

Questions on Revelation chapter 13

1. From Daniel's use of the word, would you say the "sea" symbolizes nations with their stormy upheavals? Verse 1. (Read Daniel 7:1-8 before answering)

2. What does "blasphemy" mean, and do you have an idea about some of the "names of blasphemy"? Verse 1.

3. What did the dragon give the beast? Verse 2.

4. What possible purpose could John have had to use the imagery of the bear, the lion, and the leopard? Verse 2.

5. How did the whole world respond to the beast? Verse 3.

6. Did the people of the world feel secure while worshipping the beast and were they sincere? Verse 4.

7. Does it make any difference to God what we think or do or who or how we worship so long as we are sincere and honest with ourselves and others? Verse 4.

8. John said four things were given to the beast. What were they? Verses 5-7.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

9. Could the beast have had any power without God's permission? Verses 5-7. (See Romans 13:1, Romans 13:4, and John 19:11)

10. How long was the beast's power to continue? Verse 5.

11. Are there any who do not obey the beast and pay homage to him by acknowledging him as god? Verses 8-9.

12. Were the saints to follow the world's method of warfare by resisting with the sword? If they did, what would be the consequences? Verse 10.

13. Do you remember who the dragon was in chapter 12, and who received what came out of his mouth? If so, what could be symbolized by the fact that the second "lamb-like" beast "spoke as a dragon" and that he came up out of the earth? Verse 11.

14. Do you think the second beast, later referred to as "the false prophet," could have represented paganism in the Roman Empire in its emperor worship or Caesar cult, insisting that the earth-dwellers worship the state symbolized in the emperor? Verse 12.

15. Do you think the second beast was able to really perform miracles or was it false, imitation miracles? Verses 13-14.

16. According to some historians, the Caesar cult fell out of favor after Nero's death but was reactivated during Domitian's reign (A.D. 81-96). Could this have been the way the "deadly wound" was healed? Verses 12-14.

17. How did the earth-beast give life to the image of the beast (emperor)? Was it through ventriloquism or some other magical art? Or was it the function of the earth-beast (cult?) to make emperor worship live and speak the mind of the empire? Verse 15.

18. Could a Christian worship the image and what would be the consequences if he did not? Verse 15.

19. Do you think the “mark of the beast” was to be a literal stamp or brand impressed upon the hand or forehead? Could it refer to belief (forehead) and practice (hand) of false religion? Verses 16-17.

20. Was it likely that the Christian who refused the mark would be discriminated against, and could this have caused the scarcity or even starvation signified in the opening of the third seal in Revelation 6:6? Verse 17.

21. Do you have an idea, or have you heard of anyone who claims to know who or what is represented by the number of the beast - 666? Verse 18.

22. Hailey points out that in the original text, there is no definite article in the phrase “for it is the number of a man.” So, it would literally read: “For it is the number of man.” Six falls below the sacred seven—it can never be seven or perfect, thus symbolizing the imperfect, that which is human and destined to fail. Do you have a better explanation? Is it possible to exercise wisdom and understanding?