

Revelation 13 - The Dragon Calls Forth the Antichrist; Activities & Resurrection of the Antichrist; The Rise of the False Prophet

IV. After These Things (Rev 4:1—22:21)

(2) During the Tribulation (Rev 6:1—19:21)

(I) Two Beasts (Rev 13:1-18)

(a) The first beast (13:1-10)

(i) His sudden appearance in John's vision (13:1a)

(ii) His Gentile ethnicity (13:1b)

(iii) His fulfillment of Daniel's prophecies (13:1c-2a)

(a) Ten horns and seven heads (13:1c)

(b) Four animals (13:2a)

(iv) His Satanic empowerment (13:2b)

(v) His resurrection (13:3)

(a) A national or individual resurrection?

(b) An authentic resurrection?

(vi) His power-based adoration (13:4)

(vii) His oratory (13:5a)

(viii) His time of authority (13:5b)

(ix) His blasphemies (13:6)

(x) His persecution of God's people (13:7a)

(xi) His global jurisdiction (13:7b)

(xii) His unregenerate audience (13:8)

(xiii) His oppressive influence (13:9-10)

(b) The second beast (13:11-18)

(i) His ethnic identity (13:11a)

(ii) His character (13:11b)

(iii) His purpose (13:12)

(iv) His miracles (13:13)

(v) His deception (13:14a)

(vi) His image-statue (13:14b-15)

- (vii) His economic system (13:16-18)
 - (a) Global economy (13:16a)
 - (b) Global numbering (13:16b-17)
 - (c) The Beast's number (13:18)

5 Non-Chronological Parenthetical Insertions

1. 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Rev 7:1-17)
2. Announcement of no more delay; Two Witnesses (Rev 10:1—11:14)
3. **Israel's Flight (Rev 12); Two Beasts (Rev 13); Six Scenes of Hope (Rev 14) (Rev 12:1—14:20)**
4. Gathering of the nations to Armageddon (Rev 16:13-16)
5. Babylon's fall (Rev 17:1—19:6)

Revelation 13

The "first beast" often called the Antichrist, is primarily a political figure. The "second beast" often called the False Prophet, is primarily a spiritual or religious figure. These are two areas that Satan always tries to get control over: politics and religion. Once Satan has control over these two realms, there's nothing else he needs in order to deceive the entire world.

- (I) Two Beasts (Rev 13:1-18)
 - (a) The first beast (v1-10)
 - (i) His sudden appearance in John's vision (v1a)
 - (ii) His Gentile ethnicity (v1b)
 - (iii) His fulfillment of Daniel's prophecies (v1c-2a)
 - (a) Ten horns and seven heads (v1c)

1 [NIV] The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

1 [ESV] And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

1 [NASB20] And **the dragon** stood on the sand of the seashore. Then **I saw a beast** coming up out of the **sea**, having **ten horns** and **seven heads**, and on his horns **were ten crowns**, and on his heads **were blasphemous names**.

1 [NASB95] And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

12:18 [ISV] Then the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore."

1 [ISV] I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns, seven heads, and ten royal crowns on its horns. On its heads were blasphemous names.

1 [KJV] And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

– "...the dragon" – Satan (Cf. 12:9; 20:2); he is standing on the earth because he has been evicted from heaven; the earth is the only domain he has left

– "...I saw" – John is the one "seeing" the beast rise up out of the sea

– "...beast" – *therion*, a voracious beast; different from "beast" from the Greek *zoa*, translated "living creature" in other parts of Revelation

— Mentioned 36x in Rev, numerous times to refer to the Antichrist (11:7; 14:9,11; 15:2; 16:2; 17:3; 19:20; 20:10)

— This beast is the Antichrist; he's called a beast to reveal his true character. The Antichrist will be a man, not a "spirit" or a "system" but an actual human being (Cf. 2 Thess 2:3; Rev 13:18).

— "Beast" denotes his motives and intentions; he will come across as peaceful and wise, but he will actually be animalistic, like a ravenous beast with no conscience (2 Thess 2:3)

— He will act much like Satan (Cf. 1 Peter 5:8) because he will be indwelt by Satan

— This beast has many of the same characteristics as the beast described in Dan 7. He is the same as the "little horn" (the Antichrist) of Dan 7, as indicated by several lines of correspondence between the two figures:

- Both have a worldwide kingdom (Dan 7:7,23; Rev 13:8)
- Both speak blasphemies against God (Dan 7:8,11,20,25; Rev 13:5)
- Both have victory over the saints for 42 months (Dan 7:25; Rev 12:14; 13:5)
- Both will be destroyed by Christ at the Second Advent (Dan 7:11,26; Rev 17:14; 19:20)
- See note: **The Relationship Between Satan & the Antichrist** below.

— "...out of the sea" – many people believe the Antichrist will be Jewish because he will sign a peace treaty with Israel that will begin the Tribulation period (Dan 9:27)

— However, when "the sea" is used symbolically throughout Scripture it represents the mass of Gentile nations (Cf. Dan 7:2-3; Is 57:20; Rev 17:15)

— Keep in mind that at this point in time, Israel will still be in the "Times of the Gentiles" (until the Second Coming)

— It's possible that the second beast (False Prophet) is of Jewish descent, since he comes out of the "land" (v11). Many times in Scripture, "the land" refers specifically to the land of Israel (Cf. Zech 12:12). See note: **Ethnicity of the Antichrist & False Prophet** below.

— The implication is that the dragon *summoned* the beast out of the sea

— "...ten horns" – represent the ten kingdoms (regions of the world) that will make up the last of the seven world empires (seven heads)

- These 10 kingdoms will exist contemporaneously with the Antichrist; this will be the structure of the one world government (Dan 7:24)
- The Club of Rome has already published a map of the world that divides it into 10 regions; see map below
- While the Ten Division Stage (see Dan 7) gives way to the Antichrist Stage, the 10 kingdoms continue to exist until the end
- The difference between the Ten Division Stage and the Antichrist Stage is that in the Ten Division Stage, the world is divided into ten kingdoms ruled co-equally by ten men (first half of the Tribulation). In the Antichrist Stage (second half of the Tribulation), the world in all 10 Divisions are ruled by the Antichrist, and the other kings are subject to him.
- See [The Campaign of Armageddon](#) for an overview of the various "Stages" of the Tribulation
- "...seven heads" - the seven rulers of the 10 world regions after three of them are defeated (17:9-10; Cf. Dan 7:8,20)
- They are the embodiment of the seven anti-Semitic empires that have existed throughout history (see chart: **Seven Anti-Semitic Kingdoms** below) and are now embodied in one composite, anti-Semitic beast
- These seven heads are the same as noted in 17:9-10
- "...ten crowns" - *diadem*, ruler's crown; not *stephanos*, victor's crown; are symbols of governmental authority
- Rev 12:3 says that Satan has seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns were ten *diadēma* (crowns). What Satan had in 12:3 are now a dominant characteristic in the man that he is using, the Antichrist.
- The events of 12:1-5 transpire while the seven world empires are running their course, but at 13:1 (midpoint of the Tribulation) the focus shifts to the last (seventh) of these kingdoms when the Antichrist will take supremacy over the 10 kings, who will act as sub-rulers under his authority.
- The crowns (diadems) are placed on the horns instead of the heads of the beast to show his claim to authority rests on brute force
- "...blasphemous names" - words or conduct injurious to God's honor and holiness; essentially, the assumption of deity by the Antichrist (Cf. v5-6; 2 Thess 2:4)

[OT reference: Dan 7:3,7-8]

The Relationship Between Satan & the Antichrist

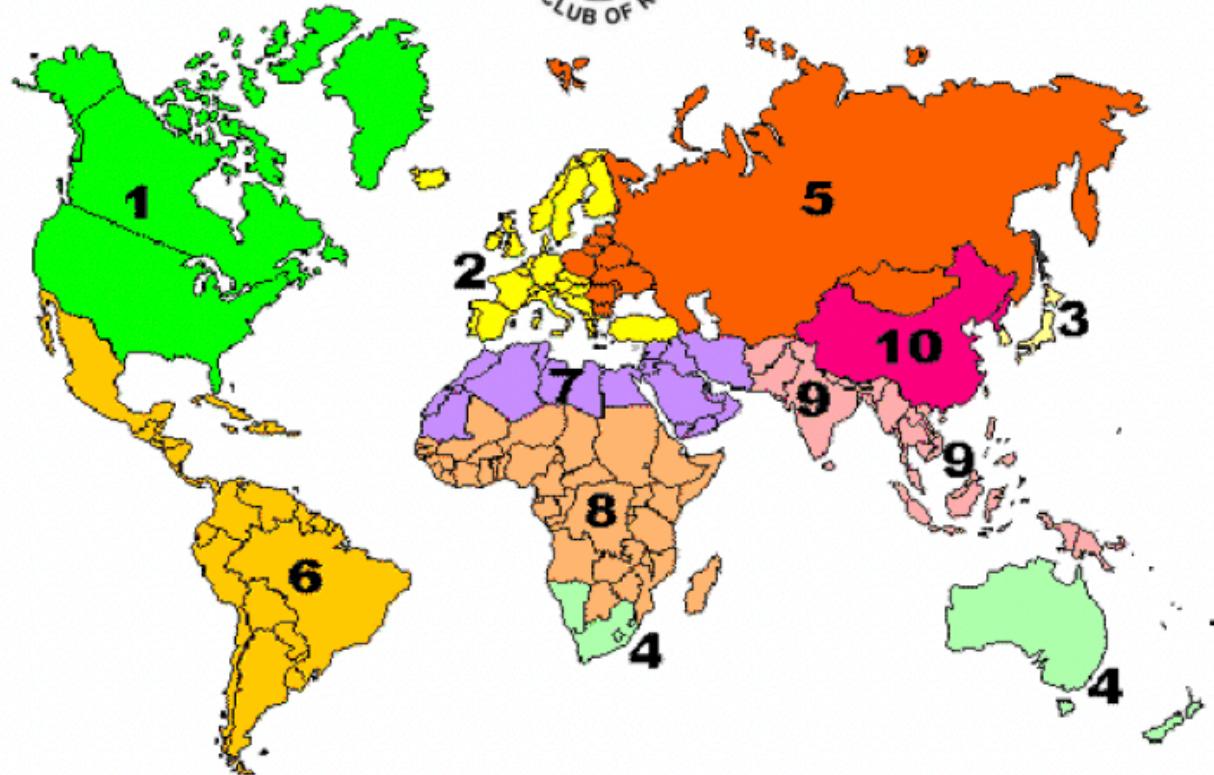
The repetition of the heads, horns, and diadems (12:3) suggests there is a close relationship between the dragon and the Antichrist. The conflict of 12:1-5 occurs while the seven world empires (Sumeria [Nimrod, Bab-El], Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, [Dan 2:39; 8:21; 11:2-3], Rome (in two phases, separated by a "gap") are running

