

The Beast!

Who is the Beast of **Revelation 13**? Perhaps who was the Beast of **Revelation 13** would be a more Biblically accurate question.

A cryptogram of Caesar Nero's name (**Rev 13:18**) yields a numeric value of 666 in the Hebrew. The first century church is told to calculate this man's number (**Rev 13:18**). Why would God's Word instruct first century believers to calculate the number of the Beast, if this man wasn't yet alive?

The sixth emperor (**Rev 17:10**) Nero Caesar reigned from 54 to 68 A.D. According to the Roman historians Tacitus and Suetonius, Nero's nickname was "*the Beast*" (coincidence?); and his reign was far worse than that of Domitian. For three and a half years Nero tried to eliminate the early church. He had the Apostles Paul and Peter murdered, and after boiling the Apostle John in hot oil, exiled him to the prison island of Patmos (**Rev 1:9**). People could not buy or sell in the marketplaces without collaborating (right hand = acting / **Rev 13:16-17** / forehead = thoughts) with the Beast, by declaring "Caesar is Lord."

Nero even declared himself to be God incarnate. He ordered all statues in the empire to have their heads cut off, and that a sculpture of his head should be put on in all their places. Moreover,

Nero desired that an idol of himself to be set up in the Holy Place of the Jerusalem Temple. He married his sister, and when she was nine months pregnant, murdered her and their baby simultaneously with a sword.

Nero sometimes dressed in nothing but animal hides, and practiced cannibalism. He burnt the city of Rome, blamed the Christians, and fed them to the lions at the Coliseum. He also made living candles out of them.

After attacking the early church for 3 ½ years, Nero then initiated the Judeo-Roman War which lasted another 3 ½ years from 67-70 A.D. This was the seven year Great Tribulation the Apostle John reports he was enduring (**Rev 1:9**). Note the Temple is still standing (**Rev 12:1-2**) when the Book of Revelation was written; thus dating the writing of the Book of Revelation prior to A.D. 70.

If you would like more detailed and extensive information regarding the identity of the Beast, I highly recommend reading Kenneth Gentry's book, The Beast of Revelation.

The Biblical and historical evidence that Nero Caesar was the Beast of Revelation is overwhelming. When one applies **Acts 17:11** and makes an objective examination of the evidence, it is difficult to arrive at a different conclusion.

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