

KING OF THE JUNGLE

THE BEASTIE BOYS

REVELATION 13:1-18

This past Friday we were again reminded that this world is not a rosy place, and that all people don't have good intentions. Humans are not just uneducated, or maladjusted, or immature. There is an evil in the world.

If evil doesn't exist, what makes a madman storm an elementary school and gun down innocent children?

The Bible teaches that the world is full of bad guys...

Cain murdered his brother, Abel... The Egyptian Pharaoh threw the Hebrew babies to the crocodiles...

King Herod goes down in infamy for slaughtering the toddlers in Bethlehem... This past Friday wasn't the first time evil has launched an attack on innocence.

Speaking of evil assaulting innocence, can you think of a more lethal example than that of Pilate? As Roman Governor, he sentenced God's only Son - His pure and sinless Son - to a torture and death He didn't deserve...

Or what about the betrayer and back-stabber named "[Judas.](#)" He too deserves to be punched in the kisser...

We've been learning in the Revelation that Jesus is the King of the Jungle - and it's a good thing - for the jungle we live in today needs a King. It's out of control.

Wild animals are on the loose. Evil people prey on the innocent of society. They despise God's order, and fail to acknowledge God's image in their fellow man.

Thus, people who should be family, end up predators. They stalk, strike, and devour other people.

This is what we find in this section of Revelation. In chapters 12-13 *wild beasts, dragons* are on the prowl. These chapters provide not only a description of end times events, but an expose' on the nature of evil.

Our society is appalled when evil strikes out at innocence - and fellow human beings are molested, or abused, or manipulated, or even annihilated...

But what lies under the surface is *an evil that denies God's love - an evil that fails to recognize God's image in his fellow man - an evil that has no respect for God's creation, and God's authority over what He's created?*

Real evil refuses to see the value God has placed on mankind - especially the price Jesus paid to redeem us. Thus, **at its core evil is anti-God and anti-Christ.**

And according to Revelation 13 *the evil that raised its ugly head at the school in Connecticut this past week... the same evil we'll see again and again as long as men resist God...* will one day reach a climax and be embodied in a world leader who shows the same penchant for violence and the same lust for power...

Revelation 13 is about this future personification of evil - the ultimate bad guy - a man we call **Antichrist.**

Now, whenever this topic comes up the first thought is **"who is he?"** We want to identify the evil villain... *So we'll just do that right now, and get it out of the way...*

Before we even start, let's drop down to the last verse, and the last sentence. "His number is 6...6...6."

We can identify the man by *the number of his name*.

Since the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin letters also carry numerical values, here's what we can do... We can add up some letters and calculate mathematically the identity of the Antichrist. *In fact, I did it this week...*

Let's start with this Latin inscription... "CV VL DIV."

In Latin all these letters have numerical values. You remember your Roman numerals... C=100, V=5, L=50, D=500, and I=1. Now add up the total for "CVVL DIV..." Here's what you get... $100+5+5+50+500+1+5=666$.

The number 666 is the mark of *the Beast* so here's the Antichrist... just spell out "CV VL DIV" in Latin?

Well, these are the Roman numerals in the words "CVTE PVRPLE DINOSAVR..." Of course, in Latin you change the Us to Vs... so reverse it back into English and it reads, "Cute Purple Dinosaur." There you have conclusive proof, Barney the Dinosaur is the Antichrist!

And you're thinking where did you come up with such silly nonsense? And I'll answer that, the same place other preachers come up with their foolish, silly theories trying to nail down the identity of the Antichrist.

Folks have advanced all sorts of conjectures.

Everyone from Nero to Hitler to Kennedy to Kissinger to Gorbachev to Clinton to Tony Blair to Obama...

In fact, if you try hard enough I'm sure you can figure out a way to make everybody's name add up to **666**.

It's strange how people freak out over a number...

I ran across this... If 666 is the number of the beast then "1-666 is the area code of the beast... 00666 is the zip code of the beast... 666-66-6666 is the beast's social security number... 666K is his retirement plan...

1-900-666-0666 dials up live on-line beasts - only \$6.66 a minute... 1-800-666-0666 is the beast's toll-free hotline... Phillips 666 is the preferred gasoline of the beast... Route 666 is the highway of the beast...

