THE QUESTION

How did early Christians explain the beast, the ten horns and the living creatures in Revelation?

Asked by a THF member on April 11, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 30 early Christian passages and 207 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/how-did-early-christians-explain-the-beast-the-ten-horns-and-the-living

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Early Christians read Revelation's beast together with Daniel's beasts. Hippolytus took the fourth beast as Rome, and he and Irenaeus said the ten horns are ten kings of the last days, with the Antichrist rising among them until Christ destroys him. Irenaeus read the four living creatures' faces as pictures of the Son of God's work.

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HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 8

Revelation and Daniel explain each other

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus sets Daniel's vision of four beasts from the sea beside John's vision. He expects one explanation to cover both and says the two prophets agree.

1 “Now, if we place Daniel’s own visions alongside this, we will have one explanation for both together. We will also be able to show how fully they agree with each other, and how true they are.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 12, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Daniel's fourth beast is the Roman kingdom

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus identifies the terrible fourth beast with iron teeth as Rome, which he links to the iron legs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

2 “And who are these except the Romans? This is the kingdom meant by the iron, the kingdom that is now established, because the legs of that image were of iron.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 11, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

The ten horns are ten final kings

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says John shows what will happen at the end: the empire will be split among ten kings. Hippolytus likewise says ten horns will spring from the fourth kingdom.

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3 “In a clearer way, John in the Apocalypse has shown the Lord’s disciples what will happen in the last times and about the ten kings who will arise. The existing empire will be divided among them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 4, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

4 “From it, ten horns will spring up, and they will be divided among ten crowns.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 13, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

The little horn is the Antichrist

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus names the little horn as the Antichrist, who overthrows three kings, subdues the rest and persecutes the saints, wanting to be worshipped as God. Irenaeus also counts him as the eighth ruler who conquers three.

5 “And in the middle of these, another little horn will rise. This is Antichrist. It will pull up the three others by the roots.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 13, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

6 “It is clear that among these rulers, the one who is to come will kill three and bring the rest under his control, and he will be the eighth among them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 4, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

The second beast copies the Lamb

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus reads the beast from the earth as the Antichrist's kingdom. Its two lamb-like horns show a deceiver who pretends to be like the Son of God.

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7 “By the beast coming up out of the earth, he means the kingdom of Antichrist. By the two horns, he means him and the false prophet after him.”

later in the same passage

“In saying that the horns were like a lamb, he means that he will make himself like the Son of God and present himself as king.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

His reign is short and Christ ends it

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus explains the time, times and half a time as three and a half years of rule. He says the kings will drive the Church into exile, but the Lord's coming will destroy them.

8 “And its ten horns are ten kings who will arise; and after them, another will arise who will surpass all before him in evil deeds, and will overthrow three kings; and he will speak words against the most high God, and wear out the saints of the most high God, and intend to change times and laws; and everything will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time," that is for three years and six months, during which time he will rule over the earth.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 3, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

9 “They will lay Babylon waste, burn her with fire, give their kingdom to the beast, and drive the Church into exile. Afterward, they will be destroyed by the coming of our Lord.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

The four faces picture Christ's work

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus reads the four faces of the cherubim as images of the Son of God: the lion for royal power, the calf for priesthood, the man for His coming as a human, and the eagle for the Spirit's gift.

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10

"For the cherubim were also four-faced, and their faces were images of the arrangement of the Son of God."

later in the same passage

"As Scripture says, "The first living creature was like a lion," symbolizing His powerful work, His leadership, and royal power; the second living creature was like a calf, signifying His sacrificial and priestly order; the third had, as it were, the face of a man—clearly describing His coming as a human; the fourth was like a flying eagle, pointing out the gift of the Spirit hovering with His wings over the Church."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 5, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 8 OF 8

The church joins the seraphim's unending praise

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The ancient liturgies describe the many-eyed cherubim and six-winged seraphim around God's throne, covering themselves and crying out the thrice-holy hymn, which the church sings with them.

