

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. —  
Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

A man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a simple brown robe, is shown in a desert landscape. He is sitting on the ground, leaning over a large scroll that he is writing on with a quill. The scroll has some text written on it, including the words 'KAAAGH' and 'TONT'. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)



- The **imagery** and **symbols** in Revelation are necessary in comprehending the **BIG PICTURE** - but if we focus too much on the imagery and symbols we can easily MISS the BIG PICTURE.
- Asia Minor, in the last decade of the first century, is set in the context of an eternal struggle, a world-shaking cosmic battle between good and evil.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**



**Revelation 8:4  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.**

- A series of three “7's” — 7 seals (6:1-8:5); 7 trumpets (8:6-9:21); and 7 bowls of wrath (15:1-16:21).
- John describes them one after the other by revealing from different viewpoints the judging and restraining action of God.
- Those who prayed for help in their distress CAN know that God HEARS - it would be their prayers that initiate divine judgment.

## **Revelation 13:11–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. <sup>14</sup> And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

## Revelation 13:11–18 (NKJV)

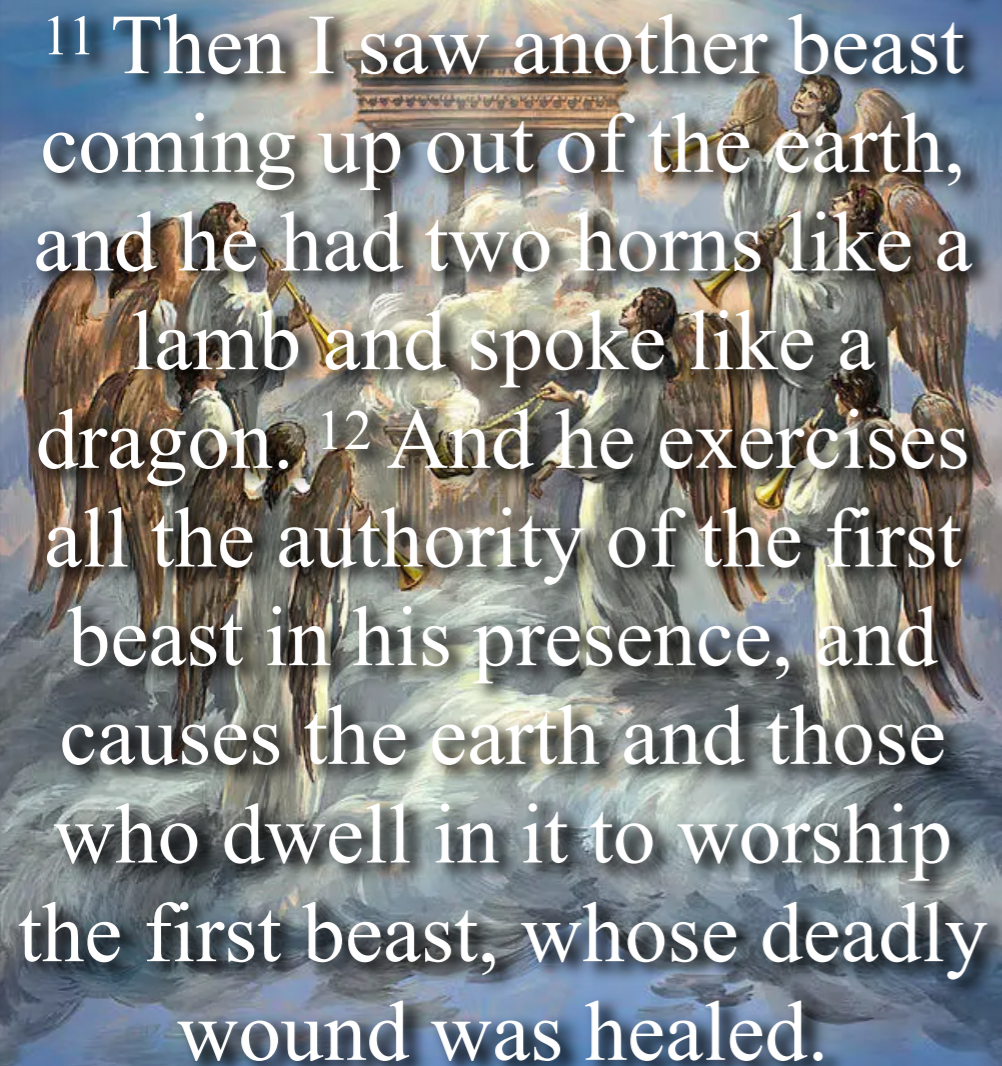
<sup>15</sup> He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. <sup>16</sup> He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. <sup>18</sup> Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number *is* 666.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**