666 degrees F is the oven temperature for roast-beast... And 666i is the BMW driven by the beast."

It's true, the **Antichrist**, or *the Beast* as Revelation 13 calls him, is the pinnacle of evil, and some use of **666** will be his number. But you'll be surprised how our chapter describes this man. He's not a Freddy Krueger type character. He doesn't even fit a school shooter's profile... *His approach is subtle, even helpful at first.*

The epitome of evil comes as evil cloaked in peaceful ambitions. Unlike the shooter this week who walked into the school wearing black military garb *the Beast* is evil in disguise. He appears as a great leader. He has answers to the world's perplexing questions.

But in his heart he's *anti-Christ*, and eventually turns *beast-like* in his lust for violence and dominance.

Revelation 13 doesn't just expose a character of the end times. It's usefulness is far greater. It helps us understand the very nature of evil in our world today.

And in light of this past week, that would be helpful.

Chapter 13 begins, **"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea..."**

Throughout the Bible **"the sea"** is symbolic of a vast ocean of people adrift. We still use this idiom when we speak of **"the sea of humanity."** Here John sees a global leader rising onto the world's political stage.

In popular culture this diabolical leader is most often referred to as **"the Antichrist,"** but throughout the pages of Scripture he goes by a whole host of various titles...

"Adversary, Assyrian, Belial, Bloody and Deceitful Man, Branch of the Terrible Ones, Crooked Servant, Cruel One, Destroyer of the Gentiles, Evil Man, Little Horn, Man of the Earth, Proud Man, Spoiler, Destroyer, Extortioner, Vile Person, Violent Man, Wicked One, Willful King, Lawless One, Man of Sin, One who comes in his own name, Son of Perdition, the seed of the Serpent, and Unclean Spirit..." *to name just a few...*

Here is a person so evil, so wicked, so ruthless, so vile, so unconscionable, so animalistic – Revelation 13 refers to him by the unflattering term... **"the Beast."**

And like most beasts he travels in a pack. He heads a Satan-inspired gang of three. Chapter 13 spotlights the beast, another beast, and the image of the beast.

I call them, **"The Beastie Boys."**

And they're far more sinister than the blasphemous band that goes by that name. The goal of **the Beastie Boys** is to deceive, and extort, and eventually devour.

The jungle we live in is full of beasts. Be thankful that Jesus is the King of the Jungle! And as we'll see in coming chapters - at a time and place of His choosing He'll permanently put **the beastie boys** out of business!

Now this beast comes **“having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”**

Here is the beast of all beasts. He has a leopard's shape and spots - a bear's claws - and a lion's roar.

His power and authority comes from the dragon - who according to Revelation 12:9 is Satan himself.

This beast John sees from the seashore is a man, but he parallels the nations described in Daniel 7.

The Prophet Daniel was given a vision of 2500 years of Gentile world domination. He saw four beasts rising out of the sea. The first three empires were easily identified – *the lion was Babylon, the bear was Persia, the leopard was Greece* – but the fourth animal was what Daniel called, **“a beast, dreadful and terrible.”**

It's during the days of this last beast that God sends His Messiah to establish His kingdom on the Earth.

In a sense, this “terrible beast” was Rome. Ancient Rome was known for its ruthlessness and cruelty, but the Roman empire crumbled in the sixth century AD.

And still God’s Kingdom has yet to come...

That’s why Daniel 7 implies a future revival of the old, Roman empire. This “beast, dreadful and terrible” is a last days resurgence of what was ancient Rome.

This is why Bible students have been looking for centuries for the emergence of a European superstate.

And today, for the first time in 1400 years we have just such an entity. Rent a car in Madrid and drive it to Rome, then Paris, then Berlin, then Prague, and Budapest. You won’t have to stop at a national border.

And you can pay for meals and lodging with a single currency, the Euro. *Welcome to the European Union...*

Both John and Daniel saw this revived Rome of the last days. It has “ten horns...” or governmental structures. It’ll be configured in ten regions or nations.

And among the horns, Daniel sees another detail...

