

Revelation Chapter 13

1) The First Beast (13:1-6)

- a) Chapter 12 ends with the dragon, Satan, standing on the sand of the sea.
 - i) Chapter 13 begins with John writing “I saw a beast rising out of the sea,”.
 - ii) John also saw the dragon standing on the sand of the sea at the end of chapter 12.
 - (1) One might correctly think that Satan is calling for help.
 - iii) The dragon had failed three times in chapter 12
 - (1) At the moment of birth
 - (2) In an invasion of heaven
 - (3) In trying to sweep away the woman with a flood
 - iv) The beast is summoned for the fourth campaign - to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.
 - v) Daniel 7:1-ff
 - (1) **1** In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. **2** Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. **3** And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.
 - (2) **7** After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.
- b) **1** I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. **2** And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear’s, and its mouth was like a lion’s mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. **3** One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. **4** And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?” **5** And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. **6** It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. **7** Also it was

allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, **8** and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. **9** If anyone has an ear, let him hear: **10** If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

i) A beast rising out of the sea (13:1)

(1) Isaiah 57:20 - But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt.

(2) Daniel 7:2 - Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

(3) Sea is used for the restless movement of nations.

ii) with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns (13:1)

(1) Rev. 12:3 - And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

(a) Much similarity between the dragon and the beast, but there is one difference.

(i) The dragon had diadems on seven heads; the beast has diadems on ten horns.

(b) Daniel 7:24 - As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.

(c) Rev. 17:7-12 - **7** But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. **8** The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. **9** This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; **10** they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. **11** As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. **12** And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.

Daniel 7	Revelation 17	
Augustus (1)	Augustus (1)	The five that are
Tiberius (2)	Tiberius (2)	fallen (Rev. 17:10)
Caligula (3)	Caligula (3)	
Claudius (4)	Claudius (4)	
Nero (5)	Nero (5)	
Galba *		Uprooted, put down
Otho *		Daniel 7:24
Vitellius *		Ignored in Rev.
Vespasian (6)	Vespasian (6)	one “is”
Titus (7)	Titus (7)	“About to come”
Domitian (8)	Domitian (8)	“Was and is not”

- (2) Universal agreement that the fourth beast of Daniel 7 is Rome.
- (3) The ten horns are ten kings with whom Rome makes alliances, who bring Rome to defeat – they hate the prostitute.
- (a) Revelation 17:15-18 - **15** And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. **16** And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, **17** for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. **18** And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”
- (4) The continuous-historical approach names these ten as various kingdoms that lead to Europe and the defeat of the papacy in the Reformation.
- (5) The futurist-premillennialist approach is slightly similar to the continuous-historical approach but adds the coming of the “anti-christ” out of Europe. (The term “anti-christ” is not found in Revelation).
- (6) From Revelation 17, I agree with those who believe the seven heads are the seven kings of Rome, and the eighth.
- iii) and blasphemous names on its heads (13:1)
- (1) Titles and attributes were claimed by it which belonged only to God.
- (2) Each one of these heads appeared to have a frontlet, with an inscription that was blasphemous, or that ascribed some attribute to this power that properly belonged to God; and that the whole power thus assumed was in derogation of the attributes and claims of God.

- (3) 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 - **3** Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, **4** who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.
- iv) And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. (13:2)
- (1) Like a leopard – swift
- (2) Feet were like a bear's – strong
- (3) Mouth was like a lion's mouth – ferocious, able to grab and hold its prey
- (4) Compare this one beast to the four beasts of Daniel 7
- (a) Daniel's Beasts
- | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (i) | A lion | with one head |
| (ii) | A bear | with one head |
| (iii) | A leopard | with four heads |
| (iv) | A terrifying beast | with one head and ten horns |
| (v) | Total of seven heads and ten horns | |
- (b) John's Beast (Rev. 13:1-2)
- (i) A leopard-bear-lion beast with seven heads and ten horns
- (5) The dragon gave his power and throne and great authority
- (a) Matt. 4:8-9 - **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."
- (b) Eph. 2:1-2 - **1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—
- (c) Rev. 2:13 - **13** "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith^b even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- (d) The dragon has recruited a brute, intimidating beast for his campaign against the offspring of the woman
- (i) Rev. 12:17 - Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