11

"Around You stand ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, of holy angels and hosts of archangels; and Your two most honored creatures, the many-eyed cherubim and the six-winged seraphim. With two wings they cover their faces, with two they cover their feet, and with two they fly."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (c. 200–400 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 8, page 6 Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not list seven named world empires for the seven heads.
- Irenaeus reads the four faces as pictures of Christ's work, so the passages do not explain them as traits of the angels themselves.
- The passages do not set dates for when these events will happen.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 30 early Christian passages and 207 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–30, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 31–146, in Bible order), then 91 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *30 passages from 13 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 4) "subdue three of the kings under one." Similarly, Daniel speaks of this, "And I saw the fourth beast, wicked and powerful, and more savage than all earthly beasts, and how… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 2*

2 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 6) "the judgment was set. I then watched the voice of the great words which the horn speaks: and the beast was defeated, and its body destroyed, and given to the… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 3–6*

3 *Against Heresies: Book V* **Quote 8, page 4** "also, anticipating the end of the last kingdom, namely the ten last kings, among whom the kingdom will be divided, and upon whom the son of perdition will come, states… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Against Heresies: Book V* **Quotes 3, 6, 9, pages 3, 4** "in the Apocalypse has shown the Lord's disciples what will happen in the last times and about the ten kings who will arise. The existing empire will be divided… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Against Heresies: Book III* **Quote 10, page 5** "is not possible for the Gospels to be more or fewer in number than they are. Since there are four zones of the world we live in and four principal… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 4) truth, but approving unrighteousness;" whose arrival John describes in the Apocalypse: "And the beast I saw was like a leopard, his feet like a bear's, and his mouth like… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 7*

7 *Against Marcion* 8 (on point 4) of God, and boast himself as being God? 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. According to our view, he is Antichrist, as both the ancient and the new prophecies teach us… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · sources 8–10*

8 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 **Quote 11, page 5** "and thousands of thousands, of holy angels and hosts of archangels; and Your two most honored creatures, the many-eyed cherubim and the six-winged seraphim. With two wings they… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English; on point 8) "the bands of angels go before Him with every power and dominion, the many-eyed cherubim, and the six-winged seraphim, covering their faces, and crying aloud the hymn, Alleluia… [continues online] **read ›**

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10 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English; on point 8) “the many-eyed cherubim, and the six-winged seraphim, which cover their faces with two wings, their feet with two, and with two they fly, crying one to another with… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 11–17*

11 *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 **Quote 2, page 2** “Then he says, "A fourth beast, dreadful and terrible… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 **Quote 1, page 2** “this I saw, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quotes 4, 5, page 3** “which also ten horns are to spring, and to be apportioned among ten crowns… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 **Quote 7, page 4** By the beast coming up out of the earth, he means the kingdom of Antichrist. By the two horns, he means him and the false prophet after him. In saying… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 (on point 3) here is the mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits. And there are seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 (on point 5) since it is our duty to discuss this matter of the beast more exactly, especially the question of how the Holy Spirit has also pointed to his name in a… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 (on point 3) “will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 18–21*

18 *Against Celsus* 46 (on point 4) each part referred to here does not belong to our present purpose. The prophecy also regarding Antichrist is stated in the book of Daniel, and is fitted to make an… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Against Celsus* 49 (1885 English; on point 4) “one, moreover, who likes may find the prophecy in Daniel respecting antichrist… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Against Celsus* 18 (on point 8) “might have mentioned, moreover, what is said of those beings which are called seraphim by the Hebrews, and described in Isaiah, who cover the face and feet of God, and… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Celsus* 43 (1885 English; on point 8) “the seraphim stood round about it: the one had six wings, and the other had six wings… [continues online] **read ›**

Julius Africanus, *c. 232–265 AD · source 22*

22 *Extant Writings* 1 whole matter briefly. Its opening words are, "In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar," in Daniel 8:1. There Daniel prophesies that the Greek power will overthrow the… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 23*

23 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 8 (on point 7) He also sits above the Cherubim. That is, He presides over the variety of His works, while the living creatures that hold rule over the rest are subjected to His… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · source 24*

24 *Epistles* brothers, be so terrified by the fear of future persecution, or by the coming of the threatening Antichrist, that you are not found armed for everything by the gospel's… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 25–26*

25 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 8) “the holy seraphim, together with the six-winged cherubim, who sing to… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 8) “cherubim and the six-winged seraphim, with two covering their feet, with two their heads, and with two… [continues online] **read ›**

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Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 27–28*