**Revelation 13:11,12 (NKJV)**



<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

■ **THE BEAST DESCRIBED (13:1-2A)**

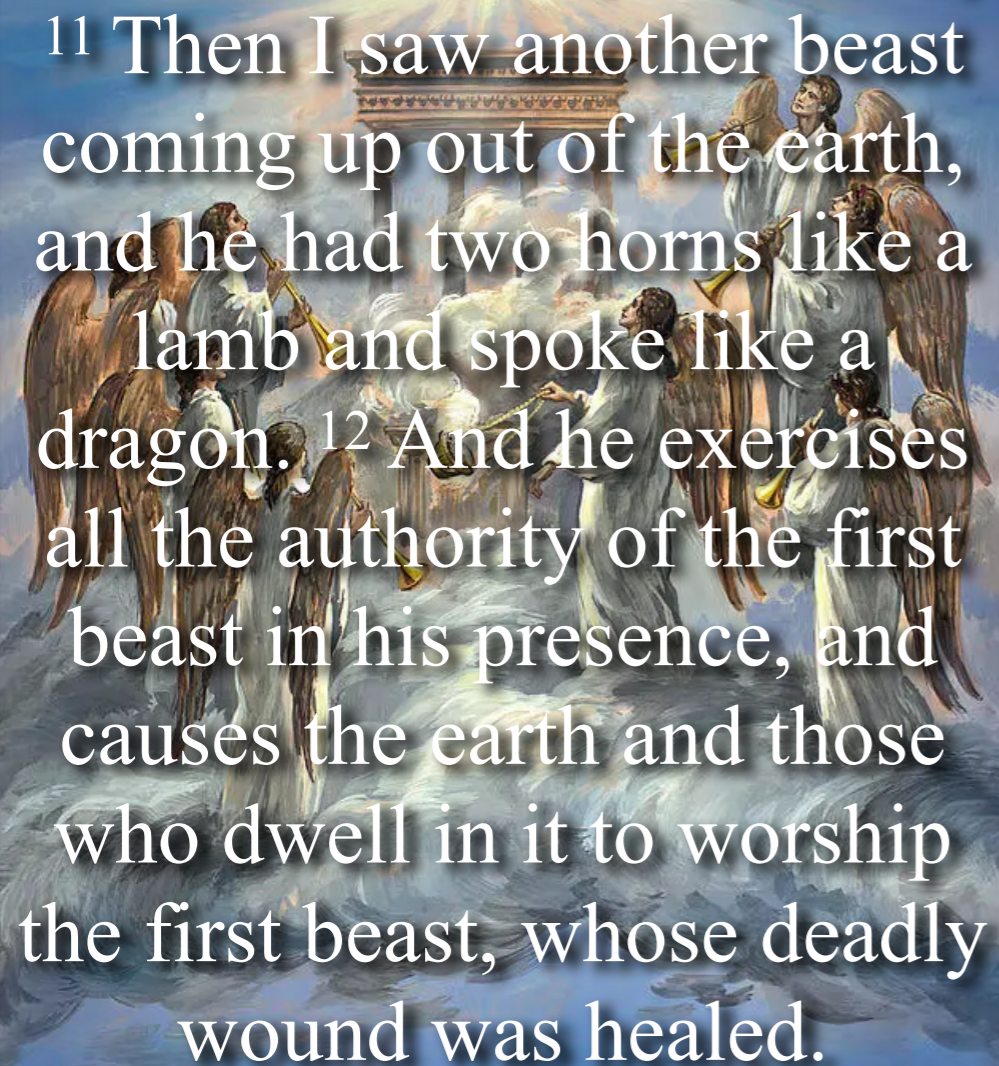
- ▶ (1) “two horns like a lamb” (*religious appearance*)
- ▶ (2) “spake as a dragon” (*an agent of Satan and the first beast*)
- ▶ (3) “exercised all the power of the first beast” (*backed by political power*);
- ▶ (4) “caused the earth to worship the first beast” (*represents the pagan false religion that enforced the worship of Caesar as god*).