In 7:8 he writes, “I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them... And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”

Daniel saw a “little horn” rise up out of the ten. This is the leader John labels “the Beast.” He’s the epitome of all the other human attempts at self-rule. He has the characteristics of the empires that came before him.

The one trait Daniel chooses to mention is this... *the little horn has a big mouth.* He blares loud and proud. He utters blasphemies against the one, true God.

Today, European countries are looking for a dynamic leader to address its political and economic problems.

Fifty years ago, Paul-Henri Spaak, a early organizer of the European Union, was quoted, **“We don’t want another committee. We want a man of stature to hold the allegiance of the people and lift us up out of the economic mess we’ve gotten ourselves into. Send us a man whether he be God or a devil, send him.”**

Tragically, that’s today’s attitude as well. Europe is desperate for solutions to his financial quagmire.

In the 1930s when Benito Mussolini took over in Italy he was asked how he was able to rise to power so quickly. He replied, **“I found Europe full of empty rooms, and simply walked in and took one of them.”**

“The Beast” will exploit a leadership vacuum. He’ll come to a Europe in disarray, and provide answers.

Ironically, Jesus has been faithfully knocking at the door of every human heart for the last 2000 years. He has timeless, eternal answers - not temporary patches.

Most folks keep their door bolted - and Jesus on the outside. *Yet when the Beast knocks they’ll fling it open.*

And verse 3 reveals why **the Beast** is so persuasive..

“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.” What if John

Kennedy had walked out of Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas?... *Survived a bullet to the brain?*

Such a recovery would've been hailed a miracle. A charismatic Kennedy was already a popular president. He now would've been seen as divinely sanctioned by God. Most Americans would've followed him anywhere.

This is what's going to bump up the approval ratings for *the Beast*. He'll recover from a potentially lethal wound. Perhaps he'll survive an assassin's bullet.

Nobody will expect him to be the real assassin.

Notice, verse 3 doesn't say *the Beast* actually rises from the dead. Nowhere in the Bible is Satan given power over death. It's "*as if (he) had been mortally wounded...*" But what *seems to be a miracle* still does the trick. His recovery rockets him to superstar status.

In Zechariah 11:17 the prophet gives the Antichrist another appropriate name, "*the worthless shepherd...*"

And he speaks of his physical injuries, "*His arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded.*" Apparently, he loses an arm and an eye.

It's ironic, Jesus lost much more for our sake! His death and resurrection was no trick! Yet the world ignores the Savior's scars, while it runs after *a Beast*.

Verse 4, "*So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast...*" This is Satan's ambition. He's always coveted the worship that belongs to God's Son.

From His days as heaven's choir boy he's wanted men to worship him. Now *the Beast* gives him what he wants. As *Jesus draws men to the Father* - the Beast captures the souls of men and enslaves them to Satan.

Understand what we mean when we use the term, "Antichrist." The prefix "anti" can mean "against" - and certainly *the Beast* or *Antichrist* is the enemy of Jesus.

But the prefix can also mean "instead of" - as in the sense of "a replacement." This too is Satan's intention.

He wants to assume Jesus' place in God's creation.

And this is the more subtle form of evil. It's easy to recognize evil in a violent act like shooting up a school.

But what about the evil that pushes Jesus aside - as if He's not needed. An evil that simply replaces Jesus.

It doesn't want to harm anyone - in fact, evil can set out to do good - just in its own name, for its own sake.

There's an evil that assaults Jesus and His Kingdom. Then there's an evil that just sets up its own Kingdom.

In Revelation 13 John focuses on the end times' Antichrist. But in his letters he has a broader concern.

1 John 2:18 tells us, "As you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come..." 1 John 4:3 speaks of "the spirit of Antichrist."

John speaks of an **Antichrist** who is future - many **antichrists**, like the shooter this week - but he also talks about something far more pervasive, **“the spirit of Antichrist.”** This is what should concern us most!

And as we draw closer to the return of Jesus this **spirit of anti-Christ** will grow more and more prevalent...

Satan attacking God’s order and God’s creation like this past week... But also the devil trying to take the place of God’s Son and Savior in more subtle ways.

