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Nero Caesar “666 Conundrum” What Difference Does it Make?

Floyd R. Cox (revised 9/22/2023)

Revelation is about the First Century? This is Usually called the Preterist View

Some have the view that Revelation was written before the temple burned in 70 AD.

More records have been found that identify Nero Caesar (54 to 68) as the Beast of Revelation 13:18, the one who burned Rome, burned Christians to light up his yard, and writers wanting to remain anonymous referred to him as “666” or “the Beast”, Antichrist or the “Man of Sin”. Why 666? Because the numerals in his name count to 666. Scrolls from a cave, Wadi Murabba’at, refer to the second year of Nero (55 AD) as a sabbatical year and refer to Neron Qsr (Neron Kaisar) in Hebrew, which counts to 666.

However, in Latin, the name is “Nero Caesar”, which equals 616 without the extra n in Neron. NPON KΣP (in Greek) equals: N=50, P=200, O=6, N=50, K=100, Σ=60, P=200. These also total 666 (as in Rev. 13:18).

666 also points to the Roman numeric and monetary systems: I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500. These count to 666. Again, note that money used in Judah had the Caesar’s image on it (Mat 22:21) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julio-Claudian_family_tree.

Nero was in the first century. “One like unto the Son of man” appeared to “they which pierced him”. In Revelation 1 to 3, the messages are given to seven churches surviving in today’s Turkey during John’s lifetime. John was told to measure the temple... before 70 AD.

Revelation is about Today?

One group says these sources refer to 70 AD as the “End of the Age” because this was when the Jews lost control of the land after the Romans destroyed the second temple and exiled masses of the Judeans. Many more were ousted after the Bar Kokhba Revolt, after 135 AD.

24 exiled Levite families, which had managed the temple, settled in Nazareth, north of Judea, continued naming their Sabbaths after their 24-week, priestly cycle preserved since 70 AD with the hope of rebuilding a third temple when their Messiah eventually ousts the “occupiers” and get their land back, perhaps in a Jubilee year.

This became called the “Messianic View”, which add to it the view that the (Antichrist, 666, Beast, Man of Sin) is alive today, perhaps near a jubilee, in our time, and they are searching for a modern-day ruler that somehow fits that number, like Ronald Wilson Reagan (6 letters each and once lived house number 666 as his street number and changed it to 668). These often join groups who share clues on who is the Beast.

Should be called the “Nero 666 Conundrum”

Chronology and context are important. It can make a world of difference.

Some view Revelation being written during the reign of Nero Caesar (54 to 68 AD), before the temple burned in 70 AD. Some call this the Preterist View. Others say John was caught up into Heaven, perhaps before the temple burned in 70 AD, to be shown what would happen 2,000 years later, in our time, which may be partially true, which is called the Partial Preterist view. Without reading a 333-page book on the subject, here a shorter version [HERE](#) by Dr. Dennis Callaghan. Some call it the Nero Caesar “666 Conundrum”.

I Googled for “Nero 666 beast” and got over 5 million hits [HERE](#).

Or perhaps this view was held by many during the last 2,000 years, such as, the Seventh Day Adventists, Church of God Seventh Day with their dates based on 7 days, 7 years, 49, 490 and 7000 years, which they call Sabbaths, Sabbaticals and Jubilees.

What difference does it make?

This study is called “Eschatology”, the study of the “Time of the End”, “The End of the World”, “Final Cataclysm between good and evil”, when the Higher Realm will, eventually, defeat the Lower Realm. Sources usually quoted are Daniel, Revelation, Matthew 24 and duality found in the prophets.

Partial Preterist View

Another group quotes Daniel 2, where a Stone (Christ) falls on the toes of the fourth empire after Babylon, in the time of Rome. These four were Babylon, Persia, Greece **and Rome**. After this, the image of the four kingdoms falls to the ground, and the Stone (Christ) then becomes a great mountain that fills the earth (Dan. 2:35).

In other words, Christ will ascend to the Higher Realm with the ability to intervene in world affairs, not to make the Lower Realm into obedient robots, but to expose it to both good and bad choices. The gullible cannot expect to, eventually, judge the Lower Realm of disinformation and half-truths. Some learn the easy way... some the hard way.