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

### “THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)

#### **Revelation 13:11,12 (NKJV)**



<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

#### ■ THE TASK OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BEAST:

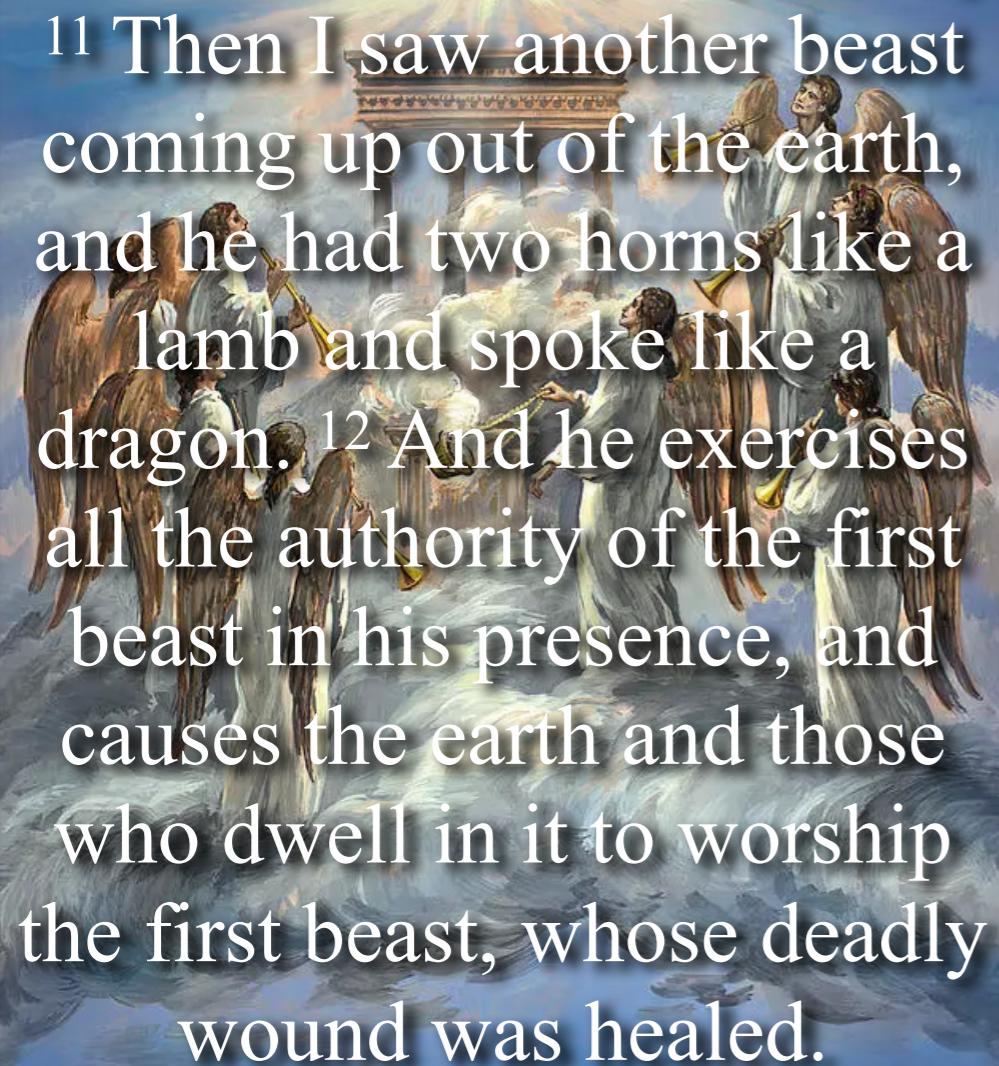
- “Causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” (12)
- “telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.” (14)
- Causing as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (15)
- Causes all ... to receive a mark on their right hand or foreheads (16)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**

**Revelation 13:11,12 (NKJV)**



<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. <sup>12</sup> And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

