

## Eschatology

### The Beast of Revelation 13

1. Though the term antichrist is not used by John in the *Revelation* to describe a person who did not believe that Jesus was God incarnate then who or what is the Beast of *Revelation 13*?
2. It can be said immediately that whoever or whatever the Beast of *Revelation 13* references it is a historical reference because of the time element of Revelation 1:1. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*
3. The first readers of Revelation 13:18 were told to “*count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*”
4. There is a historical personage of this period whose name in both Hebrew and Greek adds up to six hundred and sixty six in the ancient alphanumeric method used in that day. His name in the English is Nero but he was known as *Neron Kesar* or simply *n-r-w* [*o sound*]- *n q* [*k sound*] *s-r*, in the Hebrew since Hebrew has no letters to represent vowels.

N = 50

R = 200

W = 6

N = 50

Q = 100

S = 60

R = 200

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666

5. Certainly the character of Nero was beastly in nature. He had his mother beaten to death and slashed open by soldiers after his attempts to poison and drown her failed. A few years later he had his wife Octavia killed so he could marry his mistress Poppaea. Then he kicked her to death when she complained he came home too late. Suetonius reported he castrated the boy Sporus and then lived with him as a wife. But it was his persecution of the Christians that gave him the title of “the Beast.” When fire broke out in Rome Nero blamed the Christians of whom many were arrested and burned alive, used as human torches to light up his garden party. John said of the Beast it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them (Rev. 13:7). And so he did. Tertullian (ca. 155-220) wrote, “*At Rome, Nero was the first who stained with blood the rising faith.*”

6. Many of the earliest Christian writers on the Apocalypse from Irenaeus to Victorinus of Pettau to Commodian in the fourth, Andreas in the fifth and St. Beatus in the eighth century connect Nero, or some Roman Emperor with the Beast of the Apocalypse.