Eventually, all enemies will be put under the feet of the Higher Realm, like in our Supreme Court. A worthwhile Summary of Victorious Eschatology is found [HERE](#).

Both the Preterist and Partial Preterist views say Christ could also conquer Herod, the “Dragon”, and Nero, the “Beast” by ascending to heaven and provide access to his Higher Realm (Jn 4:21-26; Rom 8:14-16, 23; Col 1:25-27).

The Futurist View After Revelation 1 to 3

Chapter 4 causes division in the three views when John is told to “Come up hither”.

Prior to this, Christ had ascended to heaven, and Stephen had a vision of the clouds parted to reveal Christ sitting on a throne, and now, in Revelation 4, John goes up to heaven.

The problem arises because the Futurist View says John’s vision was not for John’s generation but was for those in the time of the resurrection, 2,000 years later, during our present generation. Revelation 11 includes two witnesses being caught up to heaven, perhaps in a future resurrection, not in his generation.

Romans 2:9 implies that 7 to 11 describes a judgment on Jerusalem prior to judging the rest of the world: “There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of mankind who does evil, for the Jew first and also for the Greek (Gentiles).”

Perhaps there is repetition of the exit from Egypt and entry at Jericho giving the impression that, if the Higher Realm can do these things once, it has the same power to judge in 70 AD or any other time.

The Futurist’s believe in taking the symbols literally, why do they say the fifth trumpet releases helicopters with lasers, not locusts with faces like men? Perhaps the locusts are metaphors or symbolic, perhaps an army.

The First Two Views

“Jesus came and spake unto them (the disciples), saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Mat 28:18).

The dynasty of Herod (the dragon) served the Caesar dynasty (the beast). Because of his persecution of Christians from 64 to 68 AD, many of those living in the first century associated the name of Nero Caesar with the number 666 just as we are told in Revelation 13:18.

The Syriac History of John on the title page of Revelation, says, “The Revelation which was made by God to John the Evangelist in the isle of Patmos, into which he was thrown by Nero Caesar.” Nero was Emperor from 54 to 68 AD.

Tertullian said John was on the island of Patmos during the reign of Nero.

Therefore, there are reasons to believe “the beast” lived in the first century, before 70 AD, but the Futurist View searches for someone during modern times whose name counts to 666, for example, Ronald Wilson Reagan has three names with each having six letters. If this view fails, then just seek another clue.

The Syriac History of John:

"After these things, when the Gospel was increasing by the hands of the Apostles, Nero, the unclean and impure and wicked king, heard all that had happened at Ephesus. And he sent and took all that the procurator had and imprisoned him; and laid hold of St. John and drove him into exile; and passed sentence on the city that it should be laid waste."

Source [HERE](#)
(John's banishment under Nero, 54 to 68 AD)

TABLE 1
Hebrew Calendar

33, 52, & 71 AD

(White columns 19 years apart)

AD	Yrs. begin on	AD	Yrs. begin on
31	4/12	50	4/11
32	4/01	51	4/01
33	3/21	52	3/19
34	4/08	53	4/07
35	3/29	54	3/28
36	3/17	55	3/18
37	4/04	56	4/04
38	3/25	57	3/24
39	4/14	58	4/13
40	4/02	59	4/03
41	3/21	60	3/22
42	4/10	61	4/09
43	3/30	62	3/30
44	3/19	63	3/19
45	4/06	64	4/05
46	3/26	65	3/26
47	4/15	66	4/15
48	4/02	67	4/04
49	3/23	68	3/22
50	4/11	69	4/11
51	4/01	70	3/31
52	3/19	71	3/21

Time frame of a Stone becomes a great mountain:

Note that dates are 19 years apart in AD 31, 50, 69, 88, and 107, there were 13 moons and a full moon on April 24 and 25. This prevents the lunar years from beginning in the winter, before March 20.

There was a partial lunar eclipse on April 25, 31 AD, which proves it was during a full moon and proves the lunar year began in the spring. (Click [HERE](#)).

To further understand the eclipse cycle every 18 years, and 8 days, one should consult the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge*; Volume 81, Part 6, 1991. It has published Saros Cycle Dates related to Babylonia Astronomical Texts.