■ **THE TASK OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BEAST:**

- ▶ Represents the local support structure of the empirical cult in Asia Minor.
- ▶ Its job was to use whatever means necessary to force the population, including the unbending Christians, to worship and serve the Emperor.
- ▶ Later this beast will be described as “the false prophet” (16:13; 19:20; 20:10), and will be viewed as the constant companion of the first beast.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**

**Revelation 13:13,14a  
(NKJV)**



<sup>13</sup> He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

<sup>14</sup> And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast

## ■ THE POWER OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BEAST:

- ▶ The devil has the power to cause “lying wonders” (2 Thess. 2:9-12; Matt. 24:24), and men were deceived by these apparent miracles.
- ▶ Whatever signs God allows Satan to perform, they are never of the same quality as those worked by God’s servants (Acts 8:5-13).
- ▶ Satan’s attempted duplicate signs have only been counterfeit, as Moses proved before Pharaoh (Exod. 7:10-12).

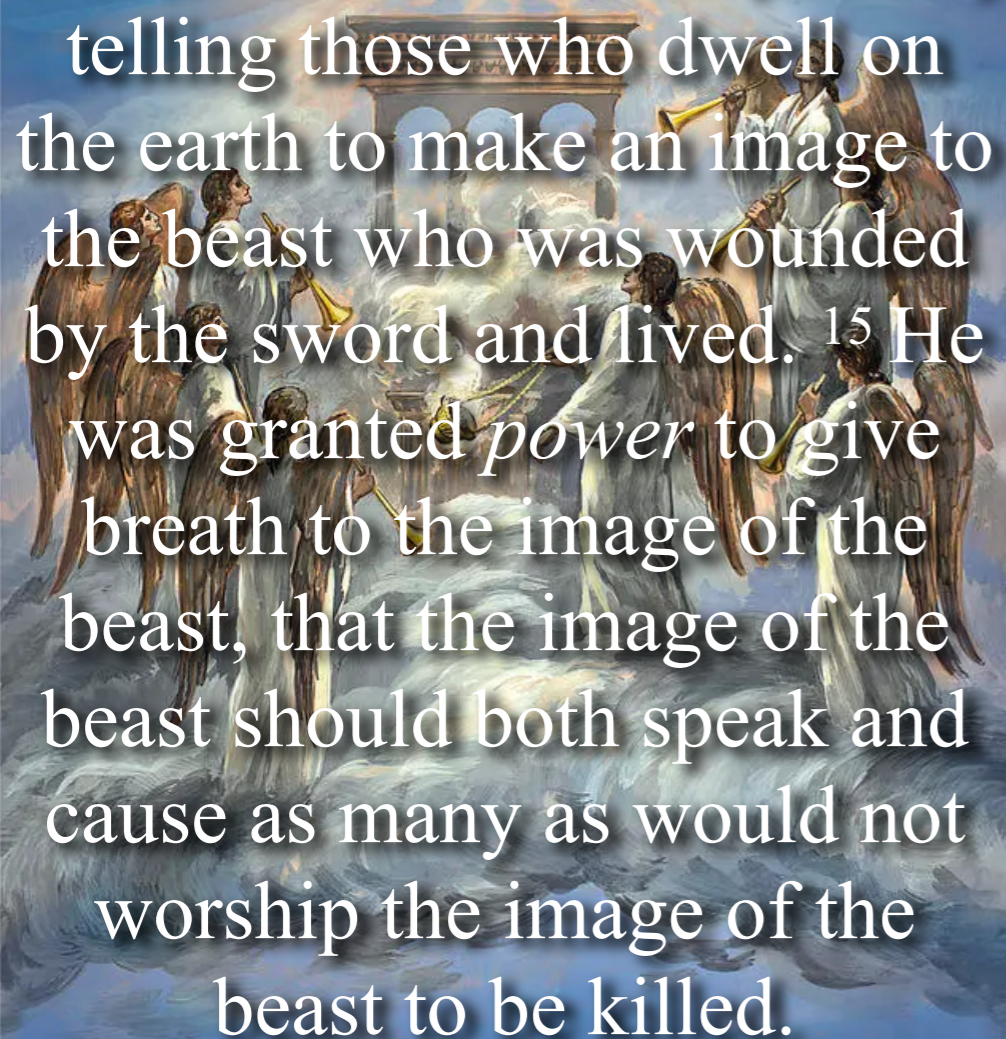
# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)

**Revelation 13:14b-15 (NKJV)**

telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. <sup>15</sup> He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.



