

THE REVELATION

AUGUST 4, 2024

Chapter 13:10 - 18

(k) The Perseverance (13:10)

Rev 13:10 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.

Why will it be important that the Israelite saints think about God? Why will it be important and necessary for everyone whose name is in the *book of life* to perk up their ears and listen to this prophecy? The answer is simple; God has a plan for each person in the final seven years before His Second Coming. However, the restraining work of the Holy Spirit was stopped when the Church was removed, and evil would then be free to run untethered. It is for that reason that not all of those whose names are written in the *book of life* will survive earthly life in the last seven years. Some will be killed. Others will be jailed, and some will take up the sword to defend themselves. Yet, those who are still alive on earth and whose names are in the *book of life* will persevere and enter into the eternal presence of the LORD by surviving the tribulation. They will enter into the kingdom of the LORD on earth after the *Battle of Armageddon*. Saints will overcome and be with the LORD regardless of how they get there, through death as a martyr or natural death or the LORD's intervention in world events at that time.

(2) Beast of the Earth (13:11 – 18)

(a) The Horns (13:11)

Rev 13:11 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.

And now John describes a *second beast*. He did not come from the *sea* as did the *first beastly empire*. This *beast* came from the earth. In other words, his origin was not the *Great Sea* area as that of the *first beast*. If it did not come from the same area as the *first beast*, where did it come from? John says this creature “had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.” Obviously, the *second beast* had “two horns.” Throughout the *End Times* passages, *horns* represent countries. Then we must ask, “*From what two countries will this beast come?*” Frankly, western commentators of the past have quickly pointed the finger at the Roman Empire and the Catholic Church. This thought is widely spread and widely accepted. However, both resided by the *Great Sea* and were recognized in the development of the *first beast*. Furthermore, the Roman Empire encompassed ten countries not two and at the end of that empire’s existence, it was still Christian to the core. It is just hard to wrap an identity for the *horns* of this *beast* around the Roman Empire and the Catholic Church; the similarities are far too few.

Perhaps for understanding we should leave the identity of the *horns* alone for now and look at John’s explanation of those *horns*. They were “like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.” We think of a *lamb* as a peaceful, gentle, harmless, innocent and ceremonially clean animal. We get that from the

context of the word pictures found in the Bible. On the other hand, John says that this *lamb* “spoke as a dragon.” We think of a *dragon* as a forceful, ruthless, dangerous, shrewd, deceitful and filthy animal. We have already discovered that *Satan* presented himself as a *great red dragon*; therefore, John must be indicating that when this *second beast* speaks, he speaks like *Satan*. From that, we should be able to extrapolate that this *second beast* will be as gentle as a lamb with all the evil intent of the devil. The first was formed and based on the territory from which he came and would rule. The second *beast* was formed, and based on the testimony he would provide, his words were, softly spoken but deadly. Where can we find two such countries of the past that have this characteristic? Before we answer that question, it would be wise to see the rest of what John has to say about this *beast* and return to the *horns* in Revelation 13:18.

(b) The Authority (13:12a)

Rev 13:12a *He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence.*

What do we know about the authority of the first *beast*? He was to be worshiped (13:4). He spoke blasphemous words (13:6). He could make war and kill the saints (13:7). Furthermore, all of that authority was given the *first beast* by the *great red dragon, Satan*.

Looking at this verse, we can assume that this *second beast* has that same authority. When the text says, “of the first beast in his presence,” we should not interpret this to mean that the *second beast* had power only when he was in the presence of the *first beast*. The *first beast* is an empire, the *Revived Roman Empire*; therefore, this *second beast* will never be out of the presence of the *first beast* because he will be operating within his realm. This wording means that John saw the *second beast*’s arrival after that of the *first beast*. These two will work as a team in the next months.

(c) The Requirement (13:12b)

Rev 13:12b *And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.*

We have already discussed the “fatal wound” of the *first beast* that was *healed*. That, of course, was the death of the *Roman Empire* in 1453 AD and its emergence in the last days as the *Revived Roman Empire*. But in this passage, this *second beast* will cause all the people in the empire to “worship the first beast.” Therefore, we can say that this *second beast* will act like a minister or prophet within the realm of the *first beast*. He will not be a prophet for good, but rather for evil. And then, that causes us to realize that this *second beast* will cause the people to look to the *first beast* as their all-in-all savior of the empire, one to be adored, one to be believed, one to be trusted, one to be respected and one to be worshiped. Notice that John says, “he makes the earth...worship.” He does not suggest, he does not advise, he does not recommend, “he makes!” The people of the *beastly Revived Roman Empire* will have no choice! They will be required to worship the *first beast*.