Just look at what happens each Christmas... It has a name. You’ll hear the phrase, **“the war on Christmas.”**

Christmas parades get called **Holiday parades.**

“Merry Christmas” is now **“Seasons Greetings.”**

Nativity scenes are barred from public property.

Schools call it **“Winter Break”** not **“Christmas Break.”**

Today it’s commonly suggested that Christmas is no longer just for Christians. Atheists, secularists, other religions are also entitled to enjoy **“the holiday spirit.”**

And imagine, I thought the whole point of Christmas was to worship the Christ, and bring Him enjoyment!

Again, it’s not just an attack against Christ, it’s more sinister. Satan’s desire is to replace Christ with himself.

And this anti-Christ sentiment at Christmas is just the tip of the iceberg. Animosity toward Jesus and Christianity permeates government, news media, education, entertainment, even corporate America.

From negative portrayals by Hollywood - to fairness in news coverage - to bias in the workplace - it's *an anti-Christ world*. There's a hostility toward Christianity.

For some folks their animosity revolves around Christianity's claim of exclusivity - *that Jesus is the only way to God!* This is now offensive to western culture.

But I think there's more to it than that... There are other religions that also claim to be the only right way.

But when Muslims say it, they're defended. When Christians make their case they're labeled "*bigots.*"

Realize, the world today isn't *anti-religion*. Religion is welcomed. [The Law of the Jungle isn't anti-religion - it's anti-Christ.](#) There is an evil in the world today that specifically targets the cause of Christ and Christians.

Revelation 13 reveals that Satan wants all the world to worship the dragon - not the Babe in the manger.

John finishes verse 4, "[And they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.](#)"

Again, this is the timeframe we saw in the previous two chapters - 42 months, or 1,260 days, or 3.5 years.

Remember Revelation 6-19 records what happens on planet Earth during a final **seven year** period spoken of in Daniel 9. It's called **the Great Tribulation**.

According Daniel 9 this last 7 years begin when the Antichrist enters a treaty with Israel. In Revelation 6 we saw him as "**the rider on the white horse.**" He comes with a bow, but no arrows. He authors *a false peace*.

Chapters 12-13 are a parenthesis. They zero in on the midpoint of that time period - the 42 month mark.

Up until now the Antichrist has preached tolerance.

He's solved mankind's problems. World religions are cooperating. Jews and Muslims are living in harmony. Perhaps they're even co-existing on the Temple Mount.

When the narrow-minded Christians are taken in the rapture he's able to sell his "**coexist theology.**"

He'll probably explain the rapture as an evolutionary leap that eliminated the bigoted Christians. They were stunting human potential by insisting on only one right way. Everybody will sport the bumper sticker - **coexist**.

The world seems poised for a New Age, but then at halftime of these final seven years, **the Beast** will show his fangs. He's not the peaceful ruler he claimed to be.

The personification of evil will murder God's two witnesses... He'll set up an image of himself in the Temple, and require the world to worship him... Matthew 24 calls it "**the abomination of desolation.**"

According to Revelation 12 it's after this blasphemy that war erupts in heaven. Michael boots out the devil. And to retaliate, Satan attacks God's people, the Jews.

There's a quote by Revolutionary War leader, William Penn, "Those who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants." Never in history will this be more applicable than in the 42 months prior to Jesus' return.

Under *the Beast* the world will be ruled by pure evil.

Verse 6 reveals more, "Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven." Suddenly, this *Future Fuhrer* will oppose everything that's of God.

He'll trash God's name, and His Temple, even His saints. He'll look to heaven and ridicule you and me.

And "It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them." In the Tribulation the followers of Jesus will be in the Antichrist's crosshairs...

Here's a great prooftext for a pre-Tribulation rapture. Recall Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." The word "*prevail*" in Matthew 16, and "*overcome*" in Revelation 13 are the same Greek word.

Here the Antichrist prevails against the saints, yet Jesus said the gates of Hades would never prevail against His Church. Thus, the saints in verse 6 can't be members of the Church. During this time the Bride of Christ is in heaven enjoying the presence of Jesus.

These saints are the people saved after the rapture. They'll suffer severely for their allegiance to Jesus.