- (6) One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. (13:3)
- (a) Rev. 13:12 - It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.
 - (b) A myth called “Nero redivivus” had several variations with Nero coming back to life.
 - (c) May even mimic “the Lamb that looked as if it had been slain” in giving some semblance of religion.
 - (d) A possible message is that Rome went through three emperors in two years, and civil war was such that some thought Rome might collapse, but Rome returned to stability under Vespasian.
 - (e) Powerful Rome had the attention of the whole world, and the astonishment was likely that they regained stability after civil war.
- (7) And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?” (13:4)
- (a) They paid homage to the dragon for giving his authority to the beast.
 - (b) They worshipped the beast in two ways:
 - (i) Who is like the beast – no one is greater than the beast
 - (ii) Who can fight against it – the beast is so powerful that no one can conquer it
- (8) And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. (13:5)
- (a) Given a mouth – by Satan.
 - (b) Haughty and blasphemous words
 - (i) Daniel 7:15 - He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.
 - (ii) God would not give a mouth to speak such things, which is why I believe the mouth was given by Satan.
 - (c) Allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months
 - (i) Allowed – by God, recruited by Satan.
 - (ii) Authority – given to the beast by Satan (13:2_
 - (iii) Forty-two months – the allowance to exercise authority is limited; it will not be everlasting.

- (9) It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (13:6)
- (a) The mouth given by Satan
 - (b) Blasphemies against God
 - (i) abusive or scurrilous language
 - (ii) calling evil good and good evil
 - 1. Romans 1:25 - they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator
 - 2. Isaiah 5:20 - Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
 - (iii) Blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven
 - 1. The KJV has three separate objects of blasphemy – God, God’s dwelling place, and those who dwell in heaven.
 - 2. Philippians 3:20-21 - [20](#) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21](#) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
 - a. Even while still dwelling on earth, our citizenship is in heaven.
 - 3. Rev. 2:9 - “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
 - 4. Rev. 3:9 - Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.
 - a. The slander that Christians are not loyal to Rome happened in Smyrna and Philadelphia.
- (10) Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, (13:7)
- (a) The whole earth followed the beast (13:3) and allowed it to make war on the saints.
 - (b) The whole earth followed the beast and, using the authority given it by Satan, the whole earth capitulated to the beast.
 - (c) Matthew 4:8-9 - [8](#) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. [9](#)

- And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”
- (i) The authority with which Satan tempted Jesus is given to the beast.
 - (d) The reason the beast was given authority was to make war on Christians
 - (i) Rev. 12:17 - Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.
- (11) and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain (13:8)
- (a) those who dwell on the earth are non-Christians, not the people of God, whose citizenship is in heaven
 - (b) Those whose names have been written in the book of life are the people of God, Christians.
 - (c) There are two classes of people on the earth – those whose names are written in the book of life, and those whose names are not written in the book of life.
 - (d) Before the foundation of the world could modify either “names have been written in the book of life” or “the Lamb who was slain”.
 - (i) KJV and NKJV place it modifying “the Lamb who was slain”.
 - (ii) ESV, ASV, and NAS place it modifying “written in the book of life”.
 - (e) The Greek manuscripts and the KJV/NKJV agree.
 - (f) Some use the ESV, ASV, and NAS placement to try to prove pre-destination of individuals.
 - (i) What God pre-destined is that obedient believers would be saved, not specific individuals.
 - (g) Two things to notice
 - (i) Redemption was not an afterthought by God – it was planned in advanced.
 - (ii) Unless the Lamb had been slain, he would have no book of life, and therefore no names in a non-existent book.
 - (h) More will be covered about those who worship the beast beginning in 13:11 – the 2nd beast.
- (12) If anyone has an ear, let him hear: If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword,

with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints. (13:9-10)

(a) If anyone has an ear – same phrase as found near the end of each of the letters to the seven churches.

(i) The idea is, this is important! Pay attention!

