

# REVELATION - 13 & 17

DISCOVER UNTOLD TRUTHS
TO PREPARE FOR WHAT'S COMING NEXT

BY TIMOTHY R. JENNINGS, M.D.

"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place."

-Revelation 1:1 NIV84

Unmasking the Beasts of Revelation 13 & 17: Discover Untold Truths to Prepare for What's Coming Next By Timothy R. Jennings, M.D.

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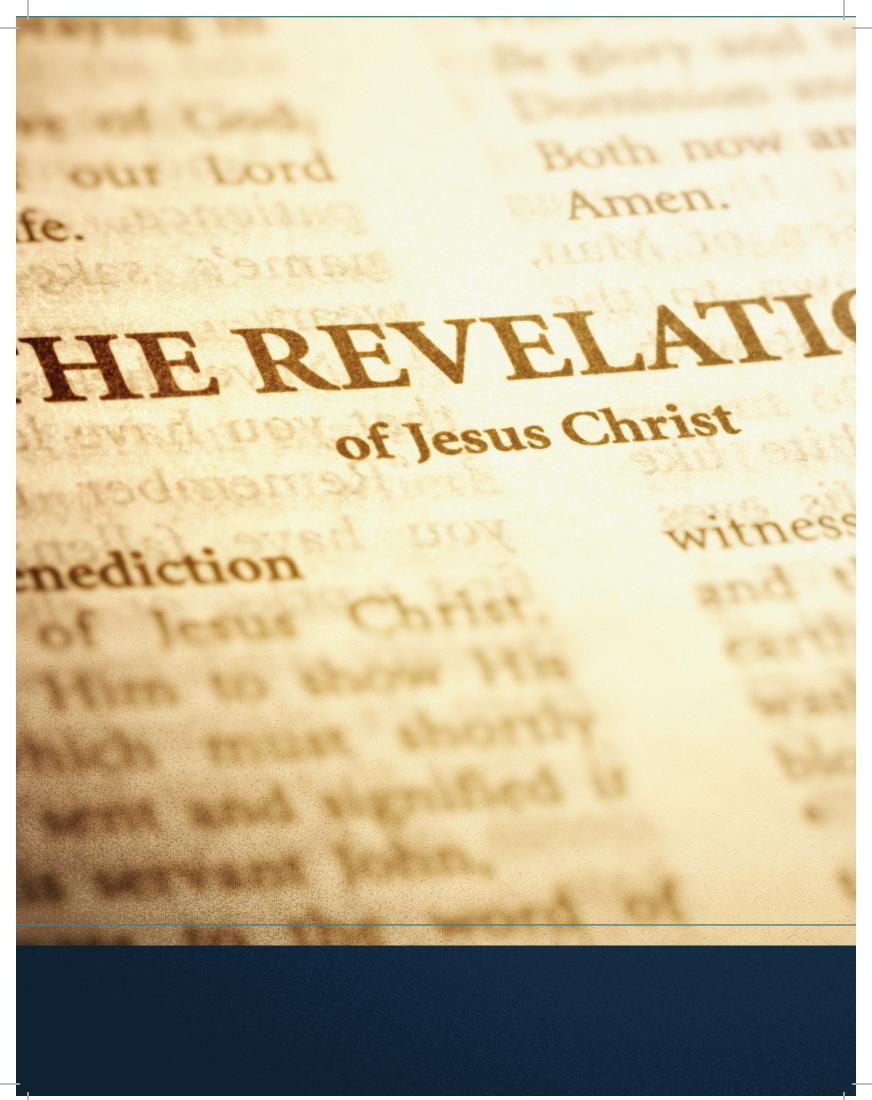
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Though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

-2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84



he war between Christ and Satan is real, but it isn't a war over physical

might and power. It is a war being waged over God's trustworthiness, methods, character, principles, and law.

Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44); as such, he lies not only about God's character and law, but also about the nature of the war and how it will be won. To spread his lies to humanity, he has set up a fraudulent yet powerful system of beliefs that has already captured billions of hearts and minds.

Jesus, after His victory as our Savior two thousand years ago, looked down the corridors of time and saw how Satan's lies would infect the Christian church. To uphold and encourage the faithful throughout history, He went to His friend John with a revelation that would unveil this satanic system. These visions would especially serve to prepare those living in the last days for the final, grand deception that is soon to break upon the world.

John recorded this vital message from Jesus in the book of Revelation. We will unpack two chapters, 13 and 17, to expose three of Satan's end-time powers so that our minds and hearts will be protected from being deceived and getting caught up in this final deception.

#### **Understanding Revelation**

Much of the book of Revelation is written in code, in symbolism, and our understanding of Revelation's message depends on how we "decode" its symbols. Here are a few guidelines that set the structure for this study's conclusions:

- If one part of a passage is symbolic or metaphor, then the rest is symbolic or metaphor unless clear reasons to be literal are expressed in the text.
- The Bible will be used to interpret itself
   (i.e., interpretations of symbols will rely on
   the Bible's own definitions before considering
   other definitions).
- Revelation's general theme is that of the conflict between Christ and Satan, which is not a physical war; rather, it is a war of ideas, methods, and principles for the purpose of winning hearts and minds—whom will people trust and whose methods will they choose to practice in their lives. Therefore, the focus of inspiration is the outworking of the plan of salvation.
- God's character of love never changes (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17); therefore, interpretations will never result in God being represented in a character other than love.
- God's law of love never changes; therefore, interpretations will always be in harmony with His law of love.

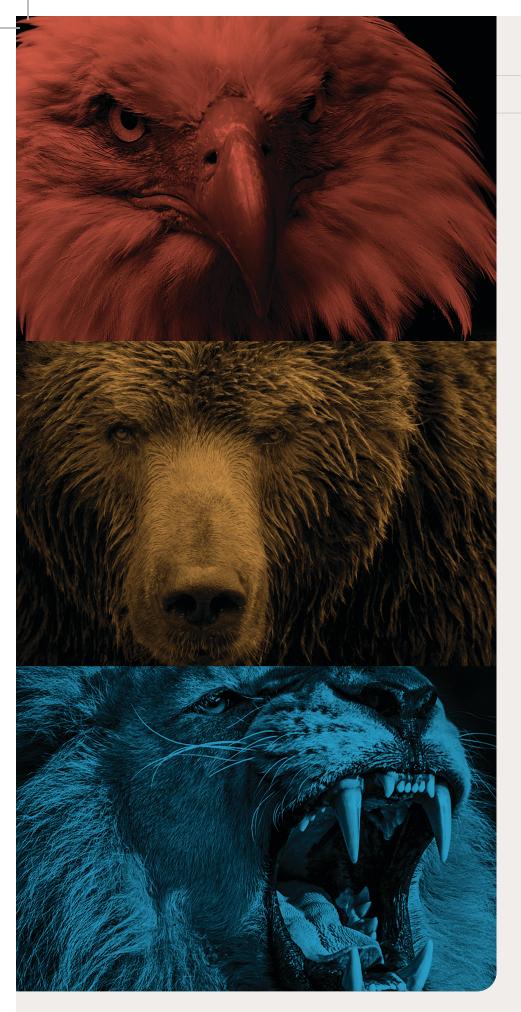


And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

-Revelation 13:1 NIV84







#### **Beasts in Bible Symbolism**

e have all seen various beasts (animals) used to represent nations or peoples. The bald eagle represents the

United States, the bear represents Russia, and one of England's kings was famously known as Richard the Lionheart and used a lion to represent his kingdom.

Bible symbolism also utilizes beasts to represent various powers:

- The lamb represents Jesus (Revelation 5:6).
- The dragon represents Satan (Revelation 12:9).
- The beasts in Daniel 7
   (lion, bear, leopard, and terrifying beast with iron teeth) represent earthly (sinful) nations, kingdoms, and governments (Daniel 7:17).

Earthly nations, governments, and kingdoms are represented in Scripture by ferocious beasts because they rule through the use of force—violence, economic coercion, prosecution, etc.—acting on the kill-or-be-killed principle to dominate and subjugate their populations in order to retain their power and wealth.

Only Jesus is represented by the gentleness, meekness, and nonviolence of a lamb because God's kingdom is a kingdom of truth, love, and liberty; it doesn't use beastly methods—violence and other forms of coercion—to govern.



#### Seas and Waters in Bible Symbolism

The seas and waters in Bible prophecy represent populated places: a "sea of people" (Revelation 17:15). Therefore, the first beast of Revelation 13 arising out of the sea represents a power that comes into existence from the people and is supported by the people (e.g., taxes, police, military, and various government officials, etc.).

#### Horns in Bible Symbolism

Horns are used by animals to attack and to defend. In Scripture, horns represent power—either godly power or evil power (Psalm 18:2; 75:4, 5, 10). Those powers can be nations (Daniel 7:24) or peoples, either godly or wicked. For example, in Psalm 132:17 and Luke 1:69, the "horn of salvation" raised up from David's line represents Jesus; in Daniel 8:21, the large horn represents Alexander the Great.

Horns can also represent the types of powers used by nations or people, such as the power of the Holy Spirit being symbolized by the horn of oil used to anoint King David (1 Samuel 16:13) or the ungodly powers that rebel against God (Psalm 75:4, 5, 10).

The horns depicted on the first beast of Revelation 13:1 simultaneously represent two ungodly powers. First, the horns represent the nations and kingdoms of the world (Daniel 7:24); second, they represent the various means used by human governments to attack, coerce, and control people.

#### The Numbers Ten and Seven in Bible Symbolism

The first beast of Revelation 13 is depicted as having ten horns. In contrast, Jesus is represented by a lamb with seven horns (Revelation 5:6).

- The number ten symbolizes the totality or completion of earthly things: ten virgins—five wise (saved), five foolish (unsaved)—representing the makeup of the worldwide church; ten commandments given to sinful human beings; ten toes of the image in Daniel 2, representing the global governments in power at the time of Christ's return, which is symbolized by the rock that destroys the image.
- The number seven symbolizes the totality or completion of spiritual things, whether holy (seven days of creation, seventh-day Sabbath, seven lampstands in the temple) or unholy (seven abominations in Proverbs 26:25, seven unclean spirits in Matthew 12:45).

The First Beast of Revelation 13



#### The Lamb's Seven Horns

The lamb's seven horns represent the perfect, complete, and total power of God used by Jesus to win the war. These seven powers distinguish our Savior, who is God, from the dragon and his beast, which counterfeit God. These seven powers of God that Jesus wields include:

#### 1. Power of creation

Genesis 1; John 1:1–3,14; Colossians 1:16, 17; Hebrews 1:1, 2

#### 2. Power of truth

John 14:6; Matthew 10:34; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 2:12

#### 3. Power of love

1 John 3:16, 4:8; John 15:13

#### 4. Power of life over death; resurrection power

John 11:25, 11:38–44; Romans 1:4; Revelation 1:18

#### 5. Power to forgive and save/heal from sin

Matthew 1:21, 9:6; John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 1:9

# 6. Power that sustains and holds all reality together and the laws that govern reality

Matthew 14:25–29; Mark 4:39; Colossians 1:17

#### 7. Power over time, including foreknowledge the ability to see through time

Genesis 2:2, 3; Joshua 10:12, 13; Daniel 2:28; Isaiah 46:10; Mark 2:28

These powers are directed by Jesus, who is also represented by the lamb of Revelation 5:6 as having seven (perfect, complete) eyes, which are the seven spirits of God. Eyes represent discernment-the ability to see, comprehend, and understand. Those not led by God are described by Jesus as "blind guides"—they have no ability to discern truth (Matthew 15:14). The seven spirits represent seven spiritual abilities that are invested in Jesus, the Branch of Isaiah 11:1, 2:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The [1] Spirit of the lord will rest on him—the Spirit of [2] wisdom and of [3] understanding, the Spirit of [4] counsel and of [5] power, the Spirit of [6] knowledge and of the [7] fear of the lord (NIV84).

Jesus wields these seven powers (horns) of the Godhead with the wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, reverence, and the omnipresence of the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of love and truth.
All the powers wielded by Jesus are in harmony with the principles, motives, and methods of God's character of love.



Satan's powers are also represented by horns, but these powers are different from the powers wielded by Jesus, the Lamb. As noted previously, in Revelation 13, the ten horns have dual meanings: 1) They represent all the kingdoms of the world, as all earthly governments are Satan's (Matthew 4:8; John 18:36) and always use beastly methods to war against God's people; 2) The horns also represent the ten types of power that Satan's kingdoms employ to advance their cause.

In stark contrast to the seven powers wielded by Jesus, the ten powers of Satan wielded by earthly governments are:

- 1. Lies—Satan is the father of lies and, since all the kingdoms of the earth are his, all the kingdoms of the earth wield lies. They lie to other kingdoms and to their own citizens. They use propaganda and other forms of misinformation to advance their agenda.
- 2. Imposed laws—These are made-up rules that require external enforcement and always result in unequal, arbitrary treatment and injustice (Isaiah 1:10; Ecclesiastes 5:8). These human-made laws stand in contrast to God's laws, which are the protocols upon which the Creator built reality to operate (laws of health, laws of physics, the moral laws) and which treat everyone the same (Matthew 5:43-45). Harmony with God's design laws brings life; breaking them automatically injures the lawbreaker and results in death (Romans 6:23: James 1:15; Galatians 6:8). God's law is perfect and brings life to the
- soul (Psalm 19:7). Satan is not the Creator, the governments of earth are not God's (John 18:36; Matthew 4:8, 9), and the laws of the kingdoms of this earth are also not God's; they are imposed rules. Wielding this power, human governments make up rules that determine what is "legal" and "illegal." And these rules change from place to place and time to time. God and His law never change. All earthly governments are based upon the so-called "rule of law," which are made-up rules requiring external enforcement (Daniel 7:25, Jeremiah 8:8).
- 3. Police and prosecution—the power to accuse and bring charges (Zechariah 3:1), restrict liberties, enforce fines, and arrest and imprison in order to compel and control a population. God's kingdom does not use these powers (2 Peter 2:11; Jude 9). Jesus explicitly stated that He would not accuse us before the Father (John 5:45). Satan is the accuser, and his agents used this power when

- they arrested and accused Jesus (Luke 22:54) and the apostles (Acts 12:3). All human governments use this power.
- 4. Judicial—the power to determine guilt or innocence, to pardon or convict, and to determine punishment. We see this power wielded by Pontius Pilate in unjustly convicting and sentencing Jesus to death (Matthew 27:19-26). God's power is the power of truth. Thus, His judgment is the accurate pronouncement (diagnosis) of what actually is. God's judgment doesn't determine the condition of a soul; it confirms the condition of a soul (Matthew 12:33-37; Revelation 22:11). Human governments, however, pass external judgment determining guilt or innocence under their imposed laws irrespective of actual guilt or innocence. In human systems, the guilty often go free and the innocent are found guilty. God's judgments are the accurate diagnosis of the condition of each heart and mind.



