



T H R E A D I N G T H E P E A R L S . o r g

Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation

An Expository Study

Session 27: The Beast, part 2:
From the Earth

REVELATION 13:10 — 13:18

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He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. [REV 13:16-17]



REVELATION 13

10 He that shall lead into captivity, shall go into captivity: he that shall kill by the sword, must be killed by the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Anyone [lead/is to go] into captivity

JER 15:1-6, the Lord said to me, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth. ²"And it shall be, if they say to you, 'Where should we go?' then you shall tell them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Such as are for death, to death; And such as are for the sword, to the sword; And such as are for the famine, to the famine; And *such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.*" ' ³"And I will appoint over them four forms of destruction," says the Lord: "the sword to slay, the dogs to drag, the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy..."

Into captivity he will go

DAN 11:38-39, in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. ³⁹"Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them *to rule over many*, and divide the land for gain;

JER 30:16, 'Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, *shall go into captivity*; Those who plunder you shall become plunder, And all who prey upon you I will make a prey.

Anyone [kills/is to be killed]

LEV 24:17, 'Whoever kills any man *shall surely be put to death*;

JOHN 16:2-3, They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that *whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.* ³"And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

With the sword

JER 15:7-9, I will winnow them with a winnowing fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children; I will destroy My people, Since they do not return from their ways. ⁸Their widows will be increased to Me more than the sand of the seas; I will bring against them, Against the mother of the young men, A plunderer at noonday; I will cause anguish and terror to fall on them suddenly. ⁹"She languishes who has borne seven; She has breathed her last; Her sun has gone down While it was yet day; She has been ashamed and confounded. *And the remnant of them I will deliver to the sword* Before their enemies," says the Lord;

EZE 35:4-9, I shall lay your cities waste, And you shall be desolate. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. ⁵"Because you have had an ancient hatred, and have *shed the blood of the children of Israel by the power of the sword* at the time of their calamity, when their iniquity came to an end, ⁶"therefore, as I live," says the Lord God, "I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; since you have not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue you..."

CONSIDER THIS —

Remember the four horsemen?

JER 15:2-3, "And it shall be, if they say to you, 'Where should we go?' then you shall tell them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Such as are for death, to death; And such as are for the sword, to the sword; And such as are for the famine, to the famine; And such as are for the captivity, to the captivity." ³"And I will appoint over them *four forms of destruction*," says the Lord..."

He will be killed

JER 43:11, "When he comes, he shall strike the land of Egypt and *deliver to death those appointed for death*, and to captivity those appointed for captivity, and to the sword those appointed for the sword.

This calls

* NOTE — rendered, "Here is" in most translations.

ECC 9:16-18, I said: "Wisdom is better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, And his words are not heard. ¹⁷Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard Rather than the shout of a ruler of fools. ¹⁸*Wisdom is better than weapons of war*; But one sinner destroys much good".

Patient endurance

ECC 7:8, The end of a thing is better than its beginning; *The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit*;
 ROM 15:4, whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that *we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope*.

Faithfulness

ROM 16:25-27, Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, *for obedience to the faith* ²⁷to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen;

ROM 10:17-18, *faith comes by hearing*, and hearing by the word of God. ¹⁸But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world".

On the part of the saints

ROM 4:5-8, to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, ⁶just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; ⁸*Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin*";

PSM 37:27-28, Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore. ²⁸For the Lord loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; *They are preserved forever*, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.





REVELATION 13

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

Another beast

DAN 7:24, And *another shall rise after them*; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.

Coming out from the earth

1JON 4:1-3, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, *which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

Two horns

EZE 34:19-22, as for My flock, they eat what you have trampled with your feet, and they drink what you have fouled with your feet." ²⁰Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: "Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. ²¹"Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, *butted all the weak ones with your horns*, and scattered them abroad, ²²therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

Like a lamb

MATH 7:15-20, Beware of false prophets, *who come to you in sheep's clothing*, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves... ²⁰"by their fruits you will know them.

Spoke like a dragon

DAN 7:11, "I watched then because of *the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking*; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame;

GEN 3:1, Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "*Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'*"

CONSIDER THIS —

What does 'spoke like a dragon' infer?