“And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.” The Beast will rule globally.

What Nebuchadnezzar, and Alexander the Great, and the Caesars of Rome, and Genghis Kahn, and Napoleon, and Hitler, and Stalin all failed to achieve - *a world dictatorship...* this future leader will accomplish.

Recall the story of Nimrod and the tower of Babel. It was the first attempt by any man at globalization.

Nimrod brought culture, commerce, language, government, even religion came under one big tent.

And Nimrod was considered a success. In his day, he was hailed a peace-maker - a unifier of mankind.

Yet Nimrod had ulterior motives. The Bible implies he was a hunter of men’s souls. Nimrod was the first Antichrist. He tried to snatch from God the trust of men.

Nimrod defied God’s decree to scatter and multiply. And the world today is still under that command.

Nothing is wrong with cooperation among nations.

The United Nations is not inherently evil. But when efforts are made to abolish national boundaries and consolidate governments that’s when we need to question the motive. Inevitably, Antichrist will somehow seize authority over *“every tribe, tongue, and nation.”*

We're told in verse 8, "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword.

Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

Here's what John is saying... A man's choices will be more binding and less forgiving in this period of time.

There'll be less room for do-overs and second chances. God's judgment will be swift. Only those who belong to Jesus - whose name is written in the Book of Life and of the Lamb - will escape the tyranny.

In Matthew 24:13 Jesus spoke to His disciples about the Great Tribulation. He told them, "He who endures to the end shall be saved." Not only will you have to choose Jesus, you'll have to live out that choice through difficult, and trying, and stressful hardships.

It will require great "*patience and faith.*"

Remember, Chapter 13 isn't just about *the Beast*, but *the Beastie Boys*. That's why verse 11 reads... "Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon."

This second beast is the Antichrist's ecclesiastical sidekick. He's a religious leader who appears gentle as a lamb, but who speaks the threats and lies of Satan.

Jesus had a forerunner. It was John the Baptist who paved the way for the Messiah. This second beast will provide a religious sanction for the Antichrist's regime.

Imagine him in the world's great cathedrals, mosques, temples encouraging all people to lay aside their differences and rally together under one flag!

This is what the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has suggested... “We are now entering an era of global inter-dependence requiring global governing... growing tension cannot be remedied by a single nation-state approach.” This is the argument of the second beast...

Verse 12 tells us more, “And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” This man will become the High Priest of heresy and apostasy.

In Revelation he's also called “the false prophet.”

“He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.” *The priest of the Beast* will even work miracles.

Remember, Satan is the great deceiver. He doesn't just do miracles, he tries to replicate biblical miracles.

Malachi 3:5 predicts that Elijah will appear “before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

This is why the second beast will call down fire from heaven. He's not an *Elvis-impersonator* - he's an *Elijah-impersonator*. Malachi prophesied that Elijah would come before the Messiah. This false prophet will claim to be Elijah and steer the world to the Antichrist.

Verse 14, “And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”

Here’s where the plot thickens... The *priest of the beast* inaugurates a new, unprecedented form of idolatry. When we think of idolatry we think of a statue on the mantle, but here is an animated image - the “*image of the beast.*” It has life-like qualities...

It has “*breath,*” and speaks, and discerns worship. It’s also lethal. It enforces a mandatory allegiance. It executes the people who refuse to bow to *the Beast.*

What is this third *Beastie Boy... this image?*

Realize for the last 2000 years, not only have readers wondered how this is fulfilled - they’ve lacked the frame of reference to conceptualize what it meant.

How could Ben Franklin conceive of a virtual idol?

Yet today, modern technology has given us all kinds of ways to imagine virtual idolatry... interaction with a touch-sensitive screen... Or a computer-generated hologram... Or a sophisticated virtual imaging... Or a robot with artificial intelligence... Even a human clone...

Imagine, millions of folk online at the same time, interacting with this image. Idolatry goes live stream.

Speaking of cloning, did you hear about the guy who cloned himself? But he let his clone watch too much TV. He developed a vulgar mouth. One day his clone was cussing. The guy got so mad he shoved it out the window. The clone fell ten stories. *Splat on the street!*

The police couldn't charge the fellow with murder. After all it was his clone, *he killed himself*. But he was arrested - charged with "making an obscene clone fall."