(b) If anyone is to be taken captive or slain

(i) Jeremiah 15:2 - And when they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.’

(ii) Jeremiah 43:11 - He shall come and strike the land of Egypt, giving over to the pestilence those who are doomed to the pestilence, to captivity those who are doomed to captivity, and to the sword those who are doomed to the sword.

(iii) One complication in understanding this verse is some ambiguity.

1. Is it Christians who are destined to be taken captive or slain?

2. Is it the persecutor who is destined to be taken captive or slain?

a. Rev. 2:13 (Pergamum) - “I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

3. Christians had been and would be slain or taken captive.

(iv) The basic message is “Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.”

1. Some would be slain or taken captive, but endure and keep your faith – the victory is yours.

2) The Second Beast (13:11-18)

a) **11** Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. **12** It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. **13** It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, **14** and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. **15** And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, **17** so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. **18** This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

- b) Another beast rising out of the earth
 - i) The first beast rose out of the sea – tumultuous, troubled
 - ii) The 2nd beast rises out of the earth – most significant is that it is not from heaven
- c) Two horns like a lamb – a harmless appearance
 - i) Rev. 5:6 - And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
 - ii) If horn indicates power, compare the two.
- d) Spoke like a dragon – not harmless
 - i) Matthew 7:15 - “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”
 - ii) This 2nd beast is afterward call the false prophet
 - (1) Rev. 16:13 - And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.
 - (2) Rev. 19:20 - And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image.
 - (3) Rev. 20:10 - and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- e) It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, (12)
 - i) The 1st beast was given authority by Satan (4)
 - ii) The 2nd beast derives its authority indirectly from Satan through the 1st beast.
 - iii) Protestants claim that the 2nd beast is the papacy, and an extension of the rule of the 4th beast in Daniel 7.
 - iv) Papist claim that the 2nd beast is Martin Luther or one of the other reformers.
 - v) I will make a case that the 2nd beast was the Roman Concilia, established to unify the empire through enforcing worship of the Emperor.

- (1) Rev. 2:13 - “I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- (2) Pergamum was the location of the Concilia in the province of Asia.
- vi) In its presence indicates that this 2nd beast was eager to do the bidding of the 1st beast.
- f) makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, (12)
- i) The earth and its inhabitants (those who dwell on the earth) – non-Christians, not God’s people.
- ii) Pliny, governor of Bithynia, wrote to Trajan circa 111 AD:
 (1) “An anonymous document came in with many names. I dismissed those who said they were not or never had been Christians, and who in my presence supplicated the gods and placed wine and incense before your image, and especially cursed Christ, which I hear that no true Christian will do.”
- iii) Rev. 14:9-11 - **9** And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10** he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. **11** And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”
- iv) Rev. 16:2 - So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.
- v) Rev. 19:20 - And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.
- vi) Rev. 20:4 - Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
- g) Performs great signs...
- i) 1 Kings 18:36-39 - **36** And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and

- Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. [37](#) Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” [38](#) Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. [39](#) And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”
- ii) 2 Thess. 2:9-10 - [9](#) The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, [10](#) and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.
 - iii) Flammable substances emit vapors which are also flammable. If those vapors are directed upward, and a source of fire is introduced from above, the upper vapors will ignite first, and the ignition will proceed downward to the source, giving the appearance of fire coming down from heaven. DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME.
 - iv) Could also be done with a rope coated with combustible material ignited by someone out of sight.
 - v) Note that the fire from God consumed stone and water, which are not ordinarily flammable.
 - h) Deceives those who dwell on the earth (14) – but not those whose citizenship is in heaven.
 - i) Make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived (14)
 - i) Rev. 13:3 - One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.
 - ii) Rev. 17:8-11 - [8](#) The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. [9](#) This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; [10](#) they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. [11](#) As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.
 - iii) During Nero’s last several months, there was civil war which did not end when Nero committed suicide (assisted by his personal secretary).