their course, but 13:1 focuses on the last of these kingdoms, specifically the last or "Antichrist" phrase, when the Antichrist will reign over the 10 kings, who act as sub-rulers under his authority (Cf. 17:12). For an explanation of the phases of the fourth kingdom, see notes at the end of Dan 7.

John received more information about these heads, horns, and diadems in Rev 17.

THE FIRST BEAST IS THE LITTLE HORN		
The First Beast (Rev. 13:1-8)		The Little Horn (Dan. 7:7-28)
"All who dwell on the earth will worship him" (13:8).	Both have a worldwide empire.	"It will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it" (7:7, 23).
"For 42 months" (13:5) "it was given to him to make war with the saints" (13:7).	Both have victory over the saints for three and one-half years.	"The saints . . . will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time" (7:25).
"The beast was . . . thrown alive into the lake of fire" (19:20).	Messiah destroys both at His second advent.	"The beast was slain . . . and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever" (7:11, 26).
"Those who had not worshiped the beast . . . came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years" (20:4-6).	Immediately following both their destructions the saints will receive the messianic kingdom.	"Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints" (7:22, 27).

THE CLUB OF ROME



Ethnicity of the Antichrist & False Prophet

There is no Scriptural evidence that the Antichrist will be of Jewish decent (Dan 11:37 is the closest thing to Scriptural evidence, but it's a mistranslation; see notes on that verse).

There are, however, numerous Scriptural references to the Antichrist being a Gentile.

- Biblical typology: Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of the Antichrist, was a Gentile
- Biblical imagery: Scripture pictures Antichrist as rising up out of the sea (Rev 13:1; 17:15). The sea is an image of the Gentile nations. Thus, Antichrist is seen as a Gentile progeny.
- The nature of the "Times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24), which doesn't end until the Second Coming, supports a Gentile Antichrist.
- Dan 9:26 implies that the Antichrist will rise up from the revived Roman Empire
- Rev 17:9-12 portrays the Antichrist is a Gentile ruler. This passage says that the Beast is one of "seven kings" (Rev 17:10), thus, a Gentile (Roman) ruler.
- Numerous OT passages indicate that the Antichrist could be a Assyrian-Roman (eastern leg of Roman Empire) (Is 10:24; 14:25; 30:31; 31:8)

- See [Goodman-The Prominence of the Eastern Leg \(Daniel 2\)](#) for a complete treatment on the ethnicity of the Antichrist
- The False Prophet *could* be a Jew (Ezek 21:25-27; Ezek 28:2-10; Rev 13:11-18; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10); of the circumcision (Dan 11:36-37).

Seven Anti-Semitic Kingdoms (Dan 2:37-38; Cf. Rev 17:9-10)

- 1. Egypt**
- 2. Assyria**
- 3. Babylon**
- 4. Persia**
- 5. Greece**
- 6. Rome I**
- 7. Rome II**

"Five have fallen" (#1-5 in bold above); "one is" (Rome I at the time of John's writing); "the other has not yet come" refers to the revived Roman Empire (Rome II)

The Beast: Person, Empire, or Both?

Based upon the Greek of v8, which uses a masculine pronoun to refer to the neuter in v1,2,4, the beast refers to a human being (also see correlations above between the "Little Horn" in Dan 7 and the beast in Revelation in the chart above). In addition, parallels between the beast and the Lamb indicate that he is a person: both have followers on whose foreheads are inscribed their names (v16-17; 14:1), both are conquerors (5:5; 13:7), and both receive worship (5:8; 13:4). At the same time the beast is an empire over which the man reigns, namely the latter-day development of the Roman Empire. This conclusion is deduced from two considerations:

1. The beast of 13:1-7 is the same as the fourth empire in Daniel. They both will come out of the sea (Dan 7:3; Rev 13:1), both will have 10 horns (Dan 7:7,20; Rev 13:1), and both will be succeeded by the kingdom of Christ (Dan 7:11,26-27; Rev 17:14; 19:20; 20:4-6). Further, the symbolism of the lion, the bear, and the leopard (Dan 7:4-6) is evident in the beast in 13:2. It is as though this beast, like the fourth beast of Dan 7, recapitulated, in some sense, the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Greek empires.
2. The fourth empire in Dan 2 and 7 is Rome, not Greece, and the ten-kingdom form of the empire as described in Dan 2:41; 7:7; Rev 13:1; 17:12-14 is a latter-day development of Rome in the future Tribulation period. This understanding is supported by six factors:

- a. "Iron" (Dan 2:40) distinctively characterizes the Roman Empire; it would be a poor choice to characterize the Greek Empire. Greek soldiery was marked by bronze armor and weapons. During the gradual transition to Roman ways, iron swords and breastplates took the place of bronze. Also Roman poets wrote of bronze weapons as obsolete and belonging to former times.
- b. The length of the Roman kingdom argues for its iron-like strength. Babylon lasted 70 years, Medo-Persia about 200 years, Greece about 270, and Rome about 500 years before it fell in 476 AD.
- c. The fourth kingdom is viewed as still existent when the Stone (Christ) smites it (Dan 2:44-45). Greece could not meet this requirement, for it had been succeeded by Rome when Christ appeared. No kingdom is said to supersede the fourth kingdom before the Stone strikes. Since Rome superseded Greece, Greece is plainly not the fourth empire.
- d. The unique characterization of the fourth beast (Dan 7:7) is fitting for Rome. Rome was different from the earlier kingdoms. It consolidated many territories wider in extent and thus is more difficult to describe by comparison with recognizable animals.
- e. The critics' argument is based on a denial of the supernatural predictive element in Daniel and an attempt to explain most of the book as history up to and including Maccabean times. This explains why they go to such lengths to make the fourth empire Greece.
- f. From the standpoint of history the identification of the fourth empire as Rome can be traced to early times: Josephus [*The Antiquities of the Jews*, 11:7; Ezra 12:10-12 in 80-120 AD; the Assumption of Moses, chapters 8-9 in 7-30 AD; 2 Baruch 39:3-4 before 70 AD; and later Jewish writings cited in the Jewish Encyclopedia, 10.394.]

(b) Four animals (v2a)
 (iv) His Satanic empowerment (v2b)

2 And the beast that I saw was like a **leopard**, and his feet were like *those* of a **bear**, and his mouth like the mouth of a **lion**. And **the dragon** gave **him** his **power** and his **throne**, and **great authority**.

2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

2 The beast that I saw was like a leopard. Its feet were like bear's feet, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave it his power, his throne, and complete authority.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

- Daniel described four kingdoms/empires that would trample down Israel during the Times of the Gentiles...

- "...leopard" - Greece (Dan 7:6)

- "...bear" - Media-Persia (Dan 7:5)

- "...lion" - Babylon (Dan 7:4)

- Note that Daniel places the animals in the correct chronological order from his time perspective (looking to the future), but John reverses the order because he is looking from the future back to the past

- Dan 7:12 provides a clue to properly interpreting this verse: As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but **an extension of life** was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

— An interesting verse that isn't well understood when you study Daniel by itself, but comes into much better focus when you study Rev 13...

— Each of the beasts (lion, bear, leopard) were eventually defeated politically, but it would continue to live culturally within the empire that captured them. Media-Persia captured Babylon politically, but Babylon continued to live on during the Media-Persian empire culturally.

— When Cyrus ruled in Babylon, he was very careful not to upset the Babylonian deities; he did not destroy their temples. The whole Babylonian pantheon of deities continued to live on under Persian rule.

