

**The Coming Surveillance Technocracy of The Beast
Lies, Lies and More Lies
Revelation 13:14 – 18**

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We have examined, in Revelation 1 – 10, the beast from the sea, also known simply as the beast or the antichrist.

He is part of the counterfeit trinity of Satan whereas Satan replaces God the Father, and the Beast replaces Jesus Christ.

Starting with Revelation 13:11, we began looking at another beast, this one comes from the land. He will also be known as the False Prophet and is a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit.

An important factor for us to remember is that Satan wants to replace God...and he is losing. He knows he has just a little time, but he is the prime example of hubris and believes he can win.

Revelation 13:11–13

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.” (NASB95)

A question arises as to how can someone control everything? It is in verse 12...he **makes** the earth...

Everything on the face of the earth is to serve the interest of the Antichrist, the first beast. All the institutions of communication, all the resources of governments and administrations, all the educational resources, and all the commerce and industry must stand at the beck and call of the Antichrist. For that reason, the false prophet as the mouthpiece of the Antichrist must control and govern the human mind. This feat can be accomplished only when human beings turn away from their former allegiances and worship the Antichrist. (Kistemaker and Hendriksen 1953-2001, 389)

Revelation 13:14

“And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.” (NASB95)

The false prophet, who is also the minister of propaganda, is the one who is deceiving the earth dwellers, those who are not believers. It appears that the false miracles that are performed is also enough to eliminate those who have been on the fence as well to fully embrace the deception taking place. He does it though in the presence of, or on behalf of the beast. There is the monitoring and control we discussed last week.

Revelation 13:14

“It deceives those living on earth with the signs that it is allowed to do on behalf of the first beast, telling them to make an image for the beast who was wounded by a sword and yet lived.” (ISV)

And it causes to go astray deceiving those who dwell on the earth by reason of the signs which it was given to it to work before the wild beast, saying to those who dwell on the earth to make an icon to the wild beast which has the wound of the sword and lived.

The signs which the false prophet is doing are fakes. They are not the real thing, but they look like it to the observer.

The best lies are those that contain a kernel of truth. The world’s greatest manipulators attracted their audiences by offering a false product nearly indistinguishable from the real thing. (Hinn and Wood 2018, 80)

This is exactly what the false prophet will do and unfortunately, it is also what many false teachers do today as well. Our job is to be so familiar with the genuine, that the fake is obvious.

To judge from the Scriptures, the devil never did much in the way of miracles. Look at what God wrought through Moses in Egypt, and then see what a poor exhibition Jannes and Jambres put up in competition, and yet the Pharaoh believed the sorcerers but did not believe God. (Lenski 1935, 407)

Mark 13:21–23

“And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.” (NASB95)

The lie must be convincing. Since it is a lie, it could be simply the application of technology that most are not aware of. For a lie to be truly convincing, a lot of planning is required. This planning and coordination are something that false teachers do today. Nothing is left to chance.

Admittedly, we [the authors] know this movement well. We’ve seen the backstage planning of a “miracle” crusade, the pre-selection of those to be healed, the bravado in the green rooms, the falsified twitter feeds, the manipulation of youthful naïveté, and even the post event cash-money exchanges behind hotel doors in some destitute third world nation . . . nothing but smoke and mirrors. (Hinn and Wood 2018, 4-5)

An image is to be made of the beast.

The Beast has a problem. He claims to be god, but lacks God’s omnipresence. Therefore, an icon (εἰκόνα [eikona]) of the Beast is to be made. (Garland 2006, Re 13:14)

Satan is working towards the establishment of his false trinity and he is also working to do the one thing he desires to do, that he still has the capability to do; to “make himself like the most high.”

Satan is not God; he is a created being and does not have the same attributes that God has. He cannot be in all places at the same time, as he empowers the beast, the beast does not have that capability either, he is limited by locale and overall perception.

Perception can be enhanced via enhancements made to him physically to include the potential for cybernetic implants allowing for a direct uplink to a network.