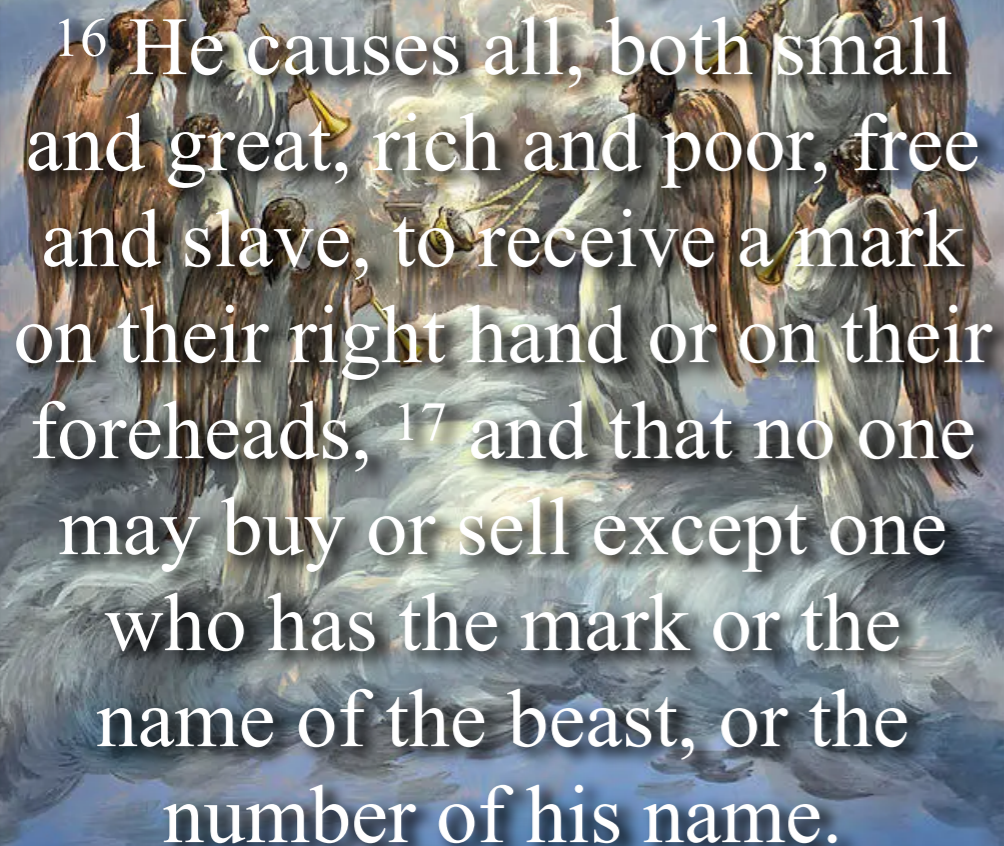
- THE POWER OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BEAST:
  - ▶ The 2<sup>nd</sup> beast instructs the world to make a statue in honor of the first beast. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century and afterward, temples were built to glorify the Caesars.
  - ▶ Through the function of pagan priests, sacrifices and incense were offered in honor of the Caesars.
  - ▶ The threat of death was intended to force men to bow down to the image of the beast.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**