27 *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* 1 (on point 8) “the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up; and the house was full of His glory. And the seraphim stood around Him; each one had six wings. And… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* 1 (on point 8) of grace. Therefore he who saw it says, "And the whole house was full of His glory, and the seraphim stood round about Him; and one cried to another, and… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 29–30*

29 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 71 (1885 English; on point 4) “will arise another by far more powerful and wicked, who, having destroyed three, will obtain Asia, and having reduced and subdued the others under his own power, will harass all… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Divine Institutes* 16 (1885 English; on point 3) “civil discords will perpetually be sown; nor will there be any rest from deadly wars, until ten kings arise at the same time, who will divide the world, not to… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *116 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

31 **Genesis 14:9** against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Thargal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar: the four kings against the five. **read ›**

32 **Genesis 41:2** And behold, there came up as it were out of the river seven cows, fine in appearance and choice in flesh, and they grazed in the reed grass. **read ›**

33 **Genesis 41:4** And the seven cows that were ugly and thin in flesh devoured the seven cows that were fine in appearance and choice in flesh. Then Pharaoh awoke. **read ›**

34 **Genesis 41:7** And the seven thin ears, blighted by the wind, swallowed up the seven choice and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and it was a dream. **read ›**

35 **Genesis 41:18** And there came up as it were out of the river seven cows, fine in appearance and choice in flesh, and they grazed in the reed grass. **read ›**

36 **Genesis 41:19** And behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, bad and ugly in appearance and thin in flesh. Never have I seen any uglier than these in all the land of Egypt. **read ›**

37 **Genesis 41:20** And the seven ugly and thin cows devoured the first seven cows, the fine and choice ones. **read ›**

38 **Genesis 41:26** The seven fine cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dream of Pharaoh is one. **read ›**

39 **Exodus 37:6** He made the mercy seat above the ark, of pure gold, (Septuagint Exodus 38:5 (Exodus 37:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

40 **Exodus 38:3** He made all the furnishings of the altar, its fire pan, the base, the bowls, and the bronze flesh hooks. (Septuagint Exodus 38:23 (Exodus 38:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

41 **Exodus 38:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

42 **Exodus 38:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

43 **Numbers 29:4** a tenth for each lamb, for the seven lambs; **read ›**

44 **Deuteronomy 14:5** the deer, the gazelle, the pygarg, the oryx, and the giraffe. **read ›**

45 **Joshua 12:24** the king of Tirzah: all these, twenty-nine kings in all. **read ›**

46 **1 Kings 7:13** King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre, (Septuagint 3 Kingdoms 7:1 (1 Kings 7:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

47 **1 Kings 7:16** He made two cast caps to set on the tops of the pillars; the height of the one cap was five cubits, and the height of the second cap was five cubits. (Septuagint 3 Kingdoms 7:4 (1 Kings 7:16 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

48 **1 Kings 7:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

49 **1 Kings 7:29** On their panels between the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim, and on the frames likewise above; and below the lions and the oxen were spaces, hanging work. (Septuagint 3 Kingdoms 7:16 (1 Kings 7:29 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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50 **1 Kings 7:30** Each base had four bronze wheels, with bronze attachments; and their four sides had shoulders beneath the washbasins. (Septuagint 3 Kingdoms 7:17 (1 Kings 7:30 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

51 **1 Kings 8:7** For the cherubim had their wings spread out over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and its holy things from above. **read ›**

52 **1 Kings 10:19** The throne had six steps, and the heads of calves on the throne at the back of it, and arms on this side and that at the place of the seat, and two lions standing beside the arms, **read ›**

53 **1 Kings 10:20** and twelve lions standing there on the six steps, on this side and that; nothing like it was made in any kingdom. **read ›**

54 **2 Chronicles 3:11** The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits long: one wing, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and the other wing, of five cubits, touched the wing of the other cherub. **read ›**

55 **2 Chronicles 3:13** The wings of these cherubim were spread out twenty cubits; and they stood on their feet, with their faces toward the house. **read ›**

56 **2 Chronicles 4:15** the one sea, and the twelve calves under it; **read ›**

57 **2 Chronicles 9:18** And the throne had six steps fastened with gold, and arms on this side and that on the seat of the throne, and two lions standing beside the arms, **read ›**