GEN 3:1, Now *the serpent was more cunning* than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "*Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'*"



REVELATION 13

12 And he executed all the power of the former beast in his sight; and he caused the earth, and them that dwell therein, to adore the first beast, whose wound to death was healed.

He exercised all the authority

ECC 4:1, I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no comforter—*On the side of their oppressors there is power*, But they have no comforter.

Authority of the first beast

DAN 8:24, His power shall be mighty, but *not by his own power*; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.

On [the beast's] behalf

EST 7:4-10, we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss." ⁵So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, *who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?*" ⁶Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen. ⁷Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden...

Made [all] worship

JER 16:10-12, it shall be, when you show this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the Lord pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity? Or what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God?' ¹¹"then you shall say to them, 'Because your fathers have forsaken Me,' says the Lord; 'they have walked after other gods and have served them and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and not kept My law. ¹²'And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, *each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart*, so that no one listens to Me; DAN 3:7, So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages *fell down and worshiped the gold image* which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

The earth and its inhabitants

GEN 4:9-12, the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. ¹¹"So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²"When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. *A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.*"

CONSIDER THIS —

How is the 'deadly wound, healed' an imitation of Christ?

JOHN 2:19-22, Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."... ²¹But He was speaking of the temple of His body. ²²Therefore, *when He had risen from the dead*, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Worship the first beast

DAN 8:25, "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And *he shall exalt himself in his heart*. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means;

JER 23:25-32, "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'" ²⁶"How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷"who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers *forgot My name for Baal...*

Fatal wound... healed

JER 37:8-10, the Chaldeans shall come back and fight against this city, and take it and burn it with fire." ' ⁹"Thus says the Lord: 'Do not deceive yourselves, saying, "The Chaldeans will surely depart from us," for they will not depart. ¹⁰"For though you had defeated the whole army of the Chaldeans who fight against you, and there remained *only wounded men among them, they would rise up*, every man in his tent, and burn the city with fire".





REVELATION 13

13 And he did great signs, so that he made also fire to come down from heaven unto the earth in the sight of men.

He performed

ISA 10:5-7, "Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hand is My indignation. ⁶I will send him against an ungodly nation, And against the people of My wrath *I will give him charge*, To seize the spoil, to take the prey, And to tread them down like the mire of the streets. ⁷Yet he does not mean so, Nor does his heart think so; But it is in his heart to destroy, And cut off not a few nations;

ISA 10:12-21, Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Lord has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, that He will say, "I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks." ¹³For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done it, And by my wisdom, for I am prudent... ¹⁵Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, Or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood! ¹⁶Therefore the Lord, the Lord of hosts, Will send leanness among his fat ones; And under his glory He will kindle a burning Like the burning of a fire. ¹⁷So the Light of Israel will be for a fire, And his Holy One for a flame; It will burn and devour His thorns and his briars in one day. ¹⁸And it will consume the glory of his forest and of his fruitful field, Both soul and body; And they will be as when a sick man wastes away. ¹⁹Then the rest of the trees of his forest Will be so few in number That a child may write them. ²⁰And it shall come to pass in that day That the remnant of Israel, And such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, *Will never again depend on him who defeated them*, But will depend on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. ²¹The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, To the Mighty God.

Great... signs

JOHN 4:48, Jesus said to him, "*Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe*";

JOHN 7:31, many of the people believed in Him [Jesus], and said, "When the Christ comes, *will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?*"

Miraculous signs

2THES 2:9-12, The coming of the lawless one is according to *the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders*, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Fire to come down

LUKE 9:53-56, they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" ⁵⁵But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "*You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.* ⁵⁶"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them".

CONSIDER THIS —

God can use evil to accomplish His plans.

ISA 10:15, Shall the ax boast itself *against him who chops with it?* Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, Or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood!

From heaven to earth

LUKE 11:14-20, He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." ¹⁶Others, testing Him, sought from Him *a sign from heaven*. ¹⁷But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. ¹⁸"If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. ¹⁹"And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰"But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

In full view of men

LUKE 16:15, He said to them, "You are those who *justify yourselves before men*, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God;
 JOB 32:2, the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because *he justified himself rather than God*.