(d) The Signs (13:13)

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

We have already reviewed the authority given to this *second beast* because his authority matched that of the *first beast* (13:12a). But here, we see that this *second beast* has the ability to perform “great

signs.” We can rightly call these signs *miracles*. The passage states that they could make “fire come down out of heaven to the earth.” We are not told how this *second beast* accomplished this task. It may be a real *miracle*; it may be *slight of hand*. In the days of the plagues in Egypt, Pharaoh’s magicians were able to mimic the first few miracles, but that finally came to an end. Until the last 500 years, making fire come down from heaven was limited to flaming arrows and ordinances from catapults. Since the 1300s, cannons and other arms have been used to throw fire, but none of that would have been considered a miracle. But today, with wireless electronics, arms can be positioned and stored for years and can be fired at will and seem to appear *miraculously* out of nowhere. To John, that would have looked like a *great sign* or *miracle*. All of this is to say that this *second beast* may have the power to rain down fire: however, it may be nothing more than hocus pocus at its apex. Nevertheless, the people of the *beastly Revived Roman Empire* will admire the signs as miraculous.

(e) The Deception (13:14a)

Rev 13:14a *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,*

The admiration of the signs or miracles performed by this *second beast* will be nothing but deception in two ways. First, the signs will cause the people to think these *two beasts* are godlike. Second, the signs will cause the people to worship the wrong god.

(f) The Image (13:14b)

Rev 13:14b *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.*

What better way to deceive people? Cast some sort of metal into the image of a *first beast*, set it up in the courtyard of the capital, and create its entrails with hinges, motors and electronics.

(g) The Breath (13:15)

Rev 13:15 *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.*

What better way to deceive people? Cause the “image of the beast” to come to life, or, at least, seem to come to life. Place a speaker in the mouth of the image so it can seem to speak at its own will. Attach the eyes of a camera that will cause the image to appear to see those who worship him or those who do not. Snap a picture, send it to officials who immediately take to the streets, find the rebel and kill him.

(h) The Mark (13:16)

Rev 13:16 *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,*

With the threat of death aimed at everyone within the empire of these *two beasts*, it is no wonder that when a “mark” is required “on the right hand or on their forehead,” it will be accepted.

(i) The Restriction (13:17)

Rev 13:17 *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.*

The lack of the “mark” will cause great turmoil for the people living in the *Revived Roman Empire*. We buy and sell things every day. We use money. Money is the only thing actually required. But in that day, money will not be enough. If anyone wishes to buy or sell within the beast’s empire as well as any other county in the world, the *mark of the beast* will be required. No mark, no purchase! No mark, no transaction! No mark, no market! No black market will dare exist in that day. No one will dare defy the system. This *second beast* will bind the people of the *first beastly Revived Roman Empire* completely to Satan’s desires. It will be a total economic enforcement upon the people to make them slaves in the worst way, slaves in living, slaves in believing and slaves in eternity, slaves to the *great red dragon, Satan*.

It is interesting that the verse states that the person must have “*either the name of the beast or the number of his name*,” engraved on the right hand or the forehead. What is this beast’s name? We do not know. However, we do know his number.

(j) The Number (13:18)

Rev 13:18 *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.*

“Here is wisdom.” What does that mean? “Wisdom” is the ability to take bits and pieces of information and apply them appropriately for their greatest use. When John says, “Let him who has understanding,” what does that mean? “Understanding” is the ability to gather the bits and pieces of information that can be used so that “wisdom” can prevail. There are two things that can be said about John in this passage. First, this is a prophecy within the prophecy directed clearly far into the future when these *beasts* actually appear. Second, John probably had absolutely no idea what this number meant save that it was “the number is that of a man.” It was for wisdom and understanding of those at the time when these *beasts* arrive. When they arrive, the number will be “six hundred and sixty-six.”