58 **2 Chronicles 9:19** and twelve lions standing there on the six steps, on this side and that; nothing like it was made in all the kingdom. **read ›**

59 **Ezra 3:2** Then Jesus the son of Jozadak rose up, and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer whole burnt offerings on it, according to what is written in the law of Moses the man of God. **read ›**

60 **Psalms 3:8** Salvation is the Lord’s, and your blessing is upon your people. (Septuagint Psalm 3:9 (Psalm 3:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

61 **Proverbs 1:2** to know wisdom and instruction, and to perceive words of sound judgment, **read ›**

62 **Proverbs 1:9** For you will receive a crown of graces for your head, and a gold chain around your neck. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 6:2** And seraphim stood around him; six wings to the one, and six wings to the other; and with two they covered the face, and with two they covered the feet, and with two they flew. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 14:7** All the earth cries out with gladness, **read ›**

65 **Ezekiel 1:5** And in the midst was something like the likeness of four living creatures; and this was their appearance: the likeness of a man was upon them. **read ›**

66 **Ezekiel 1:6** And each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. **read ›**

67 **Ezekiel 1:8** And a man’s hand was under their wings on their four sides. **read ›**

68 **Ezekiel 1:10** And the likeness of their faces: the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right for the four, and the face of a calf on the left for the four, and the face of an eagle for the four. **read ›**

69 **Ezekiel 3:14** And the Spirit lifted me and took me up, and I went in the impulse of my spirit; and the hand of the Lord was mighty upon me. **read ›**

70 **Ezekiel 10:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

71 **Ezekiel 10:20** This is the living creature that I saw beneath the God of Israel by the river Chebar; and I knew that they were cherubim. **read ›**

72 **Ezekiel 10:21** Each had four faces, and each had eight wings, and the likeness of human hands under their wings. **read ›**

73 **Ezekiel 41:17** And up to near the inner part and up to the outer part, and on the whole wall all around, on the inside and on the outside, **read ›**

74 **Ezekiel 41:19** the face of a man toward the palm tree on this side and on that, and the face of a lion toward the palm tree on this side and on that; the house was carved all around. **read ›**

75 **Daniel 2:40** and a fourth kingdom, which shall be strong as iron; just as iron crushes and subdues all things, so it shall crush and subdue all things. **read ›**

76 **Daniel 7:3** And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. **read ›**

77 **Daniel 7:4** The first was like a lioness, and its wings were like an eagle’s. I was looking until its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on a man’s feet, and a man’s heart was given to it. **read ›**

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78 **Daniel 7:6** After this I was looking, and behold, another beast like a leopard; and it had four wings of a bird upon it, and the beast had four heads, and authority was given to it. **read ›**

79 **Daniel 7:7** After this I was looking, and behold, a fourth beast, fearful and terrifying and exceedingly strong; and its teeth were of iron; it was devouring and crushing, and it trampled the rest with its feet; and it was exceedingly different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. **read ›**

80 **Daniel 7:17** “These four beasts are four kingdoms that will arise on the earth, **read ›**

81 **Daniel 7:19** Then I inquired exactly about the fourth beast, because it was different from every beast, exceedingly fearful; its teeth were of iron and its claws of bronze; it was devouring and crushing, and it trampled the rest with its feet; **read ›**

82 **Daniel 7:20** and about its ten horns that were on its head, and the other that came up and shook off some of the first ones—the horn that had eyes and a mouth speaking great things, and whose appearance was greater than the rest. **read ›**

83 **Daniel 7:23** And he said, “The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will surpass all the kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth, and trample it down and cut it to pieces. **read ›**

84 **Daniel 7:24** And its ten horns are ten kings who will arise; and after them another will arise, who will surpass all who were before him in evils, and he will humble three kings. **read ›**

85 **Micah 7:1** Woe is me! For I have become like one gathering straw in harvest, and like one gathering leftover grapes in the grape harvest, when there is no cluster to eat the first-ripe fruit. Woe, O soul! **read ›**

86 **1 Esdras 3:2** and for all the satraps and generals and governors under him, from India to Ethiopia, in the hundred and twenty-seven satrapies. **read ›**