Technology is either in place, or rapidly being developed to be in place to enable this to occur. Part of that technology we carry with us every day. There are holes in the network for connectivity, but that is rapidly being resolved thanks to Space X and the proposed Starlink Network which will provide a worldwide broadband link.

Revelation 13:15

“And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” (NASB95)

Revelation 13:15

“And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.” (ESV)

In Bible school, I was trained that this meant the construction of an idol in the rebuilt Temple and that idol then comes to life. That may indeed be the case, but let’s dig a little deeper into this.

Revelation 13:15

“The second beast was allowed to impart life to the image of the first beast so that the image of the beast could talk and order the execution of those who would not worship the image of the beast.” (ISV)

And it was given to it to give breath, spirit, mind, element of life to the icon, image of the beast that also should give forth sounds, tones, uttering, the icon of the wild beast, and should cause as many as not would do homage, worship that they should be killed.

There is something in this section of scripture that we may not see immediately. Some translations say the false prophet gives the image life...that is not entirely correct. The Greek word is breath, not life.

Revelation 11:11

“But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them.” (NASB95)

The Greek word for life, ζωή (zoe) is used with πνεῦμα (pneuma) here in chapter 11. God gives life, Satan would like to counterfeit that, but all he can do is bring breath, and even that is suspect.

The word for breath is pneuma (“spirit”). This could indicate a supernatural miracle (performed by the power of Satan) that actually gives life to the image. Or the word may be translated “wind” and indicate some technological feat performed by the second beast that gives the appearance of real life and speech to this image. (Ryrie 2018, 117)

This could be a description of an all-encompassing global computer network making use of current technology to create a pervasive global surveillance network. The existence of this would ensure obedience; it could also be used as a targeting tool to identify those who do not worship. When tied to space-based or localized AI empowered weapons, enabling instantaneous executions

An additional item of functionality is to tie in all economic activity as well. True cyber money with global tracking and centralized knowledge of what you purchased. Sounds a lot like Amazon on steroids.

Coupled with predictive analytics, something the insurance industry is currently mastering, an AI driven network would, with a high degree of probability, know what your future behavior would be. This allows for the injection of behavior modifying opportunities such as encouragement, questioning, arrest, or execution.

Stop and consider this, all social media being subject to analysis and then using that as a basis for arrest. Where do surveillance cameras place you consistently? If the house church meets at the same location all the time, that will be known. Who you associate with even occasionally, will be known.

This technology already exists. In London alone there has been reported to be at least 500,000 surveillance cameras. (Smith 2019)

Businesses and the government have spent years installing millions of surveillance cameras across the United States. Now, that technology is on the verge of getting a major upgrade, the American Civil Liberties Union warns in a new report...

Advancements in artificial intelligence could supercharge surveillance, allowing camera owners to identify “unusual” behavior, recognize actions like hugging or kissing, easily seek out embarrassing footage and estimate a person’s age or, possibly, even their disposition, the group argues. (Chokshi 2019)

Any human activity or characteristic that a computer can recognize it can also remember and report. As we have seen, the kinds of visual data that could be collected about Americans include such things as clothing worn; objects carried; actions taken (walking dog, drinking coffee, taking photo, sexual activity); gait, disability, or other movement characteristics; demographics like age, gender, and race/ethnicity; social interactions and cues (friend group, intimacy levels); and words or symbols on t-shirts, tattoos, or carried objects. (Stanley 2019, 39)

Commentaries are filled with remarks about the creation of an idol which comes to life, and prior to some recent developments in robotics and holography, I would agree with the comments.

Again, that may be the case, but what is this verse telling us?

The false prophet will cause to have made an image or icon of the beast so that the beast can be everywhere at one time. This sounds like multiple instances of a running computer program. This icon, which is created, also is the cause, for those who do not worship the beast, to be killed. Everyone is provided Gaagle Beast to take home and put on the table.

