



# FAITH PRINCETON SUNDAY SCHOOL

## REVELATION 13:11-18 The Two Beasts (Part 2)

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

### REVELATION 13 Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

#### **13 The Beast from the Earth**

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 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, 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. 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

## **Enduring Word Commentary: Revelation 13:11-18 The Two Beasts (Part 2)**

### **B. The beast rising from the land.**

#### **1. (11) John's initial description of this second beast.**

**Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.**

a. **Then I saw another beast:** This creature represents someone *like* the beast rising from the sea, because the same word **beast** is used to describe them both. At the same time, this **beast** is different.

i. They are different in origin, because one comes *out of the sea*, the other **out of the earth**.

ii. They are different in rank, because the second is subordinate to the first (*causes the earth... to worship the first beast*, [Revelation 13:12](#)).

iii. They are different in appearance, because the second has a mild, “lamb-like” appearance.

b. **And he had two horns like a lamb:** The **two horns** may express the fact that this beast has authority in two realms, such as religious and political authority. Or, he may have **two horns** simply because that's how many horns lambs have (**two horns like a lamb**).

c. **Spoke like a dragon:** Despite his lamb-like appearance, the message of the second beast is the same as the message of the first beast.

i. This second beast is called *the false prophet* ([Revelation 16:13](#), [19:20](#), [20:10](#)), as

someone distinct from the first beast (the Antichrist) and the dragon (Satan).

ii. With the dragon, the beast rising from the sea, and the beast rising from the land we have an unholy trinity. The dragon is the *anti-Father*, the beast rising from the sea is the *anti-Christ*, and the beast rising from the land is the *anti-Holy Spirit*.

#### **2. (12-15) The second beast's “job description.”**

**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. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 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. 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.**

a. **He exercises all the authority of the first beast:** The beast rising from the earth is essentially a Satanic prophet, who leads the world to **worship** the beast and the dragon.

i. It may seem fantastic to some that the world will be led into worship of a man and of the devil. But by nature, men have an undeniable religious impulse, and they also have an undeniable rebellion against God. What men want most is not the elimination of religion, but their *own* religion.

They say they want the kingdom, but they don't want God in it.

**b. He performs great signs:** The beast rising from the sea has the “signs and wonders” to back up his false teaching. A specific miracle of the false prophet is described: **he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.** It is important that John highlights *this* miracle. In the eyes of the deceived world, it answers the miracle of the two witnesses, who minister during this period and are persecuted by the Antichrist and his false prophet ([Revelation 11:5](#)). To the deceived world, this also puts this false prophet in the class of Elijah ([1 Kings 18](#)). We can imagine the false prophet as saying, “Let the true God answer with fire” and then performing his deceptive wonder.

i. “There is a supernatural power which is *against* God and truth, as well as one *for* God and truth. A miracle, simply as a work of wonder, is not necessarily of God. There has always been a devilish supernaturalism in the world, running alongside of the supernaturalism of divine grace and salvation.” (Seiss)

ii. In the days of the Exodus, Aaron performed miracles, and up to a point was matched miracle-for-miracle by the magicians of Egypt ([Exodus 7-9](#)).

iii. In [Deuteronomy 13:1-5](#), God assumes there will be supernatural works on behalf of false prophets and idols, and He warns His people to judge a worker of miracles by their message, not only by their works.

iv. Jesus said that some who worked miracles – *even in His name* – were false followers and would perish in hell ([Matthew 7:22-23](#)).

v. Jesus said that in the end times, false prophets would emerge and *show great signs and wonders to deceive* ([Matthew 24:24](#)).

vi. Paul said that the Antichrist will come *with all power, signs, and lying wonders* ([2 Thessalonians 2:9](#)).

vii. Knowing all this, the emphasis on *signs and wonders* among some Christians is frightening. Some Christians say or think, “You can really know where God is and where His power is by signs and wonders.” Thinking this way is to leave yourself wide open to deception. Years ago there was a large, multi-denominational conference of people who thought this way, and their slogan – on a huge banner over the conference platform – read “Unity Under Signs and Wonders.” That’s a unity that Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet could all join in. Signs and wonders will be present among Christians, but the real marks of God’s work are love and truth.

**c. 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 beast rising from the earth will use a deceptive, animated **image** as the focus point of the worship of the beast.

i. It may seem strange to us to have the whole world give this kind of worship to the image of a man, but the personality cults of totalitarian governments in the twentieth century are a good example of this kind of worship. All we have to do is remember totalitarian states like the Soviet Union or Communist China, and their omnipresent pictures of Stalin or Mao and we see a pattern that will be ultimately fulfilled by the Antichrist.

ii. The image of the beast is animated in some way, in that it has **breath** and can **speak**. Whether the image is animated supernaturally or technologically, the result will be impressive. The Psalmist mocked idol worshippers because *the idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not* ([Psalm 135:15-16](#)). This image of the Antichrist will be a different kind of idol, because **the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed**.

iii. This idolatrous image is what Jesus, Daniel, and Paul spoke of as *the abomination of desolation* ([Daniel 9:27](#), [Matthew 24:15](#), and [2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#)). It is an idolatrous image set up in the holy place of a rebuilt temple; it is an *abomination* in the sense of being supreme idolatry, and it is *desolation* in the sense that it will bring the judgment described by the seals, trumpets, and bowls.

iv. This is the summation of the power of the Antichrist, whose authority ends after forty-two months ([Revelation 13:5](#)). This marks the halfway point of the final seven years of man's rule of this planet. The Antichrist's power ends as soon as it peaks.

v. This is not a recent understanding of this passage. The first commentary we have on the Book of Revelation, written by Victorinus in the early church, says of this [Revelation 13:15](#): "He shall cause also that a golden image of Antichrist shall be placed in the temple at Jerusalem, and that the apostate angel should enter, and thence utter voices and oracles."

### 3. (16-17) The economic strategy of the first beast and the second beast.

**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, 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.**

a. **He causes all... to receive a mark:** Under the government of the beast and his associate, all will be given a **mark**. Without the mark, one will not be able to participate in the economy (**no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark of his name**).

i. Since the ancient Greek word for **mark** (*charagma*) isn't generally applied to people, some have taken this as a symbolic mark. But a literal mark needed to buy or sell is certainly conceivable and practical.

ii. The technology to give people a mark that enables them to buy and sell in the electronic economy is available. There are many different ways it could happen, and such programs are proposed and tested constantly.

b. **A mark on their right hand or on their foreheads:** Satan is not a creative being, all he can do is imitate God. We are not surprised to find that this too is a Satanic parody of something God will do; it imitates God's mark upon his people ([Revelation 7:3-4](#)).

c. **The number of his name:** This was a common concept in the ancient world. In Greek (and Hebrew as well), letters were assigned a numerical value, such as "A" equaling 1, "B" equaling 2, and so forth. For example, graffiti in

the ruins of Pompeii reads “I love her whose number is 545.”

#### 4. (18) The number of the beast.

**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.**

a. **His number is 666:** Does this tell us who the beast is, by figuring out the numerical value of a name and seeing if it adds up to 666? Using this method, many candidates for Antichrist have been suggested, such as the Pope or the Papacy, John Knox, Martin Luther, Napoleon, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and so forth. But the schemes for unlocking the **number of the beast** are as confusing as they are endless.

i. “That as 12, the square root of 144, is God’s number, so 25 is the square root of antichrist’s number 666; and by this enigmatical expression we are taught that antichrist should be a political body, that should as much affect the number twenty-five, as God seemeth to have his church affected the number twelve.” (Poole)

ii. “The year of Rome’s ruin is by some held to be 1666. It is plain, saith one, Satan shall be tied up 1000 years; 666 is the number of the beast; Antichrist shall so long reign; these two together make the just number.” (Trapp)

iii. “Here is the solution of this mystery: *let him that hath a mind* for investigations of this kind, find out a kingdom which contains precisely the number 666, for this must be infallibly the *name* of the beast. ‘H Latinh basileia, The Latin Kingdom, has exclusively this number.’ (Clarke)

iv. Some commentators observe that there are six Roman numerals (I, V, X, L, C, and D). If you add

them all up, you get 666. Some take this to say that the Antichrist will be a Roman. Or, they point out that all the numbers from 1 to 36 add up to 666. *Beast* in the evil sense appears 36 times in the Bible.

b. **It is the number of a man:** One persistent opinion, especially in the early church, was that this number identified the Antichrist with Caesar Nero. But to make the name “Caesar Nero” fit, one must take a variant spelling of the Greek form of a Latin name, transliterated into Hebrew characters.

c. **It is the number of a man:** The letters of “Jesus” in Greek add up to 888. **666** may be a Satanic counterpart to the name of Jesus, or **666** may be God’s evaluation of such a Satanic counterpart – it falls short.

i. As compared to the number 888, the number 666 may signify an unholy trinity. It may be a human and demonic imitation of God, inherently falling short of the perfect and true. Seven is the number of completion and totality, and 6 doesn’t quite make it.

d. **His number is 666:** Or, the number 666 may harken back to Solomon’s wages. [1 Kings 10:14](#) says that Solomon received *yearly six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold*. Perhaps this suggests that the Antichrist, like Solomon, is a good man who becomes corrupted.

i. Modern interpretations of the idea of the Antichrist are full of the idea of some demon-child, marked by obvious evil from his birth, such as in the *Omen* movies. But the Antichrist may be someone whose evil is only seen *after* his rise to power.

e. **His number is 666:** Christians need not *fear* the number 666 in a superstitious way; but it is

interesting to see the way the world has an attachment to this number – even with things like “666” brand cough syrup.

5. The two beasts are Satanic imitations. We are presented with a false “Christ” and a false “John the Baptist” who promote the false god. Satan can’t create, but he can effectively deceive with imitation.

a. “Imitations have ever formed the gravest perils in the history of the Church and the world, and the devil’s final attempt to gain the government of the race will thus be an appalling attempt to imitate.” (Morgan)

b. Imitations work precisely because *they are similar*; if they were so obviously different, it would be easy to tell the difference. We should be aware of the imitation and familiar with the genuine.

c. Instead of obsessing with fear and interest about the imitation – the Antichrist – how much more appropriate is it for Christians to be interested in the genuine: Jesus Christ.

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