REVELATION 13

14 And he seduced them that dwell on the earth, for the signs, which were given him to do in the sight of the beast, saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make the image of the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and lived.

He deceived

JER 23:16-17, Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; *They speak a vision of their own heart*, Not from the mouth of the Lord. ¹⁷They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The Lord has said, "You shall have peace" '; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you"; ACTS 13:10, "O *full of all deceit and all fraud*, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

The inhabitants of the earth

IJON 5:19, *the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

Because of the signs

JOHN 11:46-48, some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. ⁴⁷Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. ⁴⁸"If we let Him alone like this, *everyone will believe in Him*, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation".

He was given power to do [signs]

MARK 13:21-22, if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it. ²²"For false christians and false prophets will rise and *show signs and wonders to deceive*, if possible, even the elect.

[In sight/on behalf] of the first beast

REV 19:20, the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs *in his presence*, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

He ordered [the inhabitants of the earth]

JER 23:13-14, I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal And *caused My people Israel to err*. ¹⁴Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

To set up

LEV 26:1, '*You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God;* 2KING 17:10-12, *They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.* ¹¹There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the Lord had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger, ¹²for they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, "You shall not do this thing"; 2CHR 33:1-7, Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. ²But he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. ³For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up

CONSIDER THIS —

Jesus foretold of this time:

MARK 13:21-22, "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it. ²²"For *false christians and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive*, if possible, even the elect.

altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them... ⁷*He even set a carved image*, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever.

An image

EZE 8:2-6, I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire-from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber. ³He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy. ⁴And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain. ⁵Then He said to me, "Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was *this image of jealousy in the entrance*. ⁶Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations".

In honor of the beast

DAN 3:1-3, Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ²And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to *come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up*. ³So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Wounded by the sword

ZECH 11:16-17, "For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces. ¹⁷"Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! *A sword shall be against his arm And against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded*".

Yet lived

ECC 8:11-12, Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. ¹²Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and *his days are prolonged*, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him.





REVELATION 13

15 And it was given him to give life to the image of the beast, and that the image of the beast should speak; and should cause, that whosoever will not adore the image of the beast, should be slain.

He/It

MIC 2:1-5, Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because *it is in the power of their hand*.²They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.³Therefore thus says the Lord: "Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this is an evil time..."

Given power to give breath

In imitation of —

ISA 42:5, God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, *Who gives breath to the people on it*, And spirit to those who walk on it.

Breath to the image

In imitation of —

JOB 33:4-6, The Spirit of God has made me [Elihu], And *the breath of the Almighty gives me life*.⁵If you can answer me, Set your words in order before me; Take your stand.⁶Truly I am as your spokesman before God; I also have been formed out of clay;

In imitation of —

ACTS 17:24-25, "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands."²⁵"Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since *He gives to all life, breath, and all things*."

The image of the first beast

JER 32:34-35, they *set their abominations in the house which is called by My name*, to defile it.³⁵And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin';
ISA 44:10-19, ...¹⁴He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it.¹⁵Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships it; *He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it*.¹⁶He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire."¹⁷And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"¹⁸They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, And their hearts, so that they cannot understand.¹⁹And no one considers in his heart, Nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire, Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten it; And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"

CONSIDER THIS —

We become like the image we worship:

HOS 9:10, "I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. But they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves to that shame; *They became an abomination like the thing they loved*."

It could speak

HAB 2:18-19, What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, *The molded image, a teacher of lies*, That the maker of its mold should trust in it, To make mute idols? ¹⁹Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, Yet in it there is no breath at all.

All who refused

HEB 11:24-26, By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵*choosing rather to suffer affliction* with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward;

DAN 3:17-18, "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸"But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that *we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up*".

To worship the image

HOS 9:10, "I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. But they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves to that shame; *They became an abomination like the thing they loved*;
JER 19:11-13, say to them, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Even so I will break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot be made whole again; and they shall bury them in Tophet till there is no place to bury. ¹²"Thus I will do to this place," says the Lord, "and to its inhabitants, and make this city like Tophet. ¹³"And the houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah shall be defiled like the place of Tophet, because of all the houses on whose roofs *they have burned incense to all the host of heaven, and poured out drink offerings to other gods*"".