A technology that not only tracks you, mimics your god, and forces you to bend to his will and to do so willingly. Is that possible?

Habit-forming technology is already here, and it is being used to mold our lives. The fact that we have greater access to the web through our various connected devices—smartphones and tablets, televisions, game consoles, and wearable technology—gives companies far greater ability to affect our behavior. (Eyal and Hoover 2014, 10-11)

The intent of the passage seems to be that the image has the appearance of life manifested in breathing, but actually it may be no more than a robot. The image is further described as being able to speak, a faculty easily accomplished by mechanical means. (Walvoord 2008, 208)

Since Dr. Walvoord penned those words in anticipation of what technology the false prophet may have available, the world has changed...a lot.

Enhanced Humans, Cyborgs and Others

...developments in the fields of robotics and AI are creating synthetic systems that possess levels of sociality, imagination, emotion, legal and moral responsibility, and metabolic processes resembling those that had previously been seen only in biological entities like human beings. Within organizations, information will be gathered and communicated, strategic decisions made, and actions undertaken by a kaleidoscopic web of intelligent agents which together form a complex cybernetic network. Such entities may include 'natural' human beings who have not been biotechnologically modified; human beings possessing neuroprosthetic implants that provide extensive sensory, motor, and cognitive enhancement; human beings whose physical structures and biological processes have been intentionally sculpted through genetic engineering; human beings who spend all of their time dwelling in virtual worlds; virtualized entities resulting from a process of 'mind uploading'; artificial general intelligences; social robots; decentralized nanorobotic swarms; artificial organic or electronic life-forms, including virtual or physical robots that evolve through processes of mutation and natural selection; sentient or sapient networks; and 'hive minds' comprising groups of diverse agents linked in such a way that they can share collective sensory experiences, emotions, and volitions. (Gladden 2016, 21-22)

Drone Swarms

The development of robotic and unmanned ground vehicles (UGV) swarms are here and are becoming integrated in military operations. The US Army Research Laboratory (ARL) envisions fully operational UGV and robotic swarms by 2050. ARL anticipates ground drone swarms to be ubiquitous, ubiquitous, capable of observing and attacking "every inch of the battlefield," self-organized, and collaborative. Additionally, robots and drone swarms do not need sleep or food, and are not distracted or limited by bias, emotions, experience, and physical limitations. Further, the ARL envisions collaborative swarms of humans and robots. DARPA recognizes the potential and is developing a program to enhance the interface between humans and robots. (Sanders, MAJ US Army 2017, Location 270-281)

A three-dimensional hologram presents the illusion of someone there and talking, and listening, and responding.

If the image is robotic or also makes use of cybernetic inputs along with multiple robotic presences, it would create the impression that the Beast truly is a god and is everywhere all at once. This is a lie as the Beast has a presence that, using the existing network known as the internet, would provide the instant feedback as to whether worship of the beast is taking place. Using forms of advanced weaponry, such as space-based lasers, particle beam weapons, drones or drone swarms, then the appearance of fire falling from heaven to destroy the non-worshipper would create the illusion of the false prophet calling down fire from heaven, all of it a lie. All of it doable today.

When the Antichrist assumes control over his new kingdom, one of the first mandates given by the beast from the Abyss (the supernatural being helping the Antichrist) will be to create an image of the beast (a representation of the Antichrist and his kingdom). This man-made thing will be intelligent, able to speak, and serve the Antichrist by exerting administrative control over his kingdom. He will regulate the economic system of his kingdom by forcing all his subjects to accept a special identification mark (the mark of the beast). Those without the mark (or the number or name of the beast) will not be allowed to buy or sell goods within his kingdom. (Milor 2006, 197)

Efforts are currently taking place to allow for faster analysis and faster actionable intelligence to be available for officials. This is also a requirement for the Beast.