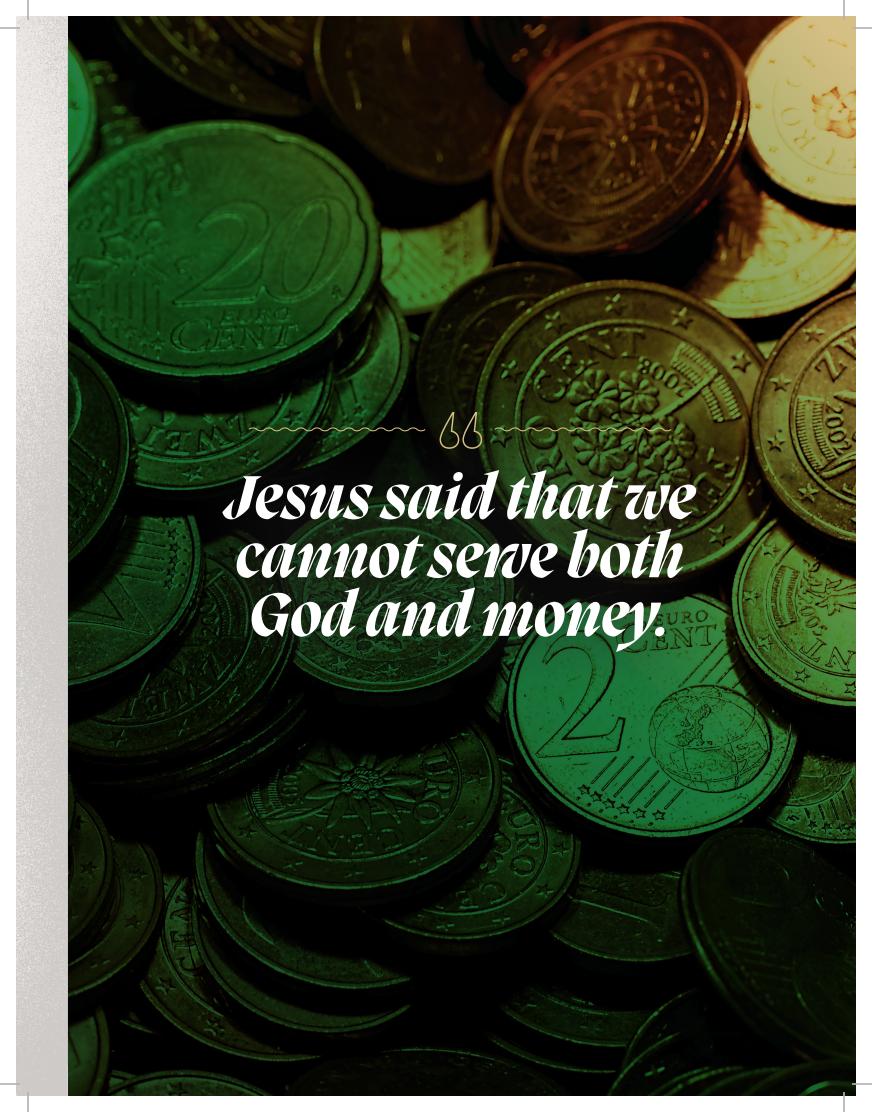
God's judgment doesn't determine the condition of a soul; it confirms the condition of a soul.

- 5. Economic—the power to print money, regulate currency, manipulate its value, and control commerce—all used to exploit populations through taxation, tax incentives and loopholes, currency manipulation, inflation, commerce, and trade. Jesus said that we cannot serve both God and money (Matthew 6:24; 22:17–21).
- 6. War—the use of military force to compel, control, or overcome other states to expand a nation's wealth and power; the power to raise a military and compel service; all powers bent on attacking and destroying others for the protection of the state (Job 1:14, 15; Daniel 7:21; Revelation 13:11).
- 7. Death—Satan's kingdoms wield the power of death, the ability to take life in war, by police action, and through execution; the power to deceive souls, cutting people off from God, the source of life, resulting in eternal death. Satan is the "murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44); Jesus came to destroy him "who holds the power of death—that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14 NIV84).
- **8. Education**—the power to educate the populace, setting a

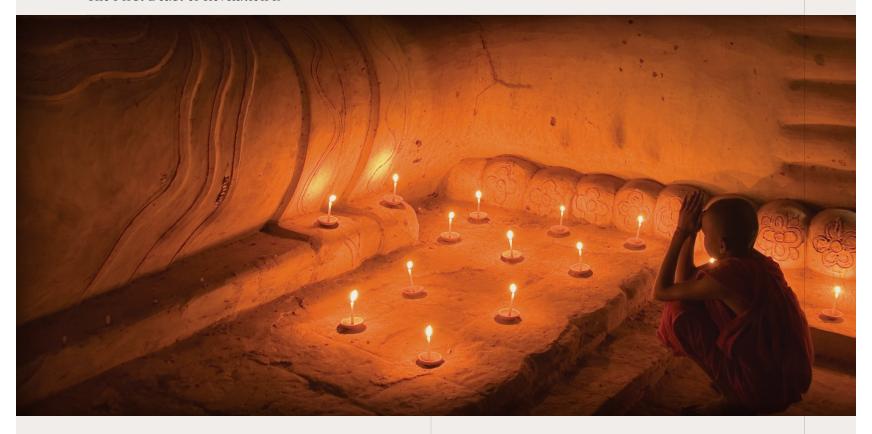
- national educational narrative, moral values, and history; the power to deny education/ access to truth (e.g., the Bible) to those they want to keep disempowered. Moses was educated in the wisdom of Egypt (Acts 7:22). Daniel and his friends were educated in the ways of Babylon (Daniel 1:5). God's people are to be educated in the ways, methods, truths, and principles of God's kingdom. Satan uses the kingdoms of this world to educate people in the ways of this world.
- **9. Ownership** (Genesis 47:16) the power to determine ownership of lands, peoples, goods, resources, activities, and business endeavors—who can own a license to make certain products or open a school, hospital, or refinery, etc. But the truth of God's kingdom is that all things in heaven and on earth belong to God: "To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it" (Deuteronomy 10:14 NIV84, see also Psalm 24:1, 50:10. 89:11; 1 Corinthians 10:26). We own nothing. We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him to use His resources for the uplifting of His kingdom

- (Genesis 1:26–28; Luke 12:42, 43; 1 Corinthians 4:1; 1 Peter 4:10). It is Satan's deception to get us to believe that we are the owners, which inflames selfishness, jealousy, conflict, and division.
- 10. Fear—as soon as Adam and Eve sinned, they ran and hid because they were afraid (Genesis 3:10). Every other power (horn) used by Satan's beastly systems ultimately exploits and works through the power of fear. When lies are believed, they break the bonds of love and trust and result in fear and selfishness, motivating people to protect self at the expense of others. Imposed laws instill the fear of getting into legal trouble with subsequent inflicted punishment, enforced by police and judicial powers; economic policies incite fear of poverty, debt, foreclosure, and loss of whatever one "owns;" war inflames the fear of pain, suffering, loss, and death; and people are educated to be afraid of going against the state. All beastly systems advance their power through fear. In God's kingdom, "there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear"

(1 John 4:18 NKJV).



#### The First Beast of Revelation 13



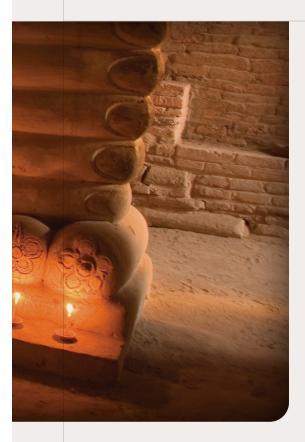
#### The Seven Heads of the Dragon and Beast

While the ten powers (horns) are used by worldly kingdoms to advance their agendas, the seven heads direct the use of those powers. The head is where one thinks, reasons, and worships. These seven heads, each with a blasphemous name, represent the seven false religious philosophies that have manifested throughout human history and which have directed the formation of the various beastly governments and their use of the ten powers.

In Revelation 17, we're given more details regarding these seven heads:

The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while (vv. 9, 10 NIV84). Why are the seven heads also described as seven hills? In Scripture, hills (i.e., high places) represent places of worship. Zion was called God's holy hill (Psalm 2:6). But in this case, it is blasphemous worship being represented; in the Bible, hills can also represent places of pagan (false) worship (Leviticus 26:30; 1 Kings 14:23; 2 Kings 16:4). Thus, the seven heads with blasphemous names are seven hills, representing the seven false religious philosophies Satan has used throughout history to capture minds in order to separate people from God.

At the time John was writing Revelation, the first century after Christ's ascension, five of these systems had already been exposed as false by their rejection of Jesus as the Messiah. One was in power at the time but had not yet betrayed Christ and fallen into corruption, and one would arise in the future and remain for a short while before Jesus returns.



The seven false religious systems are:

- 1. Paganism—earth and nature worship, sun and moon worship, idol worship, all forms of beliefs in pagan gods (Baal, Molech, Voodoo, witchcraft, etc.)
- 2. Godlessness—the belief that there is no God or gods (evolutionism, humanism, scientism, etc.)
- 3. Eastern mysticism—the mystical religions of spirit worship, ancestor worship, or energy/cosmos worship (Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.)
- **4. Islam**—while not formalized until much later, this refers to religious beliefs

going back to Ishmael and his twelve sons. Islam recognizes Muhammad as the last of the prophets, not the first. Thus, Muhammad did not create Islam; he organized and codified it based upon the religious beliefs of the Arabic people, who have historically believed that the promised Messiah would come through Ishmael.

- 5. Judaism—it fell when they rejected Jesus as the Son of God, our Messiah, crucified Him, and then persecuted those who accepted Him. Their system was left to them desolate (Matthew 23:37, 38).
- 6. Roman Catholicism-it fell when it rejected the truth that Jesus taught, a religion based on design law, freedom, and healing, and replaced it with a religion based on Roman law, imperialism, and authoritarianism. It has taken the "rule of law" concept and created a religion modeled after the Roman hierarchy while co-opting Christian language. Thus, the Roman church became beastly and persecuted the saints throughout the Dark Ages.
- 7. False Protestantism—
  the Protestant churches

that continue to embrace Romanism's lies about God's government and methods and seek to advance their self-styled plan of salvation through the imposed-law lie, teaching that salvation is a legal process rather than a process of restoration and healing.

Again, in the first century after Christ, when John wrote the book of Revelation (circa AD 96), the first five of these religious systems had all rejected Jesus, the Son of God, as our Messiah and proven themselves to be fallen into corruption, blasphemy, and lies.

The new head, the sixth—
Christianity—was just arising,
soon giving way to the Roman
church that became corrupt
when it embraced pagan Rome's
imperial law as the way God's law
also functions; as a result, it built a
false legal system of salvation.

This sixth head was followed by the final head to rise (the seventh)—apostate Protestantism, which, while protesting some doctrinal differences with Rome, continues to embrace and promote the imposed-law view of God's kingdom, a legal plan of salvation, while wielding worldly methods to forward its view of justice.

It should be noted that true Christianity is not fallen; it is represented by the virtuous woman that fled into the wilderness (Revelation 12:1–6) so as not to be destroyed by the dragon and his beastly powers.



#### The Chameleon Beast of Revelation 13:1

Now that we have identified and clarified the Bible meanings of horns and heads, we can better understand the true nature of the first beast of Revelation 13.

This beast, depicted with seven heads and ten horns, is actually a composite representation of all the earthly powers that Satan has used and is using to advance his kingdom on this earth. This beast is a chameleon that manifests itself with different attributes, dominating in different places and times in history, but always using the methods and powers of Satan and always working to oppose God.

Remember, heads do the thinking; the horns are the weapons used by the heads to advance their agendas. Thus, in all societies throughout history, it is the religious beliefs and philosophies (heads) embraced by the leaders that direct the governmental powers (horns) to advance their agendas using the powers of Satan (also horns).

· During the Dark Ages, it was the Roman Catholic head that advanced its agenda and controlled populations through the use of various state powers (horns): lies, imposed laws, police (accusations of people, even kings, as heretics), judicial (Inquisition), economic (taxation, indulgences), death (executions), war (Crusades), education (restricting access to the Bible, teaching catechisms), ownership (church ownership of property and wealth), and fear-the fear of earthly suffering, punishments, and torment and of eternal torment and damnation to hell if one rejected the church's dogmas.

- In many Arab countries (Iran, Saudi Arabia, etc.), Islamic beliefs (head) direct the horns (state powers) to enforce its dogmas.
- In much of ancient Rome, Greece, and Africa, it was pagan beliefs (head) that directed the horns (state/tribal powers) to enforce its dogmas.
- In communist countries (China, Cuba, etc.), the godless beliefs of evolution and humanism (head) direct the horns (state powers) to enforce its dogmas.
- In modern Israel, the Jewish beliefs (head), including that the Messiah has not yet come, direct the horns (state powers) to enforce its dogmas.

This first beast is a chameleon; it changes and adapts as social, political, and religious circumstances change. At one point and place in history, the Roman Catholic head dominated; at another point and place, the godless head dominates; at another point and place, the Islamic, Jewish, or false Protestant heads dominate. But whatever head dominates, it is the same beast using the same beastly powers to compel, coerce, control, and oppose God and His people—because this beast receives its power from Satan, the dragon.

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This first beast is a chameleon; it changes and adapts as social, political, and religious circumstances change.





# The Dragon Who Gives the Beast Power

The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority (Revelation 13:2 NIV84).

Here we are told that Satan, the dragon, is the one who gives the chameleon beast-the various governments of earth—the power that it wields. All the kingdoms of this world are Satan's, and they all use Satan's methods and powersand Satan uses all of them toward his ultimate ends (Matthew 4:8, 9). Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36) and that the people of His kingdom "do not wage war as the world does. The weapons [horns] we fight with are not the weapons of the world" (2 Corinthians 10:3, 4).

Interestingly, Revelation 12:3 describes the dragon (Satan), who gives power to the first beast of Revelation 13, as also having seven heads and ten horns. However, on the dragon, the crowns are upon the heads, whereas on the beast, the crowns are upon the horns.