Untold amounts of ink have been wasted trying to discover the meaning of this number. It is still a mystery to this day. Much has been made by commentators about how numerals in Greek or Hebrew are expressed in letters, not numbers. Past commentators have taken the Greek letters that spell out “six hundred and sixty-six” and found that in English they read – *LATIN KINGDOM*. It just so happened that in John’s day the language of the *Roman Empire* was Latin. But that justification is cumbersome and requires too many hurdles to be jumped to come to that conclusion.

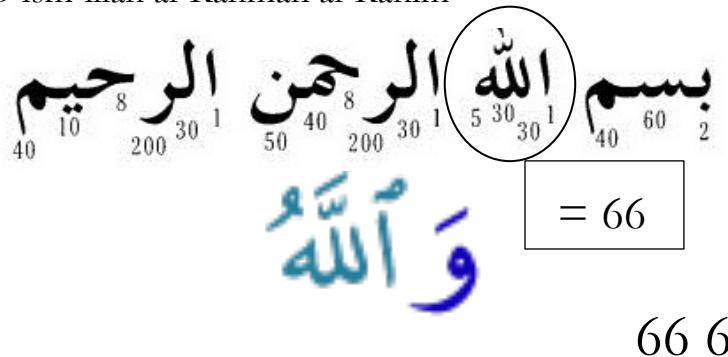
Others take another possible position on this passage. The number is “six hundred and sixty-six.” That is the way John wrote it in Greek. Change the Greek letters to English letters and it says the following: *hex-akosioi hex-ekonta hex*. That means nothing to most of us. But that is the way John wrote the number. It does not mean that John saw them written like that. Rather, he heard the number instead and wrote it down. This, too, is awkward and requires extensive mental gymnastics to reach a conclusion.

Why are we splitting hairs? The LORD does not cause such a difficult conclusion. The revelation of the “six hundred and sixty-six” must be simple. Perhaps the *beast* will speak Arabic and his name will be *Bismillah, بسم الله*. The whole phrase that we often hear spoken but do not understand is *B-ism-illah al-Rahman al-Rahim* which means *In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*. This wording

is found at the beginning of each chapter of the Quran except one. With that, *B-ism-illah* is also the first word in Islam's Quran and it is translated there as the phrase, "*In the name of Allah*." When we break the Arabic phrase *B-ism-illah* down we find that بسم = *b-ism* and الله = *Allah*. Arabic does not use numbers. Rather, letters in its alphabet are assigned numeric values. After much search and many inquiries for help with determining the number value of the letters in *B-ism-illah* بسم الله, an Islamic website was found that provides the numerical value of the words in this Arabic phrase.⁴ The Alajadi website presents the following for the whole passage *In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*.

We have to wait to see from where this horse originates.

B-ism-illah al-Rahman al-Rahim



The word in the circle above (added) is the word *Allah* in Arabic. The numeric number for Islam's god is $5 + 30 + 30 + 1 = 66$. Several commentators incorrectly state that the numeric sum of the word *Allah* equals 666; it is absolutely false.

But that is not the end of the search. When looking into the text of the chapters of the Quran we find the word *W-allāh*. The “*w*” in this word is the twenty-seventh letter of the Arabic alphabet but, it has a sequential value of 6 and gematrical value of 6. It is called a “*Wāw*” and in Arabic it is the symbol و . It serves several functions in the language. It is the primary conjunction in Arabic, equivalent to our "and"; it is usually prefixed to other conjunctions, such as *وَلَكِن* *wa-lākin* where it means "but." However, it has another most important function as the indicator of a "pledge" or an "oath" when it precedes a noun of great significance. It is literally translated "I swear to..." or "I swear by" In the Quran it often precedes the word *Allah* as seen in the example to the right and it means, "I swear to *Allah*."⁵

Therefore, we might safely say with “wisdom” and “understanding” that when this *beast* arrives, whatever his language may be at the time, he will undoubtedly have a name that will clearly equal numerically in a human language “six hundred and sixty-six.” If Arabic is the language, it will be the word *W-allah* meaning *I swear to Allah*. It is already found in the Quran at least nine times.⁶

⁴ <http://www.alajadi.com/muslim-religion-respect-number-786/>

⁵ Surah 4:62; 5:107; 6:109; 9:42; 9:56; 9:62; 9:74; 16:38; 24:53

⁶ See footnote 5.