— Rome eventually captured Greece politically, but historians will tell you that Greece conquered Rome culturally, even changing the predominant language to Greek

— The Antichrist will be a composite of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome culturally. The combined strength and brutality of historical Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece is what will comprise the total character of the Antichrist. What was bad with each of these empires never gets corrected, so each subsequent empire is worse than the previous. This will culminate in the worst of the worst in the empire of the Antichrist. He will be the embodiment and fulfillment of everything terrible from all the previous Gentile empires.

- "...the dragon" - Satan

- "...him" - the beast (Antichrist)

— The Antichrist will work through the beast. The war is of Satan's making, but the Antichrist and his empire is his tool for waging it.

- It's interesting to note how Satan imitates God...

- Satan gives the Antichrist his power, just like the Father gave Jesus power (Matt 11:27)

- Satan gives the Antichrist authority, just like the Father gave the Son authority (Matt 28:18)
- Satan gives his throne to the Antichrist just as the Father gave a throne to the Son (3:21)
- The Antichrist will "explain" Satan just as Christ "explains" the Father (John 1:18)
- When you see the Antichrist, you are seeing Satan himself, just as when you see Christ, you are seeing the Father (Heb 1:3)
- "...power" - power over freedom and life (Cf. v10) and the entire business of mankind
- "...throne" - just as Jesus currently shares the Father's throne (3:21), the Antichrist will share a throne with Satan (Cf. 2:13)
- "...great authority" - widely extended control that covers the entire world, because Satan is the "god of this world" (Cf. 2 Cor 4:4)

[OT reference: Dan 7:4-6,8]

"The Antichrist Stage" (Dan 7:25-26; Rev 13:3-10)

- (v) His resurrection (v3)
 - (a) A national or individual resurrection?
 - (b) An authentic resurrection?

3 *I saw one of his heads as if it had been fatally wounded, and his fatal wound was healed.* And the whole earth was **amazed** and followed after the beast;

3 *I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;*

3 One of the beast's heads looked like it had sustained a mortal wound, but its fatal wound was healed. Rapt with amazement, the whole world followed the beast.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

- "...one of his heads" - Rome I (the Roman Empire); one of the seven anti-Semitic kingdoms (Cf. v1; 17:9-10); this is a resurrection of kingdom 6 (Rome I) into kingdom 7 (Rome II). This is the "national" resurrection.

- "...as if it had been fatally wounded" - *hōs sphazō*, identical to the Greek words used in 5:6 to describe Jesus Christ ("...a Lamb standing, as if slain...")

— The fact that he was "slain" points to the violent death of the head, but the likeness indicated in "as if" indicates a restoration of life

- "...fatal wound was healed" - is this a national resurrection or an individual resurrection? Both.

- Rev 13:14 adds detail about the "individual" resurrection: And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the

beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has **come to life** [zaō].

— zaō is the same Greek word used to describe Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead (Cf. 2:8); it also describes the resurrection of OT saints and Tribulation martyrs and the resurrection of unbelievers (20:4).

— If zaō is used to describe the literal resurrection of Jesus' and to describe the literal resurrection OT saints and Tribulation martyrs, as well as the unbelieving dead, how can we think that it doesn't describe a literal bodily resurrection of the Antichrist here?

— Those who don't believe the Antichrist is resurrected from the dead first reason that Satan does not have that level of power or authority, then put that belief into their interpretation of v3,14. That's not how you do Bible exposition.

— The Antichrist will physically die, then come back to life, just like the empire (Rome I) that was dead and came back to life (Rome II)

- "...amazed" - this resurrection from the dead, closely resembling Christ's resurrection, will win for the Antichrist worldwide admiration

— When the world sees the resurgence of the revived Roman Empire and the resurrection of the Antichrist from the dead, it's going to be amazed and everyone will immediately follow after the Antichrist. Hitler resurrected Germany from the brink of economic disaster just prior to WW2, and was worshipped because of it. Now think about someone who is able to do this on a global scale, coupled by the fact that this person would be killed, then later rise from the dead.

[OT reference: Dan 7:8]

Zech 11:17: "Woe to the worthless shepherd Who abandons the flock! A sword will be on his arm And on his right eye! His arm will be totally withered, And his right eye will be blind."

Will the Antichrist Actually Rise from the Dead?

Is the resurrection of the Antichrist during the Tribulation something that actually occurs or is it a cheap magic trick designed to fool the earth dwellers? Many dispensationalists, and all non-dispensationalists, think that Satan can only *mimic* the work of Christ by raising the beast from the dead, so this particular "miracle" will be faked. Below are a number of reasons to believe that the first beast/Antichrist will actually die, and be resurrected from the dead:

- Scripture states that the "signs, wonders and miracles" done through satanic agency are indeed miraculous. Jesus (Matt 24:4-5,11,24), Paul (2 Thess 2:9), and John (Rev 13:13-15; 16:13-14; 19:20) all describe miraculous works accomplished through Satan's oversight.

- Scripture uses the exact same Greek words to describe satanic miracles, including those performed by the Antichrist and False Prophet, as are used to describe the miracles of Christ and His disciples.
 - The Greek word for "sign" [*semeion*] means "a sign" or distinguishing mark by which something is known." It is used of miracles by Christ and the apostles (Matt 12:38; 16:1,4; Mark 8:11-12; 16:17,20; Luke 11:16,29; 23:8; John 2:11,18,23; 3:2; 4:48,54; 6:2,14,26; 7:31; 9:16; Acts 2:22,43; 4:16,30; 5:12; 6:8; 7:36; 14:3; 15:12; Rom 15:19; 1 Cor 1:22; 2 Cor 12:12; Heb 2:4). "Signs" are also used of satanic miracles in the Tribulation (13:13-14; 16:14), and the same combination of words are used: "great signs and wonders" (Matt 24:24; Mark 13:22), "all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thess 2:9, see note there).
 - Miracles in the NT are also referred to by the Greek word *teras*, which is translated into English as "a wonder, marvel." The noun "wonder" occurs 16x in the NT and is always coupled with the word "sign" (Matt 24:24; Mark 13:22; John 4:48; Acts 2:19,22,43; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 7:36; 14:3; 15:12; Rom 15:19; 2 Cor 12:12; Heb 2:4).
- Identical Greek words are used to refer to the death of Christ and the death of the Antichrist:
 - 5:6: "...a Lamb standing, as if slain [*hōs sphazō*]..."
 - 13:3: "...as if it had been fatally wounded [*hōs sphazō*]..."
- Identical Greek words are used to refer to the beast/Antichrist's return to life and of Christ's resurrection:
 - 2:8: "...**The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life** [*zaō*]..."
 - 13:14: "...the beast who *had the wound of the sword and **has come to life** [*zaō*]."
 - The same word [*zaō*] describes the resurrection of OT saints, Tribulation martyrs, and the resurrection of unbelievers (20:4)
- Rev 17:8,11 refer to the beast/Antichrist which "was and is not." This refers to the wounding/death of the Antichrist in 13:3,12,14. The words "is not" refers to the physical death, followed by his ascent from the abyss (17:8), which refers to his return to life (13:14) and is the same as his reappearance as the eighth king (17:11). The two-fold reference to the beast going to destruction or perdition (17:8,11) is the same as his eternal confinement in the Lake of Fire (19:20).
 - It's likely that the death and resurrection of the beast/Antichrist happens just prior to the midpoint of the Tribulation and the abomination of desolation. In 11:7 it states that the beast/Antichrist rises from the abyss to kill the Two Witnesses. This is likely the same ascent out of the abyss as described in 17:8.
- The Antichrist's death and resurrection is also prophesied in the OT. In Ezek 21:14,25 the Antichrist is called "the great one slain" (v14) and "slain, wicked one, the prince of Israel" (v25). These descriptions cannot refer to Nebuchadnezzar (see notes there).

- Many criticize the belief of Satan raising the Antichrist from the dead as being outside of a Christian worldview, where only God has the power to raise the dead. They reason that if the Antichrist could raise himself from the dead, Christianity would lose its basis for believing that Christ's resurrection vindicates His claim to deity. However, this is a theological assumption, not an exegetical observation. How could someone conclude that something taught in Scripture goes against a Christian worldview. We don't start with a "Christian worldview" then read that world view into the Bible. We read and understand what the Bible teaches, then develop a Christian worldview from it.
- To attribute the signs, wonders, and mighty deeds of Satan's forces as only seeming to be miraculous could lead to questioning the veracity of the miracles of Christ, since one could argue that they also only "seemed" to be miraculous.
- Those who deny the Antichrist is resurrected from the dead first reason that Satan does not have that level of power or authority, then read that belief into their interpretation of v3,14. But that's not how you do Bible exposition. You can believe that the Antichrist was dead and resurrected but not necessarily believe that Satan will be the source of the resurrection. 2 Thess 2:11–12 says, "And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness." God is the one who enables Satan and his disciples to do these things in a similar way in which He would use any human instrument to work genuine miracles.
 - Many things will be "given to him" (the beast/Antichrist) by God:
 - To take peace from the earth (2nd Seal, 6:4)
 - A large sword (2nd Seal, 6:4)
 - To kill one-quarter of the earth's population (4th Seal, 6:8)
 - A mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies (13:5)
 - Authority to act for 42 months (13:5)
 - Authority to make war against the saints and overcome them (13:7)
 - Authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation (13:7)
 - Deceptive signs (by the False Prophet) (13:14)
 - Power to give life to the image of the beast in the temple (13:15)
 - Scripture is clear that only God has the power over both death and life (Cf. Deut 32:39; 1 Sam 2:6; 2 Kings 5:7; John 5:21). Because of this, it is valid to question the assertion that Satan could at any time possess and exercise the creative power of God.

