

The Number of the Beast: Rev. 13.18

“six hundred sixty-six” (ἑξακόσιοι ἑξήκοντα ἑξ = *hexakosioi hexēkonta hex*)

Roman Numerals: DCLXVI

Greek: χ'ξ'ς'

Greek: χξς (chī-xī-stigma¹)

Though there are objections to it, the most widely held solution to the number of the beast is as follows. If one transliterates **Caesar Nerōn** from Greek (Καίσαρ Νερῶν) into Hebrew (קסר נרן), then adds the numeric values of those letters, the sum is six hundred sixty-six.

qôph	rêš	sāmekh	nûn	rêš	wāw	nûn
ק	ר	ס	נ	ר	ו	ן
100	200	60	50	200	6	50
Q	S	R	N	R	W	N
Kai	sa	r	Ne	r	ō	n

If one transliterates the Latin into Hebrew, the final *nûn* drops, resulting in the number 616, which is a variant, χις, in some MSS.

On one level, then, Nero seems to be the “beast” (θηρίον = *thērion*). Indeed, he is called just that in the *Sibylline Oracles*, by Philostratus (ca. 172-237), and by a few others. If one transliterates the Greek θηρίον into Hebrew, the sum of the numeric values of the letters is also six hundred sixty-six.

A similar example of gematria comes from the *Sibylline Oracles* (1.137-146), where one finds the Greek numeric value of the name *Jesus*:

I	H	Σ	Θ	Υ	Σ
10	8	200	70	400	200

Biblical Background for the Antichrist(s)

antichrists: 1 Jn 2.18, 22; 4.2; 2 Jn 1.7

“man of lawlessness”: 2 Thess. 2.1-12

Lucifer: see Isa. 14.12-14

Note that the Antichrist is not a figure in Revelation.

¹ Note that this last letter is a *stigma* (ς), not a *sigma* (σ). By the first century, the *stigma* was used only as a numeral.