

Rev 26-03-11b

Let's pick up our study here in Revelation chapter 13. We are looking at the mark of the beast the infamous 666 of legend and mythology Here's the thing remember we noted that this is at the beginning of the chapter and We are told that on his heads is a blasphemous name There have been Enormous attempts to try to figure out who is the beast by running Gematria Democrats thought it was Ronald Wilson Reagan because each of his names was composed of six letters and this was Doubly spooky to them when after he retired from Presidential life he went and bought a property in California and the address was 666 and Nancy actually got the post office to change it to six six eight because People were Speculating, you know, he was going to come back and be some sort of threat There are other Calculations For example, I think that that revelation was written in the time of Domitian Which is the early 90s? After Christ and You can take Abbreviations that are used on coins for Domitian's titles So if you abbreviate this is a bit of a stretch, but if in Greek you say abbreviation Caesar Domitian Augustus Germanicus which is his full title the Abbreviations for each of those titles if you add them together it totals six six six You can also do it for Titus who was 79 to 81 He's a rarer candidate, but his name in Greek and He is by the way, the one who destroyed the temple in 70 AD His name in Greek is Teitan and if you render that into Hebrew and do the gematria Titus his name Teton totals six six six But you can go online and go to a gematria website and say show me everything the total six six six It's absurd the number of things that can be made to fit that pattern so I personally think that especially because God seems to have given us the six one six and six six six as Alternate ways to get to the same destination. I think it is a pointer to the prototype and I think it is Nero Caesar but with that information We can say I am at a nearly 2,000 year distance from him.

So I'm safe What's the worry? Why do I care? not from the pattern and Remember what we have been seeing over and over again is Revelation has its roots in the Old Testament Old Testament narrative Old Testament prophecy You look at some of the Hebrew roots Such as Abaddon Also known as Apollyon. We saw that a couple of chapters ago In Revelation 9 11 both his Hebrew name and his Greek name the angel from the bottomless pit Abaddon in Hebrew Apollyon in Greek, but we are encouraged to think back to the roots Armageddon coming up in Revelation 16 is Har Megiddo, this is the Hebrew name for that valley that region In Revelation 19, we are going to see hallelujah four times in Revelation 19 1 3 4 & 6 Which is an entirely Hebrew expression of praise halal is The halal is the verb for praise. Halal is the noun for a praise Hallelujah means Let us praise Yahweh praise the Lord hallelujah and By the way, it is the only place in the entire New Testament where you find it The hallelujah chorus is quoting Old Testament Uses of the word But only in Revelation 19 verses 1 3 4 & 6. Do you find it in the New Testament? Amen is found throughout the book of Revelation To seal a statement of truth to affirm it I mean means May it be so it is so I affirm the truth Let it be so And this comes from the Hebrew root aman, which means to be firm to be established to be fixed as truth There are many indirect Hebrew influences in the book of Revelation It becomes obvious if you know both languages and work your way through in the Greek here that This is someone who is speaking

writing dictating Greek but thinking in Hebrew There are languages where You change the word order Greek is Far different in the arrangement of nouns and verbs and prepositions prepositional phrases you have post positive conjunctive particles where we would say for as now or something at the beginning of a sentence Greek always puts it as the second word and And You would understand if someone was thinking Greek and trying to speak English if they did that you would say ah you're thinking in Greek Aren't you? You can ask those who are familiar with American Sign Language.

