

GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!

REVELATION 13

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Verses 1-5, The Devil and The Beast

The beast rising out of the sea (Roman Empire) with ten horns

Seven emperors: Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian

Three weak emperors after Nero: Galba, Otho, and Vitellius

Blasphemous names: divine, god, son of god, the savior of the world (coinage of Nero), lord

Description of the beast: Daniel 7: 1-7,

Lion, Babylon; Bear, Medes; Leopard, Persia; Fourth beast, Alexander the Great
Roman Empire contained ferocity greater than kingdoms before it

Swete: "Vigilance, crafty and cruelty of the leopard, ever ready to spring upon its prey; it has the crushing strength of the bear; it is like the lion whose roar terrifies its flock."

Lesson: Any empire founded on brute force and not on moral greatness is anti-God

Verses 6-10, Earthly Danger and Divine Safety

The Book of Life (Rev. 3: 5; 13: 8; 17: 8; 20: 12; 20: 15; 21: 27)

In the ancient world rulers kept registers of its citizens; only when a man died or lost his rights as a citizens was his name removed.

The Book of Life is the register of those who belong to God. No warfare from the enemy can remove us from the vision, destiny and purpose God has for our lives. (Romans 8: 31-39)

However through steadfastness we have the victory (Luke 21: 19)

Verses 11-17, The Power of the Second Beast

The organization and administration of Caesar worship

The ease and challenge of Caesar worship/sin

Sometimes we make serving and giving to the Lord more difficult than they need to be

The mark/certificate

Verse 18, The Mark of the Beast

The Nero redivivus legend or Nero resurrected (verse 3)

Nero as Anti-Christ