87 **Tobit 3:8** because she had been given to seven husbands, and Asmodeus the evil demon had killed them before they had been with her as with a wife. And they said to her, “Do you not understand that you strangle your husbands? You have already had seven, and you have not borne the name of a single one of them. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:24** For on his full-length robe was the whole world, and the glories of the fathers were engraved on the four rows of stones, and your majesty was on the diadem upon his head. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:5** Many sovereigns have sat on the ground, and one never thought of has worn the diadem. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:30** the teeth of wild beasts, and scorpions, and vipers, and a sword taking vengeance on the ungodly to destruction; **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:4** from him who wears blue and a crown to him who is clothed in raw linen: **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:12** a golden crown upon the turban, an engraved seal of holiness, a glory of honor, a work of strength, the desires of the eyes, beautifully adorned. **read ›**

93 **Baruch 3:16** Where are the rulers of the nations, and those who ruled over the beasts on the earth, **read ›**

94 **Bel and the Dragon 1:27** And Daniel took pitch and fat and hair and boiled them together, and he made cakes and put them into the dragon’s mouth; and the dragon ate and burst open. And he said, “See the things you worship!” **read ›**

95 **Bel and the Dragon 1:32** Now there were seven lions in the den, and every day two bodies and two sheep were given to them; but at that time they were not given to them, so that they would devour Daniel. **read ›**

96 **1 Maccabees 1:2** He waged many wars, seized many strongholds, and slaughtered the kings of the earth. **read ›**

97 **1 Maccabees 1:9** They all put on crowns after his death, and so did their sons after them for many years; and they multiplied evils on the earth. **read ›**

98 **4 Maccabees 14:7** O all-holy seven of harmonious brothers! For just as the seven days of creation are about godliness, **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 14:12** And flaming fire surrounded the walls, and the doors were burning with fire. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 14:19** And from beneath the throne came out rivers of flaming fire, and I could not look. **read ›**

101 **1 Enoch 24:3** And the seventh mountain was in the midst of these, and it rose above them in height, like the seat of a throne; and beautiful trees surrounded it. **read ›**

102 **1 Enoch 40:2** And on the four sides of the Lord of Spirits I saw four presences, different from those who do not sleep, and I learned their names; for the angel who went with me made known to me their names, and showed me all the hidden things. **read ›**

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103 **1 Enoch 40:7** And I heard the fourth voice driving away the Satans and forbidding them to come before the Lord of Spirits to accuse those who dwell on the earth. **read ›**

104 **1 Enoch 40:10** And these are the four angels of the Lord of Spirits, and the four voices I heard in those days. **read ›**

105 **1 Enoch 46:4** And this Son of Man whom you have seen shall raise up the kings and the mighty from their seats, and the strong from their thrones, and shall loosen the reins of the strong, and break the teeth of the sinners. **read ›**

106 **1 Enoch 71:7** And all around were seraphim, cherubim, and ophannim; and these are they who do not sleep, and they guard the throne of his glory. **read ›**

107 **1 Enoch 71:8** And I saw angels who could not be counted, a thousand thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand, encircling that house. And Michael, and Raphael, and Gabriel, and Phanuel, and the holy angels who are above the heavens, go in and out of that house. **read ›**

108 **1 Enoch 72:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **1 Enoch 77:5** I saw seven rivers on the earth larger than all the rivers: one of them, coming from the west, pours its waters into the Great Sea. **read ›**

110 **1 Enoch 77:8** Seven great islands I saw in the sea and on the mainland: two on the mainland and five in the Great Sea. **read ›**

111 **1 Enoch 86:6** And they began, moreover, to devour those oxen; and behold, all the children of the earth began to tremble and quake before them and to flee from them. **read ›**

112 **1 Enoch 90:9** I saw until horns grew upon those lambs, and the ravens cast down their horns; and I saw until a great horn sprouted on one of those sheep, and their eyes were opened. **read ›**

113 **1 Enoch 90:19** I saw until a great sword was given to the sheep, and the sheep went out against all the beasts of the field to slay them, and all the beasts and the birds of heaven fled before their face. **read ›**

114 **1 Enoch 90:37** I saw that a white bull was born, with large horns, and all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air feared him and made petition to him all the time. **read ›**

115 **1 Enoch 90:38** I saw until all their generations were transformed, and they all became white bulls; and the first among them became a lamb, and that lamb became a great animal and had great black horns on its head; and the Lord of the sheep rejoiced over it and over all the oxen. **read ›**

