

## THE GEMATRIA OF THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST—666

**Revelation 13:18** *“There is need for shrewdness here: anyone clever may interpret the number of the beast: it is the number of a human being, the number 666.”*

For a Jew this number was a fearful image. The Old Testament image that would immediately connect with Jews or Messianic Jews would be the fall of King Solomon, Israel’s greatest ruler, as he led his people into apostasy. We’ll discuss those passages at the end of this section.

As you will remember we discussed the concept of “Rome is Caesar and Caesar is Rome;” that a ruler and his empire is one and the same. John clearly shows us this connection in the riddle of the number of the Beast. In the ancient world there was no separate set of symbols representing number value. Letters of the alphabet carried numerical value. The 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet all had number value just as the 24 letters of the Greek alphabet each had a number equivalent. But as for the Romans, only 6 letters carried number value: 1= the letter I, 5= the letter V, 10 = the letter X, 50 = the letter L, 100= the letter C, and 500 = the letter D. Contrary to popular belief there was no single letter value for 1000. That number was represented by back to back Ds and so resembled the letter M.

John warns us that to solve this puzzle takes shrewdness and cleverness! The Roman Emperor we know as Nero Caesar had two common spelling for his name in the first century. One form was Nero Kesar but the Hebrew spelling is Neron Kesar. This is important because some ancient MSS (handwritten manuscripts) instead of using the number 666 have the number 616. If you add up the letter values in Hebrew (that’s why it takes shrewdness—most people did not know Hebrew) Neron Caesar (Neron Kaisar) adds up to 666. Neron Kaisar =Nrwn Q(K)sr in Hebrew which used no vowels, was the linguistically correct Hebrew form and is found in the Jewish Talmud, in the writings of the community at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and other rabbinical writings. No Jew would ever have thought of Nero except as rsq nwrn (Hebrew read left to right). But Nero Caesar (rsq nwr), the other spelling (alternate spellings were very common), adds up to 616, which is exactly the variant reading in a few New Testament Revelation manuscripts for the number of the Beast.

### Examples of Gematria for Neron Caesar and Nero Caesar

Hebrew	Hebrew	Greek
Nrwn Qsr - Neron Caesar	Nrw Qsr – Nero Caesar	Iesous – Jesus
Q=100	Q=100	I= 10

S= 60	S= 60	E= 8
R= 200	R= 200	S= 200
N= 50	N= 50	O= 70
R= 200	R= 200	U= 400
W= 6	W= 6	S= 200
N= 50		
666	616	888

This is extremely strong evidence for the Beast representing the depraved Roman emperor Nero. It also cannot be overlooked that all the earliest Catholic Christian writers on the Apocalypse from St. Irenaeus Bishop of Lyon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century down to St. Victorinus Bishop of Pettau martyred in 302AD, Commodian in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and Adreaeus in the 5<sup>th</sup> and St. Beatus in the 8<sup>th</sup> centuries connect Nero and/or Rome with the number of the Beast.

**Question:** Why is 6 the number of man and the number of the beast?

**Answer:** 6 is the number of man and the beasts because they were both created on the 6<sup>th</sup> day. There's an important connection to Christ and man here. Can you guess what it is?

**Question:** But if Nero is the Beast isn't Rome also the Beast. After all, isn't this an illustration of the saying which was commonly expressed during the world domination of the Roman Empire "*Caesar is Rome and Rome is Caesar*"? If you add up the value of the numbers used by Rome for counting, what is the value of those numbers?

### The Gematria of Roman numerals

I	1
V	5
X	10
L	50
C	100
D	500
	666

666 is a trinity of 6s never to be a 7. 6 is the number of man, especially as man in rebellion against God. Goliath was 6 cubits and a span (see 1 Sam 17:4). King Nebuchadnezzar erected a statue to himself to be worshipped. It was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits across (Dan 3:1)

The answer of course is 666: The number of the Beast. Then too, Caesar claimed to be God. The word god in Greek is *theos*. Kaiser Theos is 616, the alternate number in some manuscripts:

K	20
A	1
I	10
S	200
A	1
R	100
T	9
E	5
O	70
S	200
Total	616

If you are interested in numbers, you may like to know that the square of 6(6x6) is 36, and the triangular of 36 is 666. Triangulation is a method of computation that was popular in the ancient world and was very familiar to people in the first century. It is too complicated to explain here but the different computations of the triangulation of 666 will yield both the numbers 3 1/2 and 1260 which are numbers you recognize from John's prophecy of the period of time the Beast is powerful and able to inflict suffering on the Saints.

Another interesting aspect of this very mysterious number is that John wrote out the symbols. He didn't spell out the number. Therefore, the first number was the same first initial double letter (in Greek) as the name of Christ: x = CH. The last letter which looks like an s in Greek, was the first double-letter (st) of the word Cross = stauros. Between the two stood the symbol of the Serpent. The whole formed a triple repetition of 6, the number of man, and the number day that Jesus was crucified (Friday is the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the week with Saturday, the Sabbath, the 7<sup>th</sup>). **Jesus died for man on the day man was created—Jesus died on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, Friday.** Jesus was resurrected on the 8<sup>th</sup> day; which became the first day of the new creation. The gematria for Jesus (Iesous) in Greek, the language of the New Testament is 888. 8 is the number of salvation and redemption. Jesus is a trinity of 8s.

**Question:** Can you find anywhere else in Scripture where the number 666 is mentioned? Hint: see 1Kings 10:14 and 1Chron. 9:13.

**Answer.** It is found only in these 2 places. Both passages record that King Solomon received 666 talents of gold in one year. Solomon is both a Biblical type for Christ and for the Beast. The number 666 marks both the height of his reign and the beginning of his fall away from God and into apostasy. Solomon falls from his position of favor with God as he breaks the three laws of godly kingship as recorded in Deuteronomy 17:16-17: the law against multiplying gold (1Kings 10:14-25); the law against multiplying horses (1Kings 10: 26-29); and the law against multiplying wives (1Kings 11:1-8). As I already mentioned, for a Jew the number 666 was a fearful sign of apostasy and the mark of both a king and his kingdom that had failed to image God and so had fallen to the image of Satan.

John's message is that Satan, the great red Dragon, at his most powerful is just a 6, or a series of 6s. He will never be a seven = perfection. His plans for the world and the downfall of man will never be fulfilled. The Church will overcome and be victorious through Jesus, the 888, who conquered on the 8<sup>th</sup> Day! Praise and glory to the King!

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## The Repetition of Revelation 5:6-11 in Revelation 14:1-5

Revelation 14:1-5	Revelation 5:6-11
v. 1 “..I saw Mt. Zion and standing on it the Lamb”	v. 6 “..then I saw...a Lamb standing”
v. 2 “..it was like the sound of harpists playing their harps.”	v. 8 “..each one of them was holding a harp.”
v. 3 “..before the throne they were singing a new hymn..”	v. 8 & 9 “..the One sitting on the throne.....They sang a new hymn:”
v. 4 “...they follow the Lamb...redeemed to be the first fruits for God and the Lamb.”	v. 9 “You bought people for God of every race, language, people, and nation..”

### The Law of Anticipation Theory

These actions (visions) are anticipated in one chapter and revealed or paralleled in a following chapter:

Rev. chapter 13 (the 2 Beasts) is anticipated in:	Chapter 11:1-13 (the 2 witnesses)
Rev. chapter 17-19 (Babylon the great prostitute) is anticipated in:	Chapter 14:8 (fallen Babylon)
Rev. chapter 16 (the 7 cups of wrath) is anticipated in:	Chapter 14: 10 (the cup of retribution)
Rev. chapter 19:17-21 (defeat of the Beast) is anticipated in:	Chapter 16:12-14 (Beast’s forces preparing for war)
Rev. chapters 21-22 (the New Jerusalem) anticipated in:	Chapter 19:7-9 (the reign of the Christ)

### The Angels, Christ, and the Harvest

Chapter 14:6-20 is divided into 7 sections, which is a vision of the glorified Christ who is flanked on each side by 3 angels. This is the transition between the Trumpet-visions, which were the proclamations of judgment, and the Chalice-visions, which are the applications of God’s judgment.

v. 6 Angel #1: announces the Gospel
v. 8 Angel #2: announces “Babylon has fallen”
v. 9 Angel #3: announces judgment against those who follow the Beast
<b>v. 14 CHRIST: as seen in Daniel 7:13 but with a crown and a sickle in His hand</b>
v. 15 Angel #1: shouts to Christ that the harvest of the earth is ripe
v. 17 Angel #2: comes out of the Temple in heaven and carries a sharp sickle in his hand
v. 18 Angel #3: in charge of the fire of God’s altar shouts to the Angel with the sharp sickle to begin the harvest of the grapes of the earth from the Vineyard.

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