

## December 23rd – The Number of the Beast

*“Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.” (Rev. 13:18)*

Rev. 13 introduces us to two beasts – one lesser and one greater. The first of the beasts is also known as “the Antichrist” or “the man of sin” in other portions of the New Testament. Chapter 13 tells us he has “seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns.” The seven heads are representative of seven great world empires that fell before his time, and the ten horns represent the strength of those empires. The Antichrist will sway the scepter of the world at the end of time.

The Bible is very clear that the Antichrist will be empowered by “the dragon” – the Devil. The Antichrist will be very winsome, and most speculate that he will even appear to rise from the dead after suffering a mortal wound (Rev. 13:3). Helping the Antichrist in his worldwide conquest will be the other beast of Rev. 13, otherwise called “the false prophet.” He too will be empowered by the Devil and will perform signs and wonders intended to confirm the satanic message of the Antichrist.

But what about the number of the beast? Perhaps you’ve heard this called the mark of the beast. It is very simple – 666. In the Scripture, 6 is the number of man, and consequently a symbol of imperfection since men fell into sin. 3 is the number of completion and is pictured in the three Persons of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So then, the number of the beast represents the complete wickedness of the Antichrist who will force all unbelievers to receive his mark at the end of time.