

## I. Introduction

The beast that rises out of the earth represents false religion, false prophets, and the antichrist (v. 14).

Examples of people who have been deceived by cults and false teachings.

The antichrist (2 John 1:7; 1 John 2:18, 22; 1 John 4:3; Galatians 1:8).

## II. Main Points

Five Characteristics of the Beast Rising Out of the Earth (the Antichrist)

1. The antichrist disguises himself as a servant of Jesus Christ (v. 11).

Satan's servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

Deception is even more dangerous than persecution and suffering.

Mature and discerning believers must be able to distinguish between the Lamb and the dragon.

2. The antichrist leads people to worship worldly power (v. 12).

Religion becomes a source of power and exercises worldly authority on behalf of the first beast.

The worship of Roman emperors was an alliance between political power and religious power.

False religion does not challenge political authority but flatters it and relies upon it for support.

3. The antichrist and false prophets deceive people through signs and wonders (vv. 13-14a).

Both Jesus and Paul foretold this reality (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

When Moses performed miracles, the magicians of Egypt also performed miraculous signs.

Even when miracles and supernatural signs occur, believers must not be deceived by them.

4. False religion creates idols and compels people to worship them (vv. 14-15).

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon erected a golden image and commanded people to bow before it.

Roman emperors, as well as Kim Il-sung, erected statues of themselves and required people to offer homage before them.

5. The beast that rises out of the earth attacks through economic pressure and sanctions (vv. 16-18). Receiving a mark on the right hand or forehead signifies allegiance and belonging.

The beast's name = the number of the beast's name = the number of a man = 666 (Gematria).

(1) The view that 666 refers to Emperor Nero

Nero = Nero Caesar (Greek) = Neron Qesar (Hebrew), which yields the numerical value of 666 through gematria.

(2) The symbolic interpretation of 666 as the number of the world, humanity, and the earth

If 7 is the number of perfection and represents heaven, then 6 is the number of imperfection and represents the earth.

The number 666 symbolizes the antichrist—humanity exalting itself to God's place and demanding worship. Most orthodox and Reformed theologians interpret 666 symbolically.

(3) The only way to avoid receiving 666 is to believe in Jesus Christ and receive salvation.

To reject Christ and follow the ways of the world is, in effect, to receive 666.

(4) Those who do not bear the mark of the beast, 666, are prohibited from buying or selling.

This represents economic discrimination and hardship.

(5) The right hand and the forehead

The right hand symbolizes what a person most actively does.

The forehead symbolizes what is most visible and what governs a person's thoughts and mindset.

(6) "Let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast" (v. 18).

Examine yourself to determine whether you have, in any sense, received the mark of 666.

## III. Conclusion

**Bible Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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. (Revelation 13:18)

**Bible Reading**

Bible Reading Passage

6/8(Mon)	6/9(Tue)	6/10(Wed)	6/11(Thur)	6/12(Fri)	6/13(Sat)	6/14(Sun)
Esther 4-8	Esther 9-10, Job 1-2	Job 3-7	Job 8-12	Job 13-16	Job 17-22	Job 23-28

**QT**

Quiet Time Passage

6/8(Mon)	6/9(Tue)	6/10(Wed)	6/11(Thur)	6/12(Fri)	6/13(Sat)	6/14(Sun)
1Cor. 15:29-34	1Cor. 15:35-49	1Cor. 15:50-58	1Cor. 16:1-12	1Cor. 16:13-24	Jonah 1:1-10	Jonah 1:11-16

**Sharing Questions**

1. Share one new truth you learned or one particular blessing you received from today's sermon.
2. According to today's passage, what does the beast that rises out of the earth symbolize?
3. Considering the beast that rises out of the earth—that is, the false prophet, false religion, or the spirit of the antichrist—please share one characteristic that comes to mind.
4. The number 666 is described as the name of the beast, the number of the beast, and the number of a man. What does the number 666 signify? Also, what is the only way for a person to avoid receiving the mark or number of 666?