## Revelation 13:16–17 (NKJV)



<sup>16</sup> He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

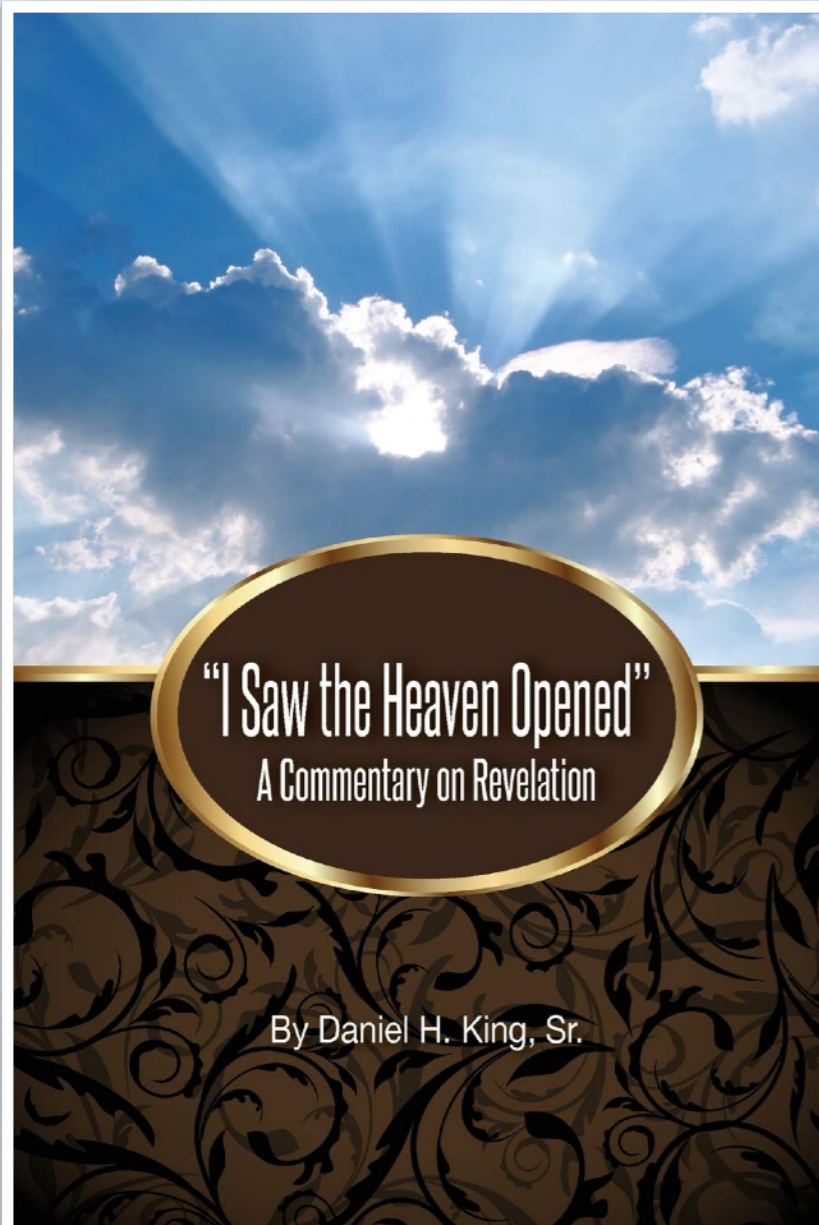
### ■ THE MARK OF THE BEAST:

- ▶ The totality of human society was under threat of persecution if they did not receive “a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads.”
- ▶ “Religious tattooing was widespread in the ancient world, and devotees of a particular god were often branded to indicate their loyal devotion” (Mounce)
- ▶ “Certificates” were also given to those who worshipped the Emperor, and was required at the market places.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**



“Those who did not hold a certificate which proved they had worshipped the head of state were denied the right to engage in commerce (buy or sell). From the Decian persecution alone (ca. 250), some forty-six of such certificates (libelli) have survived from that era and have been published for historical purposes. These particular certificates were issued to those who satisfied the pagan commissioners during that dreadful persecution (June-July, AD 250).”