- (1) Three emperors (Galba, Otho, Vitellius) held some semblance of power for about 18 months, and Rome was considered dead by many.
- (2) Vespasian became emperor and restored order to Rome.
- (3) The Nero Redivivus legend existed for some time after Nero's death, and this is interpreted as being the death of persecuting Rome which came up from the abyss again in the person of Domitian.
- (4) Rev. 11:7 - And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,
 - (a) The beast was first introduced in 11:7 without much being said of him until chapter 13.
 - (b) In Rev 17:8, he is about to rise from the bottomless pit again.
- j) it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. (15)
 - i) Another illusion done by the Concilia gave the appearance that the image of the beast could speak.
 - (1) Ventriloquism was practiced by pagan priests even prior to the first century.
 - (2) If not by ventriloquism, there were other ways to clandestinely create the illusion that the image was speaking.
 - ii) Perhaps the order to slay those who would not worship the image of the beast came through this illusion.
- k) *Everyone* to be marked on the right hand or the forehead (16)
 - i) Rev. 7:3 - saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."
 - (1) All the servants of God were sealed, on their foreheads
 - (2) Indicating that they belong to God, protected by God
 - ii) The mark of the beast
 - (1) All who dwell on the earth are marked (God's people are never considered among those who dwell on the earth in Revelation).
 - (2) Indicating that they belong to the beast
 - (3) It is the counterpart to the seal the servants of God received.
 - (4) Mark on the forehead – thinking is affected
 - (5) Mark on the hand – actions are affected
 - iii) What is the mark?
 - (1) Whether it is a visible mark on a person or not, there would be a distinction made that had economic consequences (v. 17).
 - (2) The number of interpretations offered has grown lengthy in modern times: Credit cards, social security cards, food stamps during WW II,

smart phones, etc. None of these would have meant anything to people at the time John saw the vision.

- (3) It may have been a token or document issued to all who worshipped the image of the beast.
 - (4) Also possible is that word spread through the community when a Christian would not worship the image of the beast.
- l) No one can buy or sell unless he has the mark (17)
 - i) Here is an economic consequence for the people of God.
 - ii) Archeology has brought to light the remains of certificates which image worshippers received as proof of having offered emperor worship.
 - m) The name of the beast or the number of its name
 - i) The number of the beast is given in v. 18.
 - n) This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666. (18)
 - i) In the Bible, the number 6 symbolizes man and human weakness, the evils of Satan and the manifestation of sin. Man was created on the sixth day. Men are appointed 6 days to labor.
 - ii) To the Oriental, there was doom in the number “6” when it stands alone. It falls short of the sacred “7” and was an evil number.
 - (1) Raise it to a series – “666” – and there is the representation of a potency of evil of which there can be no greater.
 - iii) To give the beast the number “666” is to ascribe evil to the highest possible degree – evil in political power, and evil in false religion.
 - iv) Note on the Sibylline Oracles
 - (1) The *Sibylline Oracles* are a valuable source for information about Classical mythology and early first millennium Gnostic, Jewish and Christian beliefs. Some apocalyptic passages scattered throughout seem to adumbrate themes of John's Book of Revelation and other Apocalyptic literature. The oracles have undergone extensive editing, re-writing, and redaction as they came to be exploited in wider circles.
 - (2) In this mythology, God would be assigned the number “777”, which is to say He goes as far beyond the perfect “7” as Satan falls short of it.
 - (3) Also in this mythology, Jesus would be assigned the number “888” – perfection resurrected!
 - (4) None of the above is found in scripture, but some make use of it to understand the significance of “666” in first and second century thinking.
 - v) A Hebrew slave was to serve six years and be released in the 7th year. Six years were appointed for the land to be sown and harvested. The number 6 is also associated with Satan in his temptation of Jesus.

vi) The bringing together of three 6's is the number and mark of the end time Beast of Revelation. As such, it represents the very best system of governance that mankind can produce WITHOUT God and under the constant influence of his chief adversary. Man's system on earth is made up of three parts (economic, religious and governmental) all of which are influenced and led by Satan. When 666 is multiplied by 7 it equals 4662, which depicts man's total imperfection under Lucifer. When added across, $4 + 6 + 6 + 2 = 18$; and 18 divided by 3 is 6.

3) Pictures



a)



b)