These crowns upon the dragon's heads and the crowns upon the beast's horns are both diadems—that is, crowns of authority, the crowns of imperial rule and power over others. This is in stark contrast to stephanos—

that is, crowns of victory (not authority over others)—the crowns worn by the righteous in such passages as 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 2 Timothy 4:8, 1 Peter 5:4, and Revelation 12:1.

The crowns of authority (diadems) rest upon the heads of the dragon because Satan's war effort in heaven was not through the powers of governmental legislation, might, force, or direct physical control; rather, his war effort in heaven was waged through false religion-that is, false ideas about God that infect minds and cause rebellion. Satan well knows that he cannot contend with the Creator in a battle of physical might; thus, he wars against God with lies to undermine love and trust in God. This is Satan's primary power, the force that undergirds the advancement of his kingdom.

Ultimately, Satan wants to rule, to have authority over hearts and minds and to control the thinking and affections of others; thus, the crowns are on the heads (false religious systems) of the dragon. But on the earth, the beast advances its agenda through the might of the state—the powers of politics, physical force, economics—to control the behavior of people; thus, the crowns are on the horns of the beast.

#### The Dark Ages Manifestation of the Beast

A critical point to understand regarding the Bible is its central theme. The Scripture focuses on the people and events that are central to the plan of salvation.

For instance, the Old
Testament focuses on Abraham's family because it is through his family that the promised "Seed" (Genesis 3:15) would come (Genesis 22:18). But it does not focus on Abraham's entire family; it doesn't focus on Esau's or Ishmael's children; rather, it focuses upon Isaac's children (Genesis 26:4) and then Jacob's children (Genesis 28:14).

As history unfolds, the Bible narrows its focus down upon the tribe of Judah, because it is through this tribe that Jesus comes (Genesis 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:12–16; Isaiah 11:1–3, Hebrews 7:13, 14).

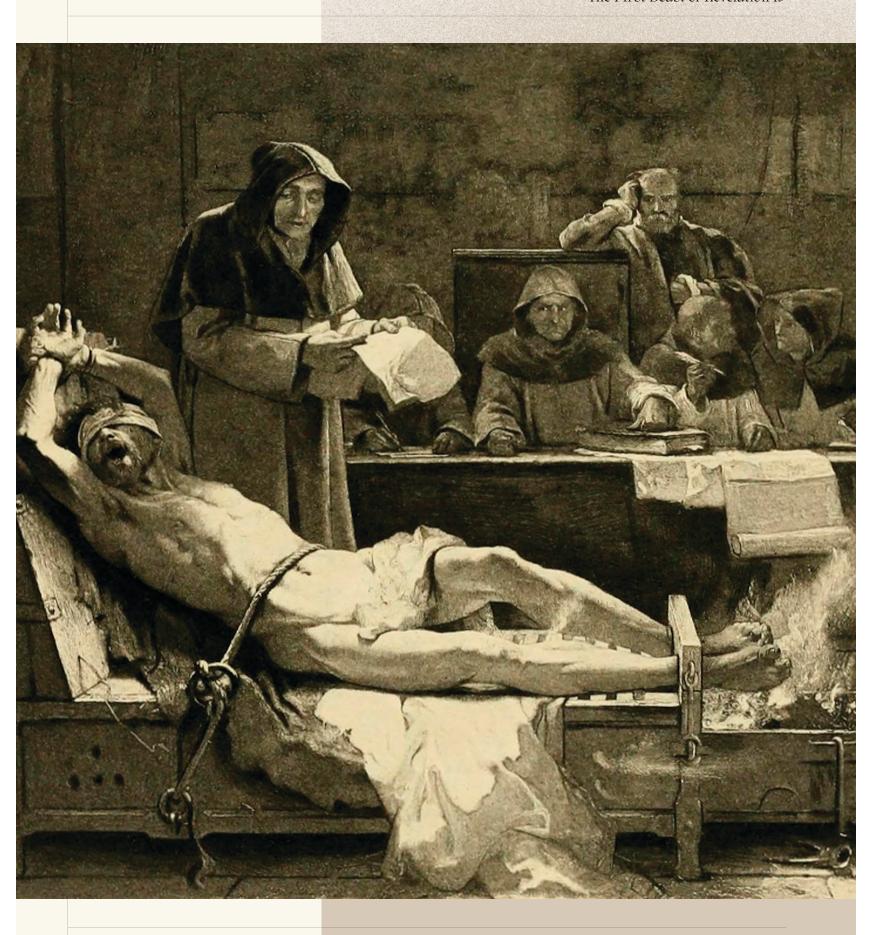
This is also why the Bible doesn't focus on the Aztecs, Chinese, or Russians. It isn't because God doesn't love or care about these people. He does! But the only way to save any of them was to send "His only begotten Son" (John 3:16 NKJV), so the Bible focuses on His path in history. The Bible's focus is always on the plan of salvation.

After Jesus' victory (sinless life, death and resurrection, and ascension), the Bible's focus shifts away from the Jews (Judah) because they rejected Jesus and are no longer the agents that carry out God's plan of salvation. Now the Bible's focus is on the people who carry forward the message of Jesus, the gospel. The New Testament and the various Bible history and prophecies that extend beyond the time of Jesus are focused on the Christian world. And this is the focus of the first beast of Revelation 13.

Revelation 13:2 alludes to a vision found in Daniel 7, which concerns the various kingdoms that made up the Near East-Babylon (lion), Medio-Persia (bear), and Greece (leopard). This chameleon beast has manifested at different places and times in history, each time with the attributes necessary to carry out Satan's attacks against God, His people, and His plan of salvation. In Daniel's vision, the focus is on Abraham's descendants (Israel) and the beasts (Babylon, Persia, Greece) that Satan used in his attempt to obstruct the plan of salvation by opposing Israel, the branch of the family tree through which Jesus would come.

However, in Revelation 13, John's vision is of the future (from his time onward), when Satan's beastly agents would be set up to oppose the followers of Jesus. John sees that this power would manifest with the same elements of the three beastly kingdoms of Daniel 7. This manifestation of the beast would desecrate the true (spirit) temple, as Greece (Antiochus Epiphanes) desecrated the symbolic (earthly) temple; it has done this by infecting the spirit temples (minds) of people with false views of God, His law, and the plan of salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:4). The beast would wage war against the saints by attempting to take their minds and hearts captive, as Persia and Babylon took the Jews captive, and by demanding false worship through government mandate, as Persia and Babylon did (Daniel 3:1-6; 6:7; 7:21; Revelation 13:7).

This beastly system will use false religious beliefs (heads) to direct the power of human governments (horns) to compel and coerce the consciences of people, desecrating the spirit temple and holding hearts and minds captive in sin.





#### The Identity of the Wounded Head

One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast (Revelation 13:3 NIV84).

Revelation 13 focuses our attention on the time and place in history when:

- Those who carry the gospel of Jesus (Christians) are advancing.
- 2. The one head (false religion) that takes control of the horns (state powers) to persecute the saints and oppose the work of the true church.

This head is described in detail because the Bible wants to keep our focus on the plan of salvation and the battle between Christ and Satan and their followers. The Bible identifies this specific head in such detail that it is beyond any doubt, so we can be confident in our conclusion that all seven heads do, in fact, represent the false religious systems of this world—and also be certain that there is a false Christianity that becomes corrupted and beastly.

Here in verse 3, we see that even though this beast has seven heads and ten horns, only one of the heads receives what at first appears to be a fatal wound—meaning this head recovers from the wound. The chameleon beast is not wounded as a whole; just one of its heads receives the seemingly fatal blow.

Moreover, the entire world doesn't follow the one head that was wounded; instead, the entire world (except the saints) follows the beast.

Why? Because the beast is a chameleon that represents all false religious systems (heads) that direct the various kingdoms and powers (horns) of the world—all of which are Satan's.

Every person will ultimately choose to follow either Jesus or one of the seven false systems; to have God's law written on their heart or to follow imperial law; to develop a godly character such that they practice God's methods in how they treat others or a satanic character such that they will use beastly methods in their treatment of others. Yes, every person who is not sealed to God will wonder after the beast, whether one head or another, giving it their allegiance and worship.

The prophecy next documents the true purpose for which Satan has given his power to the beast:

> Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" (v. 4 NIV84).

Satan's purpose for the beast is for it to get people on earth to worship him.

Whenever people embrace the methods, principles, motives, and attitudes of Satan—which are based in fear and selfishness—they are, in fact, worshiping him. Worship is "worth-ship"—what people find worthy of their heart's investment, what they value, what they believe in, and what they will live by and for.

For instance, the atheist who believes in the fallen natural world alone, the survival-of-the-fittest principle, and embraces Satan's methods of power to advance and protect self—coerce consciences, restrict liberties, and force compliance—worships Satan and the beastly system, even if they think they are not religious.

During the Dark Ages, the chameleon beast had the papal head in control in Europe directing the ten horn powers to dominate the people and oppose God's plan of salvation. The prophecy gives further insight into the specific



actions this beastly system would take and the time frame for its papal manifestation:

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world (vv. 5–8 NIV84).

This prophecy was written in AD 96 and predicts that at some place and time in John's future, a religious power (head) would arise, wield the ten satanic powers (horns), and persecute God's people for 42 months. It would then be wounded in such a way that it appears to be defeated, killed, or destroyed, only to recover from the wound.

# The Time and Place of the Wounded Head

The 42 months is a prophetic time period in which one day represents one year of actual time (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6). These 42 months multiplied by 30 (the number of days in a Jewish month) equals 1,260 days. Thus, these 1,260 prophetic days equals 1,260 actual years of time.

Does history reveal that the Roman church held power for 1,260 years?

The Roman Catholic system derived its political seat and much of its power from imperial pagan Rome. The church exercised all the various powers (horns) of human governments to persecute people during the Dark Ages; then, in 1798, it received its prophesied "deadly wound" when Napoleon's general Louis-Alexandre Berthier invaded Rome and took the pope captive. The pope died in exile, effectively breaking the political power of the Roman church over the various subjugated European states. However, that wound has been slowly healing ever since; today, the Roman church has recovered its worldly power, prestige, and credibility, such that it will be part of the end-time conglomeration of religions and earthly governments that persecute God's people.

If this particular manifestation of the beast does indeed represent the Roman church during the Dark Ages, with its power being broken in 1798, then it would have had to have come to power 1,260 years earlier. So, when did the Roman church gain political authority?

During the siege of Rome (AD 537-538), Belisarius, one of Emperor Justinian's generals, defeated the Goths, an Arian power that denied the divinity of Christ and even installed their own pope.1 Belisarius deposed the Goth's pope and installed a new pope. When Belisarius defeated the Goths, the last of the Arian powers that opposed the Roman church was removed and he turned over political authority to the new pope. Therefore, the Roman church received its political and ruling power in AD 538. Exactly 1,260 years later, the papal head of the beast was wounded when Napoleon's general took the pope captive. Thus, the beast of Revelation 13:1 is unmasked during its papal phase, when the Roman Catholic head wielded the horns (ten powers) during the Dark Ages.





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Then, in 1798, it received its prophesied "deadly wound" when Napoleon's general Louis-Alexandre Berthier invaded Rome and took the pope captive. The pope died in exile.

# The Spiritual Warfare of the Beast

Satan's beastly system always wars against God, His people, and His plan of salvation. During the Dark Ages, this chameleon beast in its papal phase waged war against the saints. While it most certainly used the various powers (horns), including war (invading and overthrowing countries) and death (execution of dissidents), the primary aspect of the war against the saints referred to in Revelation 13:5-8 is a spiritual war-a war against truth, love, and liberty; a war against the knowledge and methods of God.

Through the papal religious system, the beast is said to "blaspheme" (misrepresent) the "name" (character) of God. Here, the Bible is revealing that the ongoing war of Satan is always about spreading falsehoods about God, which are designed to destroy hearts and minds and lead people away from the source of life. In describing the opening of Satan's war in heaven (Revelation 12:7), the Greek word translated as "war" that John chose is πόλεμος (polemos), from which we get

"polemic," which describes a war of words, a war of ideas, not one of physical combat. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), and his primary lies are always about God.

As Paul said:

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84, emphasis mine).

The ultimate target of
Satan's war is not the bodies of
the saints; he wants to conquer
their hearts and minds. He wants
to destroy the image of God in
humans and place his likeness
where God's should be. That's
why Satan wants to destroy
godliness from God's people—he

wants us to be fearful and selfish, just like him.

Through the papal head of the chameleon beast, the dragon warred against the knowledge of God by introducing into Christianity the idea that God's law functions like human lawthe belief that His law is nothing more than made-up rules that have no natural consequence and, therefore, must be enforced by external punishments. This idea of law, of governance, became orthodoxy and remains the foundation of the authoritarian Roman church, with its canon law and supreme ruler.

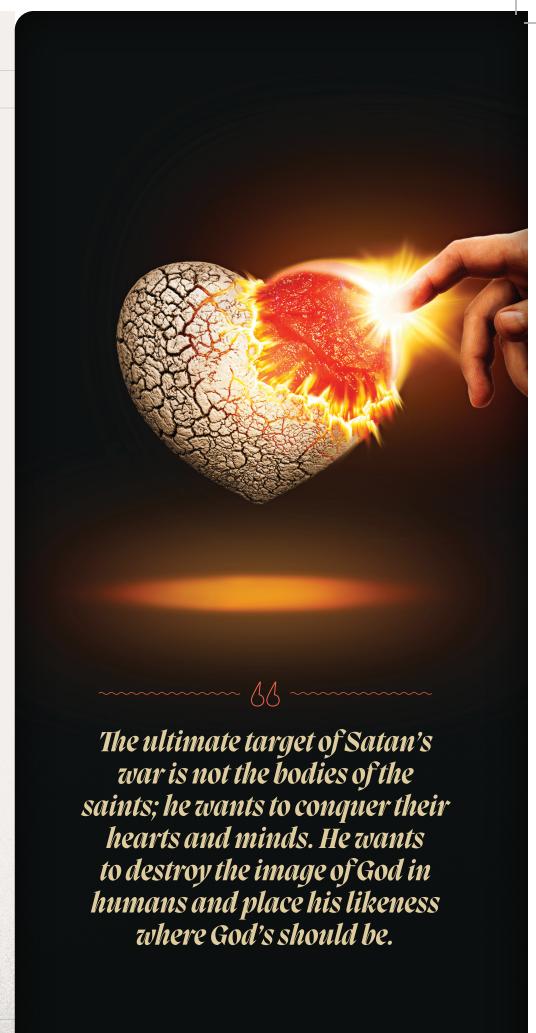
This false idea of God's law perverts our understanding of His divine character. It makes Him out to be no different than a Roman Caesar in form and function, a mere imposer of rules and inflictor of punishments. This lie has reframed sin from being a spiritual problem of the heart, mind, and character from which the sinner needs healing and transformation to righteousness, into being

a legal problem, one in which sinners are told they need legal adjustment through some aspect of church authority (confession and absolution), work (penance), payment (indulgence), sacrament, or some offering (blood of a human sacrifice—Eucharist) to the offended god.