- The Holy Spirit is now restraining “the man of lawlessness” (2 Thess 2:3) from certain activity during the current era (2 Thess 2:6–7). Once The Holy Spirit steps aside, it will result in greater Satanic activity during the Tribulation: “the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders” (2 Thess 2:9). In fact, Paul specifically says that this activity during the Tribulation is something God will send (2 Thess 2:10). The purpose is *“that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved” (2 Thess 2:10–11).
- It's best to identify this as a restoration of life to the beast/Antichrist because it allows for the interchangeability of the head with the whole beast (i.e. the king with his kingdom) as v12,14 require, and it also coincides with further details in 17:8.

(vi) His power-based adoration (v4)

4 they **worshiped the dragon** because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, **“Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”**

4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”

4 They worshipped the dragon because it had given authority to the beast. They also worshipped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight a war with it?”

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?

— "...worshiped the dragon" - Satan worship; worship of the dragon is worship of the Antichrist. Revelation mentions worship of the Antichrist/beast several times (Cf. v8,12; 14:9,11; 20:4) and worship of his image several times (Cf. v15; 14:9,11; 16:2; 19:20).

— The earth dwellers love the beast for what he could do, and they figured out where his power comes from (Satan), so they worship him too

— This verse predicts overt, naked, unrestrained worship of Satan himself at the midpoint of the Tribulation

— The Antichrist will be loved and worshipped by many; he comes onto the scene bringing peace, he's solving the world's problems...

— The world is amazed by the power of this man, they can't believe his authority or his ability to fix problems. His apparent resurrection/resuscitation of an empire/the beast will be so amazing to the world that many people will give their allegiance and worship to the Antichrist (Cf. v8,12; 14:19,11; 20:4). In doing so, they will also submit to Satan, who is behind him.

- "...Who is like the beast" - his uniqueness and incomparability is what provokes people to worship him
- The backdrop of Revelation is a diversion of attention away from God to the worship of a civil power and the figure who heads it up
- "...who is able to wage war with him" - the worshipers of the Antichrist somehow relate his alleged power over the grave to his ability to wage war victoriously
- The implied answer to this question is: no one. Later, answers come in 14:1-5; 17:14; 19:11-21.

[OT reference: Dan 8:24]

Verses 5-8 speak of some of the activities of the Antichrist. He blends two types of endeavor: insolent blasphemy toward God and almost irresistible powers of seduction over men. Both resemble the activities of the little horn in Daniel (Cf. Dan 7:8,11,20,25; 12:7), sometimes identified as Antiochus Epiphanes, the prototype of anti-God forces who climax world history.

- (vii) His oratory (v5a)
- (viii) His time of authority (v5b)

5 A **mouth** was **given to him** speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for **forty-two months** was **given to him**.

5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

5 The beast was allowed to speak arrogant and blasphemous things, and it was given authority for 42 months.

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.

- "...mouth" - throughout Scripture, the Holy Spirit is always directing our attention to the Antichrist's mouth, his words, how he talks and what he says (Dan 7:8,11,20,25; 11:36-38; 2 Thess 2:4)

— He will be one of those world leaders and dictators who will have the ability to sway/convince the masses through his oratory and smooth speeches; he will be a "great communicator"

— Based on v2,4, Satan is empowering the Antichrist, and at this point, is even indwelling him; this is not the Antichrist speaking, but rather Satan himself

- "...given to him" [2x] - granted by God (Cf. 6:4,8; 7:2; 9:5); the authority and the time period for that authority was given to the Antichrist by God Himself

— It would be easy to interpret this verse as saying that Satan gave the Antichrist his oratorical skills. However, v5-8 have a different perspective than v1-4. The new

perspective is that the providence of God allows the Antichrist his degree of authority and places a time limit on how long that authority will last. In addition, it's doubtful that Satan would limit the Antichrist's reign to just 42 months.

— We must always understand in the Christian worldview that evil is always on a leash and temporary. At the height of evil in the entire history of the world, where the handcuffs are off of Satan and he is empowered with authority to unleash unlimited evil, his timeframe is limited to just three-and-a-half years.

— "...forty-two months" - the same time period mentioned in numerous other passages; refers to the last 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation (Cf. Dan 7:25; 12:1; Matt 24:15-25; Rev 11:2-3)

— During this time period, the shackles are off and Satan will be allowed to perfectly express who he is through his indwelling of the Antichrist

— A parallel passage is Dan 7:25, which describes the Antichrist "speaking against the Most High" and "wearing down the saints." He will openly mock and blaspheme God Himself, and will hunt down and kill (behead, Rev 20:4) Christians. He will use persecution to rid the world of Christians (Cf. 2 Thess 2:8-9).

— He will also "make alterations in times and in law" which means he will reimagine a world without God

- There are three characteristics we learn about the Antichrist in Scripture:

1. His head wound (v3,12,14)
2. He talks a lot; Scripture always talks about his speech...Mr. Big Mouth (Dan 7:8,25; 11:36-38; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:5)
3. His blasphemy against God and deception of people. These same traits marked Antiochus Epiphanes, the prototype of the Antichrist (Dan 7:6,8,11,20,25; 12:7)

[OT reference: Dan 7:8,11,20,25; 11:36]

(ix) His blasphemies (v6)

6 And **heopened** his mouth in **blasphemies** against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is, those who dwell in heaven.*

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is, those who dwell in heaven.*

6 It uttered blasphemies against God, against his name, and against his residence, that is, against those who are living in heaven.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

- The beast will blaspheme God by claiming to be God (2 Thess 2:4,9-10; Cf. Dan 11:36)

- "...he opened" - *enoixen*, a constative aorist, indicating that the beast will will speak blasphemies throughout the Tribulation, not just at one point in time

- The blasphemies coming from the Antichrist are not incidental to a point in time, but are rather a continuing characteristic
- "...blasphemies" - to speak against someone in such a way so as to injure their reputation in the eyes of others
- It is slander, where you aggressively manipulate and lie about someone to such an extent that your intent is to destroy their business, credibility, and reputation in the eyes of others
- This is the normal verbiage coming out of the mouth of the Antichrist; he is blaspheming four things:
 1. "...God" - (4:9; 5:6-7) - if you feel the need to blaspheme God's name, you better do it now because you will not be able to do it forever
 2. "...His name" - the opportunity to blaspheme God's name is limited until the Second Coming because in the millennial kingdom, the name of the Lord will be exalted (Is 29:23; Ezek 36:23)
 3. "...His tabernacle" - God's tabernacle is located in heaven (15:5); Moses built an earthly tabernacle that was a replica of the one in heaven (Heb 8:5); the Ark resides in the heavenly tabernacle (11:19)
 4. "...those who dwell in heaven" - there are at least three groups in heaven: myriads of angels, the four living creatures, and the Church (represented by the 24 Elders) (1:20; 4:5; 5:11; 7:11). This phrase either refers to raptured Church Age saints, or it refers to the heavenly host, along with Michael the archangel, who went to war against Satan and evicted him from heaven permanently.
- "...those who dwell in heaven" - the "heaven dwellers"; defines the tabernacle in terms of its inhabitants

- (x) His persecution of God's people (v7a)
- (xi) His global jurisdiction (v7b)

7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority was given to him over every tribe, people, language, and nation.

7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

7 It was allowed to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. It was also given authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

- "...given" - *didōmi*, this is permission, given by God, to "make war" with the Tribulation Saints

- "...make war" - *polemos*, Daniel saw the same thing as John: the Antichrist (the "horn") waging war with the saints, and overpowering them (Dan 7:21)

- "...saints" - *hagios*, those who come to faith in Christ after the Rapture, through the evangelistic activities of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and the Two Witnesses (Cf. 7:9-17)
- *hagios* is not a term ever used exclusively to describe the Church (Cf. Ps 50:5; 149:1)
- "saints" is not a technical word (same meaning each time it's used), it's a much broader term used to describe believers in general, not specifically the Church. See note: **Tribulation Saints** below.
- The fact that John uses the term *hagios* here instead of *ekklesia* points to the fact that the Church has already been removed from the earth by this time
- "...overcome" - *nikao*, to conquer; to come off victorious; to subdue
- He *overcomes* the saints? (Dan 7:21; 8:12,24; 11:31; Rev 11:7)
- The fact that Jesus Himself promised that "the gates of Hades will not overpower it (the Church)" (Matt 16:18). So if the Antichrist is waging war and "overpowering" the Church, Jesus lied.
- Not all "saints" are equal: OT Saints, the Church, Tribulation Saints—each have different characteristics
- The beast's overcoming of the saints is physical...this means martyrdom for many. However, this does not contradict the overcomer concept because, though the saints are overcome physically in the sense that their lives are snuffed out, they are overcomers in the spiritual sense, like the Two Witnesses (11:7), Stephen (Acts 7), James (Acts 12), or Antipas (Rev 2:13).
- Gentiles are not protected during the Great Tribulation: to be a believer during this period of time very likely means death (Cf. v15; 6:11; 7:9-12; 11:7; 20:4)
- "...authority was given to him over every tribe, people, language, and nation" - when these four nouns are used together in Revelation, it refers to the whole earth; the empire of the Antichrist will cover the entire earth (Cf. Dan 7:23)
 - In 5:9 these four nouns are used to refer for those whom Christ died
 - In 7:9 these four nouns are used to refer to the converts of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists
 - Here, in 13:7, these four nouns refer to the extent of the authority of the Antichrist: the entire earth
 - In Rev 17:15 these four nouns are used to refer to the influence of the harlot
- This phrase blows up the preterist view that this describes Nero's persecution of Christians in the 1st century
- Jer 30:7 calls this time "The Time of Jacob's Trouble" but the scope is much broader than just Israel

[OT reference: Dan 7:21,23]

This verse furnishes a most important key to the proper understanding of events occurring during the Tribulation. Since authority is given to the beast over *all kindreds, and tongues, and nations*, any passage pertaining to rivalry of kings or conflict among kings in the "time of the end" (such as Dan 7:8,24; 11:40-44) must refer to a time preceding this universal dictatorship and therefore to the first half of the Tribulation.

