

Revelation 13:11-18

Verse 11

And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth – Whereas the “sea” represents the Gentile nations it is possible that “the earth” represents the land of Israel. If so, this person may be Jewish instead of Gentile. This may also denote inferiority to the first beast as the ancients regarded the sea as more powerful and untamable than the earth.

He had two horns like a lamb – In his external conduct this beast will appear to be peaceful and meek. The word *lamb*, used 27 times in Revelation, always refers to Jesus. This beast is pictured as a lamb because he tries to imitate Jesus. The “two horns” may represent some political power, but much less than the first beast.

And he spoke like a dragon – This beast will speak like his energizer, Satan. The satanic doctrine he will promote will be the deity of the first beast. His words will reveal his true loyalty. He is known as “the false prophet” in Revelation 16:13 and 19:20.

Verse 12

And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence – He will represent the first beast acting as his prophet (20:10).

And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast – He apparently will lead a worldwide religious movement that involves worshipping the antichrist. He counterfeits the Holy Spirit’s ministry.

Whose fatal wound was healed – Believers worship Christ because He rose from the dead. Unbelievers during the tribulation will worship the beast because of his counterfeit death and resurrection.

Verse 13

And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men – Like Pharaoh’s magicians (Exodus 7:11), the second beast will have authority to perform supernatural miracles. Imitating Elijah (1 Kings 18:38), and the two witnesses (11:5), he will be able to call down fire from heaven.

Verse 14

And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs...
The deceptive miracles and signs performed by the false prophet will convince most earth-dwellers that the antichrist’s authority is supreme and that he deserves their worship.

Telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life – This is most likely a statute. It could be similar to the statue of Daniel 3:4-6 which was constructed as a means of demanding worship to Nebuchadnezzar.

Verse 15

And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak – Whether actual or simply a deception, it will appear as if the statue has life and can speak.

And cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed – Perhaps by issuing the command for their execution.

Verse 16

And he causes all: Small and the great – All social groups, *Rich and the poor* – All economic groups, *Free and slaves* – All cultural groups. In other words, all people dwelling on the earth!

To be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead – The location of the mark is to make it conspicuous.

Verse 17

And he provides that no one should be able to buy or sell, except the one who has the mark – Worldwide economic dominance will belong to the beast.

Either the name of the beast or the number of his name – Apparently the name of the beast in Greek or Hebrew has a numerical equivalent.

Verse 18

Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast – By identifying the beast’s number, believers in the tribulation will be able to recognize him for who he is. Daniel makes a similar statement in Daniel 12:10 in the context of the tribulation time. Apparently antichrist’s name and number will remain a mystery until the tribulation.

For the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six – There has been much conjecture about the meaning of “666”. Gematria is a method of interpreting the Hebrew scriptures by computing the numerical value of words. The numerical value of some names is 666. For example, Nero and Hitler both supposedly add up to 666. The Latin numerals, D-500, C-100, L-50, X-10, V-5, I-1 add up to 666. The Greek equivalent for Latin is *lateinos*, which also adds up to 666. Nebuchadnezzar’s statue was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide = 66. There were 6 instruments used as a signal to worship this statue. Certainly, the thrice repeated 6 is stating that that the antichrist is a MAN. The Jews recognized the number 7 as a representation of completion. The number 3 often stood for the fullness of something (e.g., the Trinity). Therefore 777 would be the number of God. “The beast will ultimately be identified by his number; but because he cannot be revealed until the rapture of the church takes place...this verse will have special application only to the faithful ones of the tribulation period.”

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