"We proposed that a novel brain-machine interface is realizable that would allow a robust solution to this important problem. This hardware/software approach allows a direct brain interface and the classification of its functional states using a benign invasive approach. We propose that this approach would be very helpful in human capacity augmentation and will yield significant new information regarding normal and abnormal brain function. Because its development and utilization is inevitable given the extraordinarily

attractive feature of being retrievable, in the sense that the recording/stimulating filaments are small enough that the device can be removed without violating the integrity of the brain parenchyma.

Because such interfaces will probably be streamlined over the coming years in efforts such as “hypervision” (Llinás and Vorontsov in preparation), two-way direct human communication, and man-machine telepresence (which would allow actuator-based distant manipulation), this approach should be fully examined. Finally, the development of new nanotechnology instrumentation may ultimately be an important tool in preventive medicine and in diagnostic/therapeutic outcome monitoring of physiological parameters.” (Llinas, Makarov and NYU Medical School 2003, 250)

The need to rapidly uplink and have actionable intel, readily available, is something our military realizes they need and they are working on it. The Beast would need it too.

The DARPA program could be extended to include a broader range of potential impact by including the possibility of other applications: learning and training, automobile control, air traffic control, decision-making, remote sensing of stress, and entertainment. Learning and training might be implemented as information coded into brain signals and then input into the person. Air traffic control in increasingly busy skies can use such capability: the controller has multiple inputs from multiple aircraft. These can be input into his brain in a 3-D aspect and an alertness signal used to “wake him up” when his attention drifts beyond acceptable limits. Not only intellectual data might be passed from one person to another without speaking, but also emotional and volitional information. Decision-making may become more precise as emotional, fatigue, and other cognitive states can be appraised prior to making a critical decision. (Asher and Sandia National Laboratories 2003, 357)

Using video analytics coupled with a presence in all locations via cameras, robotics and AI driven surveillance techniques, it becomes technologically possible to know what everyone is doing, to take actions based on what is being analyzed as well as what might be taking place using predicative analytics; and to control all economic functions.

If a camera is actively scrutinizing our every move and constantly making judgments about whether to forward an alert to human authorities, and we are aware of what is happening, we will learn to be very self-conscious and chilled in front of those intelligent cameras even if no human is watching them. These are the kinds of chilling effects that we can expect just from the emergence of cameras that judge our behavior anonymously. That doesn’t even account for cameras integrated with face recognition or other identifying techniques that will allow them not only to recognize what we’re doing but also who we are. (Stanley 2019, 35)

In the world of AI, human enhancement, cybernetics and genetic modification, there are four proposed outcomes that proponents have produced; heaven, hell, prevail, and transcend. But those scenarios are all without Christ in the picture. These are based on the idea that we evolved and were not created. The idea is that this is nothing more than man now guiding his own evolution.

What we see in Revelation 13, when compared to these scenarios, is the full implementation of the hell scenario as defined by Joel Garreau. In fact, the scenario sounds a lot like an executive summary of Revelation up to chapter 11.

Early warning signs that we are entering The Hell Scenario:

- Almost unimaginably bad things are happening, destroying large chunks of the human race or the biosphere, at an accelerating pace.
- Horrors that recently seemed like science fiction are routinely exceeded.
- Even in the face of such disasters, no agreement is being reached to slow down or stop the spread of these technologies. Humans seem helpless before the onslaught.
- Technologies continue to accelerate as individual nations, continents, tribes or movements jockey for position in a hostile world. (Garreau 2005, Location 3453)

Satan is in the business of lying, stealing, and killing.

John 8:44

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (NASB95)

In the Great Tribulation, as we see here in chapter 13, he will have the infrastructure in place to implement his lie of heaven on earth. His goal is to prevent what he knows is coming, the final takeover of the world by Jesus Christ and the restoration of Eden. To do that, he will pull out all the stops to kill those who follow Jesus, are considered part of His family, and ultimately, all of mankind.

Mark 13:20

“Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.” (NASB95)

With systems being put into place today, and others which are on the drawing boards, from a technology perspective, worldwide surveillance is very possible. Alexa/Google is watching.

