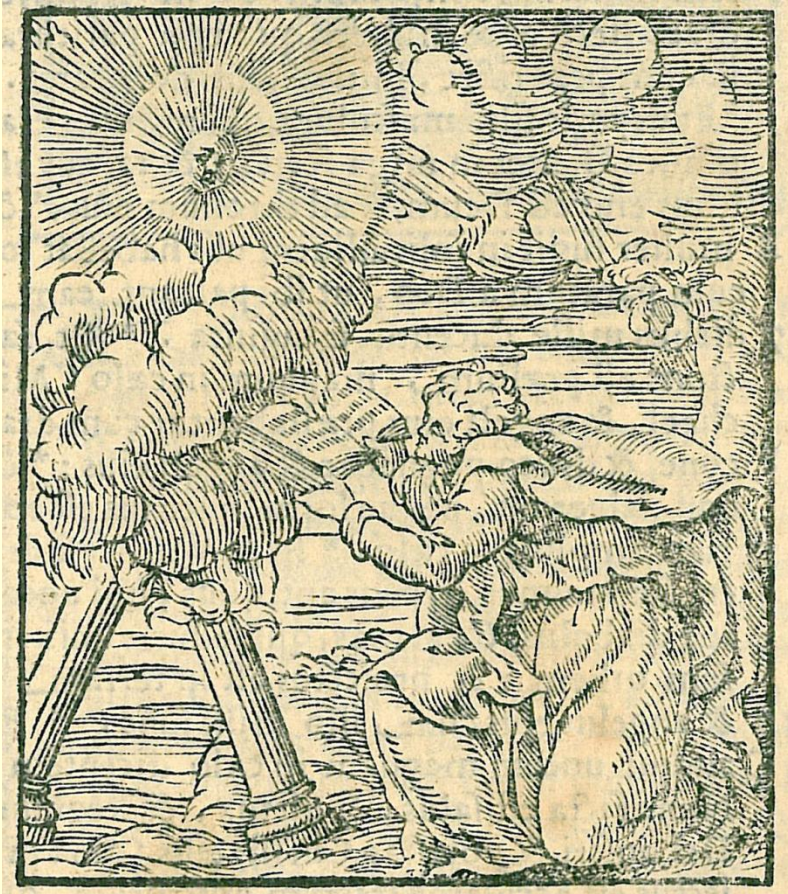
- The First Two Woes (Chapter 9)





# Review

- Another Mighty Angel with A Little Book(Chapter 10)



- He swears there will be no further delay, that when the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet blows, the mystery of God finally will be fulfilled, as announced by the prophets.
- John eats the book as he was commanded to do, by a voice from heaven.
- As promised by the angel, John finds the book delicious but it leaves him with a bitter stomach.
- John is commanded to go and prophesy again to [against] many and various people.

# Review

- Measuring the Temple and Those Who Worship There (Chapter 11, Verses 1-2)



Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months..."

--- **Revelation 11:1-2**

# Review

- The Two Witnesses  
(Chapter 11, Verses 3-13)



But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

--- **Revelation 11:11-13**

# Review

- The Seventh Trumpet (Chapter 11, Verses 14-19)



Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." **(11:15)**

# Review



- The Woman, Her Son and The Dragon (Chapter 12)

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

--- **Revelation 12:17a**

# Review



- The Beast  
(Chapter 13:1-10)
  - Having been cast out of heaven, the Dragon (Satan) gives power and authority to the “beast”
  - which rules the whole world and continues the war on the saints.
  - And everyone worships the beast except for those whose names are written in the book of life.
  - All of these things take place within the time allotted and other limits established by almighty God.
  - He endures the suffering with us.

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  - Yes, they probably recognized it,

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- The dragon is Satan, thrown down to earth.
- The beast on earth has received Satan's power and authority to rule all men and to persecute God's people on earth.
- Do you suppose that John and his readers recognized the beast in the "real world" in which they lived?
  - Yes, they probably recognized it, at least in part, as representing the Roman Empire.

# Discussion

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- When the Roman Empire finally fell, was the evil that it represented overcome?
  - Clearly not
  - Such evil has never yet been removed from the earth.
  - Rome was the major example in John's day of the sort of "beasts" which arise on earth in the power and authority of Satan.
  - But there are other examples.



# Discussion

- And there may be more than one (kind of) beast at a time, as we see in Chapter 13.