I am so thankful to Issa Dadoush, a faithful member of Sagemont Church whose native language is Arabic. What I have just presented is a new section of thought added for the first time in this particular study of the REVELATION. I needed a truth and I needed an Arabic expert to confirm or correct my work. Issa did just that and I am eternally grateful. Once I had placed this new section in the lesson I realized that the Arabic word for *I swear to Allah* contained extra marking above the word. Here is Issa's wonderful explanation for those marks just as he wrote them to me.

Jim

The characters on top of the "W-Allah" word are Vowels. Vowel marks are very important in Arabic. The word's meaning may differ completely if a vowel mark applied to one letter is changed. As I explain, start from the right of the word "W-Allah" as follows:

1. The diagonal stroke written above the Waaw is called Fatha and it represents a short vowel "a" (a short "ah" sound).
2. The character that looks like the small chopped w, with the Fatha on top of it, is called Shadda. Shadda represent doubling or gemination, which is the articulation of a consonant for a longer period of time.
3. The last character (far left) is called Damma. Damma is an apostrophe-like shape written above the consonant which precedes it in pronunciation. It represents a short vowel u (like the English letter "u" in "but").

The word "W-Allah" as written below is pronounced "W-Allah-u" and is followed by an adjective like All-Knowing and/or All-Wise.

Blessings of Jesus Christ be with you and the Church family.

Issa

Contrary to Islamic claims, the word *Allah* is never found in the Holy Bible in the Hebrew or Greek. Two words can be found in the Hebrew that look similar. The first is *alah* (Strong 423) and it means to *curse with an oath*. The second is *Elah* (Strong 425) which means *terebinth* or an oak or turpentine tree. Neither word has anything to do with the name of God.

A Return to the Question of the Two Horns from Revelation 13:11

The Horns: At this point in the story, we need to return to the topic of the *horns* of this *beast* as promised. His *horns* come from the earth, not from the *sea* as with the *first beast*. We have established that *horns* represent countries. For the *first beast* they are the ten nations that will represent the *Revived Roman Empire*. But what countries could the *horns* of this *beast* come from? Surely not from around the *Great Sea*! Surely not from the barbaric and generally disorganized countries north of the *Roman Empire* in Europe. Surely not from the tribal countries before the *Roman Empire* in Africa. That means that we must look to the east of the *Roman Empire*, to the heart of the original powerhouse empires. We would need to look to Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. However, at the end of the *Roman Empire*, in 1453 AD, only two countries existed among these five – *Confederate of Arabia* and *Confederate of Aq Qoyunlu*. Arabia had virtually the same boundaries as it has today and operated with Yemen as its center of trade and authority in the Islamic culture. *Aq Qoyunlu* encompassed all of Iraq and Iran consisting of two groups called the *White and Black Sheep Turks*, both were *Sunni Muslims*. These *Turks* did not hold to all the same principles as the *Ottoman Turks* mentioned before in these lessons which controlled Bulgaria, Macedonia and Asia Minor in 1453 AD. There is little doubt that the *Black Sheep Turks* essentially controlled the whole of *Aq Qoyunlu* and with the *Confederate of Arabia*,

these countries were and are still today, Islamic. Unless some religious movement sweeps away these two countries, the land mass of this part of the world will continue to be Islamic through the *End Times*. Furthermore, these two countries from 1453 AD have done nothing but move westward with their *religion* and demanded all people of all countries they have invaded to pledge loyalty to their god – Allah. The penalty for failing to accept their god was and still is death.

The birth of Islam occurred after the fall of the *Western Roman Empire* in 476 AD but before the fall of the *Eastern Roman Empire* in 1453 AD. It began in a small area of Arabia in 621 AD and grew rapidly over the next 12 years through war and coercion to become the religion of all the land mass we know as the *Confederate of Arabia* (Arabia) and the *Confederate of Aq Qoyunlu* (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey and a small section of Russia).

With all that has been said in this discovery, the *horns* of this *second beast* must come from the origins of his religion, the two countries of *Arabia* and *Aq Qoyunlu* as they were called in 1453 AD at the fall of the *Eastern Roman Empire*. With that as the case, this *second beast* is not a person but a religion that requires total loyalty by taking *the name of its god*. Take the name and a peaceful life will be available; refuse the name and death will come quickly. Current events in that part of the world today confirm this conclusion in the news almost every day.