In the first century, there were lunar calendars since 747 BC based upon observed new and full moons and solar and lunar eclipse. These did not depend upon new moons being observed from Jerusalem but upon new moons being observed after solar eclipses, as in 90, 71, 52, and 33 AD.

The solar eclipse in 71 AD, on a new moon, the first day of the lunar calendar, March 20, was a total eclipse in southern Greece, and stars could be seen shortly after noon.

These are tangible concepts based upon tangible math science, not upon religious ideas with postponements. The first day of the seventh month can be on Friday, not postponed because of a weekly preparation day.

[HERE](#) is a link to a Hebrew calendar for year 71

666 also points to the Roman numeric and monetary systems: I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500. These count to 666. Again, note that money used in Judah had the Caesar's image on it (Mat 22:21) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julio-Claudian_family_tree.

Another clue is that the Roman dynasty of Julius Caesar consisted of six successive emperors after Julius Caesar, after 44 BC, until after Nero Caesar's death in 68 AD (Rev. 17:9-10).

"Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits... there are seven kings: Five are fallen, one is, and one is yet to come" (Rev 17:10).

These are (1.) Julius Caesar (49-44 BC), (2) Augustus Caesar (31 BC-14AD), (3) Tiberius Caesar (14-37 AD), (4) Gaus, i.e., Caligula Caesar (37-41 AD), (5) Claudius Caesar (41-54 AD) and (6) Nero Caesar (54-68 AD). These were all Caesars.

(Genealogy Charts of Herod the Great)

"Five are fallen, and one is": The Roman dynasty of Julius Caesar consisted of six successive kings including Julius Caesar (49-44 BC), before 70 AD (Rev. 17:9-10). Julius was not an emperor, but they were six successive kings. Who was the sixth? Hint: "Nero Caesar" counted to 666 as illustrated above (Rev 13:18). These six are all found in Revelation 13.

Who is the seventh king or Emperor? Within this context, there would also be the 7th king, the one “yet to come”.

Verse 11: “I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and spoke as a dragon. And he exercised all the power of the first beast before him...”

It is no mystery that Vespasian ruled the area of Palestine while under King Nero, and he became the next emperor after Nero’s suicide in 68 AD. He had two “horns” who became Emperors after the death of Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian. It is called “another beast”, and it had two horns called the Flavian dynasty consisting of Vespasian and his two sons, Domitian and Titus.

The Second Set of Judgments

The First set of judgments appears to be on Jerusalem in Revelation 7 to 11.

Chapter 11 mentions 1260 days (3 ½ years) and ends with John measuring the temple 3½ years before a resurrection of the dead, when the kingdoms of the world become the kingdoms of Christ at the seventh trumpet.

Chapter 12 mentions 1260 days (3 ½ years). Herod and the High Priest and the Pharisees trying to stamp out the Christian Era by killing the children at Bethlehem, by chasing Christ’s mother into a wilderness probably east of Jerusalem to be fed by friends and relatives and to persecute her offspring remaining in Judea and Nazareth for 3½ years. This second set of judgments continues in chapters 13 and 14.

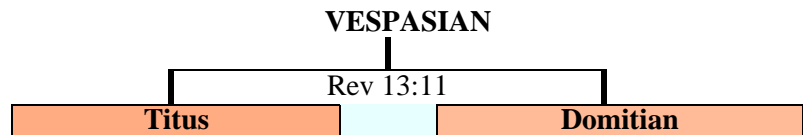
Chapter 13 mentions 42 months (3 ½ years).

Chapters 15 to 18 down to Nero, Vespasian, Titus and Domitian cover a third set of judgments. John died in about 96 AD.

The ending of each chapter is related with overcoming, defeating and replacing the Lower Realm by the Higher Realm.

Please compare repeated dates after years AD 71, 52, and 33.

Titus is credited with burning the temple in 70 AD. Verse 11 speaks of an eighth king. This is likely Titus who burned the Temple and took its gold to Rome to rebuild her coliseum, which had been burned by Nero.



