

Dating the Book of Revelation

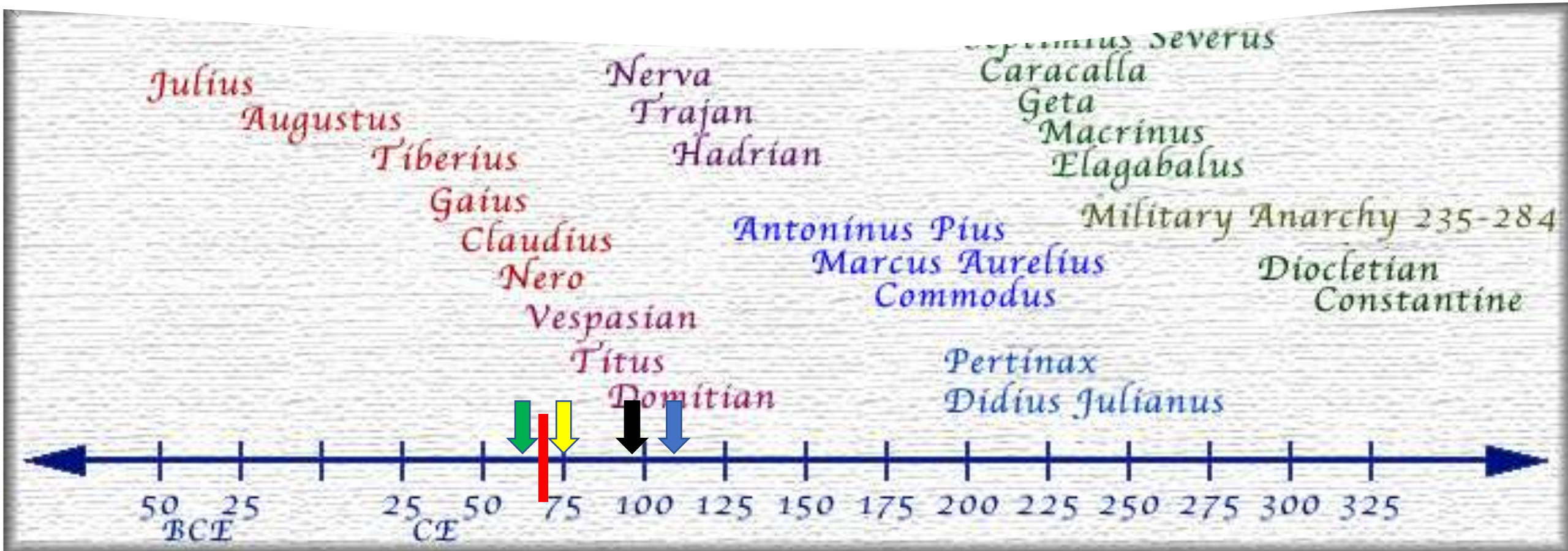


| Book | Date (A.D.) | Book | Date (A.D.) |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| James | 45-49 | Philippians, Philemon | 63 |
| Galatians | 49 | 1 Peter | 63-64 |
| 1 & 2 Thessalonians | 51 | 1 Timothy | 63-66 |
| Mark | 50s or 60s | Titus | 63-66 |
| Matthew | 50s or 60s | Hebrews | 64-68 |
| 1 Corinthians | 55 | 2 Peter | 66 |
| 2 Corinthians | 56 | 2 Timothy | 67 |
| Romans | 57-58 | Jude | 68-80 |
| Luke | 60 | John | 85-90 |
| Acts | 61 | 1, 2, 3 John | 85-90 |
| Colossians, Ephesians | 61 | Revelation | 90-95 |

Dates of New Testament Books

Dates Suggested for Revelation

- The Fall of Jerusalem and the Temple – 70 AD
- The Early Date - Before Jerusalem Fell – prior to 70 AD
- The Late Date - Nearer the end of the first century around 95 AD
- The Middle Date - A compromise between the two. Generally, shortly AFTER Jerusalem fell.
- The LATER Date - During the reign of Trajan



Two Types of Evidence

- Internal Evidence - Testimony, references, and other evidence from **within** the text which suggest a specific date.
 - Historical References within the text
 - Incidental References (reigns, events, astrological, etc.)
 - Date specific language
- External Evidence - Testimony, references, and other evidence from **outside** the text which suggest a specific date.