This misrepresentation of God is its blasphemy, while its arrogance is revealed in its presumed ability to change God's law.

It is also a matter of historical fact that the Roman church claims the power to change God's law and has altered the Ten Commandments in its catechisms (deleting the second commandment; changing the fourth to the third; changing its day of worship from Saturday, the Bible Sabbath, to Sunday; and splitting the tenth into two to keep the number at ten). The Catholic Encyclopedia affirms this explicitly:

The church after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath or seventh-day of the week to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the lord's day (vol. 4, p. 153).



#### The Ultimate Deception

However, the point here is not about changing a specific "law" in the commandments; that is only a secondary point. The bigger lie, the deeper distortion, the true corruption, that has infected the entire world, Catholic or not, is the idea that God's law functions like human law, imposed rules that are subject to amendment, replacement, or change.

If Christians still viewed the Creator's moral laws as design protocols upon which He built reality to operate-like the law of gravity or the laws of health-then they would know that a vote in some committee cannot actually change them. Indeed, no church would vote that their members are not required to breathe on days when pollution is bad. Such a vote would be foolish because it has no bearing whatsoever on the law of respiration, which is a design law of our Creator. The only reason the Roman church leaders thought they could change the law of God was because they first came to view it as being no different than Roman law.

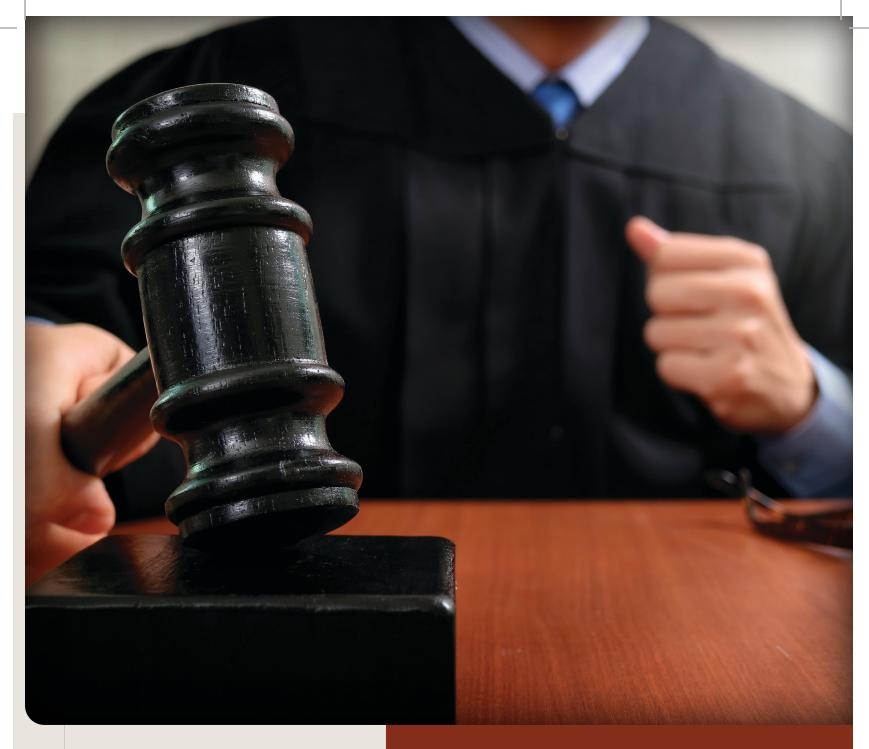
While many Protestant
Christians have rejected the
previously noted changes to the
Decalogue, most still accept
the core lie that God's law
functions like human law and
teach some legal (penal) view
of sin and salvation. They have
embraced a beastly view of

God's character, claiming that God is the source of inflicted suffering and death and that these are "just punishments for sin." This is the true blasphemy because it changes God from a benevolent, loving Creator into an authoritarian dictator-the source of inflicted pain, suffering, and death—resulting in the beastly methods of coercion and force being embraced and practiced by all those who follow this imposed-law system. To those who accept Satan's view of law, even Christians, it seems only right that justice can be achieved through passing and enforcing laws upon others. But all such imposed-law pursuits of moral justice result only in greater injustice and in the corruption of human character.

Eusebius, the first church historian, accurately describes that the Roman church, as early as the third century, had come to view God governing the universe like Caesar governed Rome: "With the Roman Empire monarchy had come on earth as the image of the monarchy in heaven" (S.L. Greenslade, Church and State from Constantine to Theodosius, London: SCM Press, 1954).

Thomas Lindsay, in his book A History of the Reformation, not only documents this change in how Christians understand God's law but also observes how all of Western Christianity is still infected with this damaging imposed-law construct:

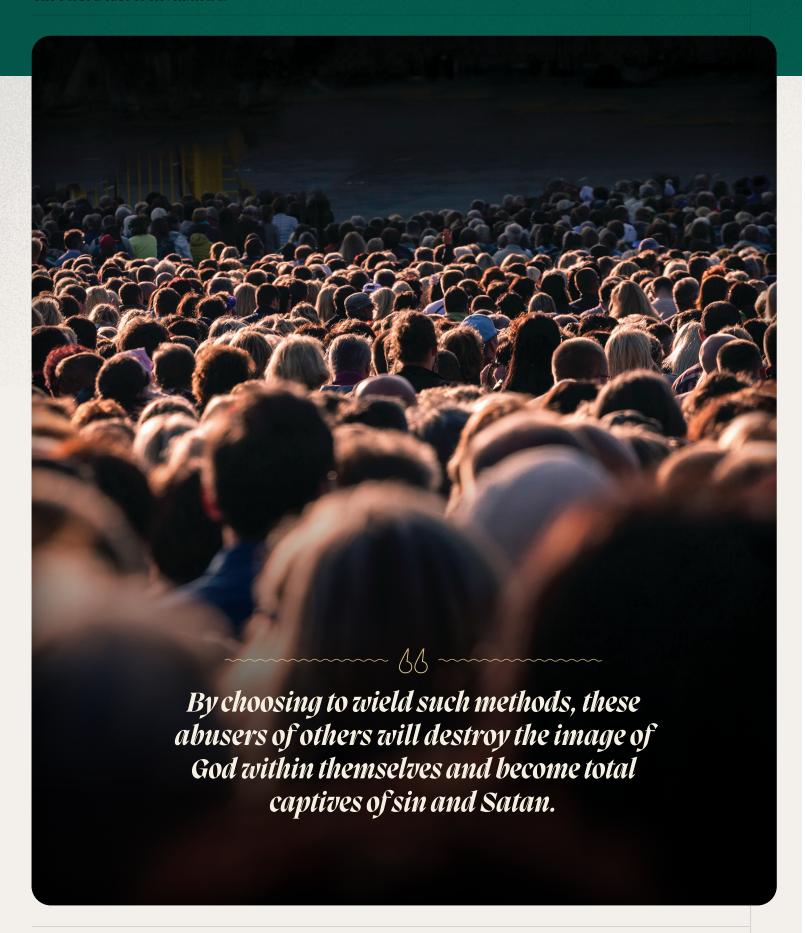
The great men who built up the Western Church were almost all trained Roman lawyers. Tertullian, Cyprian, Augustine, Gregory the Great (whose writings form the bridge between the Latin Fathers and the Schoolmen) were all men whose early training had been that of a Roman lawyer,—a training which moulded and shaped all their thinking, whether theological or ecclesiastical. They instinctively regarded all questions as a great Roman lawyer would. They had the lawyer's craving for exact definitions. They had the lawyer's idea that the primary duty laid upon them was to enforce obedience to authority, whether that authority expressed itself in external institutions or in the precise definitions of the correct ways of thinking about spiritual truths. No branch of Western Christendom has been able to free itself from the spell cast upon it by these Roman lawyers of the early centuries of the Christian church (International Theological Library [Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1906], 168, emphasis mine).



The Roman head of this beast wielded imposed law to change the landscape of Christianity, creating an authoritarian, violent, aggressive religious monster that claimed to represent gentle Jesus. But, despite its claim to represent Jesus, its rejection of design law and practice of imposed law turned it into the beast that violated human rights—the Inquisition, the Crusades, burning people at the stake who challenged the church's view—all the while claiming to be God's agency on earth.

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To those who accept Satan's view of law, even Christians, it seems only right that justice can be achieved through passing and enforcing laws upon others.



#### The Beast Today

He who has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints (Revelation 13:9, 10 NIV84).

The chameleon beast of Revelation 13 continues to exist today and continues to war against God, His people, and the plan of salvation. While the wounded papal head is largely healed, it hasn't been leading the beast's war against Christ since 1798. Instead, different beastly systems (heads) in various parts of the world have been directing the horns to oppose God and His people.

- The atheist head directs the horns in nations like China, Cuba, North Korea, and it is gaining ever-greater control in Europe and the United States.
- The Islamic head directs the agencies that oppose Jesus in nations like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan.
- The Jewish head directs the agencies that oppose Jesus in Israel.

 The Eastern-mysticism head directs the horns in nations like Japan and India.

Thus, the entire world is now being led to wonder after the beast via the various heads, who wield the horns, and embrace and practice the methods and values of the beast by supporting imposed laws that coerce consciences—all except those whose characters are like Jesus, those whose names (characters) are recorded in God's book of life.

In the near future, events will unfold that will differentiate the nature of these two groups. Those who value imposed law. practice survival-of-the-fittest methods, and believe it is just and right to use human law and government to compel the conscience—just as the Roman church did in the Dark Ageswill use the power of the state to achieve their goals. They will arrest people and prosecute them, go to war, and kill those who don't embrace and support their beliefs.

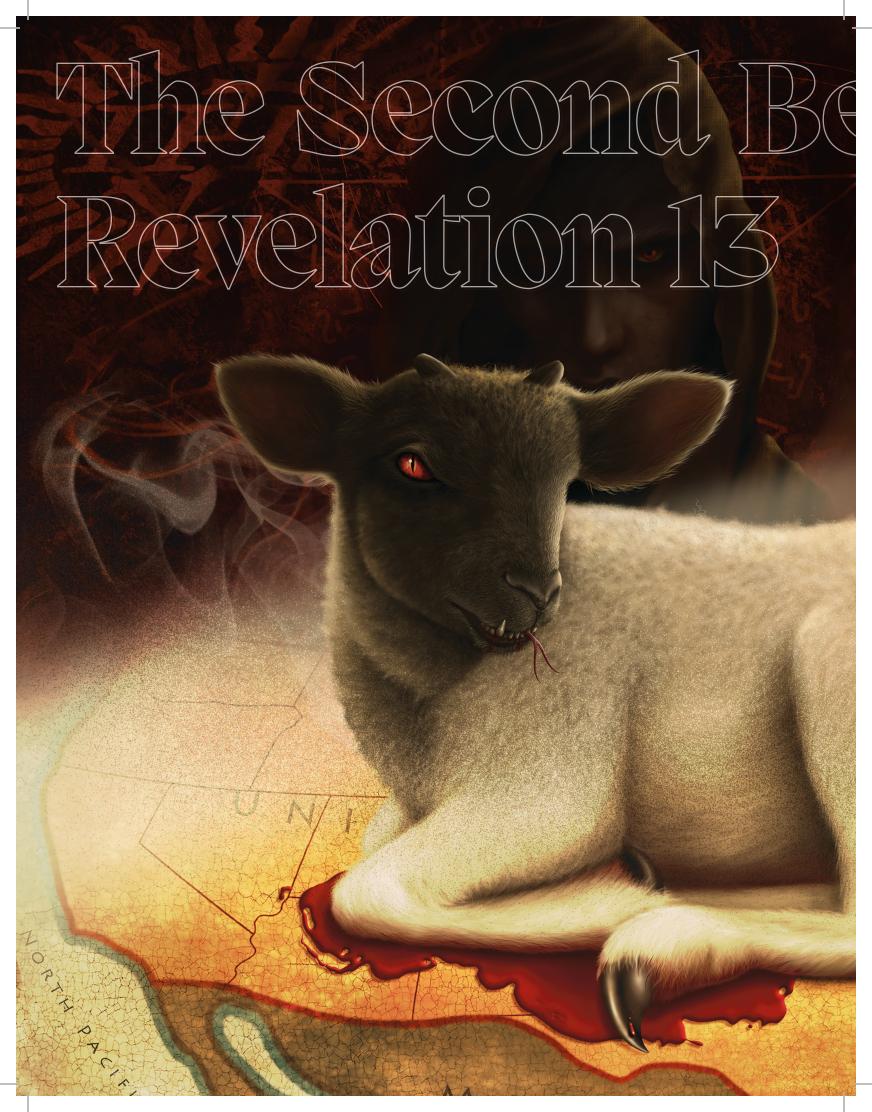
By choosing to wield such methods, these abusers of others will destroy the image of God within themselves, become total captives of sin and Satan, and will be killed by their use of the methods of God's enemy.

