

The Beast, the Anti-Christ and the Lawless One

Revelation 13, Daniel 7, and 2 Thessalonians 2

Remember Typology ...

2 Samuel 7:1 (Around 1000 BCE) - After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." ³Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'

⁸"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders^[a] over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me^[b]; your throne will be established forever.'"

Typology:

A type is an institution, historical event, or person, ordained by God which has a *fuller meaning*. The pre-figurative type, ***in its primary and literal meaning, simply denotes a rough draught, or less accurate model***, which points to the more perfect image. In scripture, a type may be defined as a symbol of something designed by God to prefigure that future thing. What is thus prefigured is called the antitype.

Revelation 13 (written around 90 AD)

1. Dragon ... Satan (Influencing evil)
2. Beast ... Corrupt Empire (Roman as Foreshadow)
Horns ... Leaders in the Corrupt Empire
3. Horned Lamb ... Imperial Cult (Foreshadow) supporting the Beast



1 John 2:18 (circa 90 AD) - Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

1 John 4:3 (circa 90 AD) - Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the **antichrist**, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

The Didache (circa 125 AD) - In the last days the false prophets and the corrupters shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall change to hate; for as lawlessness increaseth they shall hate one another and persecute and betray, and then shall appear the deceiver of the world as a Son of God, and shall do signs and wonders and the earth shall be given over into his hands and he shall commit iniquities which have never been since the world began. Then shall the creation of mankind come to the fiery trial and "many shall be offended" and be lost, but "they who endure" in their faith "shall be saved" by the curse itself. And "then shall appear the signs" of the truth. First the sign spread out in Heaven, then the sign of the sound of the trumpet, and thirdly the resurrection of the dead: but not of all the dead, but as it was said, "The Lord shall come and all his saints with him." Then shall the world "see the Lord coming on the clouds of Heaven."

Revelation 13: 1-18 – Beast Empire & the False Prophet

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. ² The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. ³ **One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.** ⁴ People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?” ⁵ **The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.** ⁶ **It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.** ⁷ It was given power to wage



war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ⁸ **All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.** ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear. ¹⁰ “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

¹¹ Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹² **It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.** ¹³ **And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people.** ¹⁴ Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵ The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first



beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. ¹⁶ It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Daniel 7 (circa 530 BCE)

Background to the Beast Empire in Revelation 13:1-10

¹⁹ “Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. ²⁰ **I also wanted to know about the ten horns on**

its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. ²¹ **As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them,** ²² until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

²³ “He gave me this explanation: ‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. ²⁴ **The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.** ²⁵ **He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.** ²⁶ “‘But the court will sit, and his power will be

taken away and completely destroyed forever. ²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.’



Daniel's Imagery

Beasts = Kingdoms (Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman)

Horns = Leaders

Little Horn = Evil Leader

10 Horns = 10 Kings (7:24)

Ancient of Days = God

Son of Man = Jesus (The Jewish Messiah)

Daniel 7 – 10 Things to Know

1. A horn represents a king (Daniel 7:24; 8:21). Sometimes a horn represents a kingdom.
2. The king arises after ten other kings and “uproots” three of them (7:8; 7:24).
3. The king has “eyes like a man” (a human) (7:8).
4. The king will speak against God, he has a “mouth that spoke boastfully” (7:8; 7:25).
5. The king looked “imposing” (7:20).
6. The king waged a war against the “saints” (7:21; 7:25).
7. The king will try to change the set times and the laws (7:25).
8. The saints will be handed over to the king. He will be able to defeat them for a time, times and half a time. (3.5 years or a shortened, incomplete period) (7:21-22;25).
9. The king will defeat the saints until God pronounces judgement in favor of the saints. At that time the king’s power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever (7:21-22; 7:25).
10. After the king’s destruction, the saints will possess the kingdom and the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under heaven will be handed to them – it will be an everlasting kingdom (7:21-22; 25-27).

The Beast Empire (Rome *Reborn*) in Daniel 7 and Revelation

Daniel

Ten Horns (Daniel 7:10,20)
Ten Kings (Daniel 7:24)
World Domination (Daniel 7:23).
Destroyed and Thrown in Fire (Daniel 7:11).

Persecutes the Saints (Daniel 7:21,25).