It could... cause all... to be killed

DEUT 28:62-63, You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God. ⁶³"And it shall be, that just as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, *so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing*; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess;

DAN 3:19-23, Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and *cast them into the burning fiery furnace*. ²¹Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²²Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.





REVELATION 13

16 And he shall make all, both little and great, rich and poor, freemen and bondmen, to have a character in their right hand, or on their foreheads.

He... forced everyone

MATH 11:12, from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and *the violent take it by force*.

Small and great

JER 16:3-7, thus says the Lord concerning the sons and daughters who are born in this place, and concerning their mothers who bore them and their fathers who begot them in this land: ⁴"They shall die gruesome deaths; they shall not be lamented nor shall they be buried, but they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth. They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, and their corpses shall be meat for the birds of heaven and for the beasts of the earth." ⁵For thus says the Lord: "Do not enter the house of mourning, nor go to lament or bemoan them; for I have taken away My peace from this people," says the Lord, "lovingkindness and mercies. ⁶"*Both the great and the small shall die in this land*. They shall not be buried; neither shall men lament for them, cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them...

Rich and poor

1SAM 2:7-9, The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. ⁸He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, And He has set the world upon them. ⁹He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For *by strength no man shall prevail*.

Free and slave

JER 34:15-20, ...¹⁶"you turned around and profaned My name, and every one of you brought back his male and female slaves, whom he had set at liberty, at their pleasure, and *brought them back into subjection*, to be your male and female slaves.' ¹⁷"Therefore thus says the Lord: 'You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and every one to his neighbor. Behold, I proclaim liberty to you,' says the Lord-'to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine! And I will deliver you to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth...

Receive a mark

REV 14:9-11, a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and *receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand*, ¹⁰"he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name";

In contrast to —

GAL 6:15-18, in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. ¹⁶And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷From now on let no one trouble me, for *I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus*. ¹⁸Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

CONSIDER THIS —

The mark of the beast, an imitation of the seal of God:

REV 7:3-4, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have *sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads*."⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.

On his right hand

ISA 45:1-3, "Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose *right hand I have held*-To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: ²I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. ³I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.

On his forehead

2CHR 26:18-21, they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the Lord God." ¹⁹Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, *leprosy broke out on his forehead*, before the priests in the house of the Lord, beside the incense altar...





REVELATION 13

17 And that no man might buy or sell, but he that hath the character, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

No one could buy or sell

EZE 7:12-14, 'Let not the buyer rejoice, Nor the seller mourn, *For wrath is on their whole multitude.* ¹³For the seller shall not return to what has been sold, Though he may still be alive; For the vision concerns the whole multitude, And it shall not turn back; No one will strengthen himself Who lives in iniquity. ¹⁴They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, But no one goes to battle; For My wrath is on all their multitude; ISA 24:1-4, Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste, Distorts its surface And scatters abroad its inhabitants. ²And it shall be: As with the people, so with the priest; As with the servant, so with his master; As with the maid, so with her mistress; *As with the buyer, so with the seller;* As with the lender, so with the borrower; As with the creditor, so with the debtor. ³The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered, For the Lord has spoken this word. ⁴The earth mourns and fades away, The world languishes and fades away; The haughty people of the earth languish.

Unless he had the mark

TIT 1:15-16, To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. ¹⁶They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and *disqualified for every good work.*

The name of the beast

JOHN 5:39-44, You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰"But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. ⁴¹"I do not receive honor from men. ⁴²"But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. ⁴³"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if *another comes in his own name*, him you will receive. ⁴⁴"How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

The number of his name

NUM 3:40, the Lord said to Moses: "Number all the firstborn males of the children of Israel from a month old and above, and *take the number of their names;*
NUM 26:52-54, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ⁵³"To these the land shall be divided as an inheritance, according to the number of names. ⁵⁴"To a large tribe you shall give a larger inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a smaller inheritance. Each shall be given its *inheritance according to those who were numbered of them.*

CONSIDER THIS —

The beast comes in his own name:

JOHN 5:43, "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if *another comes in his own name*, him you will receive.