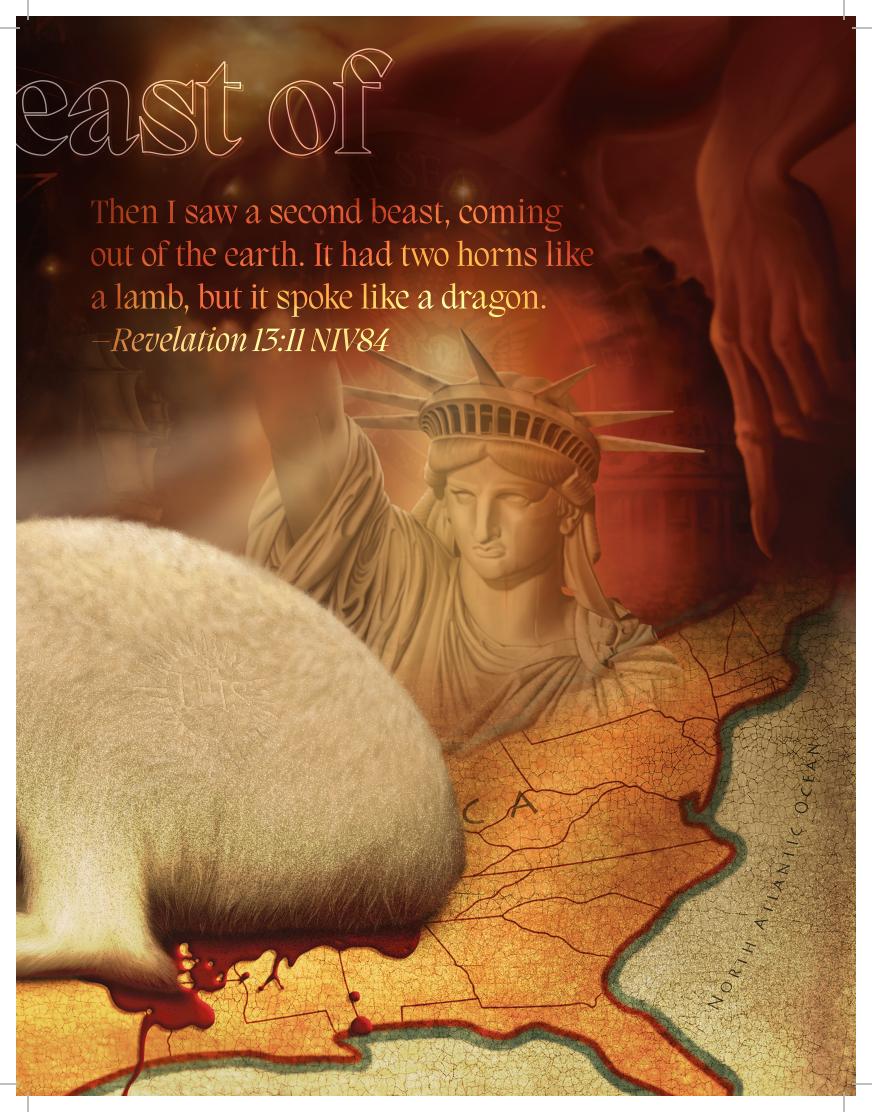
Those who understand design law—who understand how reality actually works, who have ears to hear—will realize that if you use violence and other coercive methods to compel the consciences of others, you will change your own character and be corrupted in the process; your soul will become captive to sin and, in the end, you will die of sin, for "sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:15 NKJV).

We are told that the saints will be able to endure only through trust in God and by faithfully living out the principles of love, truth, and freedom.

They don't live controlled by the survival drive, the fear of death: "They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (Revelation 12:11 NIV84). Their characters are sealed into Christlikeness, and they receive eternal life.

We have seen that Satan has had his beastly system of false religions (seven heads) and evil powers (ten horns) operating throughout human history, investing his power into it as he wars against God and His people. But before Jesus returns, things get more intense; according to Revelation 13, a new power arises upon the earth.





Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

-Revelation 13:11, 12 NKJV

here are two
meanings for this
second beast, and
this is because this
is a dual-fulfillment
prophecy. Multiple prophecies in
Scripture have a dual fulfillment:

- Joel's prophecy about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit before the second coming of Christ (Joel 2:28–32) is also applied by Peter to the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14–21).
- Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28
  both start out referring to
  an earthly king but then
  transition to detailing the fall
  of Lucifer.
- Jesus' prophecy about
   His second coming is also
   blended with the destruction
   of Jerusalem (Matthew 24).

In each of these dual-fulfillment prophecies, there is a lesser application and a greater application—the lesser is regional; the greater is global. This beast with "two horns like a lamb" is another example in which there is a dual application, a lesser regional fulfillment and a greater global fulfillment.

### The Beast with Lamblike Horns: The Lesser Fulfillment

While seas or waters represent people or populations (Revelation 17:15), the earth represents the opposite: a depopulated place. The lesser fulfillment of the beast with lamblike horns represents the rise of a nation in a relatively unpopulated region on earth, while its greater fulfillment is the rise of a power that takes global control without people to create it or as the source of its power.

The lesser (regional) fulfillment is of a nation arising in a relatively unpopulated place on the planet near the end (circa AD 1798) of the 1,260-year papal manifestation of the first beast of Revelation 13:1. This new nation arises with two horns (powers) that resemble a lamb's horns. This means that this new nation arises with two principles or powers that are similar to something that Jesus the Lamb would endorse, but this nation will speak like Satan, the dragon, wielding all the ten powers of the dragon.

The lesser fulfillment, a regional beast with lamblike horns, points to the United States



of America, which declared independence from England in 1776 and won the Revolutionary War in 1783. It was founded upon two lamblike principles that would form the two pillars of the American Constitution: religious freedom and civil liberty.

The reason the Bible gives us this regional application for the second beast of Revelation 13 is that the focus of Scripture is always upon the plan of salvation and the battle between the agencies of God and the forces of Satan. The Old Testament focused our attention on the branch of the human family through whom the promised Seed of the woman would come (Genesis 3:15). The New Testament and Bible prophecies that extend past the time of Jesus' ascension focus our attention on those who carry the gospel message forward: the Christian world.

The first beast of Revelation 13 was a regional manifestation of Satan's chameleon beast, when the Roman Catholic head wielded the ten horns to persecute the righteous and warred against those who carried the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

In keeping with this spiritual warfare focus, the Bible next points our attention to the second beast, the nation on earth that rose in opposition to Romanism, the abuses of its Inquisition, and established itself as a land of religious and civil liberty—but which eventually succumbs to, and becomes part of, Satan's end-time war machine. In other words, it initially appears to be the divine deliverance of God's people from the persecutions of the Dark Ages, but it turns out to be just as abusive. Likewise, the global fulfillment will initially appear to be humanity's salvation, but that future beastly power will be its destruction.

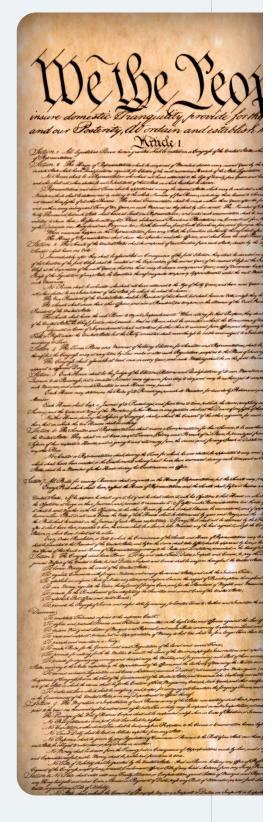
Many of the liberties listed in the U.S. Bill of Rights were specifically written by the Framers of the Constitution to restrain and oppose the Roman Catholic Inquisition and the many other abuses that occurred during the Dark Ages. These include:

- Separation of church and state
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of the press
- Right not to answer questions under trial/inquisition (i.e., right to remain silent)
- · Presumption of innocence
- Right to privacy and no search without a warrant

Under the Roman church's Inquisition, the powers of the state were used to enforce the dogmas and policies of the church. Speaking, preaching, and writing against the church were punishable by fine, imprisonment, torture, and death. An Inquisitor could search property without a warrant; when a person was questioned by an Inquisitor, the refusal to answer questions was deemed a confession of one's guilt.

When the United States arose, it was a haven from the abuses of this authoritarian corruption of the gospel. For much of its history, America has been a beacon of liberty, a place people fleeing religious and civil persecution could go to and enjoy freedom. Yet, the regional fulfillment of this prophecy informs us that America will eventually renounce its constitutional protections and practice all the methods of the first beast before it—namely using state powers to coerce and violate people's consciences.

Indeed, we are seeing the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy today as the constitutional protections afforded to citizens in the Bill of Rights are being eroded. It will only get worse as time unfolds, and it is a certainty that the United States will join the rest of the world in violating the principles of God's kingdom and practicing beastly methods, because all the nations and kingdoms of the world are Satan's. It is inevitable that before Jesus returns, the United States will become beastly.





### The Beast with Lamblike Horns: The Greater Fulfillment

By restricting the interpretation of "beasts" as only symbolizing nations or kingdoms, some Christians have been locked into the lesser (regional) interpretation of the United States as being the only fulfillment of the beast with lamblike horns.

But as we have already seen, "beasts" are also used in Scripture to identify individuals:

- A lamb symbolizes Jesus.
- A dragon symbolizes Satan.

And, in fact, the prophecy gives us a big clue that this beast is not merely a nation but is also to be understood to be an individual—the greater (global) fulfillment—when it tells us that the beast with lamblike horns has the "number of a man" (Revelation 13:18).

Again, what is the overarching theme of Scripture? It is the war between Christ and Satan. In the Old Testament, Satan deceived Adam and Eve into sin, but immediately Jesus was promised to be our Messiah, who would overthrow Satan and redeem humanity (Genesis 3:15). The entire Old Testament narrative is a record of this battle: God working to bring Jesus to save us—and Satan working to oppose the plan of salvation from being accomplished.

In the New Testament, the four Gospels record the history of

Jesus' life as a human. Jesus, the Word of God made flesh (John 1:1–3, 14), did direct battle, as a human, with Satan, overcoming him and destroying his power (Hebrews 2:14). The rest of the New Testament records the ongoing battle between Christ and Satan for the hearts and minds of people in the ages that followed (Ephesians 6:12), a battle that culminates in the second coming of Christ and the end of sin and unrepentant sinners.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus unfolds this long-standing war from beginning to end: its beginning in heaven (Revelation 12:7); its spread to the earth (Revelation 12:9); the coming Messiah (Revelation 12:5); Satan's war against God's people (Revelation 12:6, 13-17); and Satan's final attack just before Jesus returns. Jesus encourages us with the promise that He will return to deliver the saints and restore all things to sinless perfection, wipe away all tears, and heal all wounds (Revelation 21:4).

Therefore, the greater (global) interpretation of the beast with lamblike horns is that it is Jesus' warning to His remnant people of Satan's final counterfeit, when Satan impersonates the Lamb to solidify his power, gain full control over the peoples of earth, seek to eliminate the remnant, and be enthroned in the hearts of the people as the savior of humanity.

# The Source of the Second Beast's Power

While the United States arose around the time that the papal head of the first beast was wounded (1798), the greater fulfillment (Satan impersonating Christ on earth) doesn't occur until sometime after the fatal wound has been healed. This new beast arises out of the earth after the wound is healed.

The previous beast arose out of the seas or waters, which represent people creating and supporting it. Human nations, including the United States, derive power and authority from people.

So while the United States arose in a relatively unpopulated region on the earth, corresponding to the lesser fulfillment, it still requires people from which to derive its power.

However, the greater fulfillment is of a beastly power arising that does not need people from which to derive its power. Satan meets this description as he doesn't get his power from human beings. Additionally, the Bible reveals that Satan, the dragon, had previously been cast to the earth (Ezekiel 28:17; Revelation 12:9). The book of Job describes Satan as "roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it" (Job 2:2 NIV84). Thus, the greater fulfillment is that this beast arising out of the earth represents Satan impersonating Christ.

"Arising out of the earth" is a symbolic contrast to the angel of God having "a face like the sun" (Revelation 10:1) or standing "in the sun" (Revelation 19:17). The sun represents a place of light, truth, glory, or godly love—whereas darkness represents Satan and his lies, selfishness, corruption, and evil. The earth is not the sun; it is not a source of light, love, glory, or truth. Coming "out of the earth" is a symbolic way of saying that one comes from a place of darkness, a place without light. Therefore, when Satan is described as being cast to the earth (Revelation 12:9), it is a symbolic way of saying a place of darkness, which is Satan's domain—a dark abyss, which is how the earth is described before God brought His light to it (Genesis 1:1). And because Satan will be impersonating Christ, he appears as a man-as a human and not as an angel. Thus, he has a man's number, which we will explore a little later.

Jesus is the Lamb of God, so the greater fulfillment of the beast with "lamblike" horns is a power that arises pretending to be the "Lamb," claiming lamblike powers, initially presenting with lamblike gentleness, but he will eventually speak like the dragon, which he is. Who else, at the end of time, as the final grand deception before Christ returns, would appear pretending

to be Jesus, the Lamb, other than Satan, the dragon?

This second beast (Satan's impersonation of Jesus) of Revelation 13 exercises all the "authority" (power) of the first beast in the presence of the first beast. The authority (power) of the first beast is the authority of office—the seven false religions (heads) and the ten state powers (horns). Satan will use these very same powers and do it in the presence of the entire world. He will lie and deceive (including the use of miracles), will direct the leadership of fallen religions of the world (seven heads) to endorse him, and the various political leaders will follow his directives in passing and enforcing laws that coerce people's consciences.

Thus, he causes everyone on earth to worship the first beast by deceiving them into believing in one of the seven false religions and finding worthy of emulation the methods of the ten horn powers, which they embrace and carry out to coerce, force, and control others. But in doing so, they are really worshiping the dragon, because to embrace this beastly system is to worship its creator, Satan himself (Revelation 13:4). In doing this, in internalizing the methods of the beast, they mark themselves as beastly in character and conduct.



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Having garnered the support of these religious and national leaders with his displays of power, Satan next instructs them to set up a new worldwide confederation—a new world order.

# The Miracles of the Second Beast

He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men (Revelation 13:13 NKJV).

Not every element in a dualfulfillment prophecy applies to both instances of fulfillment:

- The sun was not turned to darkness nor the moon to blood on the day of Pentecost (Joel 2:31).
   Yet Peter applies Joel's prophecy to the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-21).
- Likewise, in Jesus' dualfulfillment prophecy of the fall of Jerusalem and His second coming, not all elements apply to both events.

This also appears to be the case in Revelation 13:13. This description fits more closely with Satan impersonating Christ and performing miracles to support his claim than it does to the United States (lesser fulfillment). It is difficult to imagine a nation performing miracles, as we have no inspired record of a miracle ever being performed by a nation; however, we have many Bible examples of people performing miracles—both righteous and

unrighteous. For example, Pharaoh's priests, Jambres and Jannes, turned rods into snakes. (See Exodus 7:10, 11; 2 Timothy 3:8.)

Calling fire down from heaven was a sign used by Elijah when confronting the false prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:37, 38), but the Bible has revealed that, when God permits it, Satan is able to call fire down from heaven that the people misinterpret as the fire of God (Job 1:12, 16).

Putting this together, it is reasonable to conclude that while the United States arose with the lamblike principles of religious and civil liberty but will join the rest of the world in forming the end-time beastly power that wars against the saints, the greater application of the beast with lamblike horns refers to Satan's future impersonation of Christ, the effort to consolidate his power and gain final control of the hearts and minds of those living on the earth in the last days.

The prophecy then gives more details:

And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived (Revelation 13:14 NKJV).