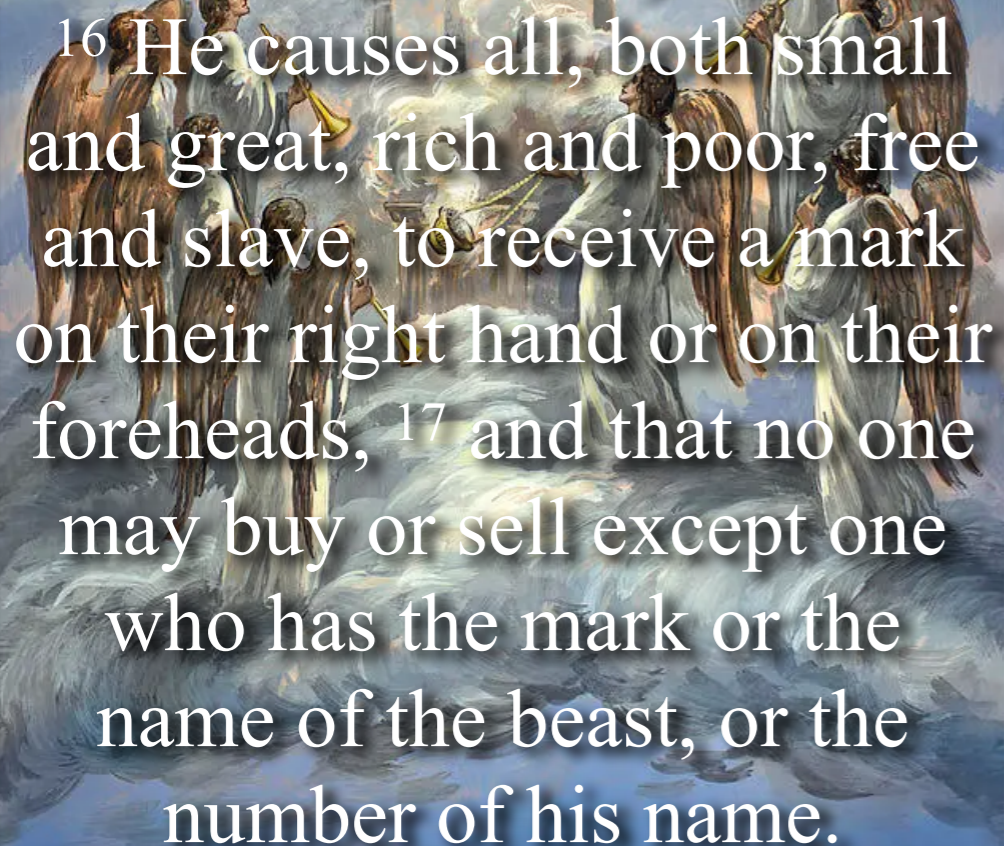
*“I Saw the Heaven Opened” Daniel H. King, Pg. 257*

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**

## Revelation 13:16–17 (NKJV)



<sup>16</sup> He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

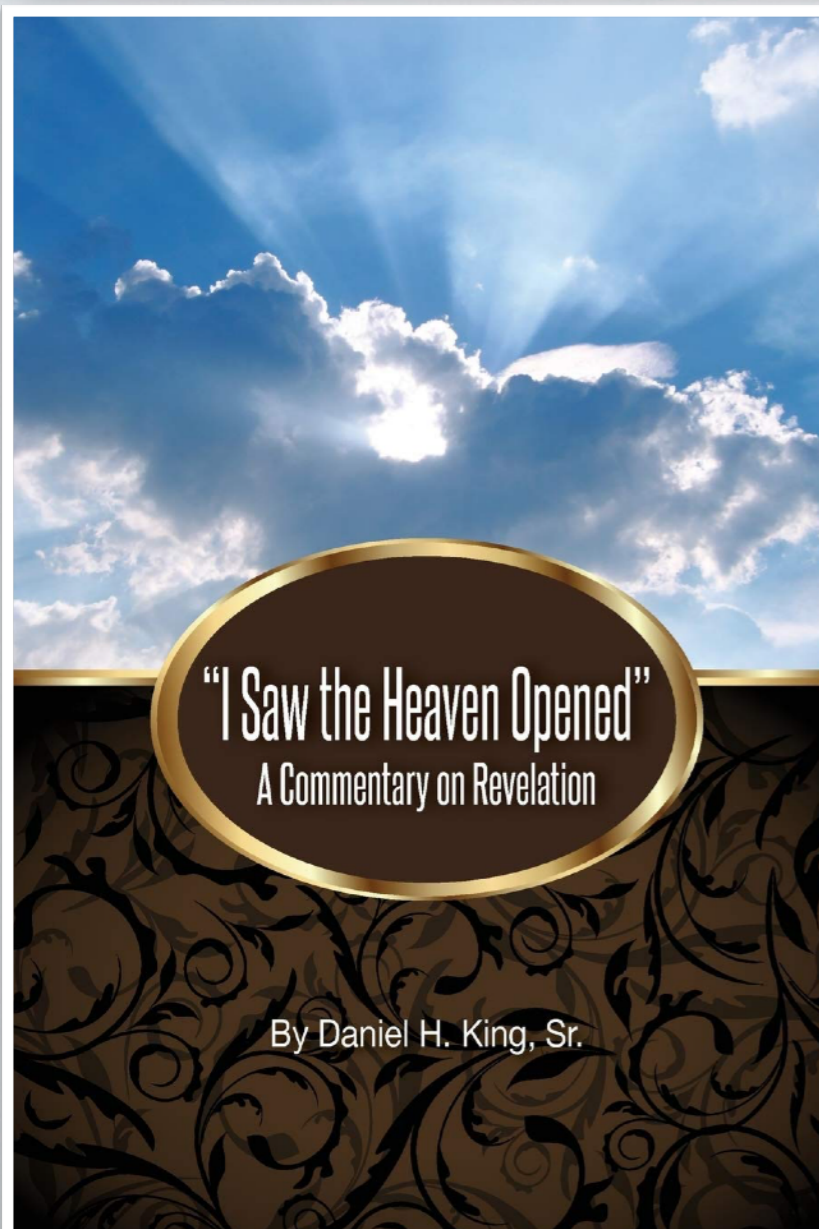
### ■ THE MARK OF THE BEAST:

- ▶ In order to engage in any commercial exchanges in the market places, one **MUST** possess “the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”
- ▶ These identification certificates or tattoos were one’s credentials for having given honor to Caesar as lord.
- ▶ Participating in any sort of pagan sacrifice was considered a sin for a Christian, and resulted in withdrawal.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**



“The mark of the beast may be the certificate of worship, which a Christian could only obtain at the cost of denying his faith and being false to his Lord. Once he had that certificate he was labeled as a worshipper of Caesar and a denier of Christ” (Barclay, 2.130).

*“I Saw the Heaven Opened” Daniel H. King, Pg. 257*

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**



**Revelation 13:18**  
**(NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

- THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST:
  - ▶ **“Here is wisdom”** — This phrase announces an enlightened perspective of these things from heaven’s viewpoint.
  - ▶ Like the admonition in verse 9, if one would want to know who would win this spiritual battle, let him listen.
  - ▶ It is a call for those who will accept the truth, as revealed in this vision, to discern the spiritual reality and ultimate end of this beast and the beast and dragon it served.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**



## Revelation 13:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

### ■ THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST:

- ▶ According to John, the number 666 is the number of a man (v. 18).
- ▶ This numeral may be a case of gematria, the ancient and well-attested practice of adding up of the equivalent numbers of some proper name.
- ▶ There have been MANY interpretations given using this approach and many individuals have been suggested — (*Latinus, [1st Roman ruler]; Neron Caesar [Hebrew letters]; Popes; Hitler; etc.*)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**



**Revelation 13:18**  
**(NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

- **THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST:**
  - ▶ A consistent hermeneutic applies all numbers in Revelation symbolically.
  - ▶ The number 6 is a stand-in number for man, just as the number 7 exclusively represents God.
  - ▶ Any occasion where man is in conflict with God, man will fail.
  - ▶ “Wisdom” teaches that the dragon, the beast from the sea, and the beast from the earth will come to “failure upon failure upon failure” (666).

This world has repeatedly brought suffering to the people of God, but the day will come when God will avenge His saints, and glorify His people.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)

God would, by His sovereign power and might, preserve the gospel and His people in spite of terrifying odds which seemed at the moment to be so unassailable.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)

All the earthly powers Satan and man may assail against the people of God will ultimately and utterly fail!

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)

May we hold tenaciously to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ — and refuse to bow to the demands of the world! Doing so assures victory in the end!

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**

**IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN IN  
THE BOOK OF LIFE!**

**Believe — John 3:16;**

**Repent — Acts 17:30;**

**Confess — Romans 10:9,10;**

**Be baptized — Acts 2:38;**

**Endure by faith — I Corinthians 15:58**



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Three: The Beast Sequence (Chapters 12-14)*

**“THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH” (13:11-18)**

**Charts by Don McClain**

Preached September 18, 2022

West 65th Street church of Christ – P.O. Box 190062 – Little Rock AR  
72219 – Phone — 501-568-1062 — Email – [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

Prepared using Keynote / More Keynote, PPT & Audio Sermons:

[www.w65stchurchofchrist.com](http://www.w65stchurchofchrist.com)

## **Acts 8:9–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, <sup>10</sup> to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” <sup>11</sup> And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.