

- a) this view: 1) “**God’s commandments**” I think would speak to the Old Testament or Jewish nation and 2) “**testimony of Jesus Christ**’ would speak to the New Testament or the people being saved during this seven year period. Not sure any of this makes any difference in the outcome of this verse but I think understanding the intent of these words helps with our overall understanding of the Book of revelation. Again, just my opinion!

CHAPTER 13:

As previously stated there are two characters talked about in the 13th chapter of Revelations:

- 1) **The beast coming out of the sea, which is the Antichrist.**
- 2) The other or **the second beast coming out of the earth, which is the False Prophet.**

Note: I would like to make it clear that John will be using what most people believe to be symbolic language in this chapter. However, we will be using scripture to interpret what appears to be symbolism. Therefore, providing the reader with the definitions for what appears to be symbolism. This process will cover the entire 13th chapter.

This chapter provides us with some of the most detailed descriptions about the actions and characteristics of these two men/characters during the seven year tribulation period that exist within scripture. Keep in mind that chronologically we have just finished the first half of the seven year tribulation period and are about to begin the last half of the seven year tribulation period. Also, this chapter is providing the reader with many details about actions that were taken by these two characters in the first half, as well as, many of the actions that will take place during the second half. I will try to sort out which action is within each half. Before we begin our study I will list some basic facts about the primarily ‘antichrist’ and a few about the ‘false prophet’, as follows:

BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE ANTICHRIST→

Much of the information provided below is from Mark Hitchcock's book; 'Who is the Antichrist'.

- 1) **The prefix 'anti' has been inserted before the word Christ to describe the man which will be known as the 'antichrist'.**

This prefix can mean 'against' or 'opposed to' or 'instead of' or 'in place of'.

So the question becomes; 1) Is the antichrist 'against' Christ or 'in place of' Christ? I think the answer is both. I will list some of the primary difference between the two→ Jesus Christ vs. antichrist:

<u>CHRIST:</u>	<u>ANTICHRIST:</u>
The Truth	The Lie
The Holy One	The Lawless One
The Man of Sorrow	The Man of Sin
The Son of God	The Son of Destruction
The Mystery of Godliness	The Mystery of Iniquity
Cleanses the Temple	Desecrated the Temple
The Lamb	The Beast

- 2) **The number of the antichrist is '666'→**

Rev. 13: 18b, "His number is 666."

- 3) **Since the time just after the ascension of Jesus Christ many men have tried to determine who the antichrist is→ all have failed.**

This fact cannot be determined until the church is rapture, 2 Thess. 2: 6-8, partial quote, "... but the one who now holds back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. **And then the lawless one will be revealed...**"

- 4) **The only thing that could hold back Satan's human antichrist is a member of the trinity→Holy Spirit will hold back the arrival of the antichrist until the church is raptured.**

In 2 Thess. 2:6-7, the one holding the antichrist back is defined as both→ 'a power', "**...what is holding him back...**"; → and 'a man', "**...but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till HE is taken out of the way.**"

- 5) **Some of the key scripture passages that talk about the antichrist→**

Dan. 7: 8, Dan. 8:23-25, Dan. 9:26-27, Dan. 11:36-39, Matt. 24: 23-24, 2 Thess. 2: 3-8, 1 John 2:18-22, 1 John 4:1-3, 2 John 7, Rev. 13:1-10, Rev. 17: 9-17.

6) **The actual word 'antichrist' is only found five times in the New Testament and all five are in the epistles of John:**

Twice in 1 John 2:18, and once in 1 John 2:22 & 4:3, 2 John 7

7) **The antichrist will be an actual person and not a system. Also, the antichrist will be 'man'.**

All of the pronouns used when speaking about the antichrist are masculine → 'he', 'him', and 'his'; see # 1 above, Rev. 13:18b.

8) **Many scholars believe he will be a Jew.**

However, their scripture to support their view is weak; See # 12 below.

9) **The 'spirit of the antichrist' has been in the world since the time of Jesus Christ.**

1 John 2:18, "Dear children, this is the last hour, and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, **even now many antichrist have come.**"

10) **I will list 20 ways that scholars believe the antichrist will try to mimic Jesus Christ:**

CHRIST →

^ Miracles, Signs & Wonders

Matt. 9:32-33 & Mark 6:2

^ Appears in the Millennial

Temple, Ezek. 43: 6-7

^ Is God, John 1:1-2; 10:35

^ Is the Lion form Judah,

Rev. 5:5

^ Makes a peace covenant

With Israel, Ezek. 37:26

^ Causes men to worship

God, Rev. 1:6

^ Followers sealed on their,

Rev. 7:4, 14:1

ANTICHRIST →

Miracles, Signs & Wonders;

Matt. 24:24 & 2 Thess. 2:9

Sits in the Tribulation Temple

2 Thess. 2:4

Claims to be God, 2 Thess. 2:4

Has a mouth like a lion,

Rev. 13:2

Makes a peace covenant with

Israel, Dan 9:27

Causes men to worship Satan,

Rev. 13: 3-4

Followers sealed on their forehead

or right hand, Rev. 13:16-18

^ Worthy name, Rev. 19:16

Rev. 5:9 & 12

^ Married to a virtuous bride,

Rev. 19:7-10

^ Crowned with many crowns,

Rev. 19:12

^ Is the King of kings

Rev. 19:16

^ Sits on a throne,

Rev. 3:21; 12:5; 20:11

^ Sharp sword from His

Mouth, Rev. 19:15

^ Rides a white horse,

Rev. 19:11

^ Has an army,

Rev. 19:14

^ Violent death,

Rev. 5:6; 13:8,

^ Resurrection,

Matt. 28:6

^ Second coming,

Rev. 19:11-21

^ 1,000 yr. worldwide

Kingdom, Rev. 20:1-6

^ Part of a Holy Trinity

Father, Son & Holy Spirit

2 cor. 13:14

Blasphemous names

Rev. 13:1

Married to a vile prostitute,

Rev. 17: 3-5

Crowns with tem crowns,

Rev. 13:1

Is called 'the king',

Dan. 11:36

Sits on a throne,

Rev. 13:2; 16:10

Bow in his hand,

Rev. 6:2

Rides a white horse,

Rev. 6:2

Has an army,

Rev. 6:2; 19:19

Violent death,

Rev. 13:3

Resurrection,

Rev. 13:3; 14

Second coming,

Rev. 13: 12 & 14; 17:8

3 ½ yr. worldwide kingdom

Rev. 13:5-8

Part of the unholy trinity

Satan, antichrist & false prophet

Rev. 13

If you read 2 Thess. 2: 1-12 you will see how Paul told all Christians that the antichrist would come as a 'counterfeit' → Jesus Christ. And many will fall for his deceptions causing many humans to be condemned to hell for all of eternity.

11) **The antichrist will be a 'man'→**

Best: 1 John, 2:22, "Who is a liar? It is the **MAN** who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a **MAN IS THE ANTICHRIST**—he denies the Father and the Son." Also see 1 John 2:18; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7. There are some scholars who believe that the 'antichrist' will be a 'System→ like the Holy Roman Church'. I do not think this can be true give the bible in 1 John 2:22 above define the antichrist as a "**MAN**". See 1 John 4:1-3 for a better understanding of the 'spirit of the antichrist', which can be in many forms and has existed since the time of Jesus Christ.

12) **Listed below are some of the characteristics of the 'antichrist' the →Man:**

- a) He will be an intellectual genius; Dan. 8:23,
- b) He will be an oratorical genius; Dan, 7:8; 11:36; Rev. 13:5,
- c) He will be a political genius; Dan. 9:27; Rev. 17:11-12,
- d) He will be an economic genius; Dan. 11: 43; Rev. 13:16-17,
- e) He will be a military genius; Rev. 6:2; 13:2,
- f) He will be a religious genius; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8,

13) **Will the antichrist be a Jew or a Gentile?**

- a) **A Jew→** Many modern scholars base their view on the writings of Irenaeus, 120-202 AD. He based his opinion on Jer. 8:16 and the fact that tribe of Dan was omitted from the list of tribes in Rev. 7:4-8. Also the words in Gen. 49:17, "**Dan will be a serpent by the roadside, a viper along the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider tumbles backward.**" They also point to Dan. 11:37, "**He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers...**"
- b) **A Gentile→** Also, there are many scholars who believe that the 'antichrist' will be a 'gentile'.
 - They support their view with verse like Rev. 13:1, "**And I saw the beast coming up out of the sea...**" where the word "**sea**" is defined as the gentile nation of the earth. And they use verses like Rev. 17:15 to support their definition of the word "**sea**"→ "**Then the angel said to me, 'The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are the people, multitudes, nations and languages.'**"

- They also support their view with the concept that it would be impossible for a Jew to be the 'final world leader' given the history of the Jewish nation and all the other gentile nations. They support their view with verses like Luke 21:24, which are describing events during the last days in Israel and specifically Jerusalem, "They will fall by the sword and be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the gentiles until the times of the gentiles are fulfilled."
- Last, gentiles have always been the primary persecutors of the Jewish nation, which will be the primary focus of the antichrist during the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period. Therefore, it appears to highly unlikely that the antichrist would be anything but a gentile, see Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 11:41, 45 & 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:2; 12:6; 13:7.

14) **Will the 'antichrist' be Satan incarnate?**

Biblical scholars all down through the ages have discussed this issue from many angles or direction. The most common are as follows:

- a) Satan will duplicate the 'virgin birth', of Jesus Christ, and produce a human being whose mother will be a human woman and whose father will be Satan. It will be a male child which will be the 'son of Satan'. They support their view with Gen. 3:15, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between → Satan, your offspring (seed) and → Jesus Christ, her offspring (seed); he shall crush (strike) you head, and you will strike (bruise) him on his heel."
- b) A man named Ados wrote a book in 950 AD that stated that the antichrist, "...will be conceived wholly in sin, generated in sin, born in sin. The devil will enter the womb of the mother the very instant of conception. He will be fostered by the power of the devil and protected in his mother's womb." He used scripture like Luke 22:3, "Then, Satan entered Judas..." or John 6:70, "Then Jesus replied, 'Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!'"

15) **Will the antichrist be resurrected → either from the past or when he receives his mortal wound?**

They use scripture like Rev. 13:3 & 13:12-14 & Rev. 17:8a to support either of these assumptions: (1) Past or (2) at the mid-point. Best; Rev. 17:8a, **“The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction.”** The scholars who support the **‘resurrected view’** further support Rev. 17:8a with John 17:12, **“While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except one doomed to destruction so that scripture would be fulfilled.”** They believe the **“...one doomed to destruction...”** in both of these verses are speaking about the same person. Therefore, Judas Iscariot will be resurrected from the dead and become the antichrist.

16) **Titles for the ‘antichrist’ found in scripture**→

- a) Dan. 7:8; The Little Horn,
- b) Dan. 8:23-25, A king, insolent and skilled in intrigue,
- c) Dan. 9:26, The Prince who is to come,
- d) Dan. 9:27, The One who makes desolate,
- e) Dan. 11:36-45, The king who does as he pleases,
- f) Zech. 11:15-17, A foolish shepherd,
- g) 2 Thess. 2:3, The man of destruction,
- h) 2 Thess. 2:8, The lawless one,
- i) Rev. 6:2, The rider on the white horse,
- j) Rev. 13: 1-2, The beast out of the sea,

17) **Will the antichrist be a homosexual**→

The scholars who believe that the antichrist will be a homosexual support their view with, Dan. 11:37, **“He shall not regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of woman...”** Based on this scripture I do not think there is any way that we would think of the ‘antichrist’ as a **‘woman chaser’**. However, this verse does not state that the antichrist sexual preference will be for ‘men’, only that he will not **“...desire of woman...”** I believe this verse has a little different meaning, which is→ The antichrist will be on earth for one & only one reason→ **‘To Do the Will of His Father, which is Satan’. And by acting this way he will be duplicating the exact same actions that were performed by→ Jesus Christ when he came to the earth and did the will**

of His Father. Again, this is just another counterfeit performance by Satan & the antichrist.

18) **What is the nationality of the antichrist→**

Most scholars believe that the antichrist will come from one of the countries involved in the 'Revived Roman Empire'. They point to the fact that both the Book of Daniel & Revelation strongly associates the antichrist with the 'Revived Roman Empire'.

19) **Will the antichrist be a Muslim, possibly the Muslim messiah, (Mahdi)→**

Some scholars point to six reasons why they support this view? They are as follows:

- a) Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, even in some predominately Christian countries. Therefore, they believe the antichrist will probably be a Muslim.
- b) They point to the fact that most of the nations mentioned in scripture that are involved in the end-times events are Islamic nations, see Ezekiel 38 & 39.
- c) They point to the fact that there are many similarities between the antichrist of the Bible and the Muslim-Mahdi as recorded in the Koran.
- d) They point to prophecies recorded in the Bible that talk about how the antichrist will bring terrible persecution on the Jewish people and the Koran talks about the Muslim-Mahdi doing the same thing. They also point out that some scholars believe that the Muslim, Dome of the Rock is currently built on top of the Jewish Temple Mount.
- e) The antichrist of the Bible will use 'beheading' as a form of execution, which is exactly how the Muslim-Mahdi will execute unbelievers; see Rev. 20:4.
- f) They believe that Dan. 7:25b, "**...and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws.**" provides us with two important clues about changes the antichrist will try to implement→ **TO CHANGE→ "...times & laws..."** These are also two things that the Muslim-Mahdi will change; he will implement Islamic Shariah Law and Islam has its own calendar.

20) **Could the antichrist be an American president→**

The simple answer is yes, but based on scripture most scholars do not believe this is possible.

21) **Could the antichrist be the same person as 'Gog' as described in Ezekiel Chapter 38→**

There are an increasing number of scholars today that believe that 'Gog' & the antichrist is both the same person? They do not offer any scripture to back up their view; therefore I would put little if any creditability in their assumption.

The majority of scholars **'do not'** believe that Gog & the antichrist is the same person and they offer the following differences in scripture to support their view:

<u>Gog & Magog→</u>	<u>Armageddon/Antichrist→</u>
(Ezekiel 38 & 39)	(Revelation Chapter 19)
<u>→Invasion lead by Gog</u>	<u>Invasion lead by antichrist</u>
<u>→Israel is at peace at the time of the invasion</u>	<u>There is no mention of peace in Israel</u>
<u>→Armies gather to plunder Israel</u>	<u>Armies gather to fight against antichrist</u>
<u>→Occurs at the middle of the Tribulation ?</u>	<u>Occurs at the end of the Tribulation</u>
<u>→Specific nation involved (Russia & her Islamic allies)</u>	<u>All the nations of the earth invade Israel</u>

→Armies are destroyed by God, to include the members of the coalition turning on each other Armies are destroyed by the second coming of Jesus Christ

→Occurs so that all the Nations will know that He is God Occurs to destroy the unsaved nations

→Attacks Israel Makes a treaty with Israel (then breaks it during the last Half of the Tribulation), Dan 9:27

22) **What is the 'Mark of the Beast'→**

The 'Mark of the Beast' is a mark that people will 'willingly accept' during the last half of the seven year tribulation period that will allow them to work, buy and sell; another words→ it will allow them to live in the antichrist worldly or 'Physical' society; see Rev. 13:16-17. However, when a person receives this 'Mark of the Beast'→ willingly, it will also "Spiritually' condemn them to hell for all of eternity; see Rev. 14: 9-11.

23) **What is the significance of the number 666→**

I believe the Bible provides us with five facts about this number, which are found in Rev. 13:16-18:

- a) It is "the name of the beast",
- b) It is "the number of his name",
- c) It is "the number of the beast",
- d) It is "the number is that of a man",
- e) It is "his number is six hundred and sixty-six".

24) **Why the number 666 was used to define the antichrist→**

Most scholars believe that the number 7 stands for 'perfection' and is the number of God. It is true that man was created 'perfect' by God, however he fell to sin and became imperfect. Therefore, he is now imperfect resulting in a number change→ Calculation as follows: his number when

created was 7, however when he sinned he lost perfection, therefore we need to subtract 1 leaving a number of 6.

Many scholars have tried to create some type of logic as to why the number of the antichrist has three 6's in it, none of which many any sense to me. So I will give you my opinion that probably makes no sense either → the three 6's stand for the 'unholy trinity' = Satan, antichrist & false prophet, all of which will be one short of perfection. Just my opinion!

25) **What is the purpose of the 'Mark' →**

The bible tells us the 'mark of the beast—antichrist' will have two primary purposes: 1) It will demonstrate to all of the people of the earth and heaven that the one wearing the 'mark' is → loyal, devoted, worships or whatever word you want to use; specifically to the antichrist and a broader definition would be to the 'unholy trinity' → Satan, antichrist, false prophet, Rev. 13:16 & Rev. 14:9. 2) When a person received the 'mark of the beast', they would receive an economic benefit; they could buy and sell, Rev. 13:17a.

26) **Will modern technology play a role in the 'mark of the beast' →**

The bottom line is no one really knows because the bible is not specific about how this will work. However, the scripture is very specific about two attributes of this 'mark': 1) its location is defined, Rev. 13:16b, "...to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead..." 2) based on the wording that is describing the location of the 'mark' it appears that the 'mark' will be visible. The words in Rev. 13:16b state that "...a mark on..." which to me means it is on the surface of the skin and would be visible to the human eye. These words clearly state that the 'mark' is on the skin. From this point on we are guessing about any further facts about the 'mark'. However, some scholars believe that there will some type of micro-chip under the visible 'mark'. Again this is just an assumption but given modern technology it would appear very possible.

27) **How will the antichrist persuade people to take the 'mark' →**

There are a variety of opinions on how this will happen; I will list some of the more common;

- a) The antichrist will use the 'Rapture of the Church' to scare people into taking the 'mark of the beast' by telling them that the people taken in the rapture were taken by aliens and the only way to be sure you will not be taken next is by receiving the 'mark of the beast'.
- I have two big problems with this view; 1) The Rapture of the church will take place before the identity of the 'antichrist' is ever made known, 2 Thess. 2:6-7.
 - If people are **tricked** into taking the 'mark of the beast' then, to me, this would not fall under one of the main attributes that God established for judging the people with the 'mark', which is **it has to be done willingly and knowing you are pledging allegiance to the antichrist.**
- b) When the antichrist comes on the scene, his charm, charisma and his ability to deceive people (plus, '...miracle, signs and wonders...' 2 Thess. 2:9-11, will be able to convince people he is the answer to all their problems. Then God will send, "...a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie..." same scripture as above. This appears to be more reasonable but still just an assumption made by men.

28) **How will the antichrist rise to world power→**

Scholars have approached this subject from many directions over the years; however, I believe the bible gives us the answers in Rev. 13: 2b, "The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority..." and Rev. 13: 7, "He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation." Keep in mind the power structure during the seven year tribulation period: **God→ Satan→ antichrist→ false prophet.**

Also, remember the tools the antichrist will possess: handsome, poised, greatest orator, most deceitful human that has ever lived, cunning, the biggest liar ever, intelligence at genius level, greatest diplomat the world has ever seen, greatest peace maker the world has ever seen, greatest military strategist and leader ever. He will have been given the best of every human trait necessary to be a world leader.

An example of this type of person who lived in the 20th century would be Adolf Hitler. He was what I would call a man who lived in the 'spirit of the antichrist'. He was such a charismatic leader he was able to have huge crowds hang on his every word. He was able to convince an entire nation that they were the chosen people and should wipe out or enslave all other people in the world. Sounds a lot like the words the antichrist will speak when he goes after the people of God. I think we also need to keep in mind Hitler will be like a 'beginner' compared to the antichrist.

Last, scripture tells us in Dan. 7: 7-8 that during the revival or shortly thereafter of the Roman Empire the antichrist will 'take over' three of the ten kingdoms of the revived Roman Empire. I think this will put him → 'Center Stage' on the world scene.

29) **What are some of the 'signs' of the coming of the antichrist→**

I will list some of the more commonly talked about signs:

- a) The Jews returning to their homeland and becoming a nation, Ezek. 20:34 & Isa. 11:11-12,
- b) Revival of the Roman Empire, Dan. 7: 8-9 & Dan. 7: 23-25,
- c) The demise of 'nationalism' followed by an increase in 'globalism', Rev. 13:16-17
- d) The world will be in a state of anarchy, therefore people will be crying out for peace, Matt. 24: 4-16 & 2 Tim. 3:1-5 & Mark 13:12

30) **How long will the antichrist rule→**

Actually there are two answers to this question:

- One→ Base on Dan. 7:8-9 & Dab:7: 24-25, it appears the antichrist will rule the revived Roman Empire for most if not all of the first half of the seven year tribulation period, which will be 3 ½ years or 42 months.
- Two→ Based on Rev. 11:2; 13:5 & Dan. 7:25, the antichrist will rule the entire world for the entire last half of the seven year tribulation period; 3 ½ years or 42 months.

31) **What is the antichrist relationship to Babylon→**

Babylon is first mentioned in the Book of Genesis Chapter 11. It became known as the birth place where two very sinful concepts were founded.

These two sinful concepts will come to an end at the end of the seven year tribulation period: They are → **'Idolatry or A One World Religion—Where the god of this World Religion is Satan & A One World Human Government'**. There are several places in the Book of Revelation that explain these two concepts: 1) Rev. 13:1-10, references a **'One World Government'** & 2) Rev. 13:11-18, references a **'One World Religion'**. Also, in the Book of revelation, Chapters 17 & 18 provides a great deal of information about the **'City of Babylon'**. Both chapters provide information about either the **'Religious or Spiritual'** & **'Governmental or Economic'** side of the **'City of Babylon'**. However, chapter 17 is primarily focused on providing information about the **'Religious or Spiritual'** side of the **'City of Babylon'**; where chapter 18 is primarily focused on providing information about the **'Governmental or Economic'** side of the **'City of Babylon'**.

32) **Will the 'City of Babylon' be in its original site or somewhere else in the world→**

Most scholars believe it will be rebuilt in its original location. They offer four points to support their view, which are as follows:

- a) “Babylon appears 300 times in the Bible, and with one possible exception in 1 Peter 5:13, the name always references the literal city of Babylon; in the country of Iraq.”
- b) All of the other locations mentioned in the Book of Revelation are actual places, so why would God make an exception in this one case?
- c) The **'City of Babylon'** is currently being rebuilt on its original site. Saddam Hussein began this process several years back.
- d) The prophet Isaiah prophesied, Isa. 13:4-5, that the city of Babylon would be totally destroyed; also in Isa. 13:20-22.
- e) The original location of the **'City of Babylon'** is centered in the middle-east, which is where all of the end-times events will take place.

33) **Will the antichrist be assassinated and come back to life→**

There are two schools of thought on this issue→

First View→ They believe that the antichrist will be very badly wounded and at the edge of death, but will make a miraculous recovery. They use

verses like Rev. 13:3-4, with a special focus on words, “I saw one of his heads **as if it had been slain...**”

Second View→ They believe that the antichrist will actually be slain or killed and then actually raised from the dead by Satan. They use scripture like Rev. 17:8 to support their view, “The beast, **which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss** and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, **because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.**” They also support their view with the following facts:

- a) The beast receives his “...fatal wound...” at the mid-point of the seven years tribulation period, Rev. 13:1-10.
- b) Satan and his fallen angels are expelled from heaven to earth at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period→ timing is exactly the same?
- c) Satan wants to replicate the ‘resurrection’ of Jesus Christ with his false messiah.
- d) Satan gives his ‘authority’ to the beast, Rev. 13:2b.
- e) The ‘false prophet’ was given power (God→ Satan→ antichrist→ false prophet) to “He was given power to give breath to the image...”
- f) This will be a time when the antichrist & false prophet will be allowed to perform miracles; Matt. 24:24: “For false Christ and false prophets will appear **and perform great signs and miracles** to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.” This is the same concept described in Rev. 13: 13, “And he performed great and miraculous signs...” If you read Rev. 13: 12-14 you will find these words are intertwined in the description of the beast, “...whose fatal wound and been healed.”

34) **Who is the false prophet and what is his relationship to the antichrist**→

The simple answer is he→ the false prophet is, the third component of the unholy trinity. Again, this is Satan’s attempt to copy, counterfeit, or duplicate what God has already done:

One→ The Holy Trinity→ (God the Father→ Jesus Christ→ The Son→ The Holy Spirit)

Two→ The unholy trinity→ (Satan→ the antichrist→ son of Satan→ the false prophet) Note: the false prophet represents the spiritual or religious side of the unholy trinity.

The name 'false prophet' is used three times in the Book of Revelation; 16:13, 19:20 & 20:10. He is also called "...another beast..." or "...the second beast..." in Rev. 13:11-18. Below is a list of point & counter-points:

HOLY SPIRIT→

- ^ Point men to Christ
- ^ Instrument of divine revelation
- ^ Seal believers to God
- ^ Builds the body of Christ
- ^ Enlightens men with the truth

FALSE PROPHET→

- ^ Point men to antichrist
- ^ Instrument of satanic revelation
- ^ Marks unbelievers with the mark, number of antichrist
- ^ Builds the empire of the antichrist
- ^ Deceives men with miracles, lies and deception

Also, the 'false prophet & 'antichrist' are mentioned together four times in the New Testament:

- ^ Rev. 13:1-18→ They will share a common goal,
- ^ Rev. 16:13→ They will share a common agenda for the world,
- ^ Rev. 19:20→ They will share a common 'judgment',
- ^ Rev. 20:10→ They will share a common 'judgment with Satan'.

35) What is the 'abomination of desolation' that the antichrist

introduces→ These words are first mentioned in Daniel 9:27, "He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven', but in the middle of that 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abomination on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on them." These same words are also found in Dan. 12:11, Matt. 24:15-16 & Mark 13:14.

I believe the word "abomination" is speaking to the worship of a false god. Therefore, to me the antichrist takes two specific actions during the seven

year tribulation period that would be taken by God as “abomination” as it relates to Gods ‘rebuilt temple in Jerusalem’.

ONE→ The first would be when the antichrist sets on the throne of God in Gods rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, 2 Thess. 2: 4, “He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, and even sets himself up in Gods temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”

TWO→ The second would be when the ‘false prophet’ sets up an image of the beast, Rev. 13:14b, “He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.”

Most scholars believe these two events will happen at the ‘mid-point’ of the seven year tribulation period.

36) **Why will the antichrist persecute the Jewish people→**

The simple answer is because they are God chosen people. I believe Jesus Christ himself makes clear in Matt. 24:15-22. Remember the ‘unholy trinity’ will HATE and try to kill anything that is of God during the seven year tribulation period (remember the words of 2 Thess. 2:4 above); during the first 3 ½ years it will be more deceptive but during the last 3 ½ years it will be all out war against God and his people.

37) **Will the antichrist be under God’s control→**

Most scholars believe the antichrist will be ‘indwelled’ and controlled by Satan and maybe even other demonic spirits during this seven year tribulation period. Also, as I have said before, I believe Satan will possess the antichrist body during the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period.

Also, as I have said before the ‘Chain of Command’ or ‘Chain of Power & Control’ is as follows: **God the Creator grants power to→ Satan, one of Gods created heavenly beings, which in turn grants power to→ the antichrist a mortal being, which in turn grants power to→ the false prophet another mortal being.** Some people ask how we can know this chain of power is correct. See scripture references below:

^ God the Creator→ Gen. 1:1 & Rev. 1:8 & 1 Tim. 1:17

^ Satan, one of Gods created heavenly beings→ Isa. 14:12-15 & Ezek. 28:13-18 & Job 1:6; 2:1 & Col. 1:16

^ The antichrist a mortal being was granted power from Satan → Rev. 13:5a & 13:5b & Rev. 13:7a & 7b & 13: 14 & Rev. 13: 15 & 2 Thess. 2:8

^ The false prophet another mortal being was granted power from the antichrist → Rev. 13:11-17

Again, the power structure in place during the **'Seven Year Tribulation Period'** is → **God → Satan → antichrist → false prophet.**

38) **Top ten keys to antichrist identity** →

- a) He will not be recognized until after the rapture of the church to heaven.
- b) He will have obscure beginnings and then rise quickly to world prominence as the pied piper of international peace.
- c) He will be a Gentile world leader from the geographical area of the Roman Empire.
- d) He will rule over the revived Roman Empire.
- e) He will make a seven year peace covenant with Israel.
- f) He will be assassinated and come back to life.
- g) He will break his treaty with Israel at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period and then invade Israel.
- h) He will sit in the temple of God and declare himself to be God.
- i) He will desecrate the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem by having an image of himself placed in it (and sitting on God throne in his rebuilt temple).
- j) He will have total control of the earth for three and one half years; to include: all political power, all economic control & power and all public religious activities → Total Control of every aspect of human life and world activities.

39) **What happens to the antichrist at the battle of Armageddon** →

Revelation Chapter 19, verses 11-21 describes then events that happen when the armies of the antichrist attack or come against Jesus Christ at his **'Second Coming'** at the end of the **'Seven Year tribulation Period'**. I will list the key elements or results of this battle:

- a) Jesus Christ returns to earth; we call this event **'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ'**,

- b) The battle is short; I believe it will be over in a split second,
- c) The bottom-line is the antichrist and his armies loss this battle,
- d) The results of the antichrist losing the battle is he and the false prophet are, Rev. 19: 20b, **“The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”** The **“two”** in this verse is talking about the **‘antichrist & false prophet’**. Second Thessalonians chapter 2, verse 8 also provides details about this event/battle/meeting.

40) **Last: Is the antichrist alive today→**

The simple answer is **YES!** The next question is→ How this can be true, given 2 Thess. Chapter 2 tells us→ The **‘lawless one will not be revealed until the Church is Raptured and the Holy Spirit is removed in terms of its capacity to protect the church’**. The answer is simple, Matt. 24: 36 tells us, **“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”** Therefore, I do not think there is any way that Satan could know the **‘day & hour’** in which Jesus Christ will return to earth→ This scripture is talking about the **‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**. Keep in mind the **‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’** is the **‘LAST EVENT’** in the seven years tribulation period, therefore→ Given Satan does not know the **‘day or hour’** when Jesus Christ will return he/Satan needs to have an **‘human man/antichrist’** alive in every generation ready to step in and fulfill the role of **‘The Final Antichrist’**. Many scholars believe this is what John was talking in 1 John 2:18 & 2:22-2 & 1 John 4:3 & 2 John 1:7.

FIRST HALF OF CHAPTER 13→ THE BEAST OUT OF THE SEA→THE ANTICHRIST

VERSE 1:

NIV, **“And I stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.”**

KJV, “And I stood on 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.”

- 1) I have provided both the NIV and the KJV translation to demonstrate the subtle differences between translations and interpretations. The NIV places a period after the word, “sea”, therefore, ending the sentence. The KJV places a comma in place of a period, therefore, continuing on with the same sentence. The reason I point this out is because there are two different interpretations of this same verse:
 - a) The first group believes that verse 1 should be viewed in conjunction with the last verse of chapter 12, therefore, equating the “I” in this verse with the dragon in the last verse of chapter 12. Their opinion is that the dragon or Satan was standing on the shore or sand by the sea and it is by his/Satan’s power that the ‘beast/Antichrist’ is raised up out of the sea. In scripture the word “sea” is defined as the nations of the earth. This definition of the “sea” is based on the restlessness of the sea verses the restlessness of man. Also, keep in mind that verse 2b clearly states that the dragon/Satan gives or provides, “a beast rise up out of the sea.” with his power.
 - b) The second group believes that verse 1 should be viewed as a new chapter or a different portion of John’s vision. Therefore, it should be interpreted in conjunction with the remaining portion of verse 1. This would mean that John was the, “I” in verse 1 and he was the one standing on the sea shore/sand and was the one observing, “...a beast rise up out of the sea.”

I am not sure it makes any difference which of these views you believe given the important portion of this verse is that it introduces the “beast out of the sea” better known as the Antichrist. However, it is my opinion that the word, “I” is referring to the dragon or Satan and that the purpose of verse 1a is to let the reader know that the Dragon or Satan is giving the beast or the Antichrist his power, which is clearly stated in verse 2b. Just an opinion!

- c) The next point I would like to make about verse 1a is that from the very beginning of this verse the stage is set for the reader to gain a very insightful and detailed description about the characteristics and actions of the beast/Antichrist in the verses to follow. The first word used to describe this individual is, **“a beast”**. This beastly description is quickly followed up in the following verse with words like, **“leopard, bear and lion”**. My point is that when you use all of these words in conjunction to describe a person I think it would bring to the average person’s mind a person who had no regard for human life. The mental picture would be of→ **a human beings flesh being ripped apart and blood flowing freely on the ground, as well as, death and destruction and a time of great savagery,** which is actually what happens during the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’.
- d) Last I would like to make it clear that we will be using the KJV translation for our analysis of verse 1 because it is a better overall translation. The NIV has reversed the order of the ‘heads’ and ‘horns’, which is in error and could confuse or affect the interpretation.
- 2) The next portion of this verse provides additional information about the character of the beast/Antichrist. However, the first issue which needs to be discussed is the fact that John is going to use the same items to describe the beast/Antichrist as he did to describe the dragon/Satan in Rev. 12:3b, **“...an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.”** In this verse John uses the images of, **“heads, horns and crowns”**, to describe the dragon/Satan. He also uses two specific numbers, “seven and ten”, to denote some type of numerical significance to the words, “heads, horns and crowns”. In our analysis of Rev.12:3 we defined the meaning of each of these words and their related numbers, however, in the description of the beast/Antichrist John has rearranged the numerical values associated with the key word, “crowns”. Compare Rev. 13:1b below with Rev. 12:3 above for differences.

Rev. 13:1b, **“...having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”** KJV

COMPARISON:

Dragon/Satan → 7 heads—10 horns—7 crowns

Beast/Antichrist → 7 heads—10 horns—10 crowns

I will outline what I believe are the major facts as it relates to this portion of verse 1b, as well as, the significance of the rearrangement of the numbers as compared to the description of the dragon/Satan in Rev.12:3:

a) John begins describing specific characteristics about the beast/Antichrist with the words, “He had seven heads...” This is the exactly the same way John began his description of the dragon/Satan in Rev. 12:3. In Rev. 12:3 we stated that the number seven as it related to Satan indicated ‘perfection’ and ‘dominance’ which was somewhat of an opinion on my part based on Ezek. 28:12-19. However, in this verse the bible is very specific about the meaning of these words, “He had seven heads...” John states the following in **Rev. 17:9, “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings.”** John goes on to provide more details about these kings in **Rev. 17:10, “Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.”** We will discuss these verses in more details when we analysis Revelation Chapter 17 but for now we will stay focused on the fact that Rev. 17:9 provides us with a detailed answer about the meaning of the “seven heads” of the Beast/Antichrist and that is they are, “...seven kings...”. However, there have been many opinions or views about whom or what these kings are or represent. I will list the most common below:

- Some believe these seven kings are seven Roman Emperors such as Domitian.
- Some believe that these seven kings are the seven forms of government that the Roman Empire passed through during its

existence; kings, councils, dictators, decemvirs, military, tribunes, and emperors.

- Some believe that they represent the seven greatest nations in the history of the world: Assyria, Egypt, Chaldea, Media-Persia, Greece, Roman Empire and Revived Roman Empire.

I cannot say for sure that any of these views are correct or incorrect, however, what we do know for sure is that based on Rev. 13:1 the 'beast/Antichrist' had, "seven heads" and based on Rev. 17:9 that the "seven heads" are defined as "seven kings". We also know based on scripture that the world will experience nine great kingdoms or empires which will control a large portion of the world and as of today six of these have already existed and three are yet to come. They are as follows:

One → Assyrian, passed

Two → Egyptian, passed

Three → Babylonian, passed

Four → Mede's & Persian, passed

Five → Greeks, passed

Six → Roman Empire, passed

Seven → Revived Roman Empire of the Antichrist (last 3 ½ years of the seven year tribulation period), in the future, Dan. 7:23-27 & Dan: 25-27

Eight → Christ 1,000 year reign, in the future, Rev.20:1-6

Nine → Satan released at the end of Christ 1,000 year reign to lead the world against God; in the future, Rev.20:7-10.

Note: there would actually be a 10th if you count Eternity → The New Jerusalem & New Heaven, Rev.21 & 22.

We also know that at the time of Daniels visions two of these Empires had already pass in to history and seven were to happen in the future. However, my opinion is that the description of the 'beast' as it relates to the words, "seven heads" simple means that the beast/Antichrist will possess the 'perfect' skills required to 'dominate' the world and become its leader. Also, at the beginning of this seven year period the beast/Antichrist will be involved in a leadership takeover of a ten kingdom collation. The beast/Antichrist will subdue or directly takeover three of these kingdom, therefore, resulting in a net amount left of seven kingdoms, Dan. 7:8, "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it." The number seven in scripture equates to the number of 'perfection', therefore, the bottom line is that the beast/Antichrist will be the, 'perfect head' or 'perfect leader' that will take over the world during the seven year tribulation period. Keep in mind that the dragon/Satan's introduction also begins with, "seven heads" to indicate that when God the Father created him he was viewed by heaven as 'perfection', Ezek. 28:12b, "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.", and will be granted absolute authority on earth, at least for the last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period.

Also keep in mind that the Empire of the Antichrist will be the 7th world empire.

- b) The second portion of this verse describes the beast/Antichrist as having, "ten horns" to indicate the power that the Antichrist will possess when he enters on to the world stage as a leader of the revived Roman Empire. As stated above the number ten denotes the number of kingdoms/nations that will be involved when the Antichrist begins his rule. This interpretation is supported by Dan. 7:24-25, "The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier one; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the most high and oppose his saints and try to change the set times and the law. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.", and by

Rev.17:12-13, "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They will have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast." Again and more specifically the, "ten horn" reference is talking about the number of kingdoms that will be involved with the beast/Antichrist, at the beginning of the seven year tribulation period, which is the fifth world kingdom in Daniels vision, Dan. 7:7-8, "It was different from all the other beast, and it had ten horns. While I was thinking about the ten horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up from among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. The horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully." This time period is also described in Dan. 9: 26-27, "He will confirm a covenant with many for one seven, but in the middle of that seven he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation and abomination on the wings of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." This same kingdom is referenced in Daniel 2:42-43 as the toes of the statue in Daniels dream, "As the toes were partly iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mix with the clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay." (Most statues of people have 'ten toes') As I have already stated, I believe that John includes in his description of the beast/Antichrist the, "ten horns" to indicate the status level that the beast will enter on to the world scene. He will be the leader of a ten kingdom/nation collation. Also, keep in mind that the dragon/Satan's introduction begins with, "seven heads" to indicate that when God the Father created him he was viewed by heaven as 'perfection', Ezek. 28:12b, "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.", and will be granted absolute authority on earth, at least for the last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period.

- 3) The last part of verse one states that the "beast out of the sea" had, "...with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name." I believe

that this portion of the verse continues to reference specific characteristics about the beast/Antichrist, which I will list below:

- a. Previously we said that the **“ten horns”** mentioned in the first part of this verse was a reference to Daniels prophecy about the revived Roman Empire and the ten kings involved when it is revived. The word **“horns”** references or brings to mind, power which comes from the animal kingdom. Now John tells us that each of these **“ten horns”** has a **“crown”** placed on each horn. Based on this I think we can conclude that the number of kingdoms involved with the beginning takeover of the beast/Antichrist will be ten and they will possess great power. Now, based on the word, **“crowns”** I think we can conclude that they will be like royalty and possess great wealth. To me there is no question that the picture John is painting is that of a very powerful and well-funded empire lead by the beast/Antichrist.
- 4) The last part of this verse, **“...and on each head a blasphemous name.”** make it very clear that **“each head”** or the leadership of each remaining kingdom is 100% anti-God. Notice that the last portion of this verse refers back to the first portion of the verse, the **“head”** or leadership.

Conclusion→ I think this one verse should give all of man-kind some idea of how bloody and destructive this time period will be for all of humanity and especially Christians. Remember the Book of Revelations tells us that at least 50% of the world’s population will be killed during the first half of this seven year period. Some scholars believe this number could be as high as 60-70% because many of the judgments do not provide the reader with the number of deaths due to a specific judgment. I know many people today do not believe the words spoken in the Book of Revelation are speaking about actual events but rather pure symbolism about the battle between ‘Good & Evil’ which has always existed and always will exist until Jesus Christ returns. Some even believe that the Book of Revelation should not be included in the Holy Bible because it is so negative.

My only comment to these people would be→ ‘Do you think the God who ‘Created Everything’ would allow ‘men’ to corrupt ‘His Word to His People’ in

such a way as to grossly miss-lead them for thousands of years.' I can say with 100% confidence→ **NOT A CHANCE!**

My opinion is this is one of three things

- 1) Man really understands the Book of Revelation and just does not want to hear how awful things are really going to be or
- 2) Man, in his arrogance believes if he just does-not acknowledge the existence of the Book of Revelation, then it does not exist. I think this falls under the concept that he is greater than God.
- 3) Man is just that→ DUMB or STUPID!

And the actual answer is probably some of all three!

VERSE 2:

Back to NIV→ **“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 thrown→ and great authority.”**

This verse is clearly broken into two sentences each containing a separate meaning and providing us with additional information about the antichrist, which are as follows:

Sentence One→ continues the description of the personal characteristics of the beast/Antichrist utilizing animals to create an image of this man, the Antichrist.

Sentence Two→ makes it very clear where the beast/Antichrist obtained his “power and his thrown and great authority”.

John is once again using symbolic language to describe specific characteristics about the beast/Antichrist. The symbols that John is using are from the animal kingdom which creates a very specific image of this man and one every generation would understand. Also John is using animals that have already been used in the Old Testament to describe some of the Tribulation characters. I will use some of these Old Testament reference point in my analysis.

SENTENCE ONE:

“The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.”

Again I would like to make it clear that John begins his description of the beast/Antichrist in verse 2 by using symbolic language involving animals that would create a very specific image of the man known as the “beast out of the sea” or the Antichrist and that people throughout all generations would understand. Each of these animals used in verse 2, the “leopard”, the “bear” and the “lion” creates a specific or unique picture within people’s minds that would allow the reader to gain a better understanding about the personal characteristics of the beast/Antichrist. An example of this would be if someone calls you a ‘mouse’ they are saying that you are weak or small. Another example would be if someone calls you a ‘pig’ would normally mean you are fat or unattractive. The term ‘pig’ could also mean sloppy or someone who likes to eat large amounts of food. This is the same concept that John is using in verse 2. Also, keep in mind that John is using the same animal images that Daniel used in the Book of Daniel. However, in the Book of Daniel each of these animals, “leopard”, “bear” and “lion” were being used to describe characteristics about a specific nation or Empire, whereas in this verse all three animals are being used to describe a single man, the Antichrist. The point being is that the Empire of the Antichrist will possess all of the attributes of the three previous Empires listed in Daniels vision. It should also be noted that all of these attributes have to do with creating a very evil world Empire.

We will discuss each of these animals and some of their specific attributes in some details below:

- 1) The “leopard” is depicted in Daniels dream as the third beasts or Empire which God would raise up to conquer the known world. The third beast or Empire is specifically described in Dan.7:6, “After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. The beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.”

When reading Revelation Chapter 13 always keep in mind these four beasts or Empires as described in Daniel are representative of the four great Empires that would rule the world, (see Dan. 7: 4-8) which I have listed below:

- 1) “The first beast was like a lion, and it had wings of an eagle.” which was the Babylonian Empire.
- 2) “And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear.” which was the Med-Persian Empire.
- 3) “After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was also given authority to rule.” which was the Greek Empire.
- 4) “After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beast, and it had ten horns.” which was the Roman Empire.

This same prophecy was given to King Nebuchadnezzar in his dream about a large statue, Dan.2:31-33, “You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large status—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.” The third portion of this statue is also representative of the third beast or Empire in Daniels dream and is described as follows: “its belly and thighs of bronze...” Another interesting fact about the statue described in Dan. 2:31-33 is the value of the elements mentioned based on their ‘specific gravity’ is as follows:

- 1) Babylonian Empire → Gold; Specific Gravity= 19.32
- 2) Medo-Persian Empire → Silver; Specific Gravity= 10.49
- 3) Greek Empire → Bronze; Specific Gravity=8.9-7.7
- 4) Roman Empire → Iron; Specific Gravity=7.85

- 5) Revived Roman Empire—The Empire of the Antichrist→ Iron and Clay:
Specific Gravity of Clay=2.9-2.67, so a mix of Iron and clay would be less than just iron.

I think it is interesting that God made the 'specific gravities' of the elements used to describe these Empires decrease over time. Also, the concept of 'Specific Gravity' was discovered by a Greek named Archimedes around 250 BC.

Keep in mind that the Book of Daniel was written somewhere around 600 to 530 BC, which is 280-350 years before 'Specific Gravity' was discovered. Just food for thought!

Based on the above scripture we now can conclude that the "leopard" was the animal God chose to describe the third world empire or the Greek Empire. Again the third world empire was the Greek Empire which was led by Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great was about 20 years old when he began his conquest of the world and died at the age of 33. I will list below some of the more interesting attributes associated with this empire:

- 1) Lighting speed in military movements
- 2) Brilliant military tactics
- 3) Intrigue in government
- 4) Philosophy
- 5) Intellectual brilliance
- 6) Advancements in science
- 7) The arts
- 8) Architecture and literature

Note→ Just a side comment purely based on my inquisitive mind. Alexander the Great was 20 when he started his conquest and 33 at his death. My question is→ Do you think this is an indicator that the 'antichrist' will be a young man and die at the same age as the real Jesus Christ? Again not trying to read more into this scripture than is meant but just thinking!

SENTENCE TWO:

“The dragon gave→ the beast→ his power and→ his throne and→ great authority.”

The second sentence clearly states that the “dragon” (which is Satan) “...gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.” Therefore, there can be no question what this sentence means or is saying. The real question is→Does the “dragon” really have this kind of “power and authority”? The simple answer is yes, Satan does have this “power and authority” over the earth. Satan is the “prince of this world” until the second coming of Jesus Christ, John 12:31, “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.” We also know that Satan offered Jesus Christ this same “power and authority” when Jesus Christ was on earth during his first coming, Luke 4:5-6, “The devil lead him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And said to him, ‘I will give you all authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want.” Remember Chapter 10 was for the most part dedicated to informing the read to the fact that God the Father was beginning the process of reclaiming the earth and was going to present it to its rightful King, Jesus Christ, see Rev. 10:6b, “There will be no more delay.” Also, see Rev. 12:15b, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.” Last the Book of Revelations actually spells out this issue, of what I call ‘Satan’s short term ownership’, Rev. 17:17-18, “For God has put into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God’s words are fulfilled.” Again I do not think there can be any question that as of this point in time Satan has the “power and authority” over the physical earth.

Also, I think the second big question in this sentence is: Does the world know that the “Dragon” is Satan? The simple answer is, ‘Yes’! Given the way this verse reads and many of the remaining verse within this chapter I do not think there can be any question as to the fact that the world knows that they are worshiping Satan. We will discuss this issue more throughout this chapter.

VERSE 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 astonished and followed the beast.”

Again the information within this verse needs to be broken into two sections, which are as follows:

- 1) What appears to be a miracle or raising someone from the dead, “One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, (Greek Translator; “...as having been slain...”) but the fatal wound had been healed.” (Greek Translator; “...and its deadly wound was healed.”) Many scholars over the years have studied and argued their opinions on the real meaning of this verse. I will limit our major discussion to the top two primary views. The third view will be from the early church. The fourth view has gained little traction but is still talked about by only several scholars. Last I will add a little of my own interpretation to expand our thinking!

The first group believes that the “beast” actually dies and Satan brings him back from the dead. They believe that God the Father has granted Satan the power to raise the antichrist from the dead during this period as he/God the Father has granted him the total power to rule the world during this period. These powers were described in the verses above and also see Rev. 13: 5 & 7. However, none of these verses specifically say that Satan has the power to raise the dead. They also believe the statement, “...but the fatal wound had been healed.” Is a statement of fact, therefore, the wound was in fact “fatal”. To me their argument has some validity based on the “fatal wound” statement but the Bible does not clearly state that anyone except God the Father and Jesus Christ has the power to raise the dead.

NOTE→ Before we go any further I will list the ‘Nine Specific People’ who were raised from the dead as recorded in the scripture. Plus the ‘Group That Was Raised’, making it Ten Total events.

OLD TESTAMENT:

- 1) 1 Kings 17:17-22 → In Zarephath Elijah raised the widow's son from the dead
- 2) 2 Kings 4:32-35, Elisha raised the Shunammite woman's son
- 3) 2 Kings 13:20-21, A man whose body touched Elisha's bones came to life, "Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body **touch**ed Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet." I had to write these verses out because I think it shows the **'Immense Love & Value God Puts in His Own'**.

NEW TESTAMENT:

- 1) Matt. 28:5-8, Jesus raised from the dead
- 2) Luke 7:11-15, At Nain Jesus raised the widows dead son
- 3) Luke 8:41-42 & 49-55, Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus, who was a synagogue leader
- 4) John 11:1-44, Jesus raised Lazarus at Bethany, his sister was Mary, the Mary "...same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair."
- 5) Acts 9:36-41, Peter raised Tabitha/Dorcas in Joppa
- 6) Acts 20:9-10, Paul raised Eutychus from the dead, this was young boy who fell from a third story window

Last, the **'Group Event'** making it ten total events involving people being raised from the dead.

Matt. 27:52-55, At the moment Jesus Christ died the following happened, "The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus resurrection they went into the Holy city and appeared too many people."

Sub-note: some people believe that in Acts 14:19-20, Paul was stoned to death and raised from the dead. The scripture is not specific that in fact Paul was dead it uses words like, “...thinking he was dead...” & “...supposing him to have died...”

My point is all of these people were raised from the dead because of Gods power and no other. Try to find one other place in the scripture or history of the world where someone or something else has ever created anything, whether it is physical or spiritual. Remember God is the only one who has the power to **‘CREATE ANYTHING’**.

The second group believes that “the beast seems to have had a fatal wound” Meaning that it was in fact not “a fatal wound” but only “seemed” to be “fatal”. They believe that the wound ‘appeared’ to be fatal to the world but in fact was not. Given the advancements in medicine today many believe the wound will be healed by some leading edge procedure. Also keep in mind that Europe sometimes pushes the edge on these types of procedures. This group believes that this will be another of Satan’s ‘fake’ or ‘counterfeit’ miracles. He/Satan is trying replicate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as prophesied in the Old Testament and recorded in the New Testament. One of the primary verse they use to validate their view is 2 Thess. 2:9, which appears to confirm their view, “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of **counterfeit** miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil **that deceives those who are perishing.**” Again this verse appears to be very specific that most of what Satan does will be a ‘counterfeit’.

The third view originated during the early church period approximately, 100 AD. This view believed that the “seven heads” in verse 1 were seven Roman Emperors, which we have already discussed on page 64, and the “...fatal wound, but the fatal wound that had been healed.” Was talking about a rumor that was going around during this time period. It was that the Emperor Nero had been killed and then came back to life as the Emperor Domitian. They also refer to Rev. 17:10 as further proof of this view. The last part of this view is what I believe is the hardest to believe, which is; John was part of this ‘rumor’ but he really did not

believe it. He was only trying to help his readers understand what was being said.
I have just re-read what I wrote and not sure this was even worth writing!

The fourth group believes that this portion of the verse, **“One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound that had been healed.”** Is referring to one of the **“...ten horns...”** in verse 1 or the words used in Daniel chapter 7, focus on verse 7: 8 & 24. They believe that one of the kings of these ten kingdoms will appear to die or actually die and then will be brought back to life and become the ‘antichrist’. Again their point to the fact that the words say that, **“One of the heads of the beast seemed to have a fatal wound...”** and the word **“head”** actually means ‘king’ or ‘king of a kingdom’ which is exactly what the verses in Daniel state and also verse 1 of this chapter reference. The problem I have with this view is that Revelation Chapter 13 is describing an event that will occur at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period. However, the antichrist will have already been in power of the revived Roman Empire for three and one half years. We know this because Dan. 9:27, **“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’ but in the middle of that ‘seven’ he will put an end to the sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abomination on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”** Then if you tie these verses in with 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2, focus on verse 4, **“He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, and even sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”** From these verses we know that the antichrist will be identified as the antichrist on day one of the seven year tribulation period and will be the one who sets in Gods temple at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period. Therefore, I do not think this view is creditable. Just my opinion!

As we have stated in previous discussions, (see note under 1,a above) the Bible does not state anywhere that Satan has the power to create life and that only the Triune God Head has that power, Gen. 1:26, **“...Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...”** We also know that God the Father and Jesus Christ has the power to raise men from the dead; Acts 2:32 & 13:30 we are told God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and in Mark 5:41-42 Jesus Christ raised a ‘little girl’ from the dead and again in John 11:43 Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the dead. Therefore, we

know for sure that God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ have the power to 'raise people from the dead'. I would also assume that the 'Holy Spirit' has this same power give he was part of creation. However, as stated, there is nowhere in scripture that states Satan has this kind of power, but based on scripture we do know that 'demons' have the power to possess humans if the human is willing. Examples of 'demonic possession' can be found in; Matt. 9:32-33, 12:22, 17:18 and Mark 5:1-20, 7:26-30 and Luke 4:33-36 and Acts 16:16-18 and in the Old Testament 1 Sam. 16:16-18, 18:10-11, 19:9-10. Looks like man can easily be possessed base on the length of this list. Therefore, it is my opinion that at this point in time Satan will indwell the body of the antichrist. I am not sure that this indwelling will be a 24/7 process but there appears to be a big change in the aggressiveness and in the actions of the antichrist after this event. I offer two additional facts about my opinion:

ONE→ we know for sure that Satan has entered the body of men in the past, Luke 22:3-3, **"Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how to betray Jesus."**

TWO→ we also know that Satan's biggest desire is to be worshiped as god by men; therefore, I do not believe that he will miss the chance to be the one who sits on the throne of God in the temple in Jerusalem when it is rebuilt. **The man involved will be the 'antichrist' but the spirit will be that of Satan,** see 2 Thess. 2:4, **"He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, and even sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."** Again I cannot believe that Satan would pass up this chance! However, remember this is just my opinion!

The second part of this verse focuses on the; Reaction of the world to, 'What appeared to be a miracle', **"The whole world was astonished and followed the beast."** To me the meaning of this verse is very clear; the people of the world thought or believed that someone, a 'world leader' had been killed and was brought back to life. And because of this they thought he was a god. This is confirmed by their action in the following verses.

VERSE 4:

“Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast; **they also worshiped the beast** and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?’”

Again this verse is a continuation of verse 3 and provides more details about how the world reacted in general to verse 3. Remember at this point in time the ‘world’ believes that the **“dragon”** or Satan raised the **“beast”**, which is the antichrist, from the dead. (Just like the Bible states God the Father did with Jesus Christ, Acts 2:32, **“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of that fact.”** Also, see Acts 2:24 & 3:15; 1Cor. 6:14; Eph. 1:20; Romans 8:11) This is the day that Satan has been waiting for since the creation of the world; men will worship him/Satan. Keep in mind that this event is happening at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period. I base my opinion on Dan. 9:27, **“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’, but in the middle of that ‘seven’ he will put an end to the sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abomination on the wing of the temple until the end is decreed is poured out on him.”** And the words in 2 Thess. 2:4, **“He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, and even sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”** Also, when we get to verse 5 it will confirm the time of this event.

This will truly be a very hard or harsh time for people who are saved. This **‘harshness’** will be both **‘physical & mental’**. Keep in mind that Revelations chapter 13 verses 3b-10 will provide us the reader with a good description of the **“beast”** to include his authority and power during the last 42 months of the seven year tribulation period.

Side Comments:

If you really want to try to gain a better understanding of the conditions of saved people during this period → Set down and read the Book of Revelation from Chapter 1 to Chapter 22 and write down each time you read something that speaks positively about the 'physical conditions' (with physical conditions meaning conditions on this earth) of saved people during this period. I not been able to find any and I do not think you will either. The only thing that will get saved people through this period is through the help of the Holy Spirit manifesting itself through the **ENDLESS LOVE of GOD THE FATHE AND JESUS CHRIST THE SON.** This will be all that is left for saved people living during this period but it will be more than enough because they know where their home is: see revelation Chapters 21 & 22.

This verse also provides the reader with four specific points about how exactly the world reacted, which are as follows:

1) "Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast..."

Again this portion of the sentence is describing how "men" will react when "the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed." Men will believe that the dragon/Satan was the one who performed this miracle and will worship the dragon/Satan and believe him to be a god or the god! Point → this part always puzzles me given Jesus Christ performed this same miracle and many other miracles while he was on this earth and most people did not believe him to be God's Son. Also, Jesus Christ miracles were all confirmed my many people and this 'so called miracle' is one that only "seemed" to have happen. Just an opinion!

- Also, I think this verse again confirms what was stated in verse 2b, that the world knows that the "dragon" is Satan and they are intentionally worshipping him.
- There is also other questions which have been discussed by many scholars down through the years, and that is; ONE → If you have worshipped the "dragon" or "beast" during this time period or TWO → if you have his mark, **'can you then repent and be saved', or is this a one way ticket!**

- I think scripture is very plain about the answer to this question. I also think it breaks this process down into two sub-components: **One**→ **the Spiritual Action of WORSHIPPING the BEAST** and **Two**→ **the Physical Action of taking the 'MARK of the BEAST'**. The way I read and understand the scripture is that→ **'BOTH' of these 'Actions' have to be done 'willingly' or 'or based on the persons FREEWILL'**. Now let's look at the scripture and you can make your own decision, Rev. 14: 9-10, "A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: **SPIRITUAL ACTION**→**'If anyone worships the beast and his image** **PHYSICAL ACTION**→ **and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand**, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb." Again, to me the verse is clear; **it requires both of the 'Actions**→ **Spiritual & Physical** **to be done 'Knowingly & Freely' by the individual involved.** Therefore, in my opinion→ **neither of these 'Actions' can be forced on a person and have any effect on where they spend eternity.**
- To me worship cannot be forced on anyone because it is what I would call a **'spiritual & mental' commitment**. Therefore, no one can force someone to **'worship'** anything or one, if they are unwilling. Based on my understanding of the Holy Bible, I think the real question is: **If someone says they are only bowing the knee and or pretending to worship the beast to stay alive or keep their family save**→**is that the same as 'actually worshipping the beast and therefore would fulfill the SPIRITUAL ACTION of this verse.** Unfortunately I think the answer is **YES**. As I have said before this will be a very **'harsh & cruel period'** for people who are saved. Again, based on my understanding of the Bible they will be expected to stand up for their belief in God and let the world (antichrist/Satan) know exactly where they stand. As a matter of fact I would think that they will be held to the same requirements as saved people are before the rapture→ They will be required to evangelize to non-

believers. The same ones that will be trying to kill them on a daily basis.

- The second condition is a bit easier to explain→ If you take or accept the **'mark of the beast' WILLINGLY** you will be thrown into the lake of fire, **with the key word being WILLINGLY**. If a group of people hold you down and put the **'mark of the beast'** on you it means nothing, in terms of where you will spend eternity. I have said this before but I will repeat my opinion: **At this point in the seven year tribulation period it is my opinion that all the people on planet earth at this point in time will either have the 'Mark of the Beast' or 'Be Sealed by God'**. Also, if you have been 'Sealed by God' I would doubt if the 'mark of the beast' would even stick or take on your skin. Remember this sealing or marking is only and outward sign of who the heart & soul of the person serves. We can talk more about this in class but I base my opinion on many verses within scripture but I like this one best, John 10: 25-30, "Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracle's I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; **no one can snatch them out of my hand**. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand**. I and the Father are one'." Again, there is no **'Physical Mark'** that will over-ride the **'SEAL OF GOD'**→ HIS/GODS mark is eternal. We can discuss this issue more in class.
- The last point I would like to make is specifically about the first part of this verse, "**Men worshiped the dragon...**" To me this part of verse 4 implies that→ the men of the earth knowingly worshiped the 'dragon' better known as Satan. I know that most scholars tell us that this was because the 'dragon' just performed a great miracle when he raised the antichrist from the dead. Based on these four words I have two questions that I would like for you to think about:

- **First question**→ When this event happened was the ‘dragon/Satan’ visible to men; could he be seen?
 - **Second question**→ Why would or did the vast majority of the people on the earth at this point in time worship the most evil thing that has ever existed?
 - We can discuss these questions more in class.
- 2) **“...and, they also worshiped the beast...”** This appears to be the second or next reaction by the people of the earth at this point in time. It is my opinion that the people of the earth will worship the “beast” because of the following:
- Based on verse three the people of the earth had just seen what appeared to be a great miracle performed. I am sure that this event will be televised on all TV channels and inter-net, so that everyone on planet earth will see this real time. The antichrist had just been raised from the dead; therefore he must be someone special and even divine.
 - Then there is the ‘fact’ that the antichrist will actually have ‘real or great power’ and I am sure men will see the evidence of his actions on TV & the inter-net; 24/7 “... **the dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.**” Therefore, I think people will know for sure that the “beast” is ruled or controlled by the “dragon”, meaning Satan and there will be **‘great fear’** in the hearts of all unsaved people. Again to me this confirms that the people of the earth will ‘know for sure’ that they are worshiping Satan. It is my opinion that only people who are saved and have the power of the Holy Spirit in their hearts will be able to resist this **FEAR.**
- 3) The next part of this sentence makes a statement, **“...and asked, ‘Who is like the beast?’”** and is very similar to the concept talked about in scripture as it relates to the fact that there is only one God, which is the God of all creation, Psalms 113:5-6, **“Who is like the Lord our God, the one who sits enthroned on high, who stops down to look on the heavens and the earth?”** ; Jer. 10:6, **“No one is like you, O Lord; you are great, and your**

name is mighty in power..." Isa. 45:5-6, "I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have no acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other." I think it is worth noting that this verse starts with the words, "I am the Lord, and there is no other." And ends with the same words. When scripture is repeated you need to pay close attention. Deut. 4:35, "You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other." Also see 1 Kings 8:60 and Psalms 86:10. I am adding this last verse just because what it says makes me feel good, 1 Tim. 2:5, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." Therefore, based on the words in this part of verse 4 I believe Satan is again trying to copy what men have said about the **REAL GOD of Creation**, Psalms 113:5a, "Who is like the Lord our God..."

- 4) To me the last part of this verse continues on with the same thought process, "Who can make war against him?" which from the worlds stand point, at this point in time, makes a lot of sense. They believe that they are dealing with 'A god'. He can raise people from the dead and we will see later on, do other great miracles. Remember at this point in the seven year tribulation period most of the people will not be saved and therefore will not have the power of the Holy Spirit in their hearts to help them discern what is 'truth & what is lie', so why would they not believe that he is God. These act conditions were prophesied in Matt. 24: 4, "Jesus answered, 'Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ', and will deceive many'." Also in the last part of this chapter we will find that he also controls their very lively hood.

Side-Comment→ I think this is a good example of how God being omnipresent and prophecy tie together. Think about it→ When God gave Matthew the words he/God wanted written in Matthew Chapter 24 he/God already knew or had seen what would happen thousands of years later during the seven year tribulation period. As a matter of fact he/God could be at both places at the same time. This is a concept that mortal men cannot comprehend and a primary reason why many people reject the idea that there is a God. Many

men want to believe that 'man is the king of the brain mountain' and if he cannot perform or at least understand the 'action being discussed' then it must not be possible. If this was true it would truly be a sad day, the only reason that I am able to get out of bed every day is that I know there is a God in heaven that one day will remove the evil from my mine/heart and make me 'Pure'. Again, just my opinion!

- 5) I have listed some of the words I wrote when I taught this study 35 years ago for your review and ask you to think about how relevant these words would be today in America:
- a) God and Christianity are completely set aside in the world and the antichrist/dragon takes his place as god of this earth.
 - b) The creator is NOT worshiped but the created → Satan.
 - c) The overriding majority of the people on the earth will worship Satan.
 - d) Only the ones whose name have been written in the Lambs Book of Life will be able to confront Satan in his apparent hour of triumph.
 - e) In the eyes of men Satan had taken the place of God!
 - f) Men will also worship the 'beast' as the son of Satan.
 - g) Men will be impressed by the 'superman image' of the 'beast'!
 - h) Men will be impressed by 'The Beast/Satan' ability to control the earth by his 'intrigue' at first and by his ability to wage war and win. Man in general is impressed by other men who are good at waging war and winning!
 - i) At this point in time God and Jesus Christ are not mentioned in public and are not considered to be relevant or as great as the 'beast' or 'Satan'.
 - j) In general God and Jesus Christ have been 'forsaken' by the people of the earth.

Again these are just some words I wrote 35 years ago.

Verses 5, 6 and 7 provide the reader with many of the attributes or characteristics of the 'antichrist' as a man. Verse 5 & 6 I think very clearly defines what the

antichrist relationship is with God the Father, Jesus Christ and all saved people. Verse 7 makes it very clear that during this period 'the beast' will be "given authority" to literally control the entire earth and all who live in it. Also, we will discuss in some detail who really granted the 'beast' this 'authority'.

I call these next three verses the 'he was given' section'!

VERSE 5:

"The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months." I believe that this verse speaks about two separate subjects and then provides the reader with four specific attributes or characteristics about the "beast" better known as the 'antichrist'. They are as follows:

SUBJECTS→

First Subject→ I believe this portion of the verse speaks to the '**contempt**' the antichrist/Satan will publicly demonstrate against God and all that bow the knee to Him.

Second Subject→ I believe the last portion of this verse speaks to the time God will allow the antichrist/Satan to have absolute rule or control of this earth.

Next we will discuss the four specific attributes or characteristics about the antichrist/beast, which are as follows:

- 1) "The beast was given..." meaning the "**beast**" had no real authority or power based on his own ability. He was given this power by the "**dragon**" as stated in verse 2b above. Remember in our discussion of verse 2b above we have already established that God has granted Satan control of this world for the last 42 months of the seven year tribulation period. Therefore, the chain of power would be as follows: God→ Satan→ the antichrist→ and eventually the false prophet.

2) "...a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies..." meaning; he, the antichrist, will like to talk. I view this as a man who has, what we would call, a 'big mouth'. He will give you his opinion on just about everything, he will promise anything to anybody. His speaking will command power and authority and people will believe his every word. Remember the words in verse 4 above, "**Who is like the beast?**" The antichrist will truly be the greatest 'politician' the world has ever seen. All of his predecessors will pale in comparison to this man. Also, it is my opinion that he, **the antichrist, words will be driven by his 'PRIDE' and his extreme hate for the God of Creation and all that are his.** This is spelled out for all to read in the next part of this verse.

a) The last part of verse 5a states that this man, the antichrist, **was allowed** →, "**...to utter proud words and blasphemies...**" which means he was speaking 'lies' about God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and all who are of God. The details about this will be provided in verse 6a below. Remember that Satan is the great 'counterfeiter' and during this period Satan is trying to recreate the 'birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ' accept this time it is with his man the 'antichrist'. Also keep in mind that Satan is the father of all 'liars', John 8:44, "**You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your fathers desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**" The bottom line is at this point in time the 'antichrist' will be speaking lies about God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and all who belong to God, and at the same time he will be lying to all of the people of the earth trying to take them to hell with him. He/ the antichrist will be the greatest (human) liar the world has ever seen. Again, I think this is all driven by the extreme 'Pride' he will possess and his intense hate for God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, the Holy Spirit and all who belong to God. It appears to me that there has never been or ever will be who will be more '**Sinfully Proudful**' than the antichrist. I also think his 'sinful pride' will be extremely contagious to all of the unsaved people of the earth. Go back

and look at how the people of the earth treated the 'bodies of Gods two witnesses' after they were killed, Rev. 12: 10, "Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts..."

Side Comment→ I do not think I said this when we were actually discussing this verse but I would like to share it with you now and get your comments on my comment? Many people say that God does not have a sense of humor, well check out this picture.

The Old Testament saints are in heaven→ the New Testament Saints/Church is in heaven→ the martyred saints of the tribulations are in heaven, and they are all with God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the angels of heaven and they are all being cared for as→ **'NO HUMAN HAS EVER BEEN CREED FOR ON THIS EARTH'**. I think you get the picture, but this is only part of the picture→ They→meaning all of heaven is looking down on earth watching the dragon, antichrist, false prophet and unsaved people→**puff out their chest with extreme 'PRIDE', PROUD WORDS, BLASPHEME GODS NAME, GLOATING AND SENDING PRESETS TO EACH OTHER**→ I am sure that from heavens view point it will appear these beings and people **ACTUALLY THINK THEY ARE GOING TO DEFEAT GOD**→ **IT ACTUALLY APPEARS THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE WINNING!** I do not think you will ever see a picture of such **'ARROGANCE'** again unless it is the picture being painted in Revelation 20:7-19, which describes what, happens when Satan is released after the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on planet earth. Satan again goes out to the nations and deceives them into believing they can defeat God. This is after many of these people heard firsthand accounts (from their parents) of how Jesus Christ defeated Satan and the armies of the world 1,000 years prior and lived through much if not all of the same 1,000 reign of Jesus Christ on planet earth. **You talk about the epigone of 'arrogant & stupid. This has to be to it!**

- 3) “...and to exercise his authority...” The simple meaning to this is that he will be “given” (remember God gave to Satan and Satan gave to the antichrist) the “authority” to control or rule the entire world. This is spelled out in verse 7b and in verse 12 & 16-17. At this point in time Satan’s, through the antichrist, control of the earth will be almost 100%.
- 4) “...for forty-two months.” This portion clearly defines for the reader the amount of time that Satan/antichrist will possess this type of power and control. This time period will also coincide with the last half of the seven year tribulation period. This time period is confirmed in several places within the scripture with the most commonly referenced being Daniel 7:25b & 9:27.

VERSE 6:

“He opens his mouth → to blaspheme God, → and to slander his name → and his dwelling place → and those who live in heaven.”

If you look closely this verse is almost a repeat of verse 5 with a couple of additions. I will quickly compare the similarities and differences, as follows:

- 1) “He opens his mouth...” remember the words in verse 5 → “The beast was given a mouth...”
- 2) “...to blaspheme God...” verse 5 → “...to utter proud words and blaspheme...”
- 3) “...and to slander his name...” verse 5 → “...to utter proud words and blasphemies...”
- 4) “...and his dwelling place → and those who live in heaven.” The last two portion of verse 6 deviates from verse 5, as follows: 1) verse 5 speaks about the time period Satan/antichrist will have power over the earth and 2) verse 6 speaks about Satan/antichrist extending his “...blaspheme and slander...” to include Gods, “...dwelling place and those who live in heaven.” It is my opinion that since ‘sin’ entered Satan he has hated everything that has anything to do with God. He hates all three components of the ‘trinity’,

all of heaven that did not fall with him, all of creation with a special hate for humanity. It would appear to me that this 'being/Satan' is also truly the father of 'HATE', which always leads to death and destruction for men both physical and spiritual. Romans 6:23a, "The wages of sin is death..." For heavenly 'beings' I think it would mean 'spiritual death'; eternal separation from God and for humans it would mean 'physical & spiritual death'. Again, eternal separation from the physical body & God.

Note: I do not know of any place in scripture that tells us when heavenly being are sent to hell they lose their heavenly form!

VERSE 7:

"He was given power → to make war against the saints → and to conquer them. → And he was given authority → over every → tribe, → people, → language → and nation."

To make this verse easier to understand I will break it into what I believe to be its basic sub-sets. First, I believe we need to look at this verse in terms of how it is structured, which it is has two separate sentences:

The First Sentence → Tells the reader that the "beast...was given power" and that this power would be used for two specific purposes:

ONE → "...to make war against the saints..."

TWO → The last part of this sentence tells the reader the outcome of this "war" → "...and to conquer them."

The Second Sentence → Tells the reader the "beast" was also "...given authority..." and then list four specific groups or categories over which this "authority" would extend. It also makes it clear that this "authority" would be → "over every" all of each of these four groups or categories. The four groups or categories are as follows:

ONE → "every tribe"

TWO→ “every people”

THREE→ “every people”

FOUR→ “and every nation”

If you stop and think about it these two sentences encompass all of the **‘Saved & Unsaved World’**. I will now discuss each of the components and add additional comments.

- 1) **“He was given power to make war...”** The “He” in this sentence is referring to the antichrist which comes to power for the most part, through peaceful means. We just saw in the verse 5 above he was → a great speaker → he spoke with authority → and commanded great respect. He was also a man → of intrigue → and deception. However, it is my opinion that he, the antichrist, will find himself in a situation where two specific things make this above statement possible:
 - a) **ONE**→ as we have stated above God has “given” him this “power” through Satan.
 - b) **TWO**→ Men during all periods of time have had the desire to be God and to hate God for who he is → their creator. And their ‘ears’ have always wanted to hear these types of words, 2 Tim. 4:3, **“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”**
 - c) The last part of # 1 above states that the antichrist will be, “given power”. And as we have discussed above this “power” that has been “given” to the antichrist will manifest itself in many forms but the ‘End-Results’ will be by force or → **“to make war”**. Remember the first half of the seven year tribulation period will encompass numerous wars resulting in ‘death, famine and plague’. We also know that the death toll will be at least 50% of the world’s population during this first half period. I believe that if you go back and read chapters 6, 8 & 9 you will see that death and destruction is spread out over the entire world. And the judgments from God will also affect the entire world equally.

However, I believe that the second half of the tribulation period will see death and destruction at this same pace, but will be heavily concentrated on two groups Jews and saved people. Again the wars will be all over the world but Satan's targets during the last half of the seven year tribulation period will be Jews and saved people. This time period will culminate with the greatest war/battle of them all, Armageddon. This war/battle will occur when Jesus Christ returns to reclaim earth for his God and Father, see Rev. 19:11-21. The last part of this sentence, (d) below, confirms this as fact. Next!

- d) **"...against the saints and conquer them."** This portion of the verse specifically spells out the word, "saints" meaning saved people. However, based on Revelations chapter 12 and Daniel 9:25-27 and Zechariah chapter's 13-14 that Satan's antichrist will also be on a mission to destroy God's people → The Jewish Nation of Israel. This time period is called the 'Great Tribulations' because it will truly be an awful time for the world in general but especially Jews and saved people. We also know from the Book of Revelations that many saints/saved people will be martyred during the tribulation period: Rev. 6:9-11, focus on 9, **"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained."** & Rev. 11:7, **"Now when they had finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack and kill them, and overpower and kill them."** Rev. 17:6, **I saw the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus."**

We also, know from Daniel Chapter 9 that the nation of Israel will be for most part destroyed during the last half of the seven year tribulation period; Dan. 9: 26b, **"The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary."**

- 2) The second sentence in this verse makes it very plain that the "authority" of Satan's antichrist will encompass the entire world, **"And was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."** This concept is further confirmed or defined in Rev. 13: 16-17 where the power and

authority given to the 'false prophet' by the beast is being explained, "He forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive the mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which was the name of the beast or the number of his name." Meaning all commerce will be under the control of the beast/Satan. It would appear to me that given the current basis of our society as it relates to buying and selling most people who do not take the mark of the beast will starve to death in a very short time. This will truly be a very difficult time for the saints as they will be forced to watch their friends and family starve to death or try to fight to gain food to survive. The Book of Daniel speaks about the six world empires and the type of control that they will exert:

WORLD EMPIRES → **Babylonian(Gold)** → **Medo-Persian(Silver)** → **Greek(Bronze)** → **Roman(Iron)** → **Revived Roman Empire; the antichrist('partly of iron and partly of clay')** → **A ROCK, Jesus Christ(Everlasting)**, Dan. 9: 24-45.

Last, it is my opinion that the Book of Daniel provides a lot of details about the World Empires but it also provides many specific details about how the nation of Israel will be affected and how they will impact the world in general.

Again just keep in mind when reading these verses that they were intended to provide the reader with a general overview of the conditions that will exist during this period. The actual gory details would probably be too harsh or hard to actually take in to our minds.

VERSE 8:

"All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world." To me this verse is a simple two step statement **'Results'** and **'The Cause of the Results'**.

RESULTS→ “All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast...” Again this is the Results that will happen to the people of the earth who “...worship the beast...” meaning they are not saved. I think the reason that this statement is so important is because of the words in rev. 20:14b-15, “The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

THE CAUSE OF THE RESULTS→ I think the last part of this sentence makes it very clear why this group of people deserved this ‘RESULTS’→ “...all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”→ **THEY HAVE REJECTED GOD.** Again, to me this portion of the verse clearly states why this group of people “...worshiped the beast.”

I think the real question is→

Why were their names not written in the Lamb’s book of Life?’ I think the answer is simple; ‘They took or received the ‘mark of the beast’. We just discussed this in verse 7, # 2 above, see Rev.13:16-17 for specific details. This will be a time when you cannot sit on the fence and say I am neutral. Today I believe that all of the people of the world fit into FOUR categories:

- 1) People who are saved and will spend all of eternity in heaven→
- 2) People who have rejected God’s final offer of salvation and will spend eternity in hell→
- 3) People who have had the Holy Spirit pull on their heart but have not quite made the decision to Repent and be saved and spend eternity in heaven; however, if this event does not happen before they die they will spend eternity in hell→
- 4) People who have had the Holy Spirit pull on their hearts but will in the end ‘Reject’ God’s offer of salvation and therefore spend eternity in hell.

However, during this period→ The Last Half of the Seven Year Tribulation Period, every human will be forced to ‘physically take the mark of the beast’ or ‘declare that they are a child of Jesus Christ and will be sealed by God’. Today men can

hide behind the fact the other people do not really know what is in your heart, however, I believe that during this period there will be a visible mark indicating if you are a child of Satan or a child of God. There will be no more hiding which side you are on. Jesus Christ makes this concept very plain in Matt. 10:32, “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.” Also, see Luke 9:26 and 12:8, I think these verses explain this concept very well. If we follow this same concept and ask what is required for your name to be “written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb” → The answer is simple, do not be a person who has the ‘mark of the beast’; I think Romans 10:9 describes this process very well, “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

There is a second group of scholars who believe that this verse also speaks to the issue of ‘predestination’. They refer to the following words to back up their point, NIV, “...all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.” I have also provided my Greek translator translation, “And will worship it—all those dwelling on the earth, of whom not was written the names in the scroll of Life of the Lamb having been slain from foundation of world.” They also use verses like Romans 8:29, “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brothers.”; also Ephes. 1:4-5, “For he chose us in him before creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...” to support their view that ‘certain humans’ were chosen by God to be saved before creation.

However, as you know from our previous discussions, I cannot accept this concept and do not believe any of these verses validate the issue of ‘predestination’ as described by the scholars is a valid biblical concept. There is no question in my mind that God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit knew before the creation of the world who was going to be saved → they are omnipotent. They

know what every molecule is doing and going to do for as long as they exist and they knew this before the creation of the world. Therefore, there is no question that they also knew who was going to be saved and who was not going to be saved before time began, John 3:16, **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** Also, see John 3:36 & 6:40 & 1: 12 & 1 John 1:9 & Romans 6:23 & 8: 38-39 & 10: 13 & Eph. 2:8-9; I quickly found somewhere between 75 -80 verses speaking to the issue that he-God sacrificed his Sons Holy Blood so that **‘ALL’** could be saved.

Also, I think the bible teaches that **men are ‘justified’ by their ‘faith’**, Romans 3: 22-26, **“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in his blood. He did this through his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies the man who has faith in Jesus.”** I think this verse also makes it very clear that our God is a God that can do whatever he wants but he is also a God of **‘Justice’** and in establishing how men get to heaven → the path is well defined, it is only through the Blood of Jesus Christ’, and it is by their choice, John 14:6, **“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”**; also see John 3:36 & 2 Cor. 5:21 & 1 John 5:11-12.

Again, we see that God is a → **‘God of Justice’**, Isa. 30: 18, **“For the Lord is a God of justice...”** & Psalms 9:7-8, **“The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the people with justice.”** & Psalms 33:5, **“The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.”** & Psalms 89:14, **“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.”** I like this one, Mal. 2:17, **“You have wearied the Lord with your words. How have we wearied him you ask? By saying, ‘All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them’ or ‘Where is the God of justice’.”** These last verses

speaking about the justice that Jesus Christ will bring/implement, at his 'Second Coming', Isa. 42:1-4 was written about 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I put my spirit on him and **he will bring justice to the nations**. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. **In faithfulness he will bring forth justice**; he will not alter or be discouraged till **he establishes justice on earth.**" Revelation 19:11 describes this actual event, "I saw heaven open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. **With justice he judged** and made war."

Last I also know many scholars point to the verse stating that God is the "potter" and that we are the "clay"; where God has the right to do whatever he wants and we have no right to complain. And this concept is true and there can be no question that God is the creator and we are the created. However, this does not change the fact that God has established 'guidelines or attributes' as to how he, God will 'deal' or act toward man. He will not let one man's sin go unpunished and then let him into heaven and then condemn the next man for his unrepentant sin. **The God I know is a God of justice and fairness; not because he is constrained by any rule or law but because he has decided that this is the way he is going to relate to man → his creation!** I have provided some verse for your review so that you can decide for yourself the real meaning of this concept, Isa. 64:8 & 29:16 & 4:25 & 45:9 & Jer.18:3-4 & 18:6 & Job: 10:9 & 33"6 & Romans 9:19-21.

My conclusion → Is that God is a God of 'justice'. He did not let the sins of man pre-Jesus Christ go unpunished because he knew the, '**blood of Jesus Christ**' was going to happen in the future and was sufficient enough to cover all sins; **past, present and future**. Therefore, based on the fact that God has established that he is a God of justice when it comes to his relationship with man; it is my opinion that he would not 'predestine' some to get a free pass to heaven and leave the rest of mankind to 'chance'. This would not be the characteristics of the God I know. This to me sounds more like Allah, the god of Islam. Again all of this is just

my opinion. You need to read the scripture for yourself and then make up your own mind.

VERSE 9:

NIV, “He who has an ear, let him hear.” I like the KJV better, “If any man have an ear, let him hear.” I have copied the words of J. Vernon McGee on this verse because I do not think it could be said or explained any better, “This is without doubt one of the most awe-inspiring statements in the word of God. ‘If any Man’ is a thrice-repeated invitation to the ear of anyone to hear the word of God at any time, in any age. ‘So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God’, Romans 10:17 ‘If any man hath an ear, let him hear.’ Here again is the wedding of free will and election. ‘If any man’—any man means ‘any man’. ‘If any man hath an ear’—does not everybody have ears? Yes, but there are some people who do not hear although they have ears. There are people who simple do not listen at all—they do not hear.” Sounds correct to me! I quoted J. Vernon McGee on this verse because most scholars do not even attempt to discuss the concept being described. And I think J. Vernon McGee hit the nail right on the head!

VERSE 10:

“If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.”

The overwhelming opinion by most scholars is that these words are: very positive if you are part of the church and are raptured to heaven before the seven year tribulation starts because you will not have to endure this event; or very negative if you are a saved person living during the seven year tribulation period.

I will try to write in my own words what I think this verse is saying based on these scholars opinion, **‘God has turned the earth over to Satan to rule as he/Satan sees fit during this seven year period. And God wants the saints, during this**

period, to know ahead of time that Satan is in control and he will be able to put them into “captivity” based on his own will and if you resist with the “sword” he will hunt you down and kill you. These conditions will also hold true for your entire family if they also do not have the ‘mark of the beast’. The only remedy God is offering is “patient endurance and faithfulness” on the part of the saints until you starve to death, die of plague, killed by Satan’s followers, martyred in some awful way, die of natural causes or Jesus Christ returns and you are one of the mortal saints that go into the millennium.’ They base their view of this verse on Jer. 15:2, “And if they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ tell them, ‘This is what the Lord says’: ‘Those destined for death, to death; those for the sword, to the sword; those for starvation, to starvation; those for captivity, to captivity.’” And Matt. 26:52, “Put your sword back in its place, Jesus said to him, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.”

Verse 10 is a pretty hard verse to swallow if you are a Christian living during this period or anyone for that matter. During the church period in which we are currently living in we have the Holy Spirit to restrain or curtail Satan’s physical efforts. And it is true that the Holy Spirit will also be on the earth during this period but he will only be functioning as a ‘being’ that speaks to your heart and encourages you to accept Jesus Christ as your savior→ he will not be on earth to somewhat physically protect the church as it will be in heaven. Since the beginning of the earth there has been a raging spiritual battle being fought for the souls of men and it is my opinion that this time period will be→ **the ultimate period during that battle.** The saints living during this period will be standing face to face against Satan and all of his demons. They will be physically unprotected by their God, just like Jesus Christ was during his death and three days in hell. However, just as Jesus Christ was, these saints will have the spiritual protection of God the Father during this period as again this is a battle of the ‘spirit’ and not one of the physical body. This will truly be a very harsh time for humanity in general and especially for saved people. Again, just my opinion! Read the scripture and decide for yourself!

SECOND HALF OF CHAPTER 13→THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH→THE FALSE PROPHET

As I stated when we began chapter 13 it is split into two parts with verses 1-10 speaking about the “beast coming out of the sea” or the ‘antichrist and the second half, verses 11-18 primarily speaking about the “another beast coming out of the earth” or the ‘false prophet’. We will now begin our study of the “another beast coming out of the earth” or the ‘false prophet’. Also, remember the “beast coming out of the sea” represents → the ‘governmental’ portion of Satan’s seven year rule on planet earth and the → “another beast coming out of the earth” represents the ‘religious’ portion of Satan’s seven year rule on planet earth.

VERSE 11:

“Then → I saw another beast coming out of the earth →. He had two horns like a lamb →, but he spoke like a dragon.”

Most scholars believe that verse 11 is introducing the antichrist partner in sin, ‘the false prophet’. Remember there are three major players opposing God and his people during this period:

One Angelic, Rev.12:3, “an enormous red dragon” or better known as Satan and →

Two Human Players;

First human Player, Rev. 13:1b “beast coming out of the sea” which has been defined as the ‘antichrist’ and

Second Human Player, “another beast coming out of the earth” or better known as the ‘false prophet’.

There are a variety of places where this trio is referenced; Rev. 16:13, “Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” Rev. 19:20 has to be read in conjunction with Rev. 20:10; first Rev. 19:20, “But the

beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.” Second, Rev. 20:10 “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been throne.”

In the past there have been many interpretations as to the identification and meaning of the “beast coming out of the earth’ ranging from ‘provincial Rome’ or the portion of the Roman government enforcing ‘emperor worship’ to the ‘Holy Roman Church’ or the enforcement portion of this organization. All of these views came into existence during the period in which these organizations were at their height of power. I think we can say with some degree of confidence that all of these views were in error given time has passed and we are still looking for the Rapture of the Church and the beginning of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation’ period.

I will now break this verse down into its basic elements to simplify our study, as follows:

- 1) “Then I saw another beast coming out of the earth.” I believe there are three keys points to this verse:
 - a) **The First**→ is that this verse starts with the word “**Then**” indicating that what we are about to see or read about is the next event or thing in Johns vision.
 - b) **The Second**→ is that this verse confirms that there are ‘two beasts’; “Then I saw another beast...” There can be no question that in Johns vision there were two beasts based on the word, “**another**’. Also Jesus Christ himself clarifies this in Matt. 24:24-25, “**For false Christ’s and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.**” Remember this scripture was Jesus Christ himself talking about events that would happen during the end times period.
 - c) **The Third**→ primarily has to do with defining the origin of this second beast; “**...another beast**→ coming out of the earth.” There are a variety

of views that many scholars have put forth as to the meaning of this portion of this verse, which are as follows:

First View→ They relate the word “**earth**” to something that is below heaven and therefore, believe that the second “**beast**” will be a man who is possessed by a demon that comes out of the Abyss. They reference examples like that in Rev. 9:11, “**They had a king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.**”

Second View→ They relate the word “**earth**” to many of the pagan religions that worship ‘mother earth’ or ‘nature’ or things or items related to the earth. This view has gained some strength in modern times given the amount of power and influence the ‘environmentalist groups’ have obtained over the last 50-100 years. Therefore this person would come from one of these type groups.

Third View→ This group believes that this “**beast**” will literally be from the “**earth**”. He will be resurrected by Satan for this very purpose. Within their view they also believe that the ‘antichrist’ was a resurrected person, possibly Judas Iscariot. They compare this to the ‘two witnesses’ sent by God from heaven, therefore, they believe that Satan could summons two individuals or being from the Abyss or hell! To believe this view you have to be willing to accept that Satan has the power to resurrect people from death?

Forth View→ This group believes that the word “**earth**” literally means the ground or dirt, which is where Adam came from. They also believe that the word “**earth**” is also symbolic for the original land granted to Israel, therefore he will be from Jewish decent. They believe that Israel will accept him as their messiah and therefore have to be Jewish.

As you can see there are many views or interpretations of this one sentence and you will have to decide for yourself it’s true meaning. However, what **I think we can say for sure is there is a ‘second beast’ and based on the words within the rest of this chapter he is subservient to the ‘first beast’ and he is the three member of Satan’s ‘trinity of evil’.** Remember this will be the greatest ‘deception

or lie' every told! And most the people on the earth will believe it → hook line and sinker!

- 2) "He had two horns like a lamb → but he spoke like a dragon." The remainder of this verse supplies the reader with specific details about the 'character or attributes' of this "second beast...out of the earth". I will list some of the more commonly discussed views on this sentence below.
- a) Most scholars believe that because John used the word "He" John was indicating the "second beast" will be a 'man'.
 - b) John also provides the reader with some descriptive words → "...had two horns..." with the word "horns" indicating "He" would have some type of 'authority'. However, given this "beast" only has "two horns" he will be subservient or the second in command to the "first beast" who has "...ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns..."
 - c) Next I think John is trying to provide the reader with words describing the outward character or demeanor of this 'second beast' → "...like a lamb..." However, keep in mind John used the word "like" indicating → THIS IS NO LAMB. Remember this "second beast" will be trying to imitate Jesus Christ. He will be very humble and gentle at first. John says that this "second beast" will be "like a lamb" not that he is a "lamb" only that he is "like a lamb". Therefore, we can say for sure that John is using symbolism in this sentence to paint a clear picture for the readers all down through time. However, the true nature of both of these "beast" will be revealed during the second half of the seven year tribulation period. Remember the "first beast" which we know as the 'antichrist' will also gain power in the first half of the seven year tribulation period through the use of intrigue and deception and lies. Remember the father of both of these men will be Satan and he is the "father of all liars".
 - d) Last John closes the verse with just six words → "...but he spoke like a dragon." I think John wrote the last portion of this sentence to make sure the readers of all ages know the 'true nature' of this "second beast" → "...he spoke like a dragon." Meaning he may have started out

'humble' but he changes his demeanor or attitude and now speaks powerfully; with great authority and I would think boastfully against God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Remember the antichrist did this very same thing Rev. 13:1b, **"...on each head a blasphemous name."** and Rev. 13:5a, **"The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies..."** I think we can also draw a conclusion that because John used the word, **"like a dragon"** this **"second beast"** is controlled by his father Satan. Also, I think John uses the word **"like"** to make use the readers of all age know **that this **"second beast"** is only **"like"** → **"a dragon"** and not really 'the dragon'.** We know from scripture that Satan is called the **"red dragon"** or **"great dragon"** see Revelations chapter 12.

VERSE 12:

"He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had ben healed."

This verse continues on the same thought process to provide the reader with additional information about the characteristics and abilities of the **"second beast"**; better known as the 'false prophet'. Also, it concludes by providing the reader with additional information about the 'antichrist' that was not previously provide in the first part of chapter 13. I will break this verse down into its sub-components to make it easier to understand, as follows:

- 1) **"He exercised all the authority of the first beast → on his behalf..."** I do not think there can be any doubt about where the **"second beast"** is getting his 'authority' and how he intends to use it. He is getting his 'authority' from the **"first beast"**. Remember the chain of authority is as follows: **God → Satan → Antichrist → False Prophet**. However, this authority has only been granted by God the Father for seven years at which time God the Father sends his Son Jesus Christ to re-claim his creation. **(Note: I think the 'Satanic Trio' → Satan, antichrist & false prophet will have some power for the entire seven year tribulation period but will only have complete**

power for three & one half years) Also, remember we talked about this in an earlier chapter God the Father only granted man control or ownership of the earth for a specific amount of time. This grant will end at the beginning of the seven year tribulation period at which time Satan and his 'team' will take over control of the earth. Again, ending with God the Father sending his Son Jesus Christ to reclaim his creation for 1,000 years at which time God the Father will destroy the old heaven and earth/all of creation and create a **new purified heaven and earth**, Revelations chapters 21 & 22. Keep in mind when Satan and his 'team' antichrist and false prophet take over the earth for the seven year period known as the 'Tribulation Period' this process will mean total control of the earth, man and everything that happens on planet earth. It is my opinion that this will be carried out in a three-step process:

- a) During this seven year period Satan will unleash all of his fallen angels and demons on the hearts and souls of men. As of today Satan has had 6,000 years to learn every weakness that exist within the hearts and souls of men. Again this will be a full scale assault on the hearts and souls of men on an earth where 'The Church of Jesus Christ' and its 'protector' have been removed.
- b) Also during this seven year period the 'antichrist' will be focusing on taking over the 'governmental' structure of planet earth. The 'antichrist' is the **"beast"** defined as having **"ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name."** He will be a great military strategist; his ability in this area will be second to none. He will also be ruthless and use any means necessary to obtain what he wants. Go back and re-read the first 10 verses of chapter 13. He, the 'antichrist' will be the 'global' leader of planet earth during the last half 42 months of the seven year tribulation period.
- c) Last, during this seven year period there will also be a 'religious' or 'spiritual' leader. He has been defined by scripture as the **"false prophet"**, which we are currently discussing. During this period and especially during the last three and one half years he will control even the ability of men to sustain life itself. This is made clear in verses 16-17

of this chapter. His primary mission will be to implement the 'will' of the 'antichrist'/Satan as the religious leader of the earth known as the 'global church'. The remainder of this chapter will provide the reader with specific details on how this will happen.

The last portion of this sentence makes it clear that the 'false prophet' will function or act as an implementer for the 'antichrist' "on his behalf". Again, all that he does is for the benefit or 'glory' of the "first beast" and Satan his father. This is made clear in the last half of this verse.

- 2) "...and made → the earth → and its inhabitants worship the first beast → whose fatal wound → had been healed." To me the meaning of these words are very clear:
 - a) "...and made..." the 'false prophet' possess the authority to 'make' people do as he wishes.
 - b) "...the earth..." I think these two words were put in to let the reader know that the 'false prophet' will have a certain amount of power to create 'miracles' or supernatural events on earth during this period.
 - c) "and its inhabitants..." indicating that his level of authority and control includes 'all of its inhabitants' of the earth.
 - d) "...worship the first beast..." However, his primary mission will be on the global church and making all people 'worship' the "first beast" or 'antichrist' and his father Satan.
 - e) "...whose fatal wound had been healed?" In the last two parts of this verse the subject is changed and now begins referencing an event that was mentioned in verse 3 about the "first beast" or the 'antichrist'. Also, this same event is again mentioned in verse 14 of this chapter, "...the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived." Again this one event is mentioned three times within this one chapter therefore it must be very important as it relates to the end-times events. I am not sure why God/ Jesus Christ elected to speak about this event in both sections of this chapter. However, I am sure that given the fact that it was, means it should be & is of importance to us the reader. Also read Rev. 17:8 for more information of this event.

Note: As I have said before I believe that when the antichrist is 'healed' I believe that it is because Satan incarnates the body of the antichrist. Just my opinion.

VERSE 13:

"And he performed great and miraculous signs → even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth → in full view of men." Almost every scholar that I have ever read believe that this is nothing more than Satan trying to imitate miracles previously performed by God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ, one of his prophets or chosen, like the Two Witnesses in chapter 11. I will break this verse down into what I believe are its three key elements, which are as follows:

- 1) "And he performed great and miraculous signs..." Again this is nothing but Satan's man, the false prophet trying to imitate the miracles done by God the Father, Jesus Christ, the prophets of God or his two witnesses in the past. Also it should come as no big surprise to saved people given Jesus Christ himself, while he was still on planet earth, predicted or prophesied this very event, Matt. 24:24-25, "For false Christ and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See I have told you ahead of time." Again this is nothing more than Satan trying to validate for the people of this earth that he is the 'god' of this earth and he is using already known miracles performed by the real God to make his point. Last, remember in verse 12 above we said; 'the false prophet' will possess 'authority' over the "earth" so that he will be able to "...perform great and miraculous signs..." which will cause the "inhabitants" of the earth to "worship the beast...".
- 2) "...even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth..." God and his chosen have performed many miracles before men over the last 6,000 years. Examples of this would be 1 Kings 18:38, "Then the fire of the Lord fell and burnt up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench." Fire was also used by Elijah in 1 Kings 1:10, 12, 14; by Moses and Aron in Lev. 9:24 & in Num. 11:1; by David in 1 Chron. 21:26 just to name a few. Fire is also used in several of the

judgments during the seven year tribulation period by God and his Son Jesus Christ. However, I really do not know why Satan chose this miracle over all the possible miracles that he could have chosen to impress the people of this earth. The only thing I can think of is 'fire' coming down from heaven would be a very impressive display and the visual effects would be impressive for the media to televise world-wide. It would be 'like' a world-wide 4 of July fireworks except on a much larger scale. Just an opinion!

- 3) "...in full view of men." In my opinion God used this type of miracle to accomplish one of two things: **One**→ judge men for their sin; **Two**→ validate for men that what they are seeing or hearing is from the God or his creation. To the best of my knowledge, all of the miracles that Jesus Christ performed while he was on planet earth were designed to cause or make men believe that he was the Son of God and to 'glorify God'. Therefore, I think Satan is using this same process to validate that the antichrist and false prophet are his men and he is the god of this earth.

VERSE14:

NIV translation; "Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived." I have also provided my Greek Translator translation because I believe it is a better translation and is easier to follow and understand; "And it deceives those dwelling on the earth→ because of the signs which were given to it→ to do before the beast→ saying to those dwelling on the earth to make an image to the beast→ who has the wound of the sword→ and lived." To me verse 14 completes and explains the core concepts of verse 13.

- 1) "And it deceives those dwelling on the earth..." To me if you combine verses 12, 13 & 14 the process that the 'earth & the people of the earth' will go through I believe becomes a simple '**ACTION & RE-ACTION**' scenario. However, keep in mind while reading these three verses the 'false prophet'

only performed 'ONE ACTION' & out of this comes several 'RE-ACTIONS' by the earth and its inhabitants.

- 2) "...because of the signs which were given to it..." I think the best way to understand this portion of verse 14 is to go back and read verse 12a, NIV, "He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf..." Also, look at the last four words in our quote, "...were given to it..." Last remember what I call the chain of power in all these events: **God → Satan → antichrist → false prophet**. All of the power that the false prophet possessed and all of the 'signs' which he performed were **"because"** of the power and authority he had been granted by the antichrist ← Satan ← God. Bottom line is he had NO POWER of his own.
- 3) "...to do before the beast..." NIV → "...to do on behalf of the first beast..." Again all the power that the **"second beast"** or 'false prophet' has, comes from the **"first beast"** or 'antichrist' and all of his/false prophets actions are performed for the benefit of furthering the agenda of the 'antichrist'/Satan. We know that all of these events are counterfeit because all of this power actually is coming from God/trinity. They are designed to be a copy of what Jesus Christ did when he was on earth. The miracles that Jesus Christ did were to let men know he was sent from God the father and to GLORIFY the Father; the same will be true for the evil-trio. We can discuss this concept more in class.
- 4) "...saying to those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast..." NIV, "...he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up and image in honor of the beast..." Again, I believe this is a simple cause and effect issue: **POWER** → (provide by God; through Satan → antichrist → false prophet); **SIGNS** → (miracles and supernatural events like the ones Jesus Christ did when he was on this earth as a man); **HUMANITY DECEIVED** → . I believe there are several facts about these events we can learn, which are as follows:
 - a. It appears that based on this statement and other scripture within the Book of Revelations that 'many' of the 'inhabitants of the earth' will be deceived.

- b. "He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast..." to me this is a statement that attest to the fact that the 'false prophet' will possess a great deal power over the entire world during the last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period.
 - c. Another other point being made in this portion of the verse is that the 'first beast' is really the center of attention during this period and the 'false prophet' is really just his implementer.
 - d. Last, and maybe the most important → **When God sent his Son, Jesus Christ to the earth and He performed these same miracles he was rejected by Israel and men in general** → **(remember Jesus was the only man who ever lived a perfect life and the world rejected him) and now the most EVIL man who has ever lived will come on the scene and the world will overwhelmingly accept him as god of the earth.** The only way I can explain this type of 'reaction' by humanity is a **'TOTAL REBELLION OF THE HEART'**.
- 5) "...who has the wound of the sword and lived..." NIV, "...who was wounded by the sword yet lived..." Remember in verse 12 this same concept of appearing to come back from the dead is also stated, "...whose fatal wound had been healed?" Now, again we see the mention of the fact that the, "...fatal wound had been healed?" of the 'first beast' or antichrist. Remember this is the third time this fact has been mentioned in chapter 13. I believe that God has provided this information to the reader three times so that we will know and understand that this is really the big event of the seven year tribulation period and that this single event will catapult the 'antichrist' into the world spotlight and to supreme ruler of the world. Also, this is Satan's best counterfeit miracle → 'Raising the Antichrist from the Dead' just like God the Father did when he raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Remember Satan is the best counterfeiter and liar that has ever lived/existed, either in heaven or on earth → past → present → and future.

Conclusion:

If you read the words in verses 12-14 of Revelations and compare this with the words in, 2 Thess. 2:9, I think you will find a great many similarities, "The coming

of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.”

VERSE15:

“He was given power→ to give breath to the image of the first beast→ so that it could speak→ and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.”

Again I believe that verse 15 is part of the ‘effects’ portion of verse 12. “He”, meaning the ‘false prophet’ is only “exercising” the “power” that he was granted by the ‘first beast’ to implement his will. Remember the power structure in this entire chapter/book is as follows: God→ Satan→ antichrist→ false prophet. The only real power is that which God the Father, which is allowing or granting these three beings→ Satan/antichrist/false prophet. I will try to point out the key facts or elements of this verse, which are as follows:

- 1) “He was given power...” The ‘false prophet’ was given this power as he had no power of his own, see above ‘power structure’.
- 2) The next words within this verse actually state why the ‘false prophet’ was “...given power...” which is then stated in the words to follow, “...to give breath to the image of the first beast...” I would like to again state that I believe that the ‘false prophet’ was granted this power because he will be the primary implementer for the antichrist. I think there are two key points to this statement:
 - a) The “image” was given “breath” meaning it had the ability to speak or talk, but notice the verse did not say it was given ‘life’ only God the Father can do that.
 - b) The “image” being spoken of in this verse is nothing more than an idol made to look like the “first beast”.
- 3) Because of this “breath” that the “image” was given by the ‘false prophet’, it now has the ability→ “...so that it could speak...” Again because the

“image” was able to “breath” it was also able to “speak”. Again this does not mean life!