John continues speaking of "*the image of the beast*" in verse 16, "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Again, 100 years ago this would make little sense, *but not today!*

In 2012 this kind of technology is all around us.

In a cash-oriented society you could never control commerce with a mark on an your body? But today cash is a relic of the past... *My kids don't carry cash*. In the future, buying and selling will all be done digitally.

Today, already we make online purchases with pay pal - use bill pay - transfer funds through the internet - swipe our credit card in a handheld scanner...

Some of us even tithe to CC *online*.

Nursing homes now place microchips in bracelets worn by their patients to track their whereabouts...

The same technology helps you locate your car or cell phone if it's stolen... I ran the Reagan 5K last year and a microchip in my shoe recorded my official time... *(It didn't make me faster, but I knew how slow I was.)*

Kathy and I were talking about how technology has changed parenting. If we had teenage drivers today they wouldn't leave home without some kind of tracking device on their person, or secretly planted in their car.

The next step will be to inject a silicon chip under a baby's skin... *If you've ever momentarily lost track of a kid in a crowded mall you'll realize this is a good idea.*

It makes sense. The technology itself isn't bad.

But this is what the Antichrist will use to blackmail the world into worshipping him. To get the mark you'll have to bow... you'll have to pledge allegiance to *a Beast*.

It's ironic, today the true Christ promises us all spiritual blessings if we just trust Him - yet folks resist.

In the end, they'll opt for a false Christ who demands they choose between faith and food. *Worship the Antichrist or be eliminated...* It's a real *Hunger Games*.

Imagine, the excruciating choices people will be forced to make... *Stand for Jesus, and watch your baby starve – or sell your soul to Satan for a bowl of soup?*

I don't want to be around when that choosing starts!

Finally verse 18, *Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.* Well, we're back where we started. I spoke of the fanciful theories surrounding this number. Now let's be serious.

Throughout the Bible the number "six" is the number of man. "Six" is one less than "seven" - the number of God's perfection - and man at his best still falls short of

God's ideal... Yet next to Jesus, the one man in the Bible who may've come closest was King Solomon.

In Luke 12:17 Jesus said of the lilies, "even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." In Luke 11:31, Jesus praised "the wisdom of Solomon."

In the OT Solomon had the distinction of being the wisest of the wise. He was world renown for his insight. King Solomon was the epitome of human achievement.

Now remember, the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible - and there's only one other place in Scripture where the number "666" appears. 2 Chronicles 9:13 lists Solomon's yearly allotment of gold as 666 talents.

There's one other connection between Solomon and 666. In 1 Kings 10 when you looked at Solomon's throne you saw *six lions* to the left, *six steps* in the center, and *six lions* on the right. Again, there's a "666."

Here's an idea... when you think of the Antichrist don't think of Darth Vader, or Osama bin Ladin, or a Hitler - think King Solomon. There're lots of parallels...

David was a man of war, but because of it he couldn't build the Temple. Solomon was a man of peace and a Temple-builder. That's how *the Beast* will start out... with a false peace and a rebuilt Temple.

Both will be admired for their wisdom... Both will start out as God-fearing people, but will eventually lead people into idolatry... Both will amass great fortunes...

The parallels are numerous. Suffice it to say, *the Beast* doesn't show his fangs, until he has the world in his clutches. Evil is not always so easily identified.

The Antichrist is further proof that man apart from God - *even at his wisest - even at his very best* - is still corrupt to the core and brazenly rebellious.

In the end the great human hope will turn beastly. The evil that exists in the midst of us isn't going away.

Chapter 13 closes with the Antichrist on the top of the world, *but don't worry!* Jesus is coming back!

By the end of chapter 19 the King of the Jungle will see to it that the Beastie Boys are where they belong - frying in the lake of fire. Jesus puts an end to evil!

This is why we shouldn't lose heart when evil raises its ugly head like it did this past week. Jesus is the King of beasts! It's an anti-Christ world. But one day soon - in His time and way - Jesus will tame the jungle.