Tribulation Saints

1. The 70 weeks are determined for "your people" (i.e., the Jews; Dan 9:24; Cf. Jer 30:3,7; Dan 12:1), not the Church. The Church was not in the 69 weeks and therefore not in the 70th week. The absence of any mention of the Great Tribulation for the Church in any of the church epistles further suggests that the Church will not be in the Tribulation.
2. The "saints" in Rev 6-18 are never called "the churches" or "the church" of a certain area, as in Rev 2-3. If the Church is present on earth in the Tribulation, why does this difference exist between Rev 2-3 and 6-18?
3. Those who are on earth include the 144,000 (14:1-5; 7:4-8), the woman (12:1-2,5-6,13-17), and people from all nations (7:9-12). These and the saints in Rev 13:7 agree with the presence of Israelites and Gentiles in Matt 24-25. However, they differ from the Church of the present age in which there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile (Eph 2:11-22; 3:6).
4. The promise that the Church will be kept "out from" (έκ) "the hour of testing" which is about to come on the whole world (Rev 3:10), and, as noted earlier, the total absence of any reference to the Church on earth in Rev 4-18 imply that the Church will have been removed from the judgment scene.
5. 1 Thess 4:13-18 refers to the Rapture of the Church into heaven. If the Rapture is post-Tribulational and the Church is to turn around in the air and come back to earth immediately, what is the point of the Rapture?
6. 2 Thess 2:1-8 predicts that the Rapture of the Church must occur before the appearance of the Antichrist, and in Rev 13:1-10 (Cf. 6:2; 11:7) he will have appeared. This negates the possibility that the Church is in view in Rev 13:7, for it will have already been raptured.

(xii) His unregenerate audience (v8)

8 All who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the **book of life of the Lamb** who has been slaughtered.

8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

8 All those who had become settled down and at home, living on the earth, will worship it, everyone whose name had not been written in the Book of Life belonging to **the lamb that had been slaughtered since the foundation of the world**.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

- "All who live on the earth" - earth dwellers; mentioned 12x in Revelation. This does not include every single human being on the earth, just those who are labeled "earth dwellers" in Revelation, which always refers to the mass of unbelieving humanity.

- This prophecy (future tense) anticipates almost universal success the Antichrist will have in attracting worshipers. The only limiting factor will be the refusal of the elect to comply (Cf. Matt 24:24).

- "...will worship" - *proskynēo*, unsaved people suddenly got religious; they are having "church"

- "...whose" - the grammar switches from the plural "those who inhabit the earth" to the singular relative pronoun *hou* (whose) to stress that not one single person among the "earth dwellers" is named in the Lamb's Book of Life.

- "...has not been written" - the negation ("has not") of a perfect tense verb ("been written"), means a permanent state of affairs; it is a permanent incapacity

- "...book of life of the Lamb" - the Lamb's book of life

- Those who worship the Antichrist will be unbelievers because their names have not be written in the Lamb's book of life (Cf. 20:15)

- "...the lamb that had been slaughtered since the foundation of the world" [ISV] - interesting bit of theology here in Revelation, when speaking about the Antichrist...

- The cross was not God's reaction to the sin of Adam & Eve...the cross was in God's plan since before the foundation of the world (creation). The cross had already been foreordained by God through His foreknowledge.

- The moment Adam & Eve sinned, God didn't come up with the plan for the second member of the Trinity to become a Man and die to pay for the sin of the world. The plan was in place from before the foundation of the world.

[OT reference: Dan 12:1]

Book of Life / Lamb's Book of Life

The Bible mentions a book of life and a Lamb's book of life. As we'll see, they are two different books.

In Ex 32:32 Moses offered to let God take his name out of the book of life if He would forgive the sins of the people. But in Ex 32:33 God replied, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book." This shows that in OT times sinners could have their names blotted out of the book.

The Lamb's book of life is mentioned in Rev 13:8 and Rev 21:27. It contains the names of those who choose to accept the Lord as their Savior during the Church Age. You won't find a reference to anyone being written out of this book because our salvation is guaranteed from the moment we believe (Eph 1:13-14).

Some translations of Rev 13:8 indicate the Lamb's book of life was written from the creation of the world. If so, it means the name of every member of the Church was known to God and inscribed there at that time. God could do this because He knows the end from the beginning (Rom 8:29). If it was possible to blot anyone's name out of the Lamb's book of life, it would mean that God had made a mistake in putting it there in the first place. Such a thing would be impossible for God to do.

The only time Jesus mentioned the book of life was to promise those in Sardis that whoever walked with Him (became a believer) would be dressed in white (declared righteous) and would never have their names blotted out of the book of life (Rev 3:5).

Foundation of the World

- God existed before the foundation (Gen 1:1; Ps 90:2; Is 40:21)
- Christ existed before the foundation (Is 48:16; Micah 5:2; John 1:1; 17:5,24)
- Christ was loved by the Father before the foundation (John 17:24)
- Wisdom was established before the foundation (Prov 8:23)
- Believers were predestined for salvation before the foundation (Eph 1:4; 2 Tim 1:9)
- Church age believer's names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation (Rev 13:8)
- God promised eternal life before time began (Titus 1:2)
- Christ was foreordained before the foundation (1 Peter 1:20; Rev 13:8)
- Unrevealed secrets of God existed before the foundation (Matt 25:34)
- The blood of all the prophets was shed from the foundation (Luke 11:50)

How are the persecuted saints supposed to respond to their persecution?

(xiii) His oppressive influence (v9-10)

- 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.
- 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.
- 9 Let everyone listen:
- 9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

- A call to the Tribulation Saints living at this time in the future to listen and pay attention to what he is about to say (v10)...

- Missing from this phrase is, "what the Spirit says to the churches"

- This phrase is found 7x in Rev 1-3, but has been removed here in an encouragement to Tribulation Saints under persecution
- This omission implies a pre-Tribulational Rapture

10 If anyone *is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. **Here** is the **perseverance** and the **faith** of the **saints**.

10 If anyone *is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

10 If anyone is to be taken captive, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with a sword, with a sword he will be killed. Here is a call for endurance and faith of the saints:

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

- Life is going to be tough during the Tribulation period, especially for the Tribulation Saints (Cf. Matt 24:13 Rev 14:12); see notes on 14:12

- "...Here" - *hōde*, focuses on the attitude of submission to the inevitable. Here and in 14:12 it focuses on having endurance; in v18 and 17:9 it points to having wisdom.

- "...perseverance" - *hypomonē*, steadfastness, endurance

— This verse has nothing at all to do with the Calvinist doctrine of perseverance of the saints. The context here is saints during the Tribulation period being physically preserved from martyrdom, with the hopes of being protected physically by Jesus Christ.

— This verse is not saying that these Tribulation Saints must endure in good works until the end of their life or they are not saved and not going to heaven. That is the furthest thing from what this passage means.

— This verse is an exhortation to these Tribulation Saints to endure, because they are going to need all the help they can get. Rev 7:9-17 tells us that most of these believers will be martyred for their faith. They are martyred because they are saved, and this exhortation/prayer is given because of the oppression they will be under.

- "...faith" - *pistis*, faithfulness, fidelity

— For believers (Tribulation Saints), the last 3-1/2 years of human history on the earth as we know it will require endurance because of the persecution coming from the Antichrist, and faithfulness through dark times until his eventual demise. Remembering that God is sovereign over all that happens, and that Satan and the Antichrist only have a short time remaining, will provide the fuel necessary to sustain these two spiritual qualities.

- The believers in this future time are given assurance that God will execute justice:

- Those destined for captivity will be taken captive; those who kill people violently will themselves die violently
- This assurance of future justice will encourage the saints to persevere and trust God during this period of intense persecution and martyrdom (Cf. 14:12)

- Believers during this terrible period should submit to the sovereignty of God, realizing that He has permitted the Antichrist's activity, but they themselves (their souls) are secure
 - This is a warning and an encouragement to the Tribulation Saints...warning them of impending persecution by the Antichrist, and urging them to submit to divine providence (God's sovereign will).
 - It stresses the inevitability of persecution and death for the faithful. It also invites these believers to recognize that the actions of the Antichrist have been decreed by God (Cf. *edothē*, "it was given" used 4x (v5 [2x],7 [2x],14,15)
 - "...saints" - every time "saints" is used in the Bible, it's not a reference to the Church (it is not a "technical" word). For example, "saints" is mentioned in Psalms (50:5; 149:1 [NKJV]), 1,000 years before the Church came into existence, so it couldn't have been referring to Church Age saints.