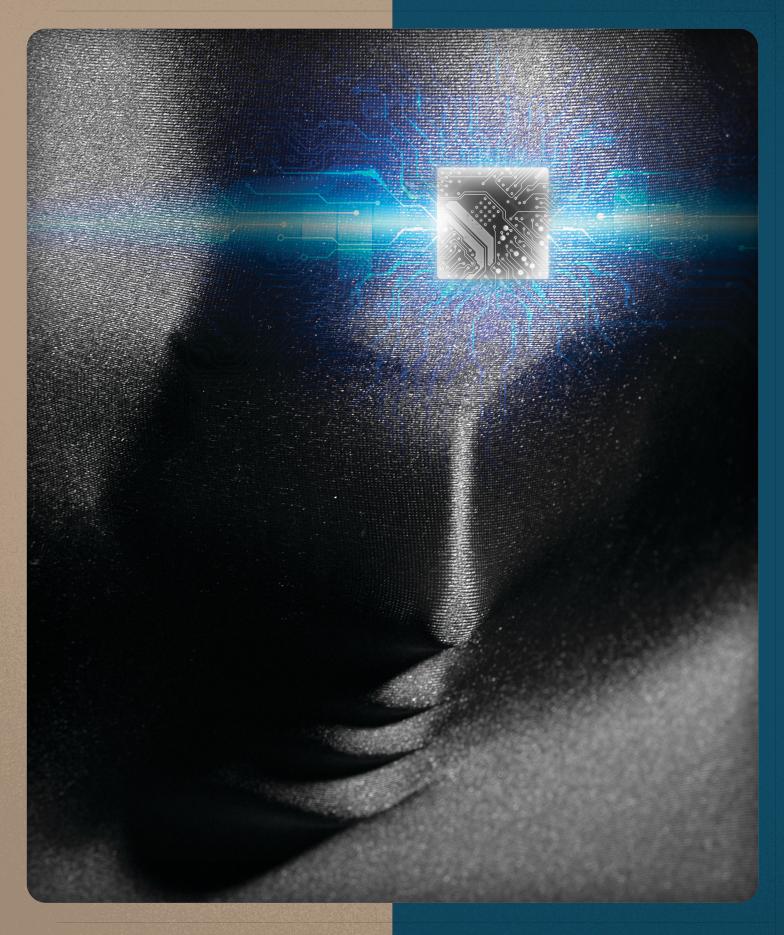
Again, this seems best understood as referring to Satan (beast with lamblike horns greater fulfillment) impersonating Jesus, performing miracles of healing, perhaps walking on water, and making it appear that he can raise the dead. All such miracles are done in view of the beast (the seven false religions and world's nations).

Having garnered the support of these religious and national leaders with his displays of power, Satan next instructs them to set up a new worldwide confederation—a new world order, the image of the beast, in which the methods it utilizes are the same methods utilized by the beast of Revelation 13:1 to control people's consciences.

This new beast is not the first beast of Revelation 13:1, the chameleon that manifests with a different head wielding the ten horns in different places and times in history. Instead, this new beast is created in the image or likeness of the first beast in that it will use the same methods of false religions and philosophies to control the ten horns (nation states and powers), but this time it will be worldwide—rather than regional—persecution. And Satan will be its ultimate leader.

He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed (v. 15 NKJV). Satan, the beast with lamblike horns impersonating Christ, will present himself as a supernatural being who is here to save us. He may appear as a being with inherent supernatural powers or as one with highly advanced technology, or some combination of both. His appearing will be tailored to deceive the minds of people at the time of his appearing. He will demonstrate incredible power, but he will ultimately use coercive force.

Soon, the world will be in a state of chaos and crisis, suffering from unprecedented economic distress, environmental disasters, pandemics, and other global crises. Satan will arrive using supernatural powers or advanced technology claiming to be our creator and savior, promising that if we recognize him he will deliver us from imminent destruction. He will advance his cause by using the ten powers (horns) of the first beast to persecute and seek to kill all those who will not bow to his authority. Again, this is an image of the beast, meaning a new global power using the methods of the chameleon beast, which Satan causes all to find worthy of their belief and support.



#### The Mark of the Beast

He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 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 (vv. 16–18 NKJV).

The mark of the beast stands in contrast to the seal of God. There are only two groups in the end: those loyal to God, who have the seal of God in their forehead, and those who are loyal to Satan, who have the mark of the beast either on their forehead or their hand.

The seal of God in the forehead symbolizes having God's law written in the heart and mind, being settled into the truth and methods of God such that love, truth, and liberty are the means by which one lives. It represents those in whom the Holy Spirit dwells and has recreated within them a Christlike character (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). These sealed of God are loyal to Him and stay faithful regardless of the attacks of the beast. They do "not love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (Revelation 12:11 NIV84).

The mark of the beast reveals the opposite about a person. It symbolizes the internalization or the practice of the methods of the beast. Those who are marked in their foreheads are the "true believers" in Satan's system, those who think that it is right and just to coerce, force, pressure, and kill those who don't agree with them. In the last days, everyone alive will be placed in circumstances in which they will decide what they believe and do. Those who believe this false messiah and embrace his

methods into their heart and mind are marked in their foreheads. Those who don't really agree or believe in him but go along with the beastly methods in action because they don't want to be arrested—they don't want to lose their home, business, or lifestyle—are marked in their hands (their works) to be beastly.

An example from history is Adolf Hitler and his co-conspirators, including Mengele and Goebbels; they were the "true believers" in their evil system and would be examples of people marked in their foreheads. The average German who would not have instituted discrimination and persecution of the Jews but who went along with the persecution because "it was the law" and they didn't want to be arrested, or lose their businesses, licenses, and homes, would be examples of people marked in their hand.

In contrast, the saints of God are sealed only in their foreheads. It is in the mind that we think, worship, choose, and love. Thus, the seal of God in the forehead represents the recreation of God's character of love within the righteous, the writing of God's law upon the heart and mind (Hebrews 8:10). One cannot be reborn, recreated, renewed, and saved merely by works; true salvation requires the entire heart, mind, and soul be renewed, which is why there is no seal of God on the hand.



#### The Number 666

No one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666 (Revelation 13:17, 18 NIV84).

In the Bible, a name often represents a person's character. When Jacob, the deceiver, was finally converted and developed a new godly character, his name was changed to Israel—one who, with God, overcomes (Genesis 32:28). When the people of earth reject God's methods, principles, and law of love, and instead internalize the lies, methods, and principles of the dragon, their characters are solidified to be like the dragon and they mark themselves with his name—that is, his character.

The Bible is saying that those who embrace and endorse the same character as the beast will be marked beastly and numbered with the beast. Only those so marked and numbered will be able to function in this new world order. Such people believe the lies of Satan and will share those lies; they will believe it is right and just to pass laws that coerce others; they will believe it is righteous to arrest, prosecute, and execute the "enemies of the state"—those who don't support the beast. They

will believe it is right to withhold health care, restrict travel, compel worship, and restrict free speech. All of this will be done "for the greater good," to save lives, to save the planet. But in practicing these beastly methods, people will mark themselves with the name (character) of Satan and are numbered with him.

The number is the number of a human, which is six hundred sixty-six, or 666.<sup>2</sup> What does this mean?

Jesus is God made manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16), the God-man (John 1:1-3, 14). He is represented in the temple as the lampstand with seven bowls. Six of the bowls, which represent the number of humanity, were connected to the central lampstand of gold, representing Christ, for a total number of seven. Jesus is the sinless, perfect God-man represented by the seven lamps; the lamb with the seven horns and seven eyes (Revelation 5:6); the seventhday Sabbath, on which we rest in the finished work of Jesus (Hebrews 4:1-5; Matthew 11:28); and the seventh year in which debts were canceled (Deuteronomy 15:1, 2), as Jesus cancels our debts.

Jesus, though fully God, became a real human being and lived a sinless life, thereby perfecting humanity. And "once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" (Hebrews 5:9 NIV84). Humans consist of three parts: body, soul, spirit. The apostle Paul tells us that all three parts are to be "sanctified," which means to be made holy.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23 NIV84).

As a human, Jesus sanctified—purified, made holy—the humanity that He took upon Himself, completely, in all parts. Thus, the Bible describes Him as "holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty" (Revelation 4:8). This complete holiness of humanity—body, soul, and spirit—achieved in Christ can be expressed numerically as 777.

But Satan, the great imposter, the beast with lamblike horns posing as Jesus, will appear as our human savior. But he will fall short of sinless perfection; in fact, he is the embodiment of sinfulness; he is sinful in body, soul, and spirit. Thus, he is unholy, unholy, unholy, which would numerically be depicted as 666, the opposite of Jesus' sinlessness (holiness) of 777.

Unfortunately, the number 666 has been misunderstood and misapplied by many well-meaning people through the years. One example is how various Protestants have suggested that the Latin *Vicarius Filii Dei*, which means "Vicar, or representative, of the Son of God," is an official title of the pope and that it is inscribed on the various papal tiaras. These theologians then add up the Roman numeral value of *Vicarius Filii Dei*, which equals 666, and conclude the number refers to the pope or papacy.

Seventh-day Adventist pioneer Uriah Smith adopted and taught this view. However, there are several problems with it. First, the title *Vicarius Filii Dei* is not an official title of the popes. Second, no papal tiara has ever been inscribed with this title. Third, and most important, the number 666 doesn't refer to the wounded head of the first beast of Revelation 13; it refers to the second beast with lamblike horns that impersonates Christ.

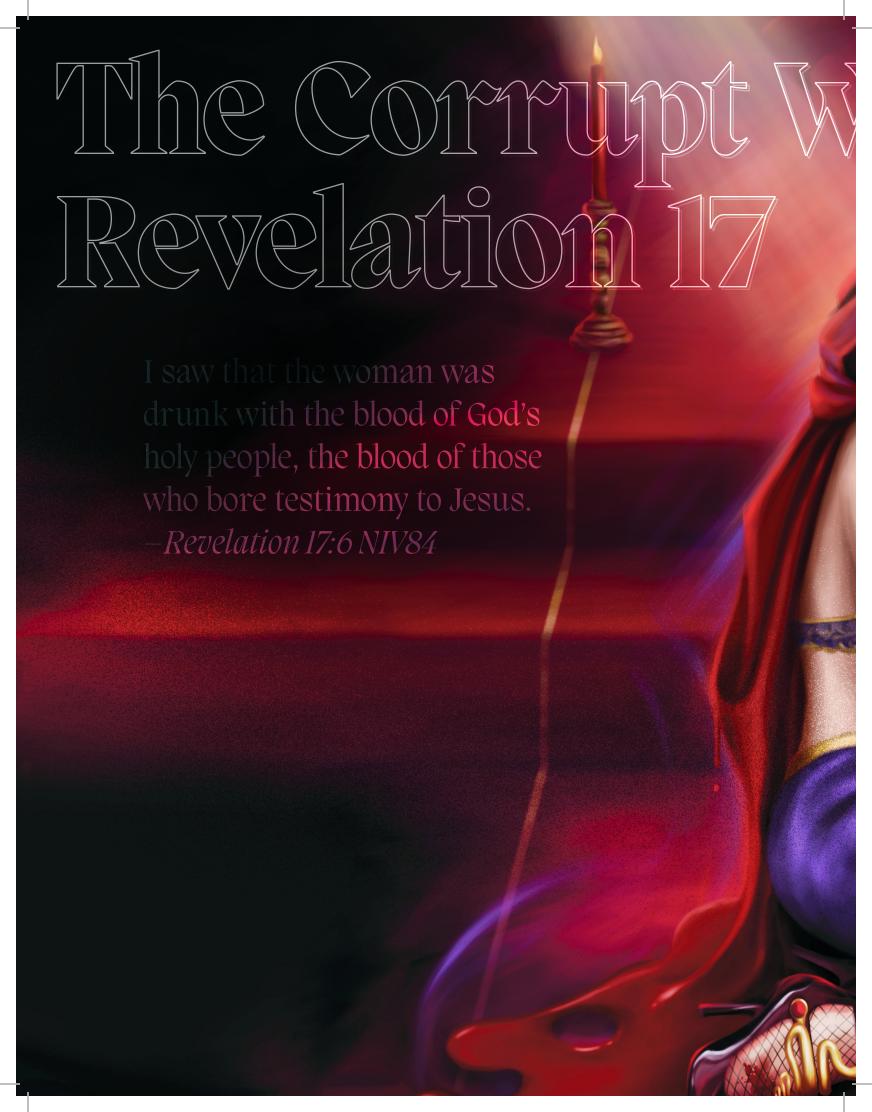
Later Adventist theologians recognized the dubious nature of Smith's position and called on Christians to reject this fraudulent argument. LeRoy Froom, editor of *The Ministry* magazine, wrote the following in 1948:

Each pope, like any other sovereign, has his own tiara, which is-the papal crown. There is, therefore, no one tiara that is worn by the full succession of papal pontiffs. Moreover, personal examination of these various tiaras, by different men back through the years, and a scrutiny of the pictures of many more, have failed to disclose one engraved with the inscription Vicarius Filii Dei. There is none such definitely known to exist. As heralds of truth, we are to proclaim the truth truthfully. No fabrication should ever becloud our presentation of truth. The present truth of the threefold message is so overwhelming in its logical appeal, and so inescapable in its claims, that it needs no dubious evidence or illustration to support it. Recourse to any unreliable and fraudulent evidence discounts the very message that we are commissioned of heaven to give to men, and reflects upon the honesty of the messenger. ...

Regrettably, some of our evangelists who do not have all the facts, and to whom the appeal of the moment has sometimes outweighed the ethics of the case, and who perhaps have not thought through the fraudulent character of such plausible but specious evidence, have occasionally continued to use this or a similar fabrication. In the name of truth and honesty this journal protests any such use by any member of the Ministerial Association of the Seventhday Adventist denomination (our worker body), of which THE MINISTRY is the official organ. Truth does not need fabrication to aid or support it. Its very nature precludes any manipulation or duplicity. We cannot afford to be party to any fraud. The reflex action upon our own souls should be a sufficient deterrent. We must never use a quotation or a picture merely because it sounds or looks impressive. We must honor the truth, and meticulously observe the principle of honesty in the handling of evidence under all circumstances.3

As we have seen, Satan has had his regional chameleon beastly systems warring to oppose God and God's people throughout human history. But very soon, events will escalate when Satan appears impersonating Christ to establish the final worldwide conglomeration of rebellious forces—the image of the beast of Revelation 13:1. We read about this beast in Revelation 17.







Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. This title was written on her forehead:

MYSTERY
BABYLON THE GREAT
THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF
THE EARTH.

I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns."

