

Prophecies of Hope

The Image Of The Beast

- I. God has clearly revealed the future if we are willing to study.

Amos 3:7

- A. The United States is mentioned in the Scripture for two reasons:

1. Because of its world-wide influence.
2. Because of the effect it will have upon God's work on earth in the closing days of its history.



- II. Two beasts are mentioned in Rev. 13. We must understand the first before we can understand the second.

- A. 7 points are specified about the first beast in Rev.13:1-10.

1. The Dragon gave him his power, seat, and authority. Revelation 13:2
 - a. The dragon is the Devil or Satan. Rev. 12:7-9 You will find however, where it is a seven-headed dragon it refers to pagan Rome. Rev. 13:1,2;12:3; 17:9
 - a. The Papacy received its power and seat of government from Pagan Rome.
2. It was to be a world power. Revelation 13:3,8
 - a. For over 1,000 years all of Europe looked to the seat of the Papacy for their directions and the kings that did not give obedience were soon brought into line.
3. It was to rule for 42 months. Revelation 13:5
 - a. A day in prophecy equals an actual, literal year. Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34
 - b. 42 months times 30 days in a month equals 1260 prophetic days, or literal years.
 - c. The Papacy ruled from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. a period of 1260 years.
4. It would make war (persecute) with saints. Rev. 13:7,10
 - a. Spanish inquisition, Massacre of Saint Bartholmew, Waldensian persecution.
 - b. Books that mention these persecutions: Fox's

Notes

Book of Martyrs, Stories of the Reformation,
by Short, History of the Reformation, by D'Aubigne.
c. Historians believe she killed some 50 to 100 million
people.

5. It would have a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. Rev. 13:1,5

"For thou art the shepherd, thou art the director, thou art the husbandman, finally, thou art another God on earth." "History of the Councils" Vol. XIV, Col. 109.

"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty."

The Great Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XII, Page 304.

6. It would receive a deadly wound and be healed. Rev. 13:3

a. In 1798 Napoleon's general, Berthier, marched into Italy and took the pope prisoner and ended 1260 years of Papal supremacy.

b. In 1929 Mussolini reinstated Vatican city as a secular state.

7. Would be a religious power that would receive worship. Revelation 13:4

Note: These seven points clearly identify the first beast of Revelation 13 to be the Papacy. (see also Lesson "The Antichrist beast of Revelation 13")

III. Second Beast of Revelation 13

A. Just as the first beast was going down another beast was coming up. Rev.13:10,11

B. All the other beasts came out of the sea, but this beast comes out of the earth. Rev. 13:11

1. Since the sea denotes "people, multitudes, and nations," (Rev.17:15) the earth represents a lack of people or a land basically uninhabited.

2. Would not rise through military conquest like other beasts. Pilgrims landed 1620/Declaration of Independence 1776/Bill of Rights 1789 adopted 1791/Pope taken prisoner 1798

C. Lamb-like denotes young and innocent. Rev. 13:11

1. Youthfulness as opposed to fully mature- like the other beasts.

D. The two horns on the lamb-like beast stand for the principles the United States was built upon that made her strong.

1. Democratic government - ruled by the people

2. Religious freedom. "We want a country without a king and a church without a pope."

E. Worldwide influence and power. Revelation 13:12-17

F. Lamb = symbol of Christ. John 1:29, symbolizes that country would be based on principle of the Bible.

Note: This second beast identifies clearly the United States of America. It fits historically, geographically, and politically.

- IV. It would speak as a dragon. Revelation 13:11
- A. Speak like a dragon because it forces the world to worship the first beast (Papacy). Rev. 13:12
 - B. The second beast (U.S.) will ultimately threaten to kill those would will not worship the first beast. Rev. 13:15
 - C. The people that will not go along with the beast power will experience an economic boycott. Rev13:16,17
 - D. Those who worship the beast and his image will receive the mark of the beast. Rev.13:14-17
 - E. The second beast will deceive the world by great signs, even making fire come down from heaven. (false revival, false miracles, false speaking in tongues) Rev. 13:13,14
 - 1. Satan can do miracles. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
 - 2. Fire can represents the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16; Acts 2:14
 - 3. The genuine baptism of the Holy Spirits is allow ing Him to guide us into truth; and to live our lives to glorify Jesus, not speaking in tongues. John 16:13,14.
 - 4. The true proof of the Holy Spirit in your life is His fruits. Galatians 5:22,23
 - F. Satan's three generals that join together to deceive the world. Revelation 16:13
 - 1. Satan = Spiritualism; Beast = Catholicism; False Prophet = Apostate Protestantism.
 - 2. Today all three are joining together through the charismatic movement.
 - 3. These will do signs to deceive. Revelation 16:14
- VI. End Time Babylon = symbolic of a religious coalition/Religious Confusion. Revelation 17:3; Genesis 11:9
- A. Woman represents a church. Jeremiah 6:2
 - B. A Beast represents a nation. Daniel 7:17,23
 - C. Represents "A CHURCH CONTROLLING A NATION"
 - D. The 7 headed Beast of Revelation 13 is the same as the 7 headed scarlet beast of Revelation 17. Rev. 13:1,2; 17:3
 - E. Golden Cup, Wine of Fornication = False Teachings of Babylon. Revelation 17:4; 14:8

Note: Since this woman is "The MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" we can see that there will be other churches in addition to the Papal church who will be a part of end-time Babylon. These daughters are those who have broken away from the mother church and yet retained some of her false teachings. They, too, will ride the power of civil government to enforce their religious views. Revelation 17:5

Notes

- VII. Second beast makes an "Image" to the 1st beast. Rev. 13:14,15
- A. An image is like the original
 - 1. The second beast (U.S.) will look just like the first beast (Papacy). It will join church and state together to enforce worship.
 - 2. It will have similar teachings and doctrines.
 - 3. It will "Speak" legislate Revelation 13:15
 - 4. It will "cause" enforce what was legislated.
 - B. There will come a time when the United States will join church and state to take away religious freedoms.
 - C. Today there are groups working in politics to unite church and state.
 - D. Rev. 12,13 Has 3 powers. DRAGON, BEAST, ImAGE
 - E. Revelation 16 parallels chapters 12 & 13. DRAGON, BEAST, FALSE PROPHET.
 - 1. The "Image" is the same as "the False Prophet"
 - 2. A true prophet speaks for God. (Truth)
 - 3. A false prophet claims to speak for God but speaks lies to deceive.
 - 4. Early protestant reformers were truth seekers. "SOLA SCRIPTURA" the Bible alone.
 - 5. Much of Christianity has abandoned this principle in favor of tradition.
 - F. So the Image of the beast is Apostate Christianity (Protestants and Catholics) Using political powers (United States, & others) to enforce worship of the 1st beast of Revelation 13.
 - G. Church and State will unite -enforce worship. Rev.13:11-17
 - H. The great issue will be worship - either for the Beast or for Christ.

Note: The image of the beast will be fully formed when the religious movements of today finally succeed in their goals of having their brand of religion legislated through the laws of the United States government. It is a combination of religion and politics. Just as with the Papacy, as depicted by the woman of Revelation 17:3 riding the scarlet beast. In both cases, the religious element controls the political process, by trying to force religious observance through legislation.

- VIII. Daniel 3 is a story that tells us how to prepare for the crisis coming.
- A. They were faithful to God's commandments. Daniel 3:16-18; Exodus 20:3-6
 - B. God protected them in the crisis. Daniel 3:24-27
 - C. God wants faithful people at the end of time like the 3 Hebrews.