By following the link ([HERE](#)), one can discover when there were solar eclipses on March 19-20, on new moons, on the spring equinox in 14, 33, 52, 71, 90 and 109 AD. Obviously, these occur when the earth, moon and sun are aligned, in conjunction, not when a new moon is first seen in Jerusalem. Links shown herein illustrate how NASA mathematically determines when to look for new and full moons and lunar and solar eclipses. This link ([HERE](#)) will also help. The above indicates that Christ was killed on a full moon Passover, April 25, 31 AD after a ministry at about age 30 and was born before Herod died in the spring of 4 BC, possibly on Hanukkah, December 25, Kislev 25, 5 BC.

As a side note, there are reasons to believe Victorious Eschatology overlooks viewing heaven or the Higher Realm as co-existing with our Lower Realm in another dimension that can interact with lower dimension. It is not just above the clouds.

Gen 32:30; Jacob wrestled with an angel.

Josh 5:15; The Captain of the Lord's Host was seen by Joshua.

Dan 3:25; One like the son of God in a fire furnace.

Dan 5:24; A hand writing on a wall when Babylon fell.

Rev 11:1, 19; John was to measure the temple. The Ark of the Covenant was there.

Rev 15:8; No man could enter the temple while full of smoke.

Rev 22:2; The leaves of the Tree of Life are for healing the nations. The Tree is to bare 12 kinds of different fruit every 12 months.

Details needed to be added to Victorious Eschatology

The book, Victorious Eschatology, does not connect the End of Days, Time of the End, Antichrist, Man of Sin, Rapture, Tribulation, etc. with holy days, Sabbaticals or Jubilees and the Captain of the Lord of Hosts.

Yet we know that the first covenant period from Exodus to the temple began and ended between the Passover in Egypt and the feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.

We know the second covenant began on the Passover with the crucifixion and the church on Pentecost.

There were 9 jubilees when Joshua crossed the Jordan in 1407 BC until 966 BC, after the temple was founded in 968.

Why were these overlooked? The above merely observes our present worldview in which there are more Jews in New York than there are in Israel. More Jews are leaving Israel each year than are entering. Jews in general do not believe Jesus is their Messiah.

But still the above leaves the impression that the Stone in the first century will grow into a mountain and fill the earth. More research is needed to support this view.

Perhaps another view should include Christians dying over 2,000 years, which would increase until the time of the end as implied in Rev 6:10, as "souls under an altar" are pleading, "How long must we wait until there is vengeance on them that dwell on the earth?"

In denouncing the present return of the Jews to Jerusalem, it would seem proper for the book to introduce the idea that the last jubilee could possibly arrive in the fall of 1974 and 2023 if there was a jubilee in 574/573 BC, 14 years after Jerusalem fell in 588/587 BC (Ezek 40:1-3).

49 x 12 = 588	3955 BC to 966 BC = 427 x 7
574 BC to 14 AD = 588 years	966 BC to 2023 AD = 427 x 14
40 jubilees = 1960 years	14 AD + 1960 years = 1974 AD
539 BC to 1981 AD = 2520 years	1974 AD to 2023 AD = 49

Beyond the Nero Caesar 666 Conundrum

John Noe of Fishers, Indiana wrote Beyond the End Times to provide details that indicate the first century was led into believing "the time of the end" would happen during that generation living before 70 AD. When the temple was destroyed in 70 AD.

After 70 AD, the 24 priestly families lost their temple duties, such as, sacrificing, collecting tithes, Sabbath, holy day services. It was an end of an era, a destruction of the Judaic World.

Christian traditionalists have denied that Christ returned in 70 AD. Perhaps He was delayed, postponed or misunderstood. This leads to critical and skeptical assaults on prophecy and the inerrancy of the Bible.

