Revelation 13

The Beast from the Earth: verses 11-18

1. **The religious beast of tyranny:**
   1. This one comes up from the earth.
   2. The voice is like the dragon.
      1. It speaks on behalf of the devil.
         1. The beast is a false Christ.
            1. 2 Corinthians 11:13,14
   3. The Beast → False Prophet → Harlot → Anti-Christ
      1. The False Prophet
         1. Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10
      2. The Harlot
         1. Rev. 17 and 18
   4. This beast is the spiritual power used to serve legitimize the tyranny of the first beast.
      1. The goal is worship of the first beast.
         1. Hitler and the Nazi party’s use of the Church.
         2. Political leaders know if they get support of the church they become even mor powerful.
      2. The worship of the state occurs as religious powers sanction the states activities.
         1. The world’s religions align themselves with secular powers to destroy the church and her witness.
            1. World Council of Churches
            2. Lutheran World Federation.
2. **The beast and its signs:**
   1. This beast is capable of producing false miracles.
      1. Consider Jesus’ warning from Mark 13:20-23.
   2. Making fire come down from heaven
      1. Elijah called upon God for this miracle.
         1. 1 Kings 18:36-40
         2. This miracle authenticated Elijah’s ministry.
3. **The mark of the beast:**
   1. This signifies total control of the beast over people.
      1. Slaves were branded by their masters.

World History Encyclopedia

In ancient cultures such as [Greece](https://www.worldhistory.org/greece/) and [Rome](https://www.worldhistory.org/Rome/) the tattoo was worn as a cultic symbol dedicating one to a certain god, as a brand symbolizing servitude, as a mark of a certain type of profession (such as a prostitute) or to encourage fertility or afford protection.

* 1. The Christian’s seal:
     1. In Rev. 7:3 and 9:4 we saw how the saints of God are sealed on their foreheads.
        1. This seal is spiritual and invisible.
           1. Holy Baptism does not leave a physical mark.
     2. The forehead is the seat of knowledge.
        1. To wear a seal on the forehead means the person’s mind and intelligence belong to the one who is represented by the seal.
           1. Your master is either the Lord Jesus Christ or the Devil.
  2. The mark on the right hand
     1. All activities by such people are sanctioned by the beast and at his direction.
        1. Only those with such a mark can legally buy and sell.
     2. Verse 17 used to seem impossible, however….
        1. Hard Covid lockdowns in some countries (Chile and Australia for example) as well as Vaccine passports show governments can restrict the movements and buying activities of their citizens.
        2. Today there are implant chips the size of dust mites.
        3. The Internet of Things
           1. “The Internet of Things (IoT) describes physical objects (or groups of such objects), that are embedded with sensors, processing ability, software, and other technologies, and that connect and exchange data with other devices and systems over the [Internet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet) or other communications networks.” (Wikipedia)

1. **The number/name of the beast:**
   1. 666
      1. Why this number?
         1. If seven represents the number of God in completeness and perfection, then the number 6 is the number of man in imperfection.
            1. We know man was created on the sixth day.
         2. This number represents the unholy trinity of the dragon (Rev. 12), the beast from the sea (13:1-10) and the religious beast from the earth (13:11-18). Hence, 6-6-6.
   2. Identification of a particular individual with that number:
      1. Irenaeus who was a disciple of Polycarp about 100 years after the Apostle John was not able to identify the person intended.
         1. “In the Greek Language every letter of the alphabet has a numerical value, and, because the number value of many times is 666, Irenaeus said that it was safer to wait for the fulfillment of the prophecy than to guess and to look for names that would fit.” (Siegbert Becker; Revelation: The Distant Triumph Song)