The Late Date

- Emperor Worship alluded to in Ch. 13
- Mortal head wound that healed” referred to a well-known superstition (Nero Redivivus Myth) *following* the death of Nero.
- Limited Scope of Neronian persecutions.
- Spiritual Condition of Ephesus and Sardis
- Non-existence of Smyrna during Paul’s ministry.
- Statement by Irenaeus.
- Advocates: Homer Hailey, Ferril Jenkins, Robert Harkrider, numerous other brethren
- Cf: Steve Rudd’s comments on “Christian Fathers” Dating of the New Testament.

Irenaeus' Statement

- “the number six hundred and sixty-six [666] ... Inasmuch, then, as this name “Titan” has so much to recommend it, there is a strong degree of probability, that from among the many [names suggested], we infer, that perchance he who is to come shall be called “Titan.” We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of Antichrist; for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present time, it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic vision. For that was seen [εωραθη] not a very long time ago, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian's reign.” (Irenaeus, Adv. Haer. 5.30.3)

The Early Date

- Temple was still in existence – 11:1-2
- Ongoing conflicts between Jews and Christians – 2:9; 3:9
- Revelation 13:18 – The number of the beast
- Revelation 17:10 – The Seven Kings
- Ogden's Argument (Revelation 6:9-11; 16:6; 18:20, 24; Luke 11:50)
- Advocates: Jay Adams, Adam Clarke, Alfred Edersheim, J.B. Lightfoot, John A.T. Robinson, Philip Schaff ¹, David Chilton, *Foy E Wallace, Jr., Arthur Ogden, Steve Rudd, Mark Copeland*

¹*Philip Schaff first held to the late date, then upon additional study changed to prefer the early date.*

Who was the Beast – 666?

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. (Rev 13:18 NKJV)

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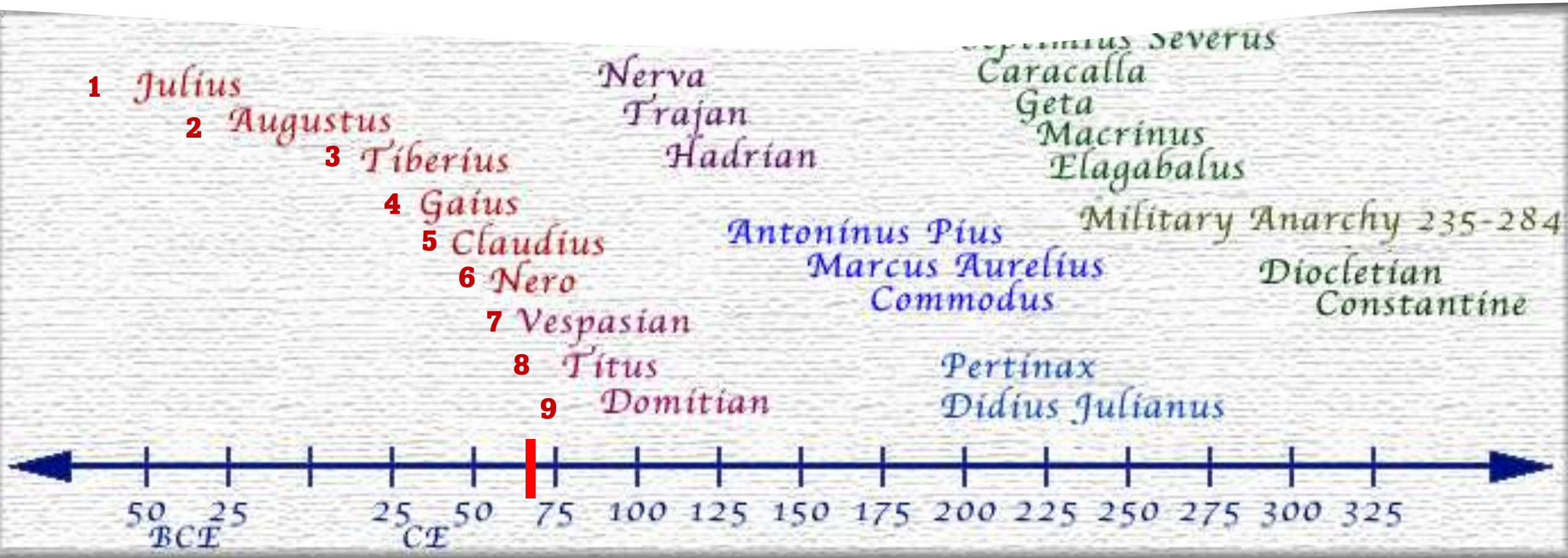
= 666

