

## **REVELATION 13: 11-18 CONTINUED...**

11 Then I saw another beast coming up from the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but was speaking like a dragon. That's pretty easy to figure out. Who's been the Lamb with 2 horns so far? Jesus Christ.

So who is this beast imitating? Jesus Christ. But who does he speak like? Satan. There's no need for interpretation there. So this is a spiritual leader who rules through deception along with a political leader who rules through intimidation A fake Christ with an antichrist.

12 He exercised all the ruling authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and those who inhabit it worship the first beast, the one whose lethal wound had been healed. 13 He performed momentous signs, even making fire come down from heaven in front of people 14 and, by the signs he was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, he deceived those who live on the earth. He told those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had been wounded by the sword, but still lived. 15 The second beast was empowered to give life to the image of the first beast so that it could speak, and could cause all those who did not worship the image of the beast to be killed. What is this image? It's an idol.

They understood this in the day it was written. Caesar was worshipped. The leader of their government was worshipped. They set up idols, images of him to worship. But this is a kind of idol that apparently moves and talks. I don't know if it's technological or it's spiritual. The Bible doesn't tell us.

You've got this fake ruler and you've got this image of this false, fake ruler, and people will worship it instead of the true God.

16 He also caused everyone (small and great, rich and poor, free and slave ) to obtain a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. 17 Thus no one was allowed to buy or sell things unless he bore the mark of the beast - that is, his name or his number. He orders everyone to receive a mark.

What will this be? Credit card? Embedded chip in our forehead? Or in our hand? Who cares?

What matters is that to receive the mark of the beast, you have to agree to worship the beast.

You can't accidentally receive the mark of the beast.

It's not going to happen by accident where one day you wake up and they say,

*"By the way the credit card you have means you're worshipping the beast."* You have to choose.

It's always been that way.

18 **This calls for wisdom:** For the beast that rules through deception, believers need what the Bible says here: wisdom. For intimidation you've got to have faithfulness and endurance. For deception you've got to have wisdom.

**Let the one who has insight calculate the beast's number, for it is man's number, and his number is 666.**

This has probably caused more speculation than any other verse in the whole book of Revelation.

People read this: *"Calculate the number of the beast,"* so they get out their calculators.

And they start adding ... this number and that number, Roman numerals / Greek numerals / Hebrew numerals / American numerals / French numerals... anything it takes to come up with the right number of who they think is the beast.

Based on this numerology people have decided that Nero was the beast or Caligula or Muhammad or Oliver Cromwell or Martin Luther... many popes have been added up to be the beast.

Adolph Hitler added up to be the beast.

And more lately Henry Kissinger or "computer" or JFK or Korbechev

There's even some people who believed that Ronald Reagan was the beast. You know why? His full name was Ronald Wilson Reagan – six letters in each name.

They spend hours adding this up.

I've worked this out.

Take the letters in the name Walt Disney – 10, plus ten letters in Donald Duck, equals 20, plus 101 Dalmatians, that's 121, minus seven dwarfs – 114. Minus three ugly stepsisters, 111. Times the numbers in "Mickey" equals 666. !!! the beast is Mickey Mouse.

Why did I do that?

To show you that many times people use “math magic” to try to prove who the beast is.

It calls for wisdom. People in 2000 years haven't exactly figured it out.

I do know one thing it means. The Bible tells us it calls for wisdom and then it says “*It is man's number.*”

Most of us think it's the number of a certain individual but a man's number could mean **man's** (human's) number.

777 is God in triune perfection. Perfect. 6 is one short of perfection. 6 is imperfect.

This evil trinity, this evil 666 that copies the holy trinity of 777. Counterfeit.

You notice how chapters 12-13 lay itself out?

These two chapters are about a counterfeit trinity.

You have the dragon, the first beast and the second beast.

Satan's setting up an unholy counterfeit trinity.

You want to see how different the two trinities are?

2 Bible verses.

**Revelation 17:8** talking about this unholy trinity says,

*“The beast which you saw, once was, now is not and will go to his destruction.”* That's his story.

Remember the story about God back in **Revelation 4**?

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty who was and is, and is to come.”*

Yes, That's the difference. I want to follow the real God. I want to follow the one with a future.

## Counterfeit

This passage also talks about a counterfeit **resurrection**.

Even spiritually you see the faking of what happened to Jesus on the cross – who got a fatal wound and was resurrected. With the beast, there's another wound and another healing but it doesn't last.

You also have here a counterfeit **worship**. Worshipping the false god.

You have in this chapter a counterfeit **rule**. Satan's setting himself up as ruler of the world. And that's been happening for a long time.

You have in this chapter counterfeit **miracles**. When Jesus came He worked miracles. When this ruler comes he'll work miracles. They'll be counterfeit and they'll be by the power of evil and not by the power of God, but they'll be there.

And then you have in this chapter a counterfeit **mark**.

Remember this mark of the beast is the counterfeit of the mark, the sign, the seal, that God puts upon His people. It's just a counterfeit. It's just a fake.

Satan never created anything.

All he knows how to do is copy, fake and counterfeit.

And he does it today - it's all around us, sucking us in, making us numb, consuming our precious time and resources, a false quest for contentment, an illusion to blind us to the reality John exposes in this amazing revelation of Jesus Christ.