TABLE 2. Indications that Christ would return during the first century:

Matthew	Matthew	John	James	Beyond End Times
10:23	24:3, 33	21:22	5:3,7,8,9	pp 171-201
16:27-28	26:64;			
21:22	27, 30, 34			

TABLE 3. Fisher's work calls for a Prophecy Reformation based upon the said Time of the End Conundrum:

Pages	Chapters	
67-70	5.	What the World "Without End" Message means to Us
71-89	6.	Don't Monkey With Daniel
91-98	7.	Daniel's Time of The End
	8.	Is God's Word Trust Worthy
111-129	9.	
146		Rejudaizing tendency still prevalent
273		Daniel's "70 Weeks" and "Time of the End"
274		The Olivet Discourse Cannot be Divided
275		Scriptural Foundation for the Prophecy Reformation

Reactions to Victorious Eschatology

The following are reactions to a recently published book, Victorious Eschatology, a Partial Preterist View, by Dr. Harold R. Eberle and Dr. Martin Trench,

The book includes several views attempting to interpret the prophecies and context of Daniel, Revelation, Matthew 24 to explain how a Rock (Christ) shatters and makes dust out of the previous four empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greco-Macedonia and Rome and becomes a great mountain that fills the earth after 70 AD, after the destruction of the temple.

The general idea is that the world of Jesus' time was unchristian, godly, full of carnal, uneducated, common, vulgar, ignorant, temporary human beings, descendants of Adam needing interventions by a second Adam to make them civilized, to make the earth as it is in heaven. Allegedly, the process of morphing the Rock into a mountain has taken the last 2,000 years.

Allegedly, all the prophecies were not fulfilled in 70 AD, when the temple was destroyed. Only the Jewish ownership of Palestine, Nazareth, Judea and temple worship changed.

Revelation 16 also reminds us of the fall of Babylon, when the Euphrates river that was running under its wall dried up to allow the Persian army to enter as a hand was writing on a wall, which ended a period of 70 years, in 539 BC (Rev 16:19).

These plagues being repeats of what has been done historically creates confidence in what the Higher Realm could do again.

Chapter 17 has a beast with seven heads and 10 horns. A whore dressed in scarlet, while drinking the blood of the martyrs of Jesus was riding the beast. This reminds us of what Christ said about Jerusalem being responsible for killing the prophets from Abel to Zechariah, from the first book to the last.

The seven heads are seven kings, five of which were fallen, one still existed; one was yet to come. The sixth was Nero Caesar. Galba ruled after Nero about six months. However, the Reign of Vespasian and his two sons, Titus and Domitian became another beast with two horns.

Considering all of the above, it should be noted that each view of Nero, the Beast, the man of sin and 666 is directly or indirectly related to Daniel, Revelation and Matthew 24.

Chapter 18 says Babylon has fallen. "She shall be utterly burned with fire." This reminds us of the great mill-stone thrown into the sea in Jeremiah 51:64. "In her was found the blood of prophets and saints and all of all that were slain upon the earth.

Chapter 19 has the marriage of the Lamb and the beginning of his reign. A white horse ridden from heaven by the Word of God followed by armies on white horses. This army fought the final battle. After this, the nations were judged by Him who sat on a White Throne.

Chapter 20 has Satan bound or somehow canceled for 1000 years. After the 1000 years.

Chapter 21 has the tabernacle of God dwelling with men as the Jerusalem above descends out of heaven.

My View of the Past 2,000 Years

The Preterist view more or less, has all prophecy, more or less, being fulfilled in 70 AD making it the Judean it the Time of the End.

The Partial Preterist view has a Rock crushing the feet of an image of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome, which causes these empires to be crushed and replaced by a kingdom of the Rock. The Rock grows into a mountain and covers the earth.

My view is similar to this. Christ wanted his followers to remain in the world to become exposed to both good and evil systems to overcome being gullible. The gullible cannot expect to judge the lower realm of misinformation and half truths and eventually judge angels.

In the process of having free moral agency, a few at the top will eventually abuse their massive followers by forming feudal systems, which eventually cause a feud. These systems have many different names: Communism, Marxism, Nazi, etc.

The Captain of the Lord's Host will need to intervene during the 2,000 years to cause nations to rise and fall.

As the Rock grows larger and, as knowledge increases, the few will eventually, threaten all life on earth and will need to be **permanently replaced** by the Higher Realm.

The Preterist and Partial Preterist views present several ideas on how the world is without end, but I suspect the Bible was written in such a way that each generation expects Christ's return during their own lifetime. Speculators quote Daniel, Revelation and Matthew but usually lack support for Sabbaticals, Jubilees and biblical pattern, which are covered [HERE](#).