

Roman Emperors or World Empires?

Revelation 17:7-11

⁷ But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her ... ⁹ This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; ¹⁰ they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. ¹¹ As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.”

PRETERIST <i>First Seven Emperors of Rome</i>	Revelation 17:9-11	FUTURIST <i>Seven World Empires</i>
Rome was known as a city set on seven hills	The seven heads are seven mountains	OT kingdoms are sometimes described as mountains (Ezek. 35:2; 36:1) And the beast’s final form is of Roman origin
The first seven emperors of Rome:	They are also seven kings	OT kings can refer to whole kingdoms (Dan. 2:37-38; 7:5-8a) Rev. 13:2 indicates that the beast is a composite of the empires of the leopard, bear, and lion (Dan. 7:4-6)
Julius	Five of whom have fallen	Egypt
Augustus		Assyria
Tiberius		Babylon (lion)
Gaius		Persia (bear)
Claudius		Greece (leopard)
Nero (emperor at the time John wrote)	One is	Rome (empire ruling at the time John wrote)
Galba (reigned only seven months)	The other has not yet come, and when he does come, he must remain only a little while	Revived Roman Empire (brief, seven-year tribulation)
Otho ???	The beast is an eighth [which] belongs to the seven	Reign of the Antichrist

The preterist interpretation assume one starts with Julius as Rome’s first emperor, yet the more common initial emperor is Augustus. Secondly, how could Otho be Revelation 17’s eighth king? Following Nero’s death, Rome experienced the devastating “year of four emperors” in which the following men all sat as emperor: Galba, Otho, Vitellius, and Vespasian (who restored normalcy, reigning for 10 years).