—Revelation 17:3—7 NIV84

n this passage, the desert (wilderness) symbolizes the sinful apostate world, a place desolate of God's truth and love, devoid of the water of life. The saints are in this world, but they are not of it; this fallen world is not their ultimate home.

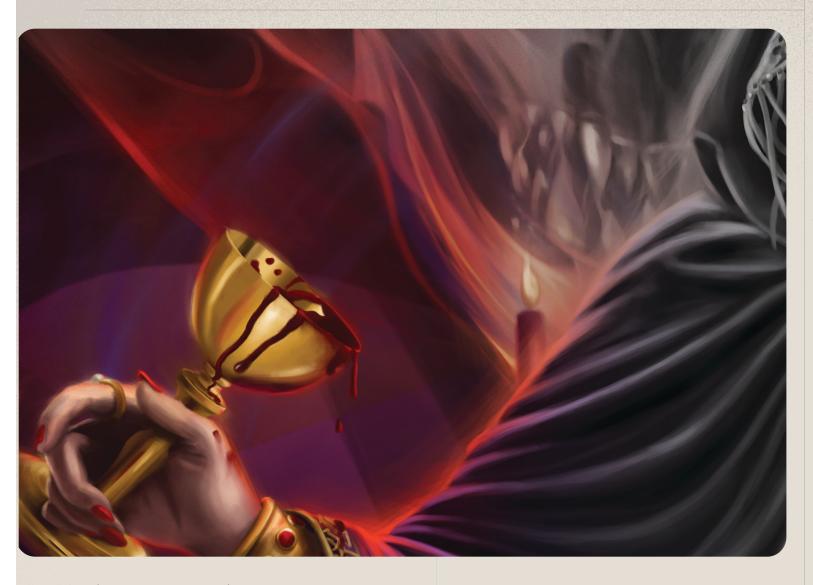
The woman is a prostitute, representing those people who claim to believe in God but who sell their loyalty to the beast by choosing to support the beast and practice its beastly methods for profit—to keep their churches, schools, and hospitals open, to keep their licenses, their businesses, their publishing houses, their homes, cars, and ability to travel.

Notice that the apostate church (prostitute) is adorned in three colors: purple, scarlet, and gold. This stands in contrast to the pure church (God's saints), which is dressed in spotless pure white (Revelation 3:5; 19:7, 8). The colors listed also give us a clue to the root corruption of this false church. In the Old Testament, God instructed that the high priest's robes were to contain four colors:

They shall take the **gold**, **blue**, **purple**, and **scarlet** thread, and the fine linen, and they shall make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, artistically worked (Exodus 28: 5, 6 NIV84, emphasis mine).

Notice the missing color—blue—in the description of the prostitute, the false church. Blue in the Bible is symbolic of God's law (Exodus 24:9–12; Numbers 15:37–39). Thus, the people of the apostate church claim a belief in God but have rejected His design law of truth, love, and liberty and have embraced the beast's legal (penal) system of imposed laws and inflicted punishments. The prostitute embraces the methods and systems of the world, teaching and practicing that imposed law, with its imposed punishments, are the way that God runs His universe. Thus, she rides on the dragon-like beastly system of coercion and force.



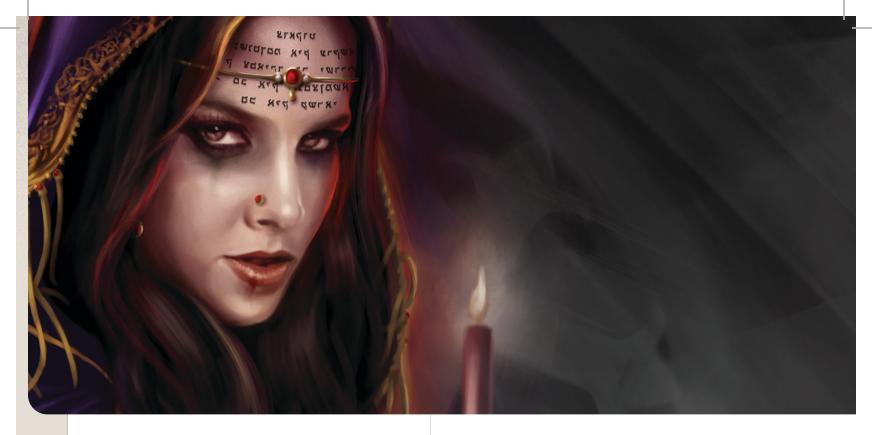


#### The Cup in Her Hand

The prostitute's cup carries the wine of her false teachings and perverted views about God, making all who drink it spiritually drunk. The prostitute teaches that God functions like a human dictator, one who makes up rules and uses power to inflict punishment upon rule-breakers; that God is the source of pain, suffering, and death, which He inflicts upon people for their sin—rather than teaching that God is the source of life and that sin separates us from the channels of God's blessings, resulting in ruin and death for all who refuse God's healing. The prostitute church rejects the Bible truth that sin, not God, causes death (Romans 6:23; James 1:15; Galatians 6:8) and teaches that God must kill in order to be just. The entire world has

drunk her false teachings about law and has become intoxicated on power, money, and control over others, pursuing "justice" through imposed laws, coercion, and forced obedience.

Whenever the church betrays the principles of God's kingdom (truth, love, freedom) and embraces and practices the methods of the world (deceit, coercing power), it fornicates with the dragon and becomes the prostitute. Whenever the church rejects the cup of Christ—the cup of sacrifice, of suffering, of persecution by the world—and instead drinks the cup of lies, imposed law, of righteousness through human governments, of coercion, she drinks the filth of the abomination of this world and becomes the harlot of Revelation.



#### The Name on Her Forehead

This corrupt woman also has a title that confirms she is symbolic of apostate believers who practice the methods of God's enemy: "MYSTERY." Why this title? Because the prostitute is the counterfeit to the mystery of godliness. Scripture reveals that God's "mystery" is taking sinners and restoring them to Christlikeness:

God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this **mystery**, **which is Christ in you**, **the hope of glory** (Colossians 1:27 NIV84, emphasis mine).

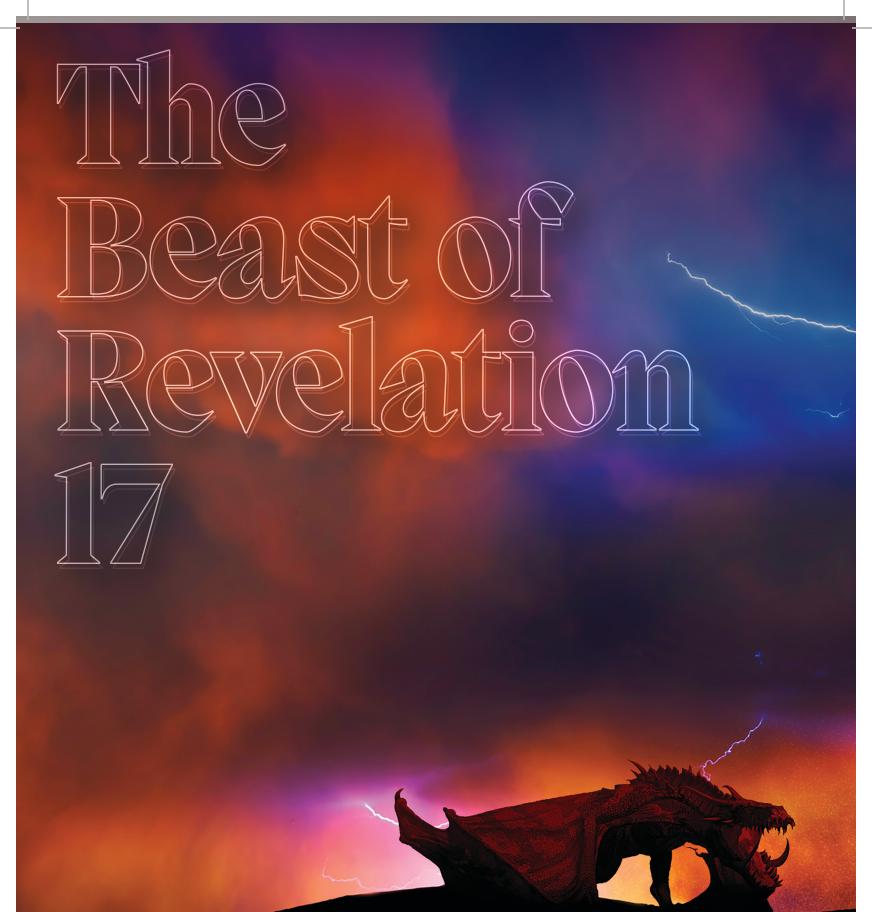
The mystery of God is restoring the character of Jesus into sinners, recreating them to godliness, sanctifying them to be holy and righteous, taking sinners and purifying them to be partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). The Bible describes those who receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and are transformed to be like Christ as having the seal of God on their forehead; they also have a new name because their "name" represents their character (Revelation 2:17; 3:12).

The corrupt woman's title of "MYSTERY" is a counterfeit to God's mystery; it is the mystery of how Satan has his character implanted into the hearts and minds of those who claim to represent

Jesus. How is it that millions of people who have claimed Jesus as their Savior become beastly? This is the mystery of iniquity: choosing worldly methods, principles, and practices while claiming to be Christian. These people are part of the beast's imperial, coercive kingdom and will use Satan's methods of force to pursue "justice." They are marked in their foreheads (characters) and hands (works) as beastly and are numbered with the beast—unholy, unholy, unholy (666).

"BABYLON THE GREAT" refers to the imposed-law system, the false system of methods that all earthly governments wield and that all false religions teach about God. Of all the nations in the Bible that Satan used to war against Israel, it was Babylon that created the first codified legal system (the code of Hammurabi). By embracing the lie of imposed law, the church teaches that God is like Satan in character and practices the beastly methods of coercion, resulting in Satan's character being reproduced in their hearts and minds. Thus, this system is an abomination—as it destroys the image of God in people and places a beastly character where God's should be.

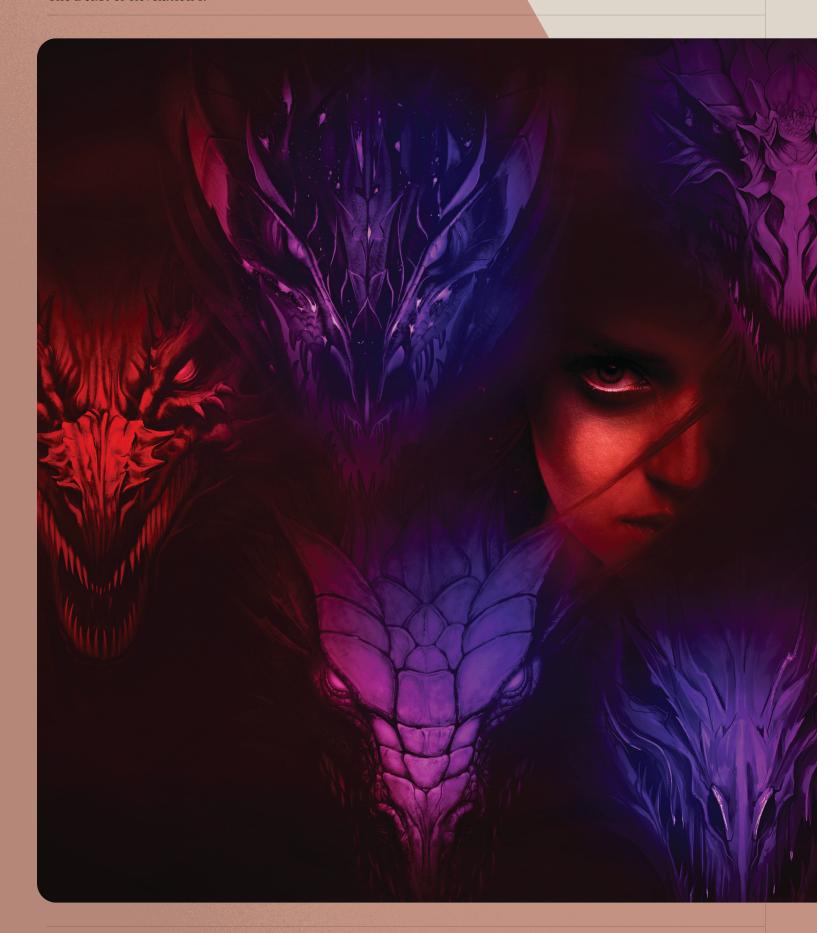
Since this apostate church rides upon "a scarlet beast," we now turn to understand that beast as depicted in Revelation 17.



"Come with me and I will show you the damning end of the great prostitute who sits upon the many waters—symbolic of false religion that misrepresents God."

—Revelation 17:1 The Remedy







There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 17:3 NIV84).

his beast upon which the prostitute rides is not the first beast of Revelation 13; it is the image of that beast. It is created and established by the power of the second heast of Revelation 13, which is

the second beast of Revelation 13, which is Satan impersonating Christ.

Notice the identifiers of the beast of Revelation 17: It is scarlet, just like the dragon (Revelation 12:3). Scarlet is the color that symbolizes sin (Isaiah 1:18), and this beast is the embodiment of sin; it is anti-love, anti-truth, and anti-freedom. This is why blasphemous names cover this beast's entire body, while blasphemy was written on the seven heads on the first beast of Revelation 13.

This beast is similar to, or a reflection of, the first beast of Revelation 13, but it is not the same power. The first beast of Revelation 13 is a chameleon beast with regional power. This beast is the final end-time global power that leads the world into its final battle against Jesus and His people.

33

The Bible describes God as being above all others; even the "highest heavens, cannot contain" Him.

The angel discloses a telltale identifier of this final global beast. The crowns are no longer on the horns of this beast, indicating that the nations or kingdoms that compose this global power are not the true ruling power but are merely the human agencies that carry out the instructions of Satan, the antichrist (beast with the lamblike horns or the eighth king) who controls the final beast.

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come (Revelation 17:8 NIV84).

The first beast of Revelation 13 came up out of the sea, but this beast comes out of the abyss; therefore, it cannot be the same beast as Revelation 13:1. The "abyss" is also translated as the "bottomless pit" and is a place devoid of God's presence; it is separation from God. This can be a place of chaos and lifelessness as was the condition of the earth before God created—a formless, dark chaotic void (Genesis 1:1); it can also represent the place where Satan reigns, the exact opposite of where God reigns.

The Bible describes God as being above all others; even the "highest heavens, cannot contain" Him (1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chronicles 2:6 NIV84). God is worshiped above the "highest heavens" (Nehemiah 9:5, 6 NIV84); Jesus is exalted to the "highest place" and given a "name that is above every name" (Philippians 2:9 NIV84). God is infinitely good, righteous, and gracious. Life, peace, health, and happiness are the result of living in harmony with God.