# ヨハネの黙示録 13:11-18

11. わたしはまた、ほかの獣が地から上って来るのを見た。それには小羊のような角が二つあって、龍のように物を言った。
12. そして、先の獣の持つすべての権力をその前で働かせた。また、地と地に住む人々に、致命的な傷がいやされた先の獣を拝ませた。
13. また、大いなるしるしを行って、人々の前で火を天から地に降らせることさえした。

# ヨハネの黙示録 13:11-18

14. さらに、先の獣の前で行うのを許されたしるしで、地に住む人々を惑わし、かつ、つるぎの傷を受けてもなお生きている先の獣の像を造ることを、地に住む人々に命じた。
15. それから、その獣の像に息を吹き込んで、その獣の像が物を言うことさえできるようにし、また、その獣の像を拝まない者をみな殺させた。

# ヨハネの黙示録 13:11-18

16. また、小さき者にも、大いなる者にも、富める者にも、貧しき者にも、自由人にも、奴隷にも、すべての人々に、その右の手あるいは額に刻印を押させ、
17. この刻印のない者はみな、物を買うことも売ることもしないようにした。この刻印は、その獣の名、または、その名の数字のことである。

# ヨハネの黙示録 13:11-18

18.ここに、知恵が必要である。思慮のある者は、獣の数字を解くがよい。その数字とは、人間をさすものである。そして、その数字は六百六十六である。

# Revelation 13:11-18

11. Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

# Revelation 13:11-18

12. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.
13. It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,

# Revelation 13:11-18

14. and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.



# Revelation 13:11-18

15. And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.
16. Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,

# Revelation 13:11-18

17. so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.
18. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

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- Who is speaking here?

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  - John
  - He has recently seen Satan, in the form of a great dragon, removed from heaven and thrown down to earth (12:9) where he furiously persecuted “those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ” (12:17)

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  - He then saw a beast arising from the ocean, to which the dragon gave his power and throne and authority. (13:1-10)

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- Then John saw another beast



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- Then John saw another beast
- It was different from the first one

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- How do dragon's speak?

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  - like Satan himself

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  - Dragon-speech must never be trusted!
  - They seduce their victims, at first, and finally kill them cruelly.

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  - The Roman Empire

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  - The Roman cult of emperor worship

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- Is this the only example?
  - No

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- Is this the only example?
  - No
- What are some others?

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- John is still describing the “other beast” in his vision.



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- This cult effectively did make the “whole world” worship the Emperors of Rome as gods.

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- John is still describing the “other beast” in his vision, which he probably understood to be (something like) the Roman cult of Emperor worship.
- This cult effectively did make the “whole world” worship the Emperors of Rome as gods.
- John understood that this was not just a matter of combining raw political power with subtle propaganda.

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- False religions sometimes actually do perform great signs:
  - John saw this in his vision,
  - He know this was true in the “real world” in which he lived,
  - And it has been and still is true in other places and times.

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- False religions sometimes actually do perform great signs:
  - John saw this in his vision,
  - He know this was true in the “real world” in which he lived,
  - And it has been and still is true in other places and times.
- Insofar as false religions, and their priests and prophets, exercise the authority of the “beast,” they are able to do real miracles.



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- The second beast is allowed to work signs...

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and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of  
the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling  
them to make an image for the beast that was wounded  
by the sword and yet lived.

- The second beast is allowed to work signs in the  
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# 13:14

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- The second beast is allowed to work signs in the presence of the first beast, thereby deceiving those who dwell on earth.
- Who allowed this?
  - The deception goes forward in the power of the beast.
  - God allows this to happen.

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- We must be mindful that God sometimes does allow false religions to exercise the authority of the beast, in order to perform miracles, by which many people are deceived.



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- How can we know the difference between a miracle of God and a miracle of Satan?

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- We must be mindful that God sometimes does allow false religions to exercise the authority of the beast, in order to perform miracles, by which many people are deceived.
- How can we know the difference between a miracle of God and a miracle of Satan?
  - Miracles of God point to Christ (miracles of Satan point away)

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- In John's vision "those who dwell on earth" are deceived  
by the signs worked by the second beast into making an  
image of (for, in honor of) the first beast,

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- This latter reference may be to a particular Roman emperor.

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- In any case, the image which the people made does not honor God or the Lamb but memorializes some Satanic personality.

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- In any case, the image which the people made does not honor God or the Lamb but memorializes some Satanic personality.
- We can therefore know for certain that all of the signs worked in the presence of the beast in order to deceive the people were not miracles of God but of Satan.