There will be concentration camps again, and there are some who go as far as relating that the AI avatars, who look like the beast, may actually be possessed by demons. Pneuma does also mean spirit.

The false prophet is enabled (by his own master, Satan) to impart a spirit to the image, but that spirit is one of Satan’s unclean spirits, probably a highly placed demon in the satanic hierarchy. This is a striking case of demon possession, with the demon possessing the body of the image rather than that of a man or woman. And, just as the evil spirit possessing a human being can use the vocal chords of that person to convey his own messages, so the spirit indwelling the image of the beast will utilize the complex “audio-animatronics” apparatus with which it will be equipped to convey Satan’s messages. Possibly these will be relayed worldwide to receivers in the individual household replicas of the image so that everyone can hear the beast speaking. (Morris 1983, 251)

Revelation 13:16–17

“And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.” (NASB95)

Revelation 13:16–17

“Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.” (ESV)

The meaning simply is—the worship of the Beast gives the right to assume the mark of the Beast: these two—the worship and the reception of the mark are always associated together: cf. 14:9, 11, 16:2, 19:20, 20:4, as in 13:15c, 16: the mark cannot be had without the act of worship. Next, since the refusal of such worship inevitably entails death, 13:15e, in order to escape death all are forced to wear the mark (13:16) in evidence of having rendered such worship. And that none should escape this requirement, the necessities of life are to be withheld from such as do not exhibit the mark, 13:17. Thus every individual is reached—small and great, rich and poor, bond and free, and none can evade the inquisition and none the dread alternative of worship or death. (Charles 1920, 360-361)

In a system of worldwide surveillance, video analytics, social analytics and performance based analytic systems further enhanced by AI to assist or even make decisions, it becomes important to make sure that those who are willing followers are not accidentally “zapped” by the weapon systems which will be at the disposal of the Beast.

Cameras see visible light, but they also have the ability to see other wavelengths as well. A “solution” possible, from an analytic perspective, would be to further limit the pool of the eligibles to review by eliminating the possibility of false positives. Mark your followers. By the way, this is also another counterfeit.

Ezekiel 9:4

The LORD said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.” (NASB95)

There are two different words at play here in the Greek. In Revelation 7, the 144,000 are sealed with a mark, ἐσφραγισμένοι (esfragismenoi.)

This comes from the word σφραγίζω (sfragizo.) This word means to “provide with a seal as a security measure; to close something up tight, seal up something in order to keep it secret; to mark with a seal as a means of identification, mark, seal; so that the mark denoting ownership also carries with it the protection of the owner; to certify that something is so, attest, certify, acknowledge; to seal something for delivery, seal. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 980)

Clearly, the mark provided by God identifies those who belong to Him and have the protection of the owner signified on them. The word used here in chapter 13 is not that word.

The word used regarding the mark of the Beast is the word χάραγμα (charagma.) This word means “a mark that is engraved, etched, branded, cut, imprinted, mark, stamp. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 1077)

Charagma may be used to indicate a work of art, such as a graven image (Acts 17:29), or an impress made by a stamp, or branding. 3 Macc 2:29 reports that Ptolemy Philopator I (219 B.C.) ordered the Jews, who submitted to registration, to be branded with the badge of Dionysiac worship. (Ford 2008, 225)

The contrast is glaring, God marks believers as His, it is ownership of true worshippers, Satan, brands with something that is nothing more than that, art work. There may be more at work here too as the Greek Lexicon from Liddell says charagma is “any mark engraved, imprinted, or branded, the serpent’s mark, i.e. its bite, sting; writing, of an imperial missive; stamped document; brand on a camel; carved work; the impress on the coin, stamped money, coin; metaph., mark, stamp, character; endorsement; loaf.” (Liddell, et al. 1996, 1976)

The “mark” could, therefore, be the scar or abrasion from the bite of the wild monster. (Ford 2008, 225)

For the Jew, believing loyalty to YAHWEH also included the wearing of a phylactery on the left hand or the head, or both.