The word "saints" in Scripture is used three different ways:

1. Used of OT believers; we see this many times in the Psalms
2. Used of Church Age believers throughout the NT epistles
3. Used of believers during the Tribulation period, likely evangelized by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Rev 7), the Two Witnesses (Rev 11), and the evangelizing angel (Rev 14)

[OT reference: Jer 15:2; 43:11]

Perseverance of the Saints

The idea that if you don't persevere in good works until the end of your life...Arminians say you lost your salvation, Calvinists say you were never saved to begin with. Both are unbiblical doctrines. The Bible clearly teaches the preservation of the saints: when someone believes in Christ by faith, God is the One who keeps them in terms of eternal security and eternal destiny.

Those who advocate for the perseverance of the saints to go 13:10,13 to prove their doctrine. They have to take verses out of context in order to prove their pre-existing belief because they don't have another verse to reference to prove their point. They are forced to go to obscure passages, eschatological, dealing with a specific group of people living at a specific point in time, then build a doctrine around it: perseverance of the saints.

- (b) The second beast (v11-18)
 - (i) His ethnic identity (v11a)
 - (ii) His character (v11b)

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon.

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spake as a dragon.

11 I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it talked like a dragon.

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

– "Then" - a new scene in the vision, which has been in progress since 12:1...

– "...another" - *allos* (not *heteros*), meaning another of the same kind; the second beast is different from the Antichrist, but similar (same kind)

– "...beast" - the second beast is called the "False Prophet" (Cf. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10); we cannot de-humanize this beast as some kind of non-human entity...he is a man just like the Antichrist

— The False Prophet will be thrown into the Lake of Fire just like the Antichrist (19:20), and 1000 years later, both of them are still there (20:10), showing that both men have an eternal soul (Eccl 3:11)

— The Antichrist is more of a political leader; the False Prophet more of a religious leader

– "...out of the earth" - *gē*, land; this individual is evidently a Jew since he arises out of the earth, or land, which is Israel; the Hebrew word ('eres) is used numerous times in the OT to designate the land of Israel (Cf. Matt 2:20)

— In contrast, the first beast (Antichrist) came out of the sea (v1), referring to the Gentile mass of humanity

– "...two horns" - the Antichrist has 10 horns, the False Prophet has two horns

— This communicates his lesser authority than the Antichrist; he's more of an "assistant" to the Antichrist, working under his authority

– "...like a lamb" - his external conduct will likely be peaceful ("like a lamb"), but his words will prove satanic ("he spake as a dragon"). Satan does not come to us in a red costume with a pitchfork...he comes to us dressed as an angel of light, as a lamb, meek but deadly.

— Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, warned about "false prophets": they come in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves (Matt 7:15)

— Preterists admit that it is impossible to find any ancient historical figure who is the counterpart of the second beast

– "...spoke as a dragon" - the False Prophet, like the Antichrist, will speak the words of Satan (Cf. 12:9; 20:2)

[OT reference: Dan 8:3]

(iii) His purpose (v12)

12 He **exercises all the authority** of the first beast in his presence. And he **makes the earth and those who live on it** worship the first beast, whose **fatal wound was healed**.

12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.

12 It uses all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and it makes the earth and those living on it worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

— "...exercises all the authority" - the False Prophet will represent the Antichrist by acting as his prophet (19:20; 20:10; Cf. Ex 7:1); he will be tasked with implementing the Antichrist's agenda

— The False Prophet will be the Antichrist's agent in directing the persecution of believers, exercising the Antichrist's authority

— "...makes" - through coercion; his specific exercise of authority is to bring men to worship the Antichrist

— The False Prophet uses his authority to coerce the world to worship the Antichrist; just as the role of the Holy Spirit is to direct worship to Jesus, the False Prophet will direct false worship to the Antichrist.

— The False Prophet will demonstrate the "beautiful side of evil"; he will make evil look and sound beautiful, and will be boosted by miracles (v13) such as the resurrection of the Antichrist (v12,14)

— With the introduction now of the False Prophet, we can see a correlation with the two "true prophets" (Two Witnesses) from Rev 11:

- He performs great signs, stands before the one he represents (11:4; 13:12)
- Has special power over fire (11:5; 13:13)
- Has a connection with resurrection (11:11; 13:14-15)
- Convinces men of their superior's supreme power (11:5-6; 13:17)
- Directs men to worship the one they designate (11:13; 13:15)

— "...the earth and those who dwell in it" - slightly different wording than the technical expression "those who live on the earth"; this expression speaks more broadly, to all of the earth's inhabitants

— The False Prophet will lead both the earth and everyone on it (unbelievers) to worship the Antichrist as leader of a worldwide religious movement

— "...fatal wound was healed" - implies that the wound to one of the beast's heads (v3) describes an actual wound to the Antichrist, not one of the nation's under his authority

— "fatal" - *thanatos*, death; it was his death wound, or a wound that led to his death

— Just as believers worship Christ because He rose from the dead (Acts 17:30-31), unbelievers will worship the Antichrist because he will have done a similar thing (v14)

— The same is true in 17:8. Initially the beast that the woman rides appears to be a kingdom, but the description of the beast who was and is not, and is about to come out of

the abyss, relates more to an individual than a kingdom

- Satan + the Antichrist + the False Prophet = Satanic trinity

— The dragon and the two beasts form a counterfeit “trinity.” The dragon (Satan) seeks worship that belongs only to God. The first beast (Antichrist) seeks to rule the world, which is Jesus’ prerogative. The second beast (the False Prophet) glorifies the Antichrist, which is a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit’s ministry of glorifying only Christ.

How Satan Imitates God and the Antichrist Imitates Jesus Christ			
NO.	CATEGORY	JESUS CHRIST	ANTICHRIST
1.	World prepared in advance	Gal 4:4	2 Thess 2:7
2.	Revealed at the proper time	Gal 4:4	2 Thess 2:6
3.	Claim of deity	John 14:9	2 Thess 2:4
4.	Heralded by a forerunner	John 1:23	Rev 13:12
5.	Forerunner comes in the Spirit and power of Elijah	Luke 1:17	1 Kings 8:37-38; Rev 13:13
6.	Empowered by a higher source	1 Cor 6:14	Rev 13:14
7.	Member of a Trinity	Phil 1:2; Acts 5:3-4; John 14:9	Rev 16:13; 20:10
8.	Head of a Church	Eph 5:23	Rev 2:9; 3:9
9.	Miracle worker	Acts 2:22	2 Thess 2:9
10.	Resurrection from the dead	1 Cor 15:3-6	Rev 13:3,12,14
11.	Given a throne	Rev 3:21	Rev 13:2
12.	Ruling a political kingdom	Is 9:6-7	Rev 13:5
13.	Ushering in world peace	Is 9:6-7	Rev 6:1-4
14.	Activity in the Temple	Luke 2:41-50	2 Thess 2:4
15.	Putting an end to animal sacrifices	Heb 9:26-29	Dan 9:27
16.	Length of ministry	Over 3 years	Rev 13:5
17.	Sealing ministry	Eph 4:30	Rev 13:16-17
18.	Presentation to Israel as her Messiah	John 1:11	John 5:43
19.	Covenant with Israel	Gen 15:18	Dan 9:27
20.	Reception of worship	Zech 14:16	2 Thess 2:4
21.	Establishing Jerusalem as the center of worldwide worship	Zech 14:17	2 Thess 2:4

(iv) His miracles (v13)

13 He performs **great signs**, so that he even makes **fire come down out of the sky** to the earth in the presence of people.

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.

13 It performs spectacular signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

- "...great signs" - *megas sēmeion*, same Greek word for "signs" used to describe the miracles Jesus performed (John 20:31); Jesus warned that counterfeit signs would indicate the arrival of false christ (Cf. Matt 24:24-25)

— These counterfeit signs mimic the true signs as part of Satan's overall plan to verify the claims of his False Prophet (Cf. 16:14; 19:20; Mark 13:22; 2 Thess 2:9). The False Prophet will perform these signs to obscure the truth, to confuse people, and to win allegiance.

— The Greek here implies that the False Prophet will perform miracles and signs on equal par with those performed by Jesus Christ (Cf. 2 Thess 2:9). These will be genuine miracles, supernatural accomplishments, not mere trickery or sleight of hand (16:13-14; 19:20; Matt 24:4-5,24-25; 2 Thess 2:9).

- "...fire come down out of the sky" - Elijah and the Two Witnesses had the same power to call fire down from heaven

— John at one point wanted to call down fire from heaven on some Samaritans (Luke 9:54), but was denied

- Believers are to "test the spirits": Deut 13:1-5; Is 8:19-20; Acts 17:11; Gal 1:8-9; 1 Thess 5:20-21; 1 John 4:1; Rev 2:2

[OT reference: 1 Kings 1:9-12]

Satanic/Demonic Miracles

See [Satanic/Demonic Miracles in Scripture](#) for a complete list of every miracle in the Bible completely 100% powered by Satan. God is not involved in any of these miracles.