116 **Luke 2:1** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **read ›**

117 **Acts 6:2** The twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not appropriate for us to forsake the word of God and serve tables. **read ›**

118 **Acts 11:7** I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter, kill and eat!’ **read ›**

119 **Romans 8:16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; **read ›**

120 **Romans 15:3** For even Christ did not please himself, but as it is written: The taunts of those who taunted you have fallen on me. **read ›**

121 **1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? **read ›**

122 **Ephesians 1:5** having predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **read ›**

123 **Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of the glory of his grace, with which he graced us in the Beloved. **read ›**

124 **Ephesians 1:8** which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, **read ›**

125 **Ephesians 1:10** for an administration when the times reach their fullness, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth— **read ›**

126 **Ephesians 1:11** in him. In him we were also assigned an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **read ›**

127 **Ephesians 1:13** In him you also, having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and having believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **read ›**

128 **Ephesians 1:15** For this reason I also, having heard of your faithfulness in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, **read ›**

129 **Ephesians 1:18** with the eyes of your hearts enlightened, so that you may know the hope of his calling and the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, **read ›**

130 **Ephesians 5:12** For it is a shame even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. **read ›**

131 **Philippians 4:16** for even in Thessalonica you sent to me for my need once and again. **read ›**

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132 **Philippians 4:18** But I have received everything in full, and I abound; I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a pleasing aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. **read ›**

133 **Philippians 4:19** And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **read ›**

134 **Philippians 4:23** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. **read ›**

135 **Revelation 4:4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones. On the thrones were twenty-four elders sitting, dressed in white garments, with crowns of gold on their heads. **read ›**

136 **Revelation 4:6** Before the throne was something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal. In the middle of the throne, and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. **read ›**

137 **Revelation 4:7** The first creature was like a lion, the second creature like a calf, the third creature had a face like a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. **read ›**

138 **Revelation 4:8** The four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within. They have no rest day and night, saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come!” **read ›**

139 **Revelation 12:3** Another sign was seen in heaven. Behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven crowns. **read ›**

140 **Revelation 13:1** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads. On his horns were ten crowns, and on his heads, blasphemous names. **read ›**

141 **Revelation 13:2** The beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. **read ›**

142 **Revelation 13:11** I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. **read ›**

143 **Revelation 17:3** He carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-colored beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. **read ›**

144 **Revelation 17:7** The angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. **read ›**

145 **Revelation 17:10** They are seven kings. Five have fallen, the one is, and the other has not yet come. When he comes, he must continue a little while. **read ›**

146 **Revelation 17:12** The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *91 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Isaiah 2:19 · 5:21

Daniel 7:9 · 7:13 · 8:1 · 8:13

Habakkuk 2:20

Matthew 5:13 · 5:25 · 5:35 · 10:17 · 10:29 · 10:34 · 11:24 · 12:25 · 17:12 · 20:16 · 21:8 · 21:33 · 23:24 · 24:21 · 24:30 · 24:48

Mark 5:31

Luke 1:33 · 2:22 · 3:23 · 10:12 · 12:45 · 13:32 · 17:26 · 18:7

John 2:18 · 4:1 · 4:37 · 7:30 · 8:23 · 8:34 · 13:5 · 20:31

Acts 4:8 · 4:22 · 8:9 · 8:27 · 16:16 · 17:24

Romans 1:18 · 1:20 · 1:25 · 2:5 · 2:11 · 8:36 · 10:9 · 11:33

1 Corinthians 1:18 · 3:13 · 5:10 · 10:19 · 13:13

2 Corinthians 5:19

Galatians 2:5 · 3:14 · 4:4

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Ephesians 4:8 · 4:16

Philippians 2:15

2 Thessalonians 1:6 · 1:8 · 2:1 · 2:3 · 2:4 · 2:6 · 2:8 · 2:9 · 2:10 · 2:11 · 3:6 · 3:10

Hebrews 4:9 · 10:25

1 Peter 3:20

1 John 2:18 · 4:1 · 4:3

Revelation 1:12 · 1:17 · 5:13 · 6:9 · 11:19 · 13:14 · 19:20

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “How did early Christians explain the beast, the ten horns and the living creatures in Revelation?” on April 11, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY