

A Word of Orientation for Believers (vv. 9-19).

VERSE 9 **If anyone has an ear, let him hear** (Ἐἴ τις ἔχει οὖς ἀκουσάτω [*conditional particle; if + pro.indef.nom.m.s. tis anyone, someone + pres.act.ind.3s. echo have + noun acc.nt.s. ous ear + aor.act.imper.3s. akouo hear*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 9

1. The prophecy is interrupted at this point for a direct word to believers regarding their orientation during these difficult times.
2. The charge to hear does not refer to what precedes in verses 1-8 (as in Matt. 11:15; 13:9, 43; Mk. 4:9, 23; Lk. 8:8; 14:35) but rather to what follows it in verse 10.
3. It is prospective rather than retrospective.
4. This call differs from those in chapters 2-3 of Revelation (cf. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22), only in the fact that here the omission “to the churches” is apropos since the church is destined to be preserved away from the scene of misery.
5. The call in verse 9 to hear what follows in verse 10 is presented to a future body of believers.
6. In verse 10 they are told what their response should be in the face of the horrific treatment at the hands of the Beast.
7. The use of the familiar saying to pay attention in verse 9 is followed by a proverbial saying intended to provide support and orientation for believers living under the genocide of the Beast.

Call to Orient to Suffering (v.10)

VERSE 10 **If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes** (Ἐἴ τις εἰς αἰχμαλωσίαν, εἰς αἰχμαλωσίαν ὑπάγει [*conditional conj ei if + indef.pro.nom.m.s. tis any(one) + prep eis into, to + noun acc.f.s. aschmalosia captivity + prep eis into, to + noun acc.f.s. aschmalosia captivity + pres.act.ind.3s. huago lead; “he goes”*]); **if anyone kills with the sword, [it is necessary for] him to be killed with the sword** (Ἐἴ τις ἐν μαχαίρῃ ἀποκτανθῆναι αὐτὸν ἐν μαχαίρῃ ἀποκτανθῆναι [*conditional part ei if + indef.pro.nom.m.s. tis any(one) + prep en in; “with” + noun instr.f.s. machaira sword + aor.pass.infin. apokteino kill + pro.acc.m.s. autos the same; “him” + prep en in; “with” + noun instr.f.s. machaira sword + aor.pass.infin. apokteino kill*]).

Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints (Ἐνθάδε ἔστιν ἡ ὑπομονὴ καὶ ἡ πίστις τῶν ἁγίων [*adv hode here + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi is + art.w/noun nom.f.s. hupomone endurance, perseverance + conj kai + art.w/noun nom.f.s. pistis faith + art.w/adj.gen.m.p. hagnos saint*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 10

1. Several very different approaches have been taken to the interpretation of this verse.

2. Corrected translation: “if anyone is [destined] for captivity, into captivity he goes; if anyone is to be killed by the sword [it is necessary for] him to be killed by the sword.”
3. This proposed translation brings out the intended meaning of the original in the present context dealing with believers in the tribulation, not their persecutors.
4. Some take it as a warning of divine retribution to persecutors.
5. This has the indirect effect of providing encouragement to the saints living in the tribulation.
6. This also serves to warn the persecutors (cf. 13:5; 16:6; etc.).
7. This line of reasoning does not harmonize with the immediate context.
8. These words are addressed to believers, not to persecutors as this view proposes.
9. Verse 9 seems a most unlikely way to introduce a threat.
10. The main support for this view is the OT scripture John alludes to, namely Jer. 15:2 and 43:11, verses that affirm the downfall of sinners.
11. Here John uses license to assign Jeremiah’s words a different or opposite sense in which they were used in the OT.
12. A second interpretation of v. 10 see it as addressing saints encouraging readiness for destined sufferings and warning them not to retaliate against the Beast.
13. This view takes the first protasis-apodosis of v. 10 as supporting the duty of resignation and of the second protasis-apodosis as suggesting the law of human requital.
14. This view rests on a weak textual reading that takes the verb “must be killed” as a future “will kill” instead of the well supported reading “to be killed” (infinitive).
15. A third view has v. 10 as warning the saints of the impending persecution by the Beast and urging them to submit to it.
16. The verse contains no reference to their engaging in any form of resistance.
17. It stresses the inevitability of persecution and martyrdom for the faithful.
18. This interpretation fits well with the exhortation to hear in v.9.
19. It also fits with the call to endurance in v. 10.
20. It tells the adjusted to recognize that the actions of the false christ have been decreed by God as indicated by the fourfold use of “it was granted to him” (13:5,7,14,15) in this chapter.
21. This meaning coincides with the emphasis on divine providence in the Jeremiah passages to which John alludes (cf. Jer. 15:2; 43:11).
22. The emphasis in the chapter on the success of the Beast over the saints leaves little room for any other meaning except a directive to accept captivity and death as part of their allotment of sufferings.
23. The last line in v. 10 cites the qualities needed to finish Ph 2 in good order.
24. The adverb “here” focuses on the attitude of submission to the inevitable.
25. Here and in 14:12 this word draws attention on endurance, but in 13:18 and 17:9 the word introduces acquiring wisdom in order to excel in the angelic conflict.
26. The idea of inevitability implies the primacy of God’s will in the life of every believer promoting the ultimate good and blessing of the community of positive volition in terms of eternal reward.
27. “Endurance” is the overt outlook of John and his contemporaries under suffering in the angelic conflict (cf. Rev. 1:9).
28. The churches of Ephesus, Thyatira, and Philadelphia received commendation for their perseverance as well (Rev. 2:2, 3, 19; 3:10).
29. Endurance is a Christian virtue necessary to running and finishing the race being set before us under face to face teaching.

30. “Faith” here is faith in its active sense which looks beyond the present form of things to the final outcome when the Beast is destroyed and the righteous inherit the kingdom.
31. Faith is fueled by BD or wisdom which tells these saints what they need to know in order to overcome the enemy.
32. These believers must recognize that in spite of the Beast’s power and success, he has only a short time.
33. Knowledge of this and other factors leading to the vindication of the elect will enable believers to endure the most horrific sufferings in order to gain eternal approbation.

The False Prophet out of the Land (v. 11-18)

VERSE 11 **Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth** (Καὶ εἶδον ἄλλο θηρίον ἀναβαῖνον ἐκ τῆς γῆς [*conj kai + aor.act.ind.1s. eidon saw + adj.acc.nt.s. allos another (same kind) + noun acc.nt.s. therion beast + pres.act.part.acc.nt.s. anabaino ascend + prep ek from + art.w/noun abl.f.s. ge earth; land*]); **and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon** [καὶ εἶχεν κέρατα δύο ὅμοια ἀρνίῳ καὶ ἐλάλει ὡς δράκων [*conj kai + imperf.act.ind.3s. echo have + noun acc.nt.p. keras horn + adj.acc.nt.p. duo two + adj.acc.nt.p. hmoios resembling + noun dat.nt.s. arnion lamb; diminutive of arnon sheep + conj kai + imperf.act.ind.3s. laleo speak, communicate + conj hos as, like + noun nom.m.s. drakon dragon*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 13

1. The introductory “and I saw” marks a new scene of the vision beginning in 12:1, one that brings a new beast to John’s attention.
2. This beast ascends out of the earth rather than out of the sea and plays a secondary role to the beast arising from the sea.
3. In the minds of the ancients, none of the terrestrial beasts/animals could compare in magnitude with monsters from the deep, so coming out of the earth in itself suggests a degree of inferiority to the first beast.
4. He is in the same category as the first beast as seen in the adjective “another” or “another of the same kind.”
5. His supporting role as will be demonstrated in the verses that follow is that of a religious leader, hence his title of “false prophet” mentioned later in the book (cf. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
6. His likeness to a lamb indicates spiritual deception as over against the true Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, featured in this book.
7. This individual is not to be confused with the “many false prophets” of the last days spoken of by Jesus in His Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24:24), as one of the signs of the end.
8. A view that has its antecedents all the way back to Irenaeus, Hippolytus, and Victorinus, is that this beast is the henchman of the first beast or the Antichrist.
9. All of chapter 13 is a parody with its counterfeit trinity, death and resurrection.
10. So this beast has an outwardly pious image as suggested in the lamb imagery.
11. Like the two prophets of God in chapter 11, this man performs great signs, stands before the one he represents (11:4; 13:12), has special power over fire (11:5; 13:13), has connection

- with resurrection (11:11; 13:14-15), convinces men of their superior's supreme power (11:5-6; 13:17), and directs men to worship the one they promote (11:13; 13:15).
12. It is apparent that this second beast heads up an organized system that is religious in nature, albeit demonic and occultic.
 13. To fulfill his role he will most probably be a Jew.
 14. He will garner accreditation through the signs and wonders Satan enables him to perform (2Thess. 2:9).
 15. The Lamb in 5:7 has seven horns, but this beast has only two horns.
 16. This likeness to a lamb points to the humble and gentle nature of the true Lamb of God.
 17. His outward persona is that of a typical religious person.
 18. But his speech betrays this persona as noted in the words "and spoke as a dragon."
 19. While this man's mannerisms come off as humble, his words are satanic (cf. Matt. 7:15; wolf in sheep's clothing).
 20. "Dragon", though anarthrous, undoubtedly refers to the personality featured in chapter 12 (cf. 13:2).
 21. When he speaks his manner contrast to the fierce blasphemy of the first beast (13:6), but the content is the same.
 22. He will exhibit a much less arrogant tone, but the things he espouse will be every bit as much destructive to those who buy into his satanic doctrine.

His Role as Implementer (v.12)

VERSE 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence

(καὶ τὴν ἐξουσίαν τοῦ πρώτου θηρίου πᾶσαν ποιεῖ ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ [*conj kai + art.w/noun acc.f.s. ekousia authority + art.w/adj.gen.nt.s protos first + noun gen.nt.s. therion beast + adj.acc.f.s. pas all + pres.act.ind.3s. poieo do; "exercises" + prep enopion in the presence + pro.gen.nt.s. autos his*], **and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed** [καὶ ποιεῖ τὴν γῆν καὶ τοὺς ἐν αὐτῇ κατοικοῦντας ἵνα προσκυνήσουσιν τὸ θῆριον τὸ πρῶτον, οὗ ἔθεραπέυθη ἡ πληγὴ τοῦ θανάτου αὐτοῦ [*conj kai + pres.act.ind.3s. poieo do, make, cause + art.w/noun acc.f.s. ge earth + conj kai + art.w/pres.act.part.acc.m.p. katiokeo settle down, dwell + prep en in + pro.loc.f.s. autos it + conj hina that (goal) + fut.act.ind.3p. proskuneo worship + art.w/noun acc.nt.s. therion beast + art.w/adj.acc.nt.s. protos first + pro.gen.nt.s. hos who + aor.pass.ind.3s. therapeuo heal + art.w/noun nom.f.s. plege wound + art.w/noun gen.m.s. thanatos death + pro.gen.m.s. autos "his"]*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 12

1. Beast #2 is the implementer of the first beast's cult.
2. The words "he exercises all the authority of the first beast" anticipate the formulation and execution of the 666 regime with all its horrors.
3. The verb "exercises" (*poieo*) occurs 5x in verses 12, 13, and 16 in reference to the 2nd beast's actions.

4. Four of the five use of *poieo* are “dramatic” uses of the present tense to emphasize the habitual practice of this beast in doing all the things related to the cult of the false Christ.
5. This individual will exercise authority to enforce worship; produce great signs and wonders, including bringing fire down out of heaven, and cause people to take the mark of initiation.
6. He will be the head of the propaganda ministry as well as the massive genocide against believers residing in the domains of the Antichrist.
7. The first beast places full confidence in the second beast intrusting him with his authority.
8. This man is second in command in the kingdom of the Beast.
9. The first beast handles the military endeavors and the second beast the implementation of the cult.
10. The first beast has oversight of the second’s activities, as seen in the words “in his presence.”
11. It is comparable to the relationship between Moses and Aaron (cf. Ex. 4:16; 7:9), and between the Lord and Elijah (cf. 1Kgs. 17:1).
12. Their association is intimate.
13. They will be seen together on a regular basis on the dais.
14. This second beast will be a very accomplished individual in his own right.
15. The primal exercise of his authority is to bring men to worship the first beast as God.
16. The goal beginning with the ten nations that make up the first beast’s confederacy is to compel all humanity to worship the beast from the abyss.
17. The expression “the earth and those who dwell in it” is a Hebrew figure of speech denoting redundancy (pleonasm).
18. This phrase must be taken in the wider biblical context thus allowing for exceptions.
19. The goal is to bring all humanity into the Luciferian cult of the Antichrist.
20. In other words, to bring mankind to a place where the only faith is the faith that the man of sin embraces, out and out worship of Lucifer.
21. Those who refuse are rounded up, placed in camps and executed if they do not submit to the satanic initiation.
22. All other faiths will be declared illegitimate.
23. The exceptions include the 144,000, the Jews in exile, believers who survive the tribulation and people not brought into the Beast’s political sphere.
24. So while the language may be taken to include every last person, we know this is not the case.
25. For the masses at large the most visceral aspect of the false prophet’s propaganda is the miraculous recovery of the first beast.
26. This event orchestrated by God and milked for all it’s worth will be the foremost pillar in the propaganda blitz of these two agents of deception.
27. This will counterfeit the reason believers worship the Lamb, His resurrection from the dead (cf. Acts 17:30-31).
28. The healing of the beast will ape the resurrection of Jesus Christ visible scars and all.
29. The healed wound on the head of the beast (v. 3) equals the wound on the man who heads up the RRE (vv. 12,14).
30. Very early in his seven year career the first beast will suffer death at the hand of an assassin, to rise and live again.
31. God will heal him and leave a physical reminder to test humanity as to whether they will believe the lie or what the Bible says.

32. Two clear-cut choices confront the human race.
33. The truth as to the beast's true identity will be broadcast around the world do to the ministry of the two witnesses as well as angelic pronouncements.
34. Like the Antichrist this individual will be brought back from a past life.
35. As noted above he is a Jew and the most famous Jewish prophet is Nostradamus.
36. He still has followers online.
37. There is no other prophet whose name is widely known.

Deceptive Signs (v.13)

VERSE 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men (καὶ ποιεῖ σημεῖα μεγάλα, ἵνα καὶ πῦρ ποιῆ ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καταβαίνειν εἰς τὴν γῆν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀνθρώπων [*conj kai + pres.act.ind.3s. poieo do, perform + noun acc.nt.p. semeion sign + adj.acc.nt.p. megas great + conj hina so that + conj kai even + noun acc.nt.s. pur fire + pres.act.subj.3s. poieo make, do + prep ek from + art.w/noun abl.m.s. ouranos heaven + pres.act.infin. katabaino descend, come down + prep eis in + art.w/noun acc.f.s. ge earth + prep enopion in sight/presence + art.w/noun gen.m.p. anthropos man*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 13

1. Exploits of the second beast include “great signs.”
2. In his gospel, John generally employs the combination “I do signs” to designate the miracle of Christ, but Jesus warned that counterfeit signs would accompany the arrival of false Christs (Matt. 24:24-25), thus deceiving many in the last days.
3. These counterfeit signs parody the genuine signs as a part of Satan's plan to authenticate the false messiah through his pseudo-prophet (cf. 2Thess. 2:9 “the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, will all power and signs and false wonders”)
4. These pseudo miracles will be designed to win over men to the biggest con of all.
5. The efforts of the second beast will far outstrip what the Egyptian magicians did (e.g., Ex. 7:10-12) or what Simon Magus in Acts was able to do.
6. These will be genuine miracles not mere skill in trickery or pyrotechnics.
7. These signs will be carried out by unseen entities, that is, demons.
8. They will be of such a kind as to even deceive the elect (Matt. 24:24).
9. Again, believers will have a heads-up on all this just as we do from the study of Scripture.
10. This beast's sign-producing authority even extends to the calling fire down out of heaven.
11. John and his brother James had asked Jesus permission to wield this power (Lk. 9:54), but were refused.
12. The parallel to Elijah and the two witnesses is obvious.
13. This miracle will be designed to counter the calling down of fire from heaven to destroy would-be attackers sent to kill the two witnesses.

Predictable Result (v.14)

VERSE 14 **And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast** (καὶ πλανᾷ τοὺς κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς διὰ τὰ σημεῖα ἃ ἐδόθη αὐτῷ ποιῆσαι ἐνώπιον τοῦ θηρίου [*conj kai + pres.act.ind.3s. planao lead astray, deceive + art.w/pres.act.part.acc.m.p. katoikeo settle down, dwell + prep epi on + art.w/noun gen.f.s. ge earth + prep dia because + art.w/noun acc.nt.p. semeion sign + pro.nom.nt.p. ho which + aor.pass.ind.3s. didomi give, grant + pro.dat.nt.s. autos him + aor.act.infin. poieo do, perform + prep enopion in the presence of + art.w/noun gen.nt.s. therion beast*]), **telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life** [λέγων τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ποιῆσαι εἰκόνα τῷ θηρίῳ, ὃς ἔχει τὴν πληγὴν τῆς μαχαίρης καὶ ἔζησεν [*pres.act.part.nom.m.s. lego say; “telling” + art.w/pres.act.part.dat.m.p. katoikeo dwell + prep epi on + art.w/noun gen.f.s. ge earth + noun acc.f.s. eikon image, embodiment + art.w/noun dat.nt.s. therion beast + pro.nom.m.s. hos who + pres.act.ind.3s. echo have + art.w/noun acc.f.s. plege wound + art.w/noun gen.f.s. machaira sword; weapon + conj kai + aor.act.ind.3s. zao live*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 14

1. Mass deception will take place under the direction of the second beast (cf. Matt. 24:24).
2. The signs performed by beast will deceive negative volition around the world.
3. The signs will be used to advance the cult of the Antichrist to the point where men idol worship will come to pass.
4. The verb “he deceives” is frequent in John’s writings in connection with false worship (2:20; 12:9; 18:23; 19:20; 20:3, 8, 10; 1Jn. 2:26; 3:7).
5. The verb *planao* is a dramatic present portraying the same repetitive action as *poieo* in verse 12.
6. This man will keep on fooling negative volition into believing the big lie.
7. The victims of these pseudo signs and miracles are designated by the semi technical phrase “those who dwell upon the earth.”
8. This phrase occurs 9x in Revelation (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 [2x]; 13:14 [2x]; 17:2, 8).
9. The doing of these signs “before the beast” means two things: (a) the 2nd beast has the full approval of the 1st beast, and (b) the signs are performed with the 1st beast in attendance at the rallies.
10. A state sponsored directive comes into play brings the cult full circle.
11. “Telling” is the practical equivalent of “commanding” as the directive is not optional.
12. The substance of the command is to construct an image to the first beast.
13. It is not enough that posters of the beast are seen all around his domains but now the subjects are told “to make an image to the beast” for the purpose of establishing state sponsored idolatry.
14. In John’s day emperor worship was featured in temples around the empire.

15. For instance the cities of Asia, Pergamum in particular has such a temple.
16. Its design will be state sponsored utilizing the most advanced knowledge available.
17. The next verse describes the unprecedented nature of this image or idol.
18. The directive “telling” is not a call to fashion some run of the mill idol or icon.
19. The command is not carried out by the usual artisans.
20. This directive does not result in the usual plethora of statutes.
21. This, as the next verse makes clear, is one image that is in a class by itself.
22. All of this will come to pass soon after the resuscitation of the Beast.
23. This propaganda and the signs will deceive “those who dwell on the earth” to do something they would not do under normal circumstances.
24. That something, is fanatical worship of a living human being as God.
25. The resurrection language here is an inspired interpretation of verses 3 and 12.
26. The paranormal or signs seduces negative volition or sets them up to take the big step of out-and-out idolatry.
27. The propaganda and sloganeering will serve to cement humanity to full blown idolatry and Satanism.
28. More vital to the cult than the fact of who the Beast is, is the event that results in his resuscitation.
29. The miracle of the Beast’s return to life from a deadly wound will be incontrovertible proof to negative volition that this man is invincible as worthy of unquestioned devotion.
30. He will possess many other features that will draw the flesh to him.
31. His miraculous recovery will be the thing that unites his followers.

The Ultimate Idol (v.15)

VERSE 15 **And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast** (καὶ ἐδόθη αὐτῷ δοῦναι πνεῦμα τῇ εἰκόνι τοῦ θηρίου [*conj kai + aor.pass.ind.3s. didomi give + pro.dat.m.s. autos him + aor.act.infin. didomi give + noun acc.nt.s. pneuma spirit, breath, life + art.w/noun dat.f.s. eikon image, form + art.w/noun gen.nt.s. therion beast*]), **so that the image of the beast would even speak** [ἵνα καὶ λαλήσῃ ἡ εἰκὼν τοῦ θηρίου [*conj hina so that + conj kai even, also + aor.act.subj.3s. laleo speak, communicate + art.w/noun nom.f.s. eikon image*]] **and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed** [καὶ ποιήσῃ [ἵνα] ὅσοι ἐὰν μὴ προσκυνήσωσιν τῇ εἰκόνι τοῦ θηρίου ἀποκτανθῶσιν [*conj kai + conj hina so that + pro.nom.m.p. hosos as many as + part ean + neg. me; expresses a negative condition + aor.act.subj.3p. proskuneo worship + art.w/noun dat.f.s. eikon image + art.w/noun gen.nt.s. therion beast + aor.pass.subj.3p. apokteino kill*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 15

1. Functioning under the permissive will of God the second beast will direct the creation of a real flesh and blood humanoid, a biologically and genetically cloned entity “created” by man under the authority of the false prophet.
2. Guessing as what this might turn out to be there is a possibility that the image could be a combined robotic humanoid entity.

3. Advanced demon enhanced technology using advanced stem cells to grow a humanoid minus a living soul.
4. With the completion of the genome project the technology is out there.
5. About the human genome project go to www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/HumanGenome/project/about.shtml
6. The project goals is to “*identify* all the approximately 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA, *determine* the sequences of the 3 billion chemical base pairs that make up the DNA, *store* this information in databases, *improve* tools for data analysis, *transfer* related technologies to the private sector, and *address* the ethical, legal and social issues that may arise from the project”, according to the government web site.
7. The web page states “Another important feature of the project was the federal government’s long-standing dedication to the transfer of technology to the private sector. By licensing technologies to private companies and awarding grants for innovative research, the project catalyzed the multibillion-dollar U.S. biotechnology industry and fostered the development of new medical applications.”
8. This site defines a genome as follows: “A **genome** is all the DNA in an organism, including its genes. Genes carry information for making all the proteins required by all organisms. These proteins determine, among other things, how the organism looks, how well its body metabolizes food or fights infection, and sometimes even how it behaves.”
9. “DNA is made up of four similar chemicals (called bases and abbreviated A, T, C, and G) that are repeated millions or billions of times throughout a genome. The human genome, for example, has 3 billion pairs of bases.”
10. “The particular order of As, Ts, Cs, and Gs is extremely important. The order underlies all of life's diversity, even dictating whether an organism is human or another species such as yeast, rice, or fruit fly, all of which have their own genomes and are themselves the focus of genome projects. Because all organisms are related through similarities in DNA sequences, insights gained from nonhuman genomes often lead to new knowledge about human biology.”
11. The end product will be so spectacular and ‘miraculous’ that it will provide plausible evidence to negative volition that man is godlike since he created a representation of the god-man, Alexander.
12. This image will not be a “computer image” which is no miracle.
13. This image, commission by the false prophet (cf. v.14) and inspired by Satan, will be one of kind, totally unlike anything that precedes it.
14. This biological-occult technology is probably already under the control of occult technocrats within the New World Order.
15. The pseudo-life breathed into this man-made entity comes via the second beast and his connection to the satanic hierarchy.
16. It would appear that a mortal man could not do this apart from supernatural assistance wedded to advanced science.
17. One of the main things that will be accomplished will be the counterfeiting of the creation of human life by God in Gen. 2:7.
18. This replication of the first beast by the second beast will be touted as proof-positive that mankind has attained the final stage of evolutionary development!
19. This sign will support the new age Luciferian doctrine promoting the goal of moving beyond homo sapiens to homo noeticus, of which the Antichrist is the prototype.

20. When this image begins its career the humanoid will look exactly like the first beast.
21. In other words, the two will, by all outward appearances look like identical twins!
22. The humanoid type image will breathe and talk (does not say it will move around).
23. It will retain all known knowledge, including the personal data on human beings taken from the official computer records.
24. This “person” or humanoid will see to it that all who do not worship the first beast are arrested and executed.
25. How could a regular image or a computer-type image “cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed”?
26. The inauguration of this image apparently comes when it is set up in the temple in Jerusalem (Dan. 12:11; Matt. 24:15).
27. God permits this monster to come into existence as per “it was granted to him (2nd beast) to give breath to the image.”
28. The second beast will be the ‘mad scientist’ who with demonic aid, mimic the “breath of life” of Genesis.
29. This is not trickery or clairvoyance.
30. How exactly the image will “cause as many as would not worship the beast to be killed” is not told us.
31. In other words, what part does this humanoid have in the actual process of killing those who will not take the mark and worship the image?
32. Once this humanoid receives life, counterfeiting the creation of man in Gen. 2:7, he can speak, and somehow cause people to be killed.
33. In order to speak one needs to breathe.
34. Intelligent speech requires information in the brain-computer.
35. The human brain utilizes a small percentage of its capacity.
36. Idols are typically lifeless entities made of rock, wood or metal.
37. Those living in the tribulation will be amazed at the dynamics of this idol.
38. But when it is all said and done, it is just an artifice of man’s evil making.

Mark of the Beast (vv. 16-18)

VERSE 16 **And he causes all, the small and the great** (καὶ ποιεῖ πάντας, τοὺς μικροὺς καὶ τοὺς μεγάλους [*conj kai + pres.act.ind.3s. poieo make, do, cause + adj.acc.m.p. pas all + art.w/adj.acc.m.p. mikros small + conj kai + art.w/adj.acc.m.p. megas great*], **and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves** [*conj kai + art.w/adj.acc.m.p. plousios rich + conj kai + art.w/adj.acc.m.p. ptochos poor + conj kai + art.w/adj.acc.m.p. eleutheros free + conj kai + art.w/adj.acc.m.p. doulos slave*], **to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead** [ἵνα δώσιν αὐτοῖς χάραγμα ἐπὶ τῆς χειρὸς αὐτῶν τῆς δεξιᾶς ἢ ἐπὶ τὸ μέτωπον αὐτῶ [*conj hina so that + aor.act.subj.3p. didomi give + pro.dat.m.p. autos “their” + noun acc.nt.s. charagma mark + prep epi upon + art.w/noun gen.f.s. cheir hand + pro.gen.m.p. autos “their” + art.w/adj.gen.f.s. dexios right + conj e or + prep epi upon + art.w/noun acc.nt.s. metopon forehead*]; only in Revelation: 7:3; 9:4; 13:16; 14:1,9; 17:5; 20:4; 22:4; majority of

times in the genitive but several times in the accusative case; when a plural it is genitive; when singular, accusative + pro.gen.m.p. autos “their”),

ANALYSIS: VERSE 16

1. Verses 16 & 17 have as its subject the humanoid introduced in verse 15.
2. The idol possessing human-like intelligence is, according to verse 15, the entity that can both speak and cause people to be killed if they refuse to worship the creature.
3. This “creature” is a product of advanced human science overseen by the second beast who is connected with the paranormal (e.g. the demonic).
4. Back in verse 12 we learned that the second beast “exercises all the authority [or power] of the first beast.”
5. Verse 16 is a continuation of the things the super idol does.
6. The opening statement of verse 15 is the last direct reference to what the second beast does, and that is “to give breath to the image of the beast.”
7. Once this entity is functional this humanoid proceeds via its programming to carry out specific functions on behalf of the second beast who serves the first beast who in turn serves the dragon.
8. He breathes, speaks and causes the death of many.
9. Additionally, he institutes a system of mandatory mass identification via a mark on the right hand or forehead obligating men to worship the first beast.
10. This biological-mechanical clone will have incredible powers far surpassing the talents of the most gifted human.
11. This is because of the mechanical component and the resultant programming of this creature with the world’s data banks.
12. The humanoid adds the obligation of receiving a mark (presumably an invisible 666 numeric prefix) associated with the first beast.
13. Every human will be required by law on the pain of death to receive this mark.
14. The words “he causes” has as its subject the super humanoid.
15. The fact it breathes and speaks rules out a mere super computer like the one in Brussels dubbed “the beast.”
16. When this entity is brought “on-line” it will have downloaded all the information available at that time.
17. The image will be operational when it is set up in the Most Holy Place of the Temple at the mid-point of the tribulation.
18. This image may or may not be operative prior to this.
19. Certainly the machinery to catalogue and prosecute dissenters will be instituted during those early years.
20. The earliest victims of this tyranny are seen under the 5th seal which is opened late into the first half of the tribulation (cf. Rev. 6:9-11).
21. The words “both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave” indicates universal mandatory compliance.
22. It mandates that all civic ranks comply or else as noted in the words “the small and the great.”
23. These classes are ranked according to wealth, “the rich and the poor,” and according to civil rights, “the free and the slaves.”
24. Individuals with wealth and power will not be permitted to opt out of the system.

25. All will be treated as friends or foes of the beast accordingly.
26. This mark, like the image that authorizes it, represents the most advanced state of personal identification.
27. Personal privacy will be virtually non-existent.
28. Everything about a person will be written on each chip including one's whereabouts 24-7.
29. Those who refuse to receive the mark will be arrested and taken to death camps.
30. This is the first decree of the image is the mandatory marking of all who come into the orbit of the first beast's conquests.
31. The mark also denotes ownership as was branding of slaves throughout history.
32. Satan mimics the sealing of the 144,000 (cf. Rev. 7:3; 9:4; 14:1; cp. 22:4).
33. This mark/tattoo will probably not be visible to the naked eye, but will definitely be scanable.
34. If a person is missing a right hand it will be placed on the forehead.
35. Perhaps people have a choice.
36. In Rev. 20:4 "and" connects the two areas on the human body because that verse speaks to those who received the mark in neither place.
37. Wherever people conduct business there will be scanners able to determine such routine things as buying or selling as the next verse demonstrates.

A Second Directive (v.17)

VERSE 17 and *he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell* (καὶ ἵνα μή τις δύνηται ἀγοράσαι ἢ πωλῆσαι [*conj kai + conj hoti that + neg me + pro.nom.m.s. tis one + pres.dep.subj.3s. dunamai be able + aor.act.infin. agorazo buy + conj e or + aor.act.inf. poleo sell*]), **except the one who has the mark** [εἰ μὴ ὁ ἔχων τὸ χάραγμα [*part ei if + neg me "except" + art.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. echo have + art.w/noun acc.nt.s. charagma mark*], **either the name of the beast or the number of his name** [τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ θηρίου ἢ τὸν ἀριθμὸν τοῦ ὀνόματος αὐτοῦ [*art.w/noun acc.nt.s. onoma name + art.w/noun gen.nt.s. therion beast + conj e or + art.w/noun acc.m.s. arithmos number + art.w/noun gen.nt.s. onoma name + pro.gen.m.s. autos "his"*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 17

1. A second directive emanating from the humanoid (programmed) requires that no one can transact commerce apart from the implanted chip/mark.
2. This is the second explicit mention of economic hardship in Revelation.
3. The first is in connection with the third seal.
4. Under this seal people living in the nations ruled by the beast suffer scarcity as a result of the economic fallout when America goes down.
5. This, however, is an artificial tool imposed to punish those who refuse to comply with the requirement of the tyranny for universal compliance to the directive of verse 16.
6. Idolatry is tied to economic survival as additional pressure upon God's people.
7. Employment and the purchase of necessities is tied to having or not having the mark.

8. Until such time as individuals are arrested believers must suffer hardship with respect to the getting of basic living grace for themselves and their families.
9. Believers who have businesses will lose their means of livelihood and those who are employed will lose their jobs.
10. The mark contains either the name or the number of the first beast.
11. “The name” stands in apposition to “the mark” signifying that the mark consists of the name “or” the number of the Beast.
12. The equivalency here means that as a name it is written in letters, but as a number it is written in numbers adding up to the numbers in the name.
13. The name is the name the first beast will be called as the leader.
14. Whatever name he is referred to by the peoples is a name that is equivalent to 666.
15. In summary, the mark consists of a name which is represented either by letters or numbers which somehow add up to 666.
16. By contrast overcomers in Philadelphia are promised as a part of Ph 3 sanctification that the name of God and the New Jerusalem would be inscribed on them (Rev. 3:12).
17. This is a token of ownership.
18. Here it is a blatant expression of adherence to the worship of Lucifer and his christ.

Sanctified Cabalism (v.18)

VERSE 18 Here is wisdom (Ὡδε ἡ σοφία ἐστίν [*adv hode here + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi is + art.w/noun nom.f.s. sophia wisdom*]).

Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast [ὁ ἔχων νοῦν ψηφισάτω τὸν ἀριθμὸν τοῦ θηρίου [*art.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. echo have + noun acc.m.s. nous mind, intellect, awareness; “understanding” + aor.act.imper.3s. psephizo calculate (with pebbles), count up, add up; 2x: Lk. 14:28 + art./noun acc.m.s. arithmos number; sum + art.w/noun gen.nt.s. therion beast*], **for the number is that of a man** [ἀριθμὸς γὰρ ἀνθρώπου ἐστίν [*noun nom.m.s. arithmos number + conj gar for + noun gen.m.s. anthropos man + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi is*]; **and his number is six hundred and sixty-six** [καὶ ὁ ἀριθμὸς αὐτοῦ ἑξακόσιοι ἑξήκοντα ἕξ [*conj kai + art.w/noun nom.m.s. arithmos number + pro.gen.nt.s. autos “his” + adj.nom.m.p. exadosioi six hundred + adj.nom.m.p. exekonta sixty + adj.nom.m.p. hex six*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 18

1. Now we come to the questions involving the infamous 666.
2. John momentarily drops his role as seer and becomes, in a manner of speaking a cabalist speaking in riddles (Moffat).
3. Verse 10 has a similar “here” to introduce a formulaic saying.
4. Here and in 17:9, the adverb (“here”) anticipates what follows, but in 13:10 and 14:12, it refers to what follows.
5. This verse supplies the reader who possesses spiritual moxy (intelligence) with a clue as to the identity of the first beast.

6. The noun *sophia* (“wisdom”) is attributed to anyone who has the skill to solve the riddle of the Beast’s name or title (cf. Dan. 9:22).
7. This is not the same as the spiritual gift of wisdom granted to believers living during the apostolic era (cf. 1Cor. 12:8) but along with the noun *nous* (“understanding”) the special intelligence granted to believers contemporaneous with the false christ.
8. Believers who are serious students of prophecy will be granted the ability to unravel the mystery of the number.
9. Dan. 12:10 speaks of this special understanding as well.
10. The way to attain this wisdom or understanding is by calculating/counting.
11. He “who has understanding” refers to a positive believer who in his spiritual journey is granted the wherewithal to “calculate the number.”
12. The verb “calculate” (*psephizo*) comes from the practice of using pebbles (Gk. *psephos*) to keep track of whatever is being numbered.
13. Here we have a command to “count” with the intention of matching the number 666 with the letters in a man’s name.
14. This unfamiliar technique called *gematria* comes into play here.
15. In ancient times, letters of the alphabet served as numbers.
16. The first nine letters stood for the numbers one through nine, and the next nine letters for the numbers ten through ninety, and so on.
17. Every name yielded a riddle telling us something about the individual.
18. For example in the *Sibylline Oracles* 1.324-29 has the number of the name Jesus (*Iesous*) as 888.
19. While it is true that 666 has a secondary implication regarding human limitation (e.g., one short of seven the number of perfection), its primary meaning will be to assist believers to recognize the false christ when he is revealed.
20. The conjunction “for” offers the reason for making the calculation.
21. It is because it is the number of a mortal man, and not a God-man.
22. The words “it is a number of a man” draws the conclusion that this is a mysterious hint about the man whose name adds up to 666.
23. Only when the Antichrist’s name is revealed will it be possible to fulfill the command to “calculate the number.”

END: Revelation Chapter Thirteen
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Jack M. Ballinger