- a) The other interesting thing about this “image” or idol is that it is able to “speak”. The scripture is very clear that ‘idols’ cannot speak, Psalm 115:4-7, “But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats.” Also, see Psalm 135:15-17, which says the same thing. And Hab. 2:19, “Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it.” My point is idols in the past did not talk; so if during this tribulation period someone is actually able to make an idol speak the men of the world will think this is a great miracle or great sign.
- 4) This verse further states that this “image” will itself have supernatural powers → “...and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.” I think the point or key to this statement is that we understand what is going to be happening during this last three and one half years of the tribulation period, which is: God the Father will grant Satan the power to rule the earth during this seven year period, for the most part uninhibited. Satan will grant this power to the ‘antichrist’ who then passes this power on to the ‘false prophet’. Then to make sure all the people of the earth are really ‘worshipping the ‘antichrist’ an image of the antichrist will be built and men will be required to visibility/physically worship the ‘antichrist’. Again, Satan is trying to imitate what Jesus Christ has requires of men to be saved; Matt. 10:32, “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.” Also, Luke 12:8, “I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will acknowledge him before the angels of God.”

Before we leave this portion of this verse I would like to let you know there are two views on who it is that is the one → Who is actually the one doing the ‘killing’?

- 1) Primary view of most scholars believes that the “image” is the one who is actually performing the act of killing people who will not worship the beast-antichrist.
- 2) Second view of some scholars is that it is the ‘false prophet’ who is actually doing the killing.
- 3) Not sure it really makes any difference given the people are dead either way!
- 4) There are many scholars who believe that verses 14-15 which speak about an “image of the beast” being set up for all people to worship is referencing the events recorded in Dan. 9:27, **And one who causes desolation will place abominations on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”** Also see Dan. 11:31 & Dan. 12:11. Their point is that in the middle of the seven year tribulation period when the antichrist turns on Israel and sets himself up as a god, in Gods newly rebuilt temple, his “image” will also be set up in the new temple. Based on the wording in Daniel and specifically the words “...on a wing of the temple...” I would agree with their view. However, I do not think if we accept the view of #5 it in any way changes anything we have said in #'s 1,2,3,4 above. I see the view or concept presented in #5 as what I would call ‘The Practical Application’ of Revelation Chapter 13, verses 14-15.

I think this is just another good example of how men in general want other men to worship them. This same concept is in the Book of Daniel; Dan. 3:1-7, where Nebuchadnezzar set up an idol of gold and required everyone to worship it or be killed. It would appear that men in general and Satan and his minions have always wanted to be a god, not understanding that there is only one God, Isa. 45:5a, **“I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.”** Also, see; Isa. 44:6 and 1 Cor. 8:6.

CONCLUSION:

To me verses 14-15 are simply a **‘cause’ & ‘effect’** situation:

Cause → If you do not worship this “image” of the beast/antichrist,

Results→ Death

It would appear to me that at this point in time that most of the goodness of God will have been removed from the earth. I think the only goodness of God will reside in the people who are saved during this period but they will not be visible to the public because if they are; they will be killed almost instantly.

It will truly be a very sad day for humanity!

VERSE16-17:

“He also forced everyone, → small and great, → rich and poor, → free and slave, → to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, → so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, → which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.”

Again this is another ‘effect of the false prophet being given the power and authority over all of humanity’, which is made clear in the rest of this verse. I think there are three items of interest within this verse.

One → The power and authority that the false prophet will actually possess.

Two → All commerce will be under his personal control.

Three → Every human will have to have the ‘mark’ of the beast or they will not be allowed to “buy or sell”. I think based on other scripture; Rev. 13: 7, there is also an implied meaning which is ‘If you do not have the mark of the beast’ you will be killed.

I will provide additional details about each of these issues. Many scholars over the years have put forth many views and interpretations on these issues. However, we will limit ours to what the words actually say.

POWER & AUTHORITY:

“He also forced everyone, → small and great, → rich and poor, → free and slave...”

To me there can be no question that this individual, the false prophet, will possess great power and authority over the entire world and all of humanity. Remember the chain of power and authority: **God the Father → Satan → antichrist → false prophet.**

Verses Supporting the power & authority the false prophet possessed:

- 1) Rev.13:12, “He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf...”
- 2) Rev. 13:14, “Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast...”
- 3) Rev. 13:15, “He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast...”
- 4) Last, I think it is worth noticing how all of humanity is described; they are described in pairs. Two things come to mind on this issue of ‘pairs; 1) this is the same way the animals went into the Ark; 2) I think it shows the breath of coverage, all humanity are included. No one will escape this process and live. This will truly be a very hard time for believers on this earth. They will either starve to death or be hunted down and killed.

Again there can be no question that the ‘false prophet’ was ‘given all the power and authority to do what is being described in these verses. Also, remember this kind of power has already been granted to Satan before → it was for only one man and his family but I think it shows how much Satan hates Gods saints, **Job 1:12, “The Lord said to Satan, ‘Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger’.**” Also, in this example Satan was not allowed to kill Job, where as in this scripture all restrictions are off.

ALL COMMERCE:

“...to receive the mark on his right hand or his forehead, → so that no one could buy or sell → unless he had the mark...”

We will discuss the issue of the “mark” in the next section. However, I think the important point to be made in this section is the fact that the ‘false prophet’ will

control all of the worlds 'commerce'. This means that the economies of every country will be under his control. If he, the 'false prophet' so decided he could stop any individual or group of individuals from working, you could not pay bills because you would not be allowed to have a bill. No food, water, heat, cooling, medical services, and housing → you get the idea. The point is he, the 'false prophet' will control all of the items required to sustain life and the payment for you to have all of these benefits will be you have to willingly accept the 'mark of the beast', "...unless he had the mark..." which in human terms means 'selling your soul to Satan. **This is a one and done situation: if you willingly take the mark no matter the situation → you will go to 'hell' when you die.**

THE MARK OF THE BEAST:

"...the mark, → which is the name of the beast or the number of his name."

Back in chapter 7 we talked a little about the issue of God the Father "sealing" the 144,000 Jewish "servants" or what I believe to be evangelist. This "seal" was also placed on their "forehead". This issue of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ or the Lamb "sealing" saved people is also discussed in chapter 14 and the "seal" is again on their "forehead". Paul tells us in Gal.6:17 that he was also "marked" for Jesus Christ, Gal. 6:17, "Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." It is the opinion of many scholars that there will only be two kinds of people living during this seven year period: One → people wearing the "mark of the beast" or; Two → people wearing the "the mark (seal) of God the Father and Jesus Christ". Again, this is only an opinion because the Bible does not specifically state this as fact but based on the 'overall' impression that the average reader would obtain from reading all of these scripture I believe this opinion is correct.

The last part of this sentence states, "...or the number of his name." indicating that the "mark of the beast" which can either be on "the right hand" or "forehead" could either be his "name" or "the number of his name". There has been an enormous amount of views and opinions written about the meaning of

this one sentence, which we will discuss in the next verse. However for now what we do know is that the “mark of the beast” can either be in one of two places: One→ “on the right hand”; Two→ “on the forehead” and it can be either in the form of: One→ “his name” ; Two→ “his number”. We will discuss the potential meanings of his number in the next verse.

VERSE 18:

NIV→ “This calls for wisdom. → If anyone has insight, → let him calculate the number of the beast, → for it is man’s number. → His number is 666.”

KJV→ “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.”

Greek to English translator: “Here wisdom is. → The (one) having reason → let him count the number of the beast → (the) number for a man it is. → And the number of it (is) 666.”

Note: I provided three translations to help you gain a better overall understanding of the verse.

The meaning of this verse has been discussed since it was written and many views have been put forth as to the ‘real meaning’ of this one sentence. Since this verse was written many people have been ‘named as the antichrist’, just because their name somehow added up to the number 666. In many languages around the world ‘numbers’ are also associated with letters of the alphabet. This is not true for our English language but many do make this type of association. Over the years many ‘men and systems’ have been thought to be the ‘beast’ ranging from the Roman Emperor Nero to the Pope then all the way to currently → the American President Barak Obama and many in between. In one language the Latin Church or the Holy Roman Church adds up to the number 666; therefore, the Holy Roman Church as a system has been named as the ‘antichrist’. What I think we can conclude from this is that none of these have been correct and

should be discarded. I believe that the person known as the 'antichrist' will not be known by world until the church is 'Raptured' and the 'Holy Spirit' which is now functioning as the churches protector is removed from the earth, 2 Thess. 2: 7-8, "For the secret power of the lawlessness is always at work; but the one who holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. **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. We also know that his verse is talking about the 'beast/antichrist' because Rev. 19:11-21 records the second coming of Jesus Christ and the destruction of the 'beast/antichrist', which is also described in the last sentence of 2 Thess. 2: 7-8.

I will try to break this verse down into its basic subsets to make it easier to understand.

- 1) NIV→ "This calls for wisdom." To me the meaning of these words are straight forward and very clear; If you are living during this period and want to be able to 'Identify' the 'beast/antichrist' you must have **"wisdom"** and we know all 'wisdom' comes from God, Prov. 2:6, **"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."** However, to obtain **"wisdom"** you must first ask God; and I think this must be from the heart. To gain a better understanding about how this works read all of Proverbs chapter 2, also see: Job 28:28, 12:12-13; Prov.1:7, 3:13-18; James 1:5-6, 3:17; Col. 3:16, just to name a few. Also, **I believe the Holy Bible is very clear that if you do not ask God for "wisdom and understanding" he/God will blind your eyes to the truth, 2 Thess. 2:10b-12, "They perished because they refused to love the truth and be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."** Again, just my opinion but I think it is pretty solid.
- 2) KJV→ "Let him that hath understanding..." Greek to English→**"The (one) having reason..."** I used the KJV and Greek to English translation because I believe that this statement is a continuation of the thought process from the first part of this verse and these two translations make that point easier

to understand. If you remember in Prov. 2:6 (above) it states that first comes "wisdom" then "understanding" → "For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding." And we know that 'words' come from the "mouth". We also know that the Holy Bible is called 'The Word of God' and this concept is supported by John 1:1-2, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." We know that the "Word" being described in these two verses are talking about Jesus Christ because he came in to the world to bring the "word" of SALVATION to and sin fill world. Jesus Christ 'actions & words' that were recorded within the New Testament also 'replaced or clarified much of the Old Testament'. This concept is made even clearer in 2 Tim. 3:16, "All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Note: Also so keep in mind the 66 books contained within the Holy Bible were → written over a tome period of 1,500 years → by 40 different authors → in three different languages → and on three different continents → What 'man' could do this? Again if you ask and obtain "wisdom" from God then you will have "understanding".

NOTE: I think this is the key concept behind the issue of why unsaved people, (whose hearts are not receptive to the calling of the Holy Spirit) can read the Holy Scripture → **AND NOT UNDERSTAND ONE 'WORD'**.

- 3) NIV → "...let him calculate the number of the beast, → for it is man's number. → His number is 666." As I have already said many people and bible scholars have spent much of their lives trying to determine the 'real' meaning of these words and who they point too. And again as I have said many times before I think this is 'A FOOLS FOLLY' and people that are spending a lot of time on this issue; should be spending their time on 'Evangelizing' because I do not think it is possible for this to be known while the church is still on planet earth, see 2 Thess. 2:7-8. However, what I do think is relevant to the church and all men is that the "number" being referenced "666" → "...is a man's number. His number is 666." With the

key point being the number '6' is the numeric reference to "a man". The 'beast/antichrist' will be nothing more than a "man". He may be demonically possessed or even possessed by Satan himself but he is still nothing more than a human "man"; whether → 'just a man or a demonically/satanically possessed man' → **He will be nothing more than a → CREATED BEING THAT WILL ONE DAY FACE HIS CREATOR.** It is true he will be the most evil man that has ever lived, which is saying a lot, but in the end he is still just a "man" → **he is not God**, as he will try to make all the men of the earth believe!

Again, I do not think it is for us (the church or even the world in general while the church is on earth) to know the identity of the 'beast/antichrist'. However, I do think that God put these words in to the Holy Bible so that people living during the 'Tribulation Period', → **WHO 'SEEK GOD'S "wisdom and insight"**, will be able to determine who the 'beast/antichrist' really is and reject him as God and turn to the real God in heaven for 'salvation'. Again these words are mainly for the people living during the tribulation time period.

However, I do think there is an implied or secondary message within these words that does apply to the church/saved people, which should bring us (the church) 'joy and hope'. Currently we do know that **the number of God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is '7', which indicates 'completeness' or 'perfection' or even 'the fullness of God'**. We also know that 'man's' number is '6' which is one less than God's. This is because Man is not a 'complete or perfect' being, where God is a perfect being. We also know that from today forward both will live forever. Another-words they are both 'eternal beings'. God always has been and always will be where man is eternal from the day of his inception/creation. I think this will also hold true for angels created with 'freewill'. We also know that God has always been a 'complete and perfect being'. Man was also a 'complete and perfect being' when God first created him in the Garden of Eden, as we know that God would not create anything imperfect, impure or evil. However, God wanted man to love and obey him for who he was (the creator) and what he had done for

him and he/God wanted man to do this willingly and not by force. Therefore, he provided man with what we call 'freewill' meaning the ability to willingly accept God for what he did and who he was or reject him as our creator and Father in heaven. We know from the Bible man (Adam & Eve) rejected God offer of accepting him as creator and heavenly Father and fell into sin, which has been passed on to all men through the human blood line. When this event happened Adam and Eve and all future humans stopped being a '7' or the 'complete and perfect being' that God had created and became a sinful being or what the bible has defined as a '6' → The Number of Man.

However, I think the really good news for the Old Testaments saints, the church and all the people saved during the tribulations and millennial reign of Jesus Christ on planet earth is that because Jesus Christ came to earth lived a perfect life, died for our sins, was raised from the dead by God the Father and ascended in to heaven and now sets at the right hand of God the Father as our incisor we (saved people) can now become a '7' again. When saved people go to heaven to live with God they will once again be made 'complete and perfect' just as Adan and Eve started out in the Garden of Eden.

Last, men who are not saved and persist on rejecting God as creator and their Father in Heaven will always be a '6' and they will spend eternity separated from God because '6's' will not be allowed in Gods New Heaven and Earth, remember the old haven and old earth will be 'Erased From Existence' → See Revelations Chapters 21 & 22. **All 6's will be sent to 'The Lake of Fire' for eternity.**

This is my opinion of how this verse should be interpreted, but again it is just my opinion.

CHAPTER 14:

In chapter 13 we discussed many of the basic characteristics and attributes of the 'antichrist and the false prophet'. Keep in mind that Chapters 13 & 14 should be considered interlude chapters. However, Chapter 14 appears to describe events