# 13:15

それから、その獣の像に息を吹き込んで、その獣の像が物を言うことさえできるようにし、また、その獣の像を拝まない者をみな殺させた。

And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.





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And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

- In John's vision, he sees that God allowed the second beast to animate the image of the first beast which the people had been deceived into making:

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- In John's vision, he sees that God allowed the second beast to animate the image of the first beast which the people had been deceived into making:
- The image could breath, speak, and cause to be slain those who would not worship it.

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- I imagine a statue of a human figure come magically to life, and demanding to be worshiped....or else.

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- I imagine a statue of a human figure come magically to life, and demanding to be worshiped....or else.
- John and his readers would have been familiar with legends such as these from their history, as are we.

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- I imagine a statue of a human figure come magically to life, and demanding to be worshiped....or else.
- John and his readers would have been familiar with legends such as these from their history, as are we.
- But I do not know how literally John and his readers would have understood this figure.

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それから、その獣の像に息を吹き込んで、その獣の像が物を言うことさえできるようにし、また、その獣の像を拝まない者をみな殺させた。

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- The point is that the people have themselves been deceived into creating a certain image which they are now forced to worship under pain of death.

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  - And the image is of the beast

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  - And the image is of the beast
  - Which has the power, throne, and authority of the dragon (Satan)



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- The point is that the people have themselves been deceived into creating a certain image which they are now forced to worship under pain of death.
  - And the image is of the beast
  - Which has the power, throne, and authority of the dragon (Satan)
- The people have turned away from God to worship Satan.

# 13:16

また、小さき者にも、大いなる者にも、富める者にも、  
貧しき者にも、自由人にも、奴隷にも、すべての  
人々に、その右の手あるいは額に刻印を押させ、

Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor,  
both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or  
the forehead,



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Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor,  
both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or  
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- In addition being required to worship the image of the  
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Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor,  
both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or  
the forehead,

- In addition being required to worship the beast
- The people are required to bear his mark, making them, in effect, his property, regardless of their social status in the eyes of the world.

# 13:17

この刻印のない者はみな、物を買うことも売ることもでき  
ないようにした。この刻印は、その獣の名、または、  
その名の数字のことである。

so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that  
is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.



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- What happens if they refuse the mark?

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- What happens if they refuse the mark?
  - They are cut off from all human commerce.

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- What happens if they refuse the mark?
  - They are cut off from all human commerce.
  - They are rejected by the world and they die.



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so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

- What happens if they refuse the mark?
  - They are cut off from all human commerce.
  - They are rejected by the world and they die.
- The mark is not just any mark, it is name of the beast, or the number of his name, which comes to the same thing.

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so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

- “Those who dwell on earth” must worship the image of the beast which they have created and be marked as the property of the beast, which is finally to belong to Satan.

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so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that  
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- “Those who dwell on earth” must worship the image of the beast which they have created and be marked as the property of the beast, which is finally to belong to Satan.
- This is in contrast to the people (c.f. Chapters 7 and 14) who are marked by God.

# 13:18

ここに、知恵が必要である。思慮のある者は、獣の数字を解くがよい。その数字とは、人間をさすものである。そして、その数字は六百六十六である。

This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

- John seems to have recognized the beast in his vision as a particular historical human figure, one which certain of his readers (those with wisdom) would be able to calculate.

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- John seems to have recognized the beast in his vision as a particular historical human figure, one which certain of his readers (those with wisdom) would be able to calculate.
- However by as early as the first century this information was lost to the church.

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- John seems to have recognized the beast in his vision as a particular historical human figure, one which certain of his readers (those with wisdom) would be able to calculate.
- However by as early as the first century this information was lost to the church.
- The most common view is that 666 represents the name of the Roman Emperor Nero, but this is very far from certain.

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- Even if we knew which man John recognized the beast to be within his vision (Nero or some other person) we would be left with the task of interpreting the significance of that figure from our historical perspective.

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- Even if we knew which man John recognized the beast to be within his vision (Nero or some other person) we would be left with the task of interpreting the significance of that figure from our historical perspective.
  - The man who John recognized in his vision would have been a type of one yet to come and/or an example of the type of figure one sees throughout human history, or so it seems to me.



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This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

- If I am understanding John's vision correctly at this point, it does not matter so much whether we know the identity of the particular man who John had in mind.
- Any man who binds people to worship himself or any one or anything other than the living God is opposite to Christ.