Saints obtain Kingdom (Dan. 7:22).
Boastful Speaking (Dan. 7:20,25).
Slander of God (Dan. 7:25)

Revelation

Ten Horns (Rev. 13:1; 17:8,16)
Ten Kings (Rev. 17:12)
World Domination (Rev. 13:6)
Destroyed and Thrown in Fire
(Rev. 14:10, 11; 19:20; 20:10)
Persecutes the Saints
(Rev. 13:7, 15, 17:14)
Saints obtain Kingdom (Rev. 21:1-3)
Boastful Speaking (Rev. 13:5; 17:13)
Slander of God (Rev. 13:6)

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-10

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. **⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.**

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Thessalonians 2 --- 10 Things to Know

1. Jesus will not return until the lawless one is revealed. (2:3)
2. A Man of lawlessness is revealed during a time of rebellion against God (2:3).
3. This man is doomed to destruction (2:3).
4. He sets himself up in God's temple and proclaims himself to be "god." (2:4).
5. He sets himself up over everything that is called God or is worshipped. (2:4).
6. He will personify the power of lawlessness already at work in the world. (2:7).
7. This lawless one will be revealed when a "restraining" force is removed. (2:7).
8. This lawless one will be destroyed by Jesus Christ when he returns. (2:8).
9. This lawless one will be accompanied by counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders. (2:9).
10. God gives or allows this delusion because people refuse to love the truth. (2:11; 12).

Revelation 13:18

This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man (or humanity) That number is 666.

666 and Gematria Where Letters Equate to Numbers

In ancient times, letters of the alphabet served as numbers. The first nine letters stood for the numbers one through nine, the next nine for the numbers ten through ninety, and so on. To decipher a number presented a rather fascinating riddle. Greek letters were matched with numbers in the first century

In Gematria the value could either be spelled out as a cardinal number (εἰς, ἑπτά, δέκα, ἑκατόν) or represented by letters of the alphabet (e.g., α', θ', ιδ').

1. α'	11. ια'	21. κα'	300. τ'
2. β'	12. ιβ'	30. λ'	400. υ'
3. γ'	13. ιγ'	40. μ'	500. φ'
4. δ'	14. ιδ'	50. ν'	600. χ'
5. ε'	15. ιε'	60. ξ'	700. ψ'
6. ς' ^{στα}	16. ις'	70. ο'	800. ω'
7. ζ'	17. ιζ'	80. π'	900. ϗ' ^{στα}
8. η'	18. ιη'	90. ϙ' ^{στα}	
9. θ'	19. ιθ'	100. ρ'	
10. ι'	20. κ'	200. σ'	

** These are letters of the primitive Greek alphabet retained only in this use.

*From Adolph Deissmann, Light From the Ancient East, p. 277

"I love her whose number is 545."

- It is still not clear to what John refers in Rev. 13:18 with his reference to the number 666
- Some scholars who otherwise would opt for Nero, spelled in Hebrew, have worried about the fact that that only works if his title "Caesar" is misspelled in Hebrew
- The mark is identified as the name of the beast written in its numerical equivalent. It is not the name of the beast or the number of his name that is stamped on his followers. The mark *is* the number of the name.
- In Revelation we learn that the number of the beast stamped upon his followers was 666. But just who is referred to by this cryptogram is another story! Although the verse opens with the declaration, "Here is wisdom," the history of interpretation demonstrates that no consensus has been reached on whom or what John had in mind.

- The beast's number is 666. Already by the second century the solution to this riddle had escaped so prominent a theologian as Irenaeus, a native of Asia Minor and a disciple of Polycarp. Giet finds that the initials of the Roman emperors from Julius Caesar to Vespasian add up to 666 but has to omit Otho and Vitellius to make it work out.
- The solution most commonly accepted today is that 666 is the numerical equivalent of Nero Caesar. It is held to be supported by the variant reading 616, which also yields the name of Nero when the Latinized spelling is followed. What is not generally stressed is that this solution asks us to calculate a Hebrew transliteration of the Greek form of a Latin name, and that with a defective spelling. A shift to Hebrew letters is unlikely in that Revelation is written in Greek and there is no indication that the riddle is to be solved by transposing it into another language.
- Some writers take the number more as a symbol than a cryptogram. 666 is the number which falls short of perfection in each of its digits. For Hendriksen it represents "failure upon failure upon failure." (p. 182).
- In view of the widely divergent and highly speculative solutions to the riddle, it seems best to conclude that John intended only his intimate associates to be able to decipher the number. So successful were his precautions that an additional 1900 years of conjecture have not brought us any closer to an answer.