REVELATION 13

18 Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast. For it is the number of a man: and the number of him is six hundred sixty-six.

Calls for wisdom

PRO 1:20-23, *Wisdom calls aloud outside*; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²²"How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you; 1COR 1:22-24, Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, *Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

Anyone has insight

LUKE 24:44-47, He [Jesus] said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." ⁴⁵And He opened *their understanding* [voōv], that they might comprehend the Scriptures. ⁴⁶Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷"and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Let him calculate

PSM 139:19-22, Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. ²⁰For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. ²¹Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? ²²I hate them with perfect hatred; *I count them my enemies.*

Calculate the number

ACTS 1:26, they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And *he was numbered* [συγκατεψηφίσθη] with the eleven apostles;

LUKE 14:28, which of you, intending to build a tower, does not *sit down first and count* [ψηφίζε] the cost, whether he has enough to finish it.

The number of the beast

DEUT 32:5-8, "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation. ⁶Do you thus deal with the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you? ⁷"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you: ⁸When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples *According to the number of the children of Israel*;

GEN 46:26, All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were *sixty-six persons in all*;

EZRA 2:1-13, these are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city. ²Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel... ¹³the people of Adonikam, *six hundred and sixty-six.*

CONSIDER THIS —

Why is 666 called the number of a man, or a man's number? (see also GEN 1:24-31)

DEUT 5:13, Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

It is a man's number

DEUT 5:13, *Six days you shall labor* and do all your work;

GEN 7:11, *In the six hundredth year* of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened;

2SAM 21:20, there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, *who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot*, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant;

PRO 6:16-19, These *six things the Lord hates*, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

His number

ISA 62:12-16, *I will number you for the sword*, And you shall all bow down to the slaughter; Because, when I called, you did not answer; When I spoke, you did not hear, But did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight."

¹³Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, My servants shall eat, But you shall be hungry; Behold, My servants shall drink, But you shall be thirsty; Behold, My servants shall rejoice, But you shall be ashamed; ¹⁴Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, But you shall cry for sorrow of heart, And wail for grief of spirit. ¹⁵You shall leave your name as a curse to My chosen; For the Lord God will slay you, And call His servants by another name; ¹⁶So that he who blesses himself in the earth Shall bless himself in the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Shall swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My eyes.

666

1KING 10:14-21, The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was *six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold*, ¹⁵besides that from the traveling merchants, from the income of traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country. ¹⁶And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. ¹⁷He also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three minas of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon. ¹⁸Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. ¹⁹The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round at the back; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests. ²⁰Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom. ²¹All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.





GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 13:10, He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword...

⊕ **1. How does this statement show the character of God?**

(see also JER 43:11, LEV 24:17, DEUT 32:35,
2THES 1:6 & HEB 10:26-31)

REV 13:11, Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and *spoke like a dragon*.

GEN 3:1, Now *the serpent was more cunning* than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

⊕ **2. What does 'spoke like a dragon' infer about how the beast will speak?**

REV 13:13-14, He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴And *he deceives those who dwell on the earth* by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast...

⊕ **3. Why might the inhabitants of the earth be so easily deceived by the signs performed by the beast?**

(see 2THES 2:9-12)

REV 13:15, He was *granted power to give breath to the image* of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

⊕ **4. How is this power of giving breath to the image an imitation of God's power?**

(see also GEN 1:26, GEN 2:7 & ISA 42:5)

REV 13:16-17, He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, *to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads*, ¹⁷and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

⊕ **5. How is this action an imitation of the receiving of God's mark on a follower of Christ?**

(see also GAL 6:17, EPH 1:13-14 & REV 7:3)

REV 13:18, 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.

⊕ **6. List different ways the Bible uses the terms: 'number', or, 'to number'?**

(see also NUM 3:40, NUM 26:53-54, PSM 139:21,
DEUT 32:8, ACTS 1:26 & ISA 62:12)

NEXT SESSION —