Unbeknownst to most Christians, Satan has a deep reservoir of ability to give people an experience or miracle that they are looking for.

(v) His deception (v14a)

(vi) His image-statue (v14b-15)

14 And he **deceives** those who live on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform **in the presence of the beast, telling** those who live on the earth to make **animage** to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and **has come to life**.

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, 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.

14 It deceives those living on earth with the signs that it is allowed to do on behalf of the first beast, telling them to make an image for the beast who was wounded by a sword and yet lived.

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

— "...deceives" - the very thing that Jesus predicted would happen, deception (Matt 24:24; Mark 13:22), will happen by the False Prophet

— He will "keep on deceiving" (Cf. "he exercises", *poiei*, v12) people into believing lies as though they were God's truth. He will parody the Holy Spirit, who promotes God's truth by directing people to Christ.

— In addition to the resurrection of the Antichrist from the dead, the signs performed by the False Prophet will also lead people to worship the Antichrist. His supernatural but deceptive power will make earth dwellers erroneously conclude that the False Prophet's authority is supreme (Ex 7:11; 2 Tim 3:8).

— These miracles, done in public, are the "hook" that deceives the earth dwellers into believing that the Antichrist is God

— Prophecy—not "signs and wonders"—is Jesus' primary evidence (Matt 11:1-6); it's dangerous to base acceptance on signs & wonders

— When you begin looking at experience instead of on the Word of God, you open yourself up to all types of deception on one hand, and a never ending search for more and more signs & wonders

— "...in the presence of the beast" - the False Prophet exercises his power and signs with full approval and is the constant and willing servant of the Antichrist

— "...telling" - *legōn*, commanding; the False prophet will command the earth dwellers to construct an image of the Antichrist

— "...an image" - *eikōn*, a singular noun (one image); an image of the Antichrist will be setup in the Jewish temple, leading to the abomination of desolation (Cf. Dan 9:27)

— This is the first of 10 references to this "image" in Revelation: v15 [3x], 14:9,11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4.

— The Antichrist, after his resurrection from the dead, has an image of himself set up in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem

— Unlike Antiochus Epiphanes, who put an image of Zeus in the temple, the Antichrist will put an image of himself in the temple to be worshiped above everything that is called god

- This is the second stage of the Abomination of Desolation: the Antichrist will not remain in the Holy of Holies, so to keep the Temple as the center of worship of himself, the False Prophet will evidently produce some type of convincing life-like image of the Antichrist (13:15; 14:9,11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4)
- This image will be given "life" somehow and setup in the Holy of Holies (Cf. "standing in the holy place" Matt 24:15)
- This image will remain in the Holy of Holies for a total of 1,290 days, 30 days beyond the end of the Tribulation & the Second Coming (Dan 12:11)
- "...has come to life" - *zaō*, refers to the Antichrist's resurrection from the dead (see notes on v3); this time, as opposed to v3, his recovery is called a "return to life"
- The same Greek word used to describe Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead (Cf. 2:8); it also describes the resurrection of OT saints and Tribulation martyrs, and the resurrection of unbelievers (Cf. 20:4-5)
- If *zaō* is used to describe the literal resurrection of Jesus' and to describe the literal resurrection OT saints and Tribulation martyrs, as well as the unbelieving dead, how can we think that it doesn't describe a literal bodily resurrection of the Antichrist here?
- Those who don't believe the Antichrist is resurrected from the dead first must reason that Satan does not have that level of power or authority, then put that belief into their interpretation of v3,14. That's not how you do Bible exposition.

15 And **it was given to him** to give **breath** to the image of the beast, so that **the image of the beastwould even speak** and cause **allwho** do not worship the image of the beast to be **killed**.

15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

15 The second beast was allowed to impart life to the image of the first beast so that the image of the beast could talk and order the execution of those who would not worship the image of the beast.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

- "...it was given" - *edothē*, by divine permission, the False Prophet will exercise remarkable power on behalf of the image of the Antichrist
- "...to him" - the False Prophet
- "...breath" - *pneuma*, different than *zōē* ("life") but here has a similar meaning since the False Prophet makes the image speak and causes the killing of anyone who doesn't worship the image

- "...the image of the beast would even speak" - this image of the beast, setup in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem, performs miracles as well
- The "image" will evidently be a "living" statue (Cf. Dan 3:4-6), a seemingly alive, apparently conscious, definitely intelligent—appearing to be better-than-human with divine-like authority that he "authenticates" by performing miracles
- This "image" will issue commands for executions for those who do not worship the (image of) the Antichrist or take his mark
- The key issue in all of this is the worship of the image of the beast. The mark of the beast (v16) is simply a vehicle to force people to declare their allegiance—either to the Antichrist or to Jesus Christ.
- "...all who" - includes the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Cf. 7:2-8; 9:17; 14:1-5), Tribulation Saints, and any other believing Jews who do not flee to Petra at the midpoint of the Tribulation
- "...killed" - those who do not consent to worship the image of the beast will be executed (Cf. Dan 3)
- It will not be a good time in history to be a believer on the earth, as it will mean likely death (Cf. v7; 6:11; 7:9-12; 11:7; 20:4)
- This will be a season in history where the shackles of enslavement will be upon every man, woman, and child on the earth, and those who do not submit to enslavement will be killed
- The coerced worship associated with the False Prophet and the image will enslave the entire planet. Enslavement is where Satan's program always ends...it comes initially as an angel of light, and it looks so appealing and attractive, but the end thereof is death.
- How different it is when someone responds to the Word of God: John 8:32,36; Gal 5:1; 2 Cor 3:17

[Dan 3:5-6; 11:31]

The Mark of the Beast

For the only time in history people will have a deadline for declaring their allegiance to the gospel. Throughout the past 2,000 years, people have been at different stages in deciding for or against acceptance of the gospel. People accept or reject this message at various points of their lives: some in childhood, some as young adults, some at middle age or as seniors. On this occasion the process will be accelerated or forced because of the mark of the beast, so that all humanity will be consciously divided into two segments. The polarizing issue is the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast is simply a vehicle to force people to declare their allegiance—to the Antichrist or Jesus Christ. All people will be polarized into two camps. It will be impossible to take a position of neutrality or indecision on this matter. Scripture is very clear that those who do not receive the mark will be killed.

(vii) His economic system (v16-18)

(a) Global economy (v16a)

(b) Global numbering (v16b-17)

16 And **he** causes **all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves**, to be given a **mark** on their right hands or **on** their foreheads,

16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

16 The second beast forces all people—important and unimportant, rich and poor, free and slaves—to be marked on their right hands or on their foreheads,

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

- In addition to worshiping the image of the Antichrist (v15), the False Prophet will also add the obligation to receiving a visible mark of the Antichrist on either they right hand or forehead

- "...he" - the False Prophet

- "...all" - most of the time in the Bible "all" means all (but not always, context determines scope)

- Here, to ensure the context includes every single human being on earth, John describes six classes of people from the social, cultural and economic categories, and he gives the outer edges of each category

- Such a coupling of opposites is a way of stressing the *totality* of human society. Every single person alive will be pressured to receive the symbol of allegiance to the Antichrist.

- "...the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves" - see note for "all" above

- "...mark" - *charagma*, brand, seal; 7x in Rev, all refer to the mark of the beast (v16,17; 14:9,11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4)

- The "mark" will be on either their right hand or on their forehead. This may coincide with the Antichrist's physical attributes (Zech 11:17).

- This mark mimics the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30) and the sealing of the 144,000 (7:2-8). Those who take on this mark during the Tribulation period are "sealing" themselves to damnation, something that cannot be reversed.

- The purpose of the mark is that it seems to be a vehicle to force people to declare their allegiance...either to the Antichrist by taking the mark, or to God by not taking it

- Those who take this "mark" are aligning themselves with the Antichrist; they will have chosen to worship the beast and accept his law and authority as their god

- Once the mark is taken, it will be impossible for those with the mark to obtain salvation (14:9,11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4)

- This verse melds very well with other verses that describe the one world government that will be ruled by the Antichrist
- You can't have a one world government without a one world religious system (described in Rev 17); you can't have a one world government without a one world economy (v16-18)
- "...on" [2x] - *epi*, on top of, not "in"; seems to eliminate microchips inserted into (under) the skin
- Satan, being a created being and not even close to the level of God (his attributes do not include the "omni's"), must have a system in place to enslave and monitor every human being, because he is not omniscient

Satan's Goal of Globalism

- Dan 7:23
- Rev 13:7-8
- Rev 13:16-18
- Rev 17:15

We can see in the news every day the stage setting events for this eventual one world religious, political, and economic system. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees for being able to discern the weather, but not being able to discern the prophetic season that they were in (Cf. Matt 16:1-3).

17 and **he decrees** that no one **will be able** to buy or to sell, except the one who has the **mark**, *either* the **name** of the beast **or** the **number of his name**.

17 and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name.

17 so that no one may buy or sell unless he has the mark, which is the beast's name or the number of its name.

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

- "...*he*" - the False Prophet

- It's all about government control of the people...

— If you want to participate in the economy during this time period, have employment, and provide for your family, you have to take the mark of the beast. The consequences of which are eternal damnation to hell (Cf. 14:9-11).