The abyss (bottomless pit) is a way of describing the very opposite of God. It is the lowest, vilest, most corrupt, evil place; its depths of degradation are beyond defining. It is the place of ruin, death, destruction; it is low, disgraceful, contemptible, filled with everything harmful, destructive, and loathsome. The abyss is the Bible's term for Satan's domain of evil, chaos, and darkness.



#### The Return of the Beast

The beast that "once was, is not now, but comes again" arises out of Satan's domain of darkness, utilizing and advancing Satan's methods and powers. This beast is Satan's end-time coalition of religious and political powers when he appears on earth impersonating Christ (beast with lamblike horns), a worldwide confederation of false beliefs and kingdoms opposed to God. Such a worldwide coalition that wars against God existed at one point in human history long ago, but it hasn't existed since that time, but it will, in the near future, exist again, coming out of the abyss of Satan's power; however, it arises only to go to its destruction when Jesus comes.

At the time of Noah, there was a worldwide confederation of evil forces opposed to God. Only one righteous man remained on the entire earth, so God intervened to put an end to that rebellion and keep open the avenue for the Messiah. This global beastly confederation existed before the global flood, but God destroyed it in the flood and then confused the world's languages to prevent the development of a new global rebellion (Genesis 11:9); this global beast hasn't existed since. Yet it will exist again when the beast with lamblike horns (Satan) appears on the earth as a human pretending to be Christ, uniting the false religions (seven heads) and world's kingdoms (ten horns), forming the end-time confederation of the antichrist in opposition to God. But this end-time power forms only to go to its destruction when Jesus comes again to deliver His saints.

## The Eighth "King"

This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is lord of lords and King of kings-and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers (Revelation 17:9-14 NIV84).

We have already examined the seven heads, which are seven hills, representing the seven false (fallen) religious systems upon which the unfaithful sit.

But here the seven heads are also described as seven kings. The beast that "once was, now is not" is also described as the eighth "king," but the word "king" is not in the original Greek manuscripts; it was supplied by the translators. Thus, it is more accurate to say that the beast

that "once was, and now is not" is "an eighth." But an eighth what? It is an eighth false religious-political power that has at its head the antichrist (Satan), who is being worshiped and obeyed directly. Satan, impersonating Christ, directs in the formation of this end-time worldwide beastly system. It is this eighth false religion (worshiping Satan as a savior) that controls the final worldwide coalition that wars against God. His belonging to the seven has a dual meaning:

- 1) he belongs to the fallenness and falsehood of the seven:
- 2) he will also be endorsed and supported by the leadership of these seven false religions.

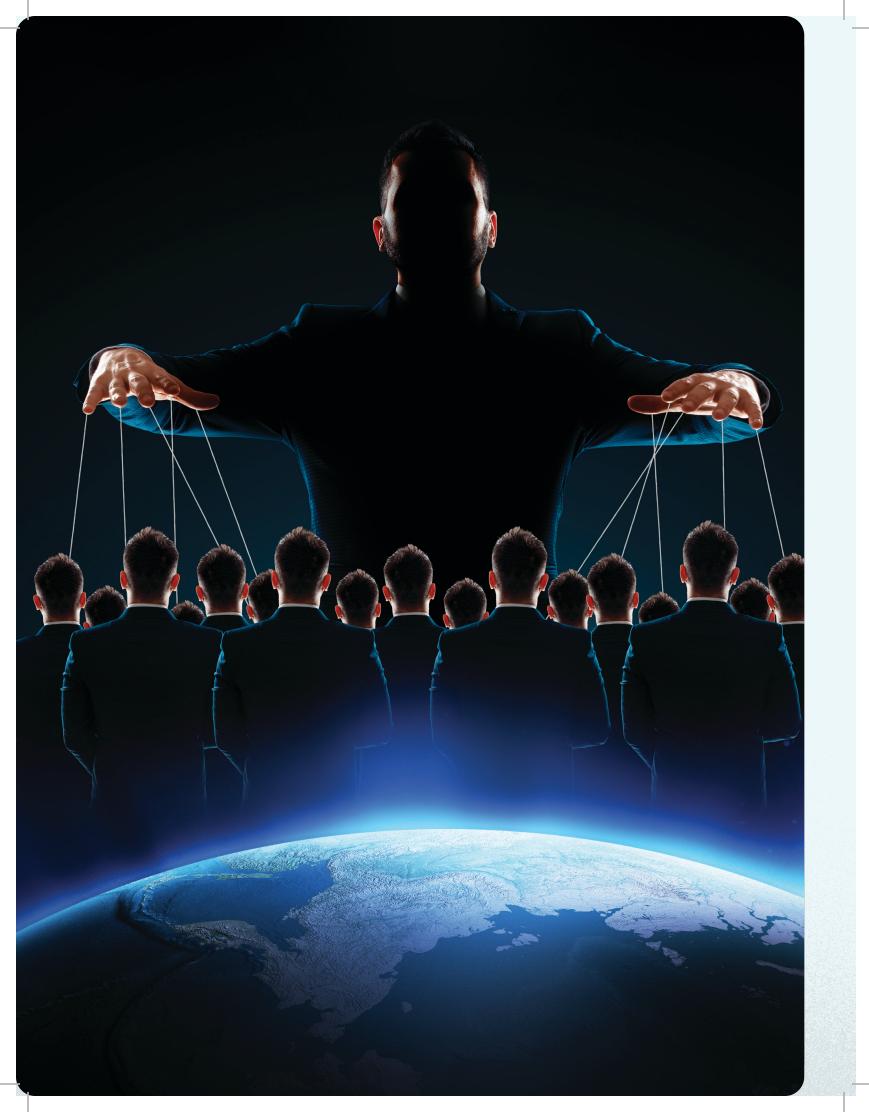
The ten horns represent the final kingdoms/political powers that control the nations and join with the antichrist in the last days. This system has not yet fully formed, but when it does, the nation-states (ten horns) will not have the real power-that is why there are no crowns on the horns. Satan, the antichrist, has the power, but these nations act as his enforcing agents to carry out his orders to take away liberties and persecute the saints. These ten kingdoms are synonymous with the ten toes of Daniel 2:41-44, which are the final kingdoms in power when Jesus returns, the event

symbolized by the rock cut out without hands that strikes the image on its feet and destroys it.

> Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth" (Revelation 17:15-18 NIV84).

Remember that the waters represent peoples and populations. The prostitute represents false Christianity—the Roman church and all those deceived Christians who embrace and practice the imposed-law methods advocated by the Roman system. The beast and ten horns represent the rest of the worldly powers—the other false religions and the nationstates. All of them, having not given their hearts to Jesus, are ruled by fear and selfishness; when they realize that the prostitute (false Christianity) has deceived them with her lies about God, infecting the entire world with her perverse views of God, and that they are lost because of her, they turn on her and destroy her.





#### **A Potential Future**

Putting all of this together, we can now envision how events will likely unfold. As people around the world harden their hearts to the true God and reject the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is slowly withdrawn from the earth. God grants people the freedom to choose to separate themselves from Him and His protection, and the four angels holding back the four winds of strife let go (Revelation 7:1-4), resulting in increasing chaos on earth. As the ennobling and loving presence of the Spirit of God is removed, satanic forces gain more control and the earth decays into greater chaos-floods, storms, and earthquakes become more frequent and destructive; there is increasing violence, pestilences, economic strife, villainy, and loss of human decency.

People will become ever more fearful, frantic with terror (Luke 21:26), and become desperate for safety. Having forsaken God, they have no purpose other than survival. The future seems hopeless, and life seems meaningless. Under these increasing pressures, fears, worries, chaos, hopelessness,

and sense of isolation, the masses are eager for someone to make them feel safe, to give hope, to take away their fear, to give their life a purpose.

Into this chaotic storm, Satan appears on the earth, performing miracles and speaking words of encouragement and hope. He fulfills various expectations of the seven false religious systems of the world sufficient to garner the endorsement of leaders from all seven systems. This appearing may be with supernatural powers or highly advanced technology, or a combination of both. He will claim to be able to save the world from pending destruction—if only we recognize him as leader. All the people of the world, except for the sealed of God, believe he is able to save the world from global extinction, and they give their support to him. For some, he is a spiritual or religious messiah; for others, he is merely saving the world from a mass-extinction event. But he will be accepted by the masses as the one in whom to put their faith, and they will follow his leadership. The various nation-states will support him,

and every person on earth will be forced to decide to join or not join the new world order, to be marked or not marked by their choice in what they believe (marked in the forehead) or how they act (marked in the hand).

Satan, impersonating Christ, will speak of love, of unity, of the preciousness of life, of the value of every human being, and the need to act to save as many people as possible. His voice will be compassionate, his charisma enamoring, and his physical presence powerful and appealing. He will perform various miracles, healing those who have voiced faith in him. He will call fire down "from heaven" to destroy some representative of opposition to him-perhaps an individual, a statue, building, or other symbol of the principle of true liberty. The point is to demonstrate supernatural power, to cause shock, awe, and fear. Having done this, he will proclaim his desire to save and heal every person, but he will also speak of justice, of the sad necessity of holding accountable and punishing all those who refuse his offer of love and mercy.

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All the people of the world, except for the sealed of God, believe he is able to save the world from global extinction, and they give their support to him.

Every person will be faced with a decision: How will they treat others? What methods will they employ in governance of self in how they treat others? Will they allow fear and the carnal drive to survive to cause them to embrace and apply the methods of the beast, either believing it or merely "obeying the law"? Or will they have God's law written in the hearts, so that they love God and others more than self and, therefore, refuse to use the coercive methods of the beast? The saints of God reject the methods of the beast and stand faithful to Jesus. They speak the truth in love and leave others free!

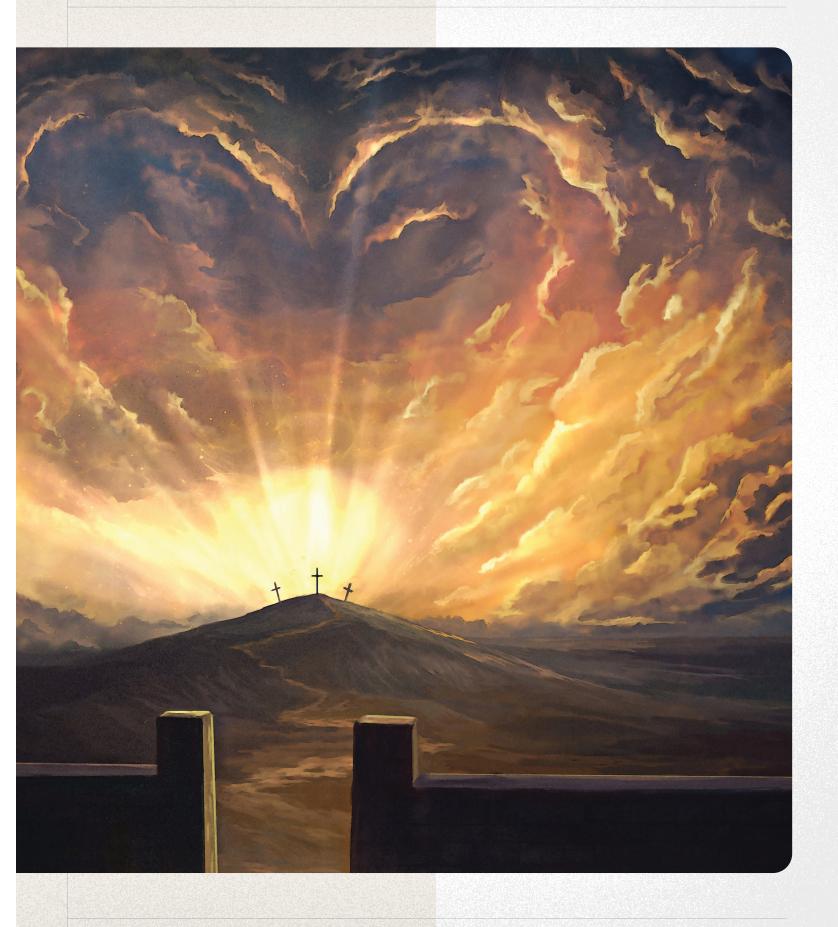
The final global coalition of earthly governments, under the direction of this false messiah, will use all ten powers of the beast (horns) to persecute the saints of God who speak out against Satan and his plan, methods, and agenda:

1. Lies: Falsehoods will be told about those who don't recognize Satan's leadership, who resist coercion of conscience, who stand up for truth, love, and liberty. They will be labeled enemies of the state and the cause of the disasters happening to the world. Satan, the false messiah, will declare that he gives people freedom to

decide, but their rebellion has broken his law and if they won't repent and follow him, then justice requires punishment. He will claim he doesn't want to lose any, so rather than immediately executing those who resist, various other punishments are applied, it is claimed, to bring these "hard-hearted" people to repentance. It will be proclaimed that reporting family and friends who don't accept and follow this false savior to the authorities will be an act of love, an act intended to save these so-called rebels from themselves, but also saving the planet from certain destruction because these people's obstinance prevents Satan from bringing his full "saving might" to bear.

2. Imposed laws: The various world leaders will pass laws restricting the liberties of any who do not accept the false messiah. Laws will be enacted so that no one will be able to buy or sell unless they are loyal to the beast (Revelation 13:17) and to seize assets, impose fines, restrict travel and other liberties, authorize house arrest and actual imprisonment, take children from parents, and eventually execute the persistently obstinate.







- of God will be accused of all types of evil and labeled as the cause of the various disasters, disorder, and chaos in society. The various policing agencies will enforce the unjust laws passed by the beastly coalition government. Propaganda and lies will be told declaring that these lesser punishments are the false savior's merciful discipline to lead people to repent and accept him as their messiah, but in truth, it is the application of coercive force to compel them, through fear, to betray their loyalty to Jesus.
- **4. Judicial:** The various courts of the world will be completely controlled by the methods of the beast, and any appeals to judicial oversight will be fruitless. The courts will uphold the unjust laws of the beast.
- 5. Economic: Every type of economic pressure will be brought to bear upon the people to comply with the beastly system. Bank accounts will be seized, credit cards voided; cash will be difficult, if not impossible, to use as digital currencies become the norm. Only those who endorse the false messiah will keep their assets and ability to conduct business.
- 6. War: Any state, tribe, nation, group, or people who organize to resist the beastly advance will be met with deadly force by the coalition governments. All governments of the world will bow to the beast and join or be eliminated.