How different the order of ideas is in that language in the way that those thoughts are expressed versus the American English and That's why there is a whole separate Language called signed exact English or C See that that tries to more closely approximate The language that the rest of us use, but they're far different It becomes clear when you work through Revelation and you know Hebrew that John is thinking in Hebrew slash Aramaic the the structures and word orders and things are virtually identical in Aramaic they are they are first cousins of language with greatly overlapping grammar syntax and so on and it becomes clear that John is using Greek words, but he's he's following Hebrew sentence structure and so he one of the things that you can see very clearly is how many times in Revelation a Sentence begins with the word and and this is a Hebraism Greek authors don't do that but John does and He hasn't taken the time to go back and polish the Greek as he does in some of his other writing because he is dictating I think to an amanuensis and he's observing and Registering his vision and then passing it on to somebody who's writing as fast as they can and so John is Rapidly converting his Hebrew to Greek so that a Greek amanuensis can write it down and John also violates subject verb agreement in terms of gender or case and These are called solacisms Bart Ehrman and others Lodged this as a criticism and say whoever wrote Revelation wasn't sophisticated That's not the case it he May have been doing this intentionally to force the Greek language to behave like Hebrew for example the the duels in Hebrew the aim words such as Elohim Mayim and other aim words are plurals in the sense of referring to more than one of a thing, but they take a singular verb and This is often forced into play in Revelation once again reflecting Hebrew mindset There are also Allusions to The Old Testament to Tanakh the Torah the Nevi'im and the Ketuvim the Law of the Prophets and the Writings You may want to make this note in our English chaptered and versed Edition of Revelation we have 22 chapters But we have 404 verses total in this book 404 verses in those 404 verses roughly 278 of them well over half contain allusions to the Hebrew Bible More than every other verse harks back in some way to the Old Testament 278 allusions if you want to look them up somewhere you can there there is a list that gives every Old Testament reference and Allusion that you find in the Revelation You've also seen this in the imagery the Lion of the tribe of Judah the root of David the description of the New Jerusalem The living creatures the beasts and so on all are strongly tied back to the Old Testament This gives us confidence that when we are talking about a blasphemous name This is going to be the Old Testament definition of blasphemy What is it to blaspheme? God's name It means to arrogate to yourself that which properly belongs to God You see this in Daniel with Nebuchadnezzar. Why does he spend seven years? Grazing on grass and his fingernails and toenails growing out like claws and he's Out under the dew of heaven

and so on because he strode his palatial walkways and Irrigated to himself the glory that belongs to the God that raised him up to be the king of Babylon Where are we going with all of this? It's interesting in its own right, but If we turn the corner in chapter 13 Into application First of all, we understand that this pattern has existed in the past. The archetype is in the days of Nero All the way down through the time of Domitian Whichever way you want to understand the number it is very clear Clearly the Roman Caesar claiming divinity Demanding worship Having the power of life and death over those who either comply or refuse to comply This is going to be more fulsomely fulfilled During Daniel 70th week during the time of the Great Tribulation where people will once again be killed for Their refusal to worship this beast and to take his mark Refuse to go along with the system We are in between But these things are written for our instruction I Don't have to worry if I see political leaders who seem to be Ebloviating and this great swelling words of self-praise and You know obnoxious Grandiosity and think well that must be You know the spirit of Antichrist in my day The key here is not can I make these letters fit somebody that I dislike some American president some other world leader You can play with Adolf Hitler and get him to fit and people did back in You know What would that be 80 odd years ago and There have been those who fit the pattern.

What do you do? with the spirit of Antichrist that John talks about in his epistles when you see the irrigation the Assuming that which belongs to God to oneself This is what we watch for and this is what we do not permit if somebody is a braggart if they're full of themselves That's one thing Do they cause me or induce me to Begin to depend on them and to assign to them things For which I should be depending on God and assigning to God What would some of those things be? We can Imagine The names of God What are the names of God what does he ask us to Look to him for that the world tries to get us to depend on it for Well the counter Trinity Where there we have our Heavenly Father who is the source he has? He knows what we need before we ask him. He is the object of our prayers and our petitions if we begin to look to humans for that which we depend on God for You see the the counterfeits over and over and over again So first and foremost deliverance Paul says that our God and Father Delivers us not only for eternal salvation, but out of this present evil age Do I think that we've got to pass a law that we need tighter law enforcement? for my physical security Am I worried when I go out and circulate that somebody is going to perpetrate violence on me and am I looking for social structures and Legal structures to protect me and do I take refuge comfort? strength and encouragement from man-made systems of physical security So number one Where do we look for salvation and deliverance Psalm 3 verse 8 Salvation belongs to the Lord This is deliverance in every category. It doesn't mean that God will not use agency I don't sit with an infection and say God will deliver me from the infection.

I Was thinking about this because it sort of reminds me of of what? creationists and intelligent design enthusiasts Get accused of is well you have a God of the gaps Before science could explain everything you said God did everything now science can explain where certain things came from and you say well, okay that came from physics or Adaptation or whatever, but everything science can't explain That's where I say God was at work and and it's a perverse

twisting of Reality the fact is everything came from God everything that you can assign to adaptation and survival of the fittest and Evolution and all the rest of it to the extent that that has happened and is reflected in the in the rocks God still initiated it. It is by his design that those systems work that we have Bodies that can heal themselves Doctors can go in and facilitate healing they can set a bone They can stitch a wound they can they can purge out Bugs that are infecting you and so on whether they are parasites or bacteria or viruses and all of these still Require a human body with the systems that God designed and developed to work Antibiotics don't work unless you have a human body that can take them in process them distribute them to where the bad guys are and defeat them Bones don't heal because we want them to we don't go in and just Screw them together. We they they will heal Eventually, you can take the screws out.

You can take the plates off We typically don't but you could because bones heal flesh mends and so on God is still there, but there is this argument of the God of the gaps in the same way There is agency by which God can deliver and in modern days we don't have to depend so much on Things that that technology has put into place but God is the God of technology God helped man invent the wheel and master fire and learn how to how to cook and how to how to store foods so that they will last and We Recognize that we can now explain agency by which God does things but deliverance Salvation is still ultimately from God just because we identify intermediate agency doesn't mean that God isn't the first and foremost and Engendering cause Psalm 20 verse 7 some trust in chariots and some in horses. We trust in the name of the Lord our God It is the God of creation that is responsible for horses God created man that figured out how to make chariots But if you trust in the agent and lose sight of the God who put them in place and made them available You've missed it. That's what this False Christ is going to do.

That's what the dragon is going to deceive the world into believing is That faith should be placed in the immediate agency in That which can produce these deceptive signs and wonders instead of God Psalm 146 verses 3 through 5. I'll just read a few highlights here. Do not put your trust in princes if you are unsettled by the Direction in which the country is headed and you think we have got to fix elections. We've got to get the right people elected we've got to If we can just get the right candidate Forward and into office that will fix our problems nothing wrong with With supporting someone with voting for someone with hoping that they will do a good job But if that's where you repose your faith and hope and even love There's a problem put not your trust in princes Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob and It says God of Jacob for a reason you go back to the narrative where Jacob has Discussions with God and God makes promises to him and he trusts God most of the time Jonah chapter 2 verse 9 Kind of an odd place to find it but salvation belongs to the Lord Acts 4 12 there is salvation Nowhere else none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved Secondly Point one is to whom do we look for deliverance and salvation the world in this Chapter 13 phase is going to be looking to the Beast We don't want to make that mistake Secondly provision What is The Lord Jesus encouraged his disciples to pray to the Father give us this day our daily bread Matthew 6 31 through 33 do not be anxious about what you will eat or what you'll wear.

It doesn't mean take no steps Make no plan don't use practical ingenuity Work earn a living Paul says in another place let everyone work with their hands He who does not work does not eat and yet Jesus says in Matthew 6 31 through 33 do not be anxious about these things your heavenly father knows You have need of them He will Make it possible He will put potentials before us where we can accomplish what we need to to meet our basic needs And Philippians 4 19 Paul talking to those who are looking to contribute to the needs of other saints My God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory Again, not discounting intermediate agency. We don't just sit on our hands and wait for a parachute from heaven But in Revelation 13 17 the beast enabled and empowered by the dragon and supported and advertised by the second beast is going to devise a system that controls buying and selling Look to us. We're rationing so that everyone has enough you could imagine that this Guaranteed individual income idea where well the government is just going to write every person's name In the country probably citizen or not a check Look to us.

We'll provide your needs. Just wait for your government check Everybody's on welfare That's number two provision food daily needs security number three Protection and security Again Psalm 20 verse 7 that we already looked at some put their trust in chariots and horses Trust God ultimately, we do not worry not because we've got a great security system and a bunch of wireless cameras or because we've got 9-1-1 and the cops can be here in 75 seconds We trust in God. That's where our peace that passes understanding comes from Psalm 127 verse 1 Unless the Lord watches over the city the watchman stays awake in vain There's one to ponder If God's not guaranteeing your security you don't really have security however many watchmen you have on the wall Isaiah 31 verse 1 national Israel as the Address II woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and do not look to the Holy One of Israel We'll make an alliance we'll have another army come in Proverbs 21 31 Proverbs very practical.

We'll get back to it one day 21 31 of Proverbs the horse is made ready for the day of battle. This is what a prudent thoughtful Intelligent person does but the victory belongs to the Lord Get your horse ready for the day of battle, but the victory will come from the Lord that's number three protection and security number four Justice Recompense fairness Genesis 18 verse 25 shall not the judge of all the earth do right God is the judge of all the earth ultimately and finally you see it within chapter 13 The Saints are going to be overcome. That doesn't seem right That evil should triumph over God's sanctified believing faithful Children The judge of the earth will do right don't worry about short-term inequities in elegancies injustices unfairness We've seen this in other contexts you look at the Sermon on the Mount Is it fair if someone asks you for your coat to give them your cloak also to go above and beyond to and Corinthians? not to go before the courts with fellow believers and Allow unbelievers to judge cases between believers it Paul says it's better.

Let yourself be wronged let God Balance the scales in his time and in his way It's better to suffer wrong than to look to the world for justice Deuteronomy 32 35 off-quoted vengeance is mine. I will repay saith the Lord Romans 12 19 do not avenge yourselves But this false system is going to claim the authority authority will be given to Control and pronounce Life death moral

judgment take to itself arrogate to itself Divine prerogatives number five Where do we look for wisdom and truth? This book itself this is such a wonderful book remember this is the only one in the Bible that pronounces a blessing on anyone who Studies it who reads it and takes it to heart and doesn't change any of it Wisdom here is wisdom verse 18 This entire book is wisdom the entire Word of God is wisdom the first 10 or 12 chapters of Proverbs that we looked at were all about wisdom and its source human wisdom systems Bad place to look Proverbs 3 5 through 7 trust in the Lord with all your heart Lean not on your own understanding in all your ways acknowledge him. He will direct your paths Jeremiah 9 23 and 24 we've memorized this remember let not the wise man boast in his wisdom Let not the strong man glory in his strength But he who glories glory in the Lord First Corinthians 120 through 25 God Overturns the wisdom of man Colossians chapter 2 verse 3 in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge I Could quote scripture all day just on this point along.

What alone? What is the source of wisdom and truth? Jesus said John 14 6 I am the truth. I am the way I am the life Do you want temporal security temporal Skill do you want to get along and succeed in this life make a lot of money have a bunch of toys at the end? of the road I Am the life you can only come to the father through him number six This is something even the dragon and his two beasts cannot provide Forgiveness of sin a Court system can declare someone not guilty it doesn't take away their sin even the ritual Acts Prescribed under the Levitical system of the Old Testament the blood of goats and bulls could never take away sin There is only forgiveness and cleansing in Christ, but for those who say you're okay Don't worry about it. I saw somebody Actually suggesting that that there may be a justification for shoplifting We ought to allow a certain amount of shoplifting because that's the only way some poor people can get along and it's too much trouble For them to try to register in the system and get a government check.

Let's just allow people to shoplift It's okay to offend it is okay to break the law. It is okay The System is not going to call you to account You will not be held accountable for this and that in the other forgiveness of sin Isaiah 43 25 God says I I am he Who blots out your transgressions? Mark 2 verse 7 when Jesus Says to the person he just healed your sins are forgiven you who can forgive sins, but God alone and they're right No one, but God can forgive sins in the true ultimate abiding and perfect sense first John 1 9 But this false system will absolve people of moral guilt and Redefine sin so that it's not sin anymore as you see all around us. We cannot be co-opted or deceived or Otherwise misled by this system that says sin is not sin Fornication and adultery are not wrong if it feels good do it and so on December 6 number 7 where do we look for guidance and direction some of these overlap this overlaps with wisdom and truth But Psalm 32 verse 8 God says I will instruct you I will teach you in the way you should go Again the first 10 chapters of Proverbs is A starting point into the wisdom of that entire collection James 1 5 if any of you likes wisdom let him ask of God who gives generously and without reproach You want guidance and direction ask ask and it will be given seeking you will find knock and it will be opened this system Says now we'll tell you We've we've got a real smooth operating artificial intelligence here if you need help now Again, there is agency if I want to know how to fix my car

AI is a great place to to get the steps for disassembling and reassembling my carburetor with cleaned and refurbished parts But if I need moral guidance if I need wisdom in my Relationships in setting my priorities and being a good steward of my time Things that belong to God God does not claim Come to me if you need practical skill in accomplishing a task There's not a part of the law that says here's how you plant wheat It tells you what to do once you have planted it and What to do at the time of harvest be sure you render the first fruits to God Acknowledging that you wouldn't have wheat and it wouldn't grow and it wouldn't produce a crop 36 year 100 fold if it were not for God's design Honor God with the first fruits of your increase But there's not extensive instruction on how to weave cloth Many other skills.

How do you cook food? How do you? skin Various animals and so on God never makes a claim over that So we avail ourselves a practical skill and wisdom all the time But those areas that God lays claim on what about the peace and contentment in your heart? What about the sources for the fruit of the Spirit? Where can you? find and cultivate and express love and joy and peace and the other Things that are a part of the fruit of the Spirit. That's God's domain Look to him He will give to those who ask number eight Who gets the glory Who do we celebrate who are we thankful for and feel indebted to in terms of stewardship and Directing our efforts in a way that is pleasing is it this beast and the power behind him and The power that supports him or is it God? God says in Isaiah 42 8 I give my glory to nobody My glory I give to no other God alone is worthy to be praised Look at the Ten Commandments thou shalt have no other gods before me What does it mean for something to serve as a God? What does it mean for something to serve as? an idol So that we end up unconsciously practicing idolatry Paul says coveting is idolatry wanting things and Operating our lives investing our time and effort in the service of acquisition to satisfy our needs Self-gratification, it's idolatry We put ourselves ahead of God and and what he deserves of our time. Are we? Remembering the Sabbath to keep it holy Is there a Need to reserve a Saturday as some suggest most recently, I think Charlie Kirk Or do we understand that it is up to us to reserve? something akin to the seventh part of our time our attention our focus and Devoted to God To the exclusion of other things if you need to take a day and shut your phone off to do it That's fine.

That's one way to do it. I Think every day ought to have a Sabbath portion where we stop we isolate if need be and Spend time in reflection in appreciation in prayer in communion in fellowship with the Father And The one in seven principle if I'm awake 14 hours in the day then a couple of those hours Maybe it's my commute put on an audio book. That's devoted to Scripture get up and spend a half hour take time on the lunch break and reflect and pray and Restore a divine point of view on life That's worship Revelation 19 10 John begins to bow to one of the messengers.

He says to who don't worship me worship God God is the proper object of worship It is God who Removes Kings and sets up Kings Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar this when he's interpreting his dream in Daniel 2 21 Daniel 4 17 the Most High rules the kingdom of men don't let this Artificial counterfeit lash-up make you think that they've got the power Only God and it is given to them to operate in this space for this Very definite period of time and God's even going to

shorten those days Acts 17 26 it is God who determines the boundaries of nations Even as they currently exist so These blasphemous names that you see on the beast Revelation 13 1 the blasphemies that it speaks This is Assuming the role of God and causing others to treat this entity this Representation as God it fulfills one of Satan's I wills. I want to be like the Most High That's the blasphemy don't wait for the 666 to come out with somebody's name Nero Caesar is the pattern and the archetype and that spirit of Antichrist is at work even today Don't fall for the Antichrist and these satanic machinations That's the message for us and it's a powerful one. Don't be sucked in by social media by News outlets, however, they may portray or position themselves We are to base our thinking on the Word of God not on the opinion of talking heads even those with whom we agree gather facts But we entrust our souls our peace our judgment our view of the world to God and to God alone, otherwise we have been taken in and Made a part of a world system food for thought We'll pick up our study here right at the close of chapter 13 and into chapter 14 where the 144,000 servants of God reappear this coming Sunday.

We'll close here in a word of prayer father. Thank you for alerting us Warning us we thank you for the Lord Jesus who sends us this message and makes it so clear how important it is for us to set a watchman on our own walls and Be alert and ensure that we are not taken in that we are not fooled that no man deceives us We are people of truth Characterized by truth and reflect the truth of the Lord Jesus who is the embodiment of Your word we pray that in all things the Lord Jesus will be glorified. We pray it in his name.

Amen