Deuteronomy 6:5–9

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (NASB95)

The False Prophet, to ensure global obedience, requires a mark from everyone who worships the Beast. This could be as simple as an actual physical mark on the forehead or the hand, but when you consider it will also be a tool for access to financial and economic markets, it appears it may be much more. Some have guessed this would be something like an RFID chip which is currently being used with pets as well as Alzheimer patients.

The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice, and the procedure to inject it into a hand costs about \$180 -- is similar to getting a vaccination. The company has positioned itself for the cashless society, expected to flourish in Europe in the next several years. Österlund insists the technology is completely safe -- but said some people fear the chips could fall victim to cybercriminals. (Durdin 2019)

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It is the name of the Beast or his number which is the critical piece. This is identification with the Beast. We can guess all day as to some of the practical types of technology that it will utilize to enable the overall functionality, but an integral part of it is identification with the Beast.

If the Beast has been altered genetically, it could be receiving the same “therapy” to become non-human combined with technology to enable economic transactions.

The mark of the monster is either identified with or closely associated with his number. Here our author uses the method of gematria (from Heb. *gīmatrīyā*), that is, the process of adding up the numerical value of the letters that make up a proper name, e.g. a=1; b=2; d=4, etc. (It was called isopsephia in Greek.) It is a cryptogram and special insight is necessary to decipher it. (Ford 2008, 225)

A. Sogliano has published graffiti (wall-scribblings) from Pompeii, i.e. not later in date than 79 A.D., one example of which is as follows:-

Ἀμέριμνος ἐμνήσθη Ἀρμονίας τῆς ἰδίας κ(υ)ρία(ς) ἐπ’ ἀγαθῶ ἧς ὁ ἀριθμὸς μέ (οσαλέ) τοῦ καλοῦ ὀνόματος
Amerimnus thought upon his lady Harmonia for good. The number of her honourable name is 45 (or 1035).

Another example reads:—

φιλω ἧς ἀριθμὸς φμέ.

I love her whose number is 545. (Deissmann and Strachan 1910, 275-276)

These graffiti, in date not far removed from the Revelation of St. John, certainly suggest new riddles, but they also establish, besides those already pointed out, the following facts:—

- (1) They are concerned with names of persons, which names for some reason or other are to be concealed.
- (2) The name was concealed by resolving it into a number. In all probability single letters were given their usual values as numerals and then added together. (Deissmann and Strachan 1910, 276)

By identifying the beast’s number believers in the Tribulation will be able to recognize him for who he is. Calculating or counting (Gr. *psephisato*) is the key to the puzzle. (Constable 2003, Re 13:18)

And then we enter the world of conjecture. The name we do not know, but we are told it is the number of his name.

So what is the solution?

Revelation 13:18

“Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.” (NASB95)

There are at least 666 different theories as to what or who 666 talks about. We are told that wisdom is required to figure this out.

As regards the number of the beast, I have no doubt that it will be very simple to the godly, when the beast is there, and the time of spiritually judging it comes, and that name will practically guide those who have to do with him. (Darby 2008, 616-617)

In view of the widely divergent and highly speculative solutions to the riddle it seems best to conclude that John intended only his intimate associates to be able to decipher the number. So successful were his precautions that even Irenaeus some one hundred years later was unable to identify the person intended. An additional 1,800 years of conjecture have not brought us any closer to a definitive answer. (Mounce 1997, 262-263)

The Answer to the 666 Question - We Don't Know

For those who are in the Church Age, the number of the Beast, as fascinating a puzzle as it may be, is of relatively little importance. For the Church will not be present when he is revealed. This is by design for we are to maintain a watch for Christ, not Antichrist! We are commanded to look for our bridegroom, not a coming global despot (Php. 3:20). (Garland 2006, Re 13:18)

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