- Verse 16b-17 implies that money, as we know it today, will be completely electronic (cashless society); it's the "mark" on the right hand or forehead that will allow people to participate in the economy (buy/sell)

— Why is it so essential for the one world government to eliminate cash and digitize all commerce for this system to be successful? Because the new world order economists are

not ignorant of their inability to control cash. In order to completely control, track, and monitor the global population, they must first eliminate the use of cash. With cash, there is no way to know how people are using their finances, whether for or against the government and its agenda. Control over ones finances is control over ones entire life.

- "...will be able" - *dunétai*, provides; conveys an idea of what "can" or "cannot" be done
 - This is total economic control, and lack of the mark prohibited one from commerce or economic activity, likely from the banking system and internet as well
 - Many have tried down through history to mark certain groups of people for death. Yet, there have always been ways for a certain number to escape. As technology becomes more advanced, it seems that greater potential will exist to close up virtually every means of escape.
 - The Antichrist will not allow anyone to buy or sell without the mark, and the coming cashless society will be the means that he will use to enact such a policy. Control of the economy at the individual level through the mark fits hand and glove with the picture of Antichrist's control of global commerce in Rev 17-18.
- "...mark" - *charagma*, the Bible speaks precisely about what this mark will be:
 - the Antichrist's mark, identified with his person
 - the actual number 666, not a representation
 - a mark, like a tattoo
 - visible to the naked eye
 - *on* you, not *in* you
 - recognized, not questioned
 - voluntary, not involuntary, thus not given through deception
 - used after the Rapture, not before
 - used in the second half of the Tribulation
 - needed to buy and sell
 - universally received by non-Christians; universally rejected by Christians
 - demonstrates worship and allegiance to the Antichrist
 - promoted by the False Prophet
 - the destiny of all receiving the mark will be eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire
- "...name" - *onoma*, is in apposition with "the mark," meaning the mark consists of the name. The number of the beast's name is one and the same with the name. The equivalence means that as a name it is written in letters, but as a number the name's equivalent numerical value is 666 (v18).
- "...or" - *ē*, means "that is"; the number of the Antichrist's name is one and the same with his name. The equivalence means that as a name, it is written in letters, but as a number, the name's equivalent is in numbers. His name will be expressed numerically as 666.

- "...number of his name" - a numerical formula for how to identify and confirm who the Antichrist is
 - Gematria is not common in English and many other languages, but is common knowledge in both Hebrew and Greek
 - It assigns a number for every letter of the alphabet (see chart below). To identify (or confirm) the identity of the Antichrist, you can take his name in Greek (the language of John's original audience in Revelation, the seven churches of Asia Minor), assign each Greek letter the appropriate number, and sum total the numbers to get a result. According to v18, the sum of the letters will total 666.
 - Many Tribulation Saints will not take the mark (Cf. 7:3; 14:1,9-11)
 - Perhaps they survive by pooling their resources and obtaining life's necessities secretly (Cf. 12:16), or though God's supernatural provision

(c) The Beast's number (v18)

- 18 Here is **wisdom**. Let him who has **understanding** calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of **a man**; and his number is **six hundred and sixty-six**.
- 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.
- 18 In this case wisdom is needed: Let the person who has understanding calculate the total of the beast, since it is a human multitude, and the sum of the multitude is 600, 60 and six.
- 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.
- In this verse, John shifts from recording what he sees to one who advises his readers how to interpret what he has reported
 - The wicked will not understand due to their rejection of Christ. In contrast, wisdom and understanding will be given to those during the Tribulation as to who the Antichrist is so they will not take the mark.
 - The Bible makes it clear that anyone taking the mark of the beast cannot be saved (Rev 14:9,11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4) and will spend eternity in the lake of fire
 - The fact that John provides wisdom and understanding to believers at this crucial point, relating to a matter of eternal importance, shows that God will provide the knowledge His people need to follow Him faithfully
 - "...wisdom" - *sophia*, the understanding and skill necessary to calculate the problem of the Antichrist's name/number
 - This verse provides the means by which a wise person can compute the Antichrist's number. John indicated it would take "wisdom" and "understanding" to calculate the

number of the beast (Cf. 17:9). It's the understanding and skill needed to solve the riddle (Cf. Dan 9:22; 12:10).

— Many Christians today attempt to identify the Antichrist through numerical calculations. This is foolishness. In 2 Thess 2, Paul tells us that during the current Church Age the Antichrist is being "restrained" (2 Thess 2:6-7) and will not be "revealed" (2 Thess 2:3) until it is "his time (2 Thess 2:6)." Thus, it is not possible to correctly identify the Antichrist before "his time."

- "...understanding" - *nous*, judgment, determining
- "...calculate" - *psēphizō*, only used one other time in the NT (Luke 14:28); it implies that people will have to do a calculation in order to figure out who the Antichrist is
- This calculation, of the name of the Antichrist, will confirm his identity; it will be the number associated with his name in the Greek language, and it will equal 666
- This can easily be done through gematria; it is common to associate numbers with names, since each letter in both Greek and Hebrew have an associated numerical value
- This is one of the ways that the scribes in the OT validated their copying of the original OT manuscripts
- "...a" - the article "a" is absent in the Greek text, however the reader may supply it legitimately here; however, it seems best not to do so
- "...man" - *anthrōpos*, human being (male)
- "...six hundred and sixty-six" - 666; six in Scripture is clearly the number of man; seven is the number of completeness, six being one short
- The reason why the consequences for taking the mark of the beast is so severe is that it is a conscious decision to reject Jesus Christ and follow the Antichrist
- There won't be misunderstanding or confusion with regards to the magnitude of that decision, it will be clear to the earth dwellers who the Antichrist is, and when they take the mark they will be pledging their allegiance to him and against Jesus Christ
- It will be a non-reversible decision, and relegate them to eternal damnation in hell (Cf. 14:9-12)

Numerical Value in Hebrew?

The number of the Beast is also the number of a man because the Antichrist will be a man. Furthermore, this number is the number of his very own name, and the numerical value of his name is 666. The point is essentially this: the name of the Antichrist in Greek letters will total up to equal 666.

Each letter of the Hebrew, Greek and Latin alphabet have a numerical value. In Hebrew, there are 22 letters in the alphabet and in the order of numerical value are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, and 400. So everyone's name in Hebrew has a numerical value. The name of Jesus the Messiah has the numerical value of

749. In this passage, whatever the personal name of the Antichrist will be, if his name is spelled out in Hebrew characters, the numerical value of his name will be 666.

**TABLE OF ALPHABETIC NOTATION
OF NUMERALS**

	Hebrew	Greek		Hebrew	Greek
1	א	α	50	נ	γ
2	ב	β	60	ו	δ
3	ג	γ	70	ז	ε
4	ד	δ	80	ח	ζ
5	ה	ε	90	ט	φ
6	ו	ς	100	כ	ϙ
7	ז	ϟ	200	ב	ϙ
8	ח	ϙ	300	ש	τ
9	ט	ϙ	400	נ	υ
10	י	ι	500	ק	φ
20	ל	χ	600	ל	χ
30	מ	λ	700	מ	ψ
40	נ	μ	800	ו	ω

Geoffrey Bromiley, ed., *The International Bible Standard Encyclopedia*, 3:556.

23

The Mark

The Bible speaks precisely about what the "mark" will be:

- The Antichrist's mark, identified with his person
- The actual number 666, not a representation
- A mark, like a tattoo
- Visible to the naked eye
- *On you, not in you*
- Recognized, not questioned
- Voluntary, not involuntary, thus not given through deception
- Used after the Rapture, not before
- Used in the second half of the Tribulation
- Needed to buy and sell or perform any type of economic activity
- Universally received by non-Christians, but universally rejected by Christians
- Shows worship and allegiance to the Antichrist
- Promoted by the False Prophet
- The destiny of all receiving the mark will be eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire

Problems with Neronian Calculation (used by Preterism)

1. Transliteration from Greek to Hebrew - John spoke Greek, wrote Revelation in Greek, and his original audience in Asia Minor all spoke Greek, so why would you use Hebrew gematria to calculate the name?
2. "Cherry picking" to fit an ordained outcome - preterists must use Nero's title as well as his name to get to 666 (in Hebrew); Rev 13:17-18 says nothing about the Antichrist's title, only his name and the number of his name, the number of a man.
3. Not suggested by the ancient commentators - not a single early church father or writer believed Nero was the Antichrist...not a single one.
4. Inconsistent use of numbers - preterists, notably RC Sproul, do not interpret many of the numbers in Revelation as literal (1000 year kingdom, etc.), but they take 666 to be literal.
5. Date of Revelation - preterism requires an early date writing of Revelation (~65 AD), but there is significant evidence that Revelation was written ~95 AD.

Nero Does Not Fit Rev 13

Nero did not:

- Usher in persecution for exactly 42 months (13:5)
- Control the entire planet (13:7; 5:9)
- Force people to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead in order to participate in the global economy (13:16-18)
- Coerce the entire world to worship a singular image of him (13:15)
- Resurrect from the dead (13:3,14)
- Associate with a miracle-working False Prophet (13:13,15)
- Receive global veneration (13:8)
- There is not a single reference anywhere of a singular image (*eikōn*, 13:14) ever being setup in honor of Nero (images (plural), yes...there were multiple statues setup to honor Nero, but never a singular image)