Nero Caesar (Latin)

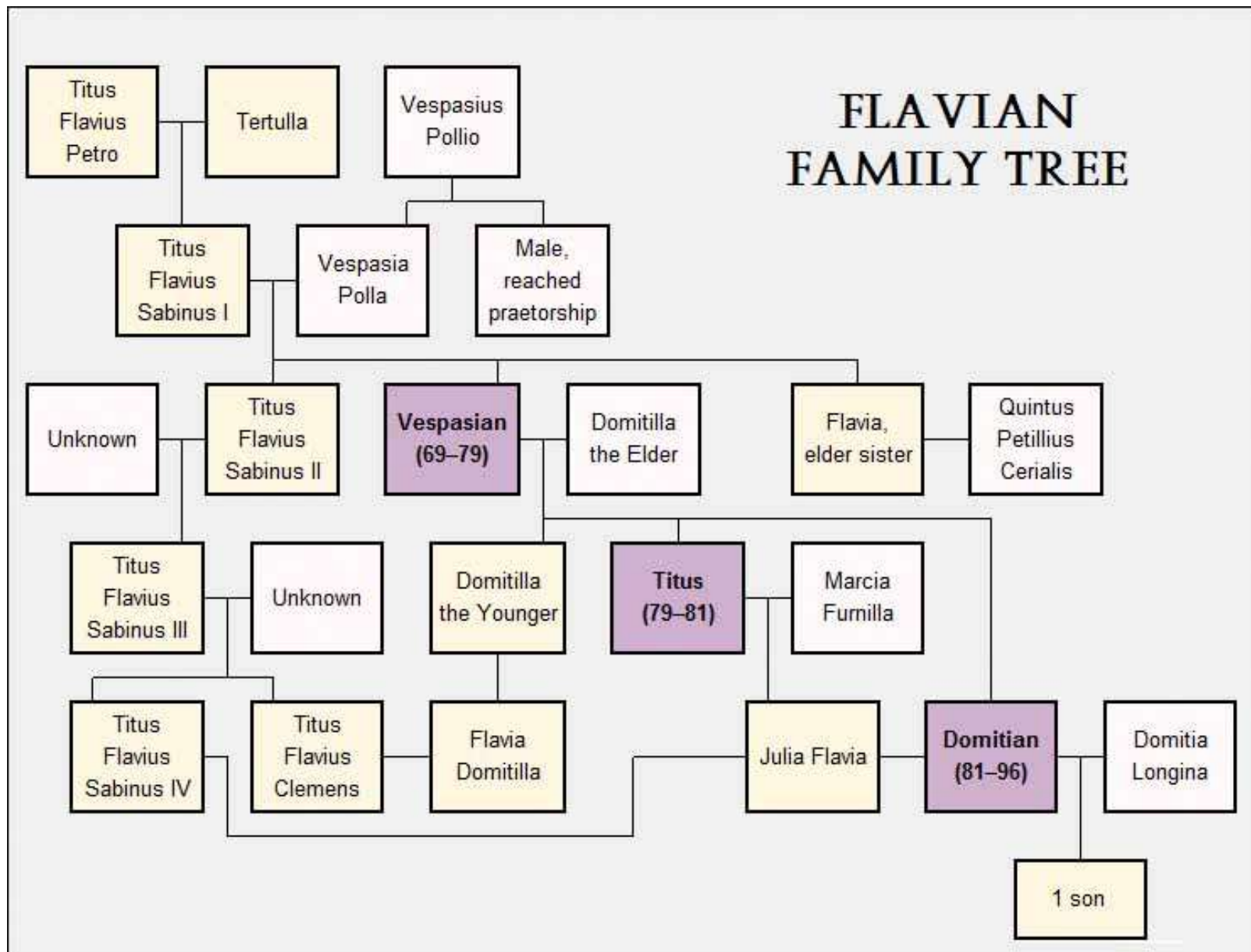
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= 616

"Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. (Rev 17:9-11 NKJV)



Flavian Family Tree



CONTEMPORARY NATURE OF REVELATION

1. The general tone of the book (pg. 41)
2. Concerns things that must shortly come to pass (42)
3. John identifies situations (the number of the beast)
4. Do not seal up the words of this prophecy