

**Redemption Church of Bristol**  
***Revelation 13-14 Worksheet***

**What are our allusions and references?**

- The Beast from the Sea
  - A combination of the beasts from Daniel 7 which represented different empires; a leopard, a bear, a lion, and a monster
  - 7 heads and 10 horns and 10 crowns -
    - Symbols of worldly power & strength. Also the combined number of heads and horns from the beasts in Daniel 7
  - "head with a fatal wound"- there was a persistent rumor after Nero died that he had actually gone into hiding and would return. There was also a civil war after his death which made it seem like Rome would collapse, but ultimately survived
  - Daniel tells us the beasts represent evil kings and kingdoms who blaspheme God and wage war against her people. John seems to be portraying Rome as the beast who acts with the deeds of Nero.
- The Beast from the Earth
  - "horns of a lamb but a voice like a dragon" - clues the reader in that this is an institution that will look Christlike, but does Satan's work. Meant to deceive the faithful into worshipping the first beast.
  - In Revelation 19:20 this beast is called 'The False Prophet'
- 666
  - Every letter in ancient alphabets was given a numerical value.
  - The Hebrew letters in Neron Kaisar (Nero Caesar) equal 666
  - John wants his readers to solve who the number is. If Rome is the beast then the number shows the beast will act with the narcissism, cruelty and deception that Nero reigned with.
  - There are reports that anyone that did not bring their annual offering to the temple of Caesar was not permitted to buy or sell in the marketplaces
  - "sealed on the forehead and left arm" - Jewish people to this day use phylacteries in worship. They are devices that bind scripture to their arms and forehead. The most popular verse kept in phylacteries is Deuteronomy 6:4-9 which includes, ".. you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.."
    - If 666 is to be marked in the phylactery then it means that those who are marked love Caesar with all their hearts, souls and strength
- The Lamb's 144,000
  - In Daniel 7 the Son of Man shows up to destroy the beasts. The Lamb's appearance in John 14 echoes that
  - We have seen these 144,000 sealed earlier in Chapter 7. They are the firstfruits and their meek, chaste description including that they 'always follow the Lamb' stands in contrast with those who are marked by and worship the beast.

**What is Most Important?**

- The people who worship the beast ask "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?"
  - They trust in the frightening appearance of the beast as well as the deceptive signs. In reality the beast has no power at all. He is allotted a time by God of when he can reign. We also see that the Lamb and His harvesters are able to overpower the beast in Ch 14
  - The beast looks scary, but has no true power. The worst weapon it has is to kill, but the Lamb has already overcome death.
- The beast is not one far off future ruler, but is any earthly institution that demands the place of God in your life

**Reflection:**

- What do you think a life marked by the beast looks like compared to a life sealed by the Lamb?
- Where have you seen the 'mighty' power of the beast used?
- Where have you seen the meek power of the Lamb triumph over beastly power?