

<p>A</p>	<p><u>The Beast from the Sea</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The huge dragon fails to harm the woman, then it proceeds to make war with the rest of her offspring. “It took its position on the sand of the sea”. From there it summons its highest general, the beast from the sea. The sea signifies chaos according to scriptural traditions; it is the dwelling place of the poisonous dragon. • The beast and its leader resemble the dragon, “like a leopard, but it had feet like a bear’s, and its mouth was like the mouth of a lion”. => recalls a vision of the four beasts in Daniel, representing the “culmination of all the evil empires of history” that opposes God with all their political and military power. • It appears as a counterfeit of Christ to lure humanity into following it and worshipping the dragon. Evil often camouflages as goodness and beauty; Satan cannot create but only imitate; his goal is to deceive and mislead the world. • In Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature, the beast represents the end-time adversary of God and His people. In Christian writings, it is referred to as “the anti-messiah” and “the antichrist”. This adversary was understood as the dominant political, military, cultural, and economic power of their day and in the person of the emperor himself. 	<p>13:1-4 12:17-18 CCSS NJBC 63:44 CCSS, NJBC, CBS CCSS, CSB 2Cor 11:14 SN1, NJBC 63:44 Ref. D4 below.</p>	<p>Gen 1:2 Ps 74:13 Dan 7:3-8</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>The Diabolical Deeds of the Beast</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In verses 5-7, all that is “given” and “allowed” come from God => Under God’s superior wisdom, might, and control, He allows (but dislikes) evil power to run its course; however, God can mysteriously elicit goodness from such evil deeds; fulfilling His plan in the end. • Facing afflictions, no matter how difficult and challenging they are, Revelation advises that faithful endurance. Only faith can strengthen and mature us. God delights in those 	<p>13:5-10 CCSS Jn 19:11 Lk 22:3, CCC 311 Rev 13:10 Heb 12:1-13, Rev 7:13-17, 11:12</p>	<p>Job 1:12 Gen 50:20</p>

	<p>who remain faithful amidst afflictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Those destined for pestilence, to pestilence, and those destined for the sword, to the sword; those destined for famine, to famine, and those destined for captivity, to captivity” - Referencing Jeremiah to foretell the destruction of Jerusalem in 578 B.C. => In Rev., Rome is not the target, it is Jerusalem. 	CSSN B7/2	Jer 15:2
C	<p><u>The Beast that Comes Out of the Earth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The beast with “two horns like a lamb’s but spoke like a dragon” is the false prophet; possibly pointing to the tactics used by the Roman government that compels people to follow the first beast. This could also refer to the Herodian empire. Evil power poses as a diabolical counterfeit of the relationship of the Holy Trinity: the work of the latter beast persuades people to worship the previous beast; the previous beast mimics the Son (died and resurrected); creating the false image of the first beast possessing the same power as the Father (v4). The beast deceives the inhabitants of the earth with signs, “telling them” to make an image for the beast; deceiving them into believing that anyone who did not worship it could be put to death. “It forced all ... to be given a stamped image on their right hands or their foreheads” - this mark mimics the “seal of the living God”; those who do not bear the mark are subjected to economic discrimination. 	<p>13:11-18</p> <p>13:11-12 CCSS, CSB CSSN B7/3</p> <p>13:13-15 CCSS</p> <p>13:16-17</p>	Dan 3
D	<p><u>The Mystery of “666”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If “7” means perfection, then “6” signifies imperfection. When the Greek word for “beast” is transliterated into Hebrew, it totals 666; the Hebrew version of Nero’s name also has the numeric value of 666. John may imply that the beast is a Nero-like figure. 	13:18 CCSS, CSB	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of timing, Preterist scholars believed that the beast had already appeared in the 1st Century, contrarily, Futurist scholars believed that it would appear before the second coming of Christ. Both views offer plausible explanations; in general, we follow the Church’s teaching: the deception of antichrist persists throughout history, therefore, one must remain on guard. • The wealth of OT background is, indeed, hidden behind the messages of Revelation (e.g. Rev 12 & Gen 3:14-19, 144,000 people who had been marked = OT’s 12 tribes x NT’s 12 Apostles, etc.); the number 666 could mean Solomon. Revelation, incorporating rich imagery, is affirmed of its importance on the one hand, and teaches us how to interpret the Bible on the other. 	<p>CCC 675-76</p> <p>CSSN B7/3 CSB</p>	<p>1Kg 10:14</p>
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Special Notes:

1. The Antichrist in the New Testament
 - a. Will appear before the end-time; has already appeared frequently in the contemporary world - Jn 2:18, 4:3
 - b. Jesus has predicted the rise of the anti-messiah and false prophet in the end-time; these figures have the ability to perform great miracles and signs - Mt 24:24
 - c. Paul predicts before the coming of Christ, “the lawless one [will be] revealed, the one destined for destruction”; self-proclaimed as “god”, “who uses all power, signs, lying wonders” - 2Th 2:1-12
 - d. The two beasts in Revelation.

Before Christ’s second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the “mystery of iniquity” in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is Antichrist. The Antichrist’s deception already begins to take shape in the world every time the claim is made to realize within history that messianic hope which can only be realized beyond history through the eschatological judgement. The Church has rejected even modified forms of this falsification of the kingdom to come under the name of millenarianism, especially the “intrinsically perverse” political form of a secular messianism.

(CCC 675-6)

Antichrist will appear at the end-time; however, it has already appeared many times (Jn 2:18, 4:3). For instance:

- The French Revolution - 18thC
- Nazism - 20thC
- Communism - 20thC
- Rome, Islam, and the economic discrimination of the Soviet Union
- Corruption of morality resulted from Socialism and Capitalism
- The so-called “gay” rights and equality contradicting the scriptural teachings on marriage and family
- Abortion and pro-choice movement covering up the crime of destroying life

(Reference: CCSS pp 226, 229, 236-7)