

BELPRES CHURCH

Deception

Dr. Scott Dudley

^{1b} And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. ³ One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.

¹¹ Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³ And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. ¹⁴ Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth.

¹⁶ It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Revelation 13:1b, 3, 11-14, 16-18

Discussion Questions: Please read all of Revelation 13

1. How are the two beasts in Revelation 13 different? What power does each beast have? What does each beast represent? (see also Revelation 17)
2. Compare the view of government (and, specifically the Roman Empire) in Revelation 13 to the view the Apostle Paul presents in Romans 13:1-7. What are the differences? How do we reconcile these two different views of government?
3. What do you think 666 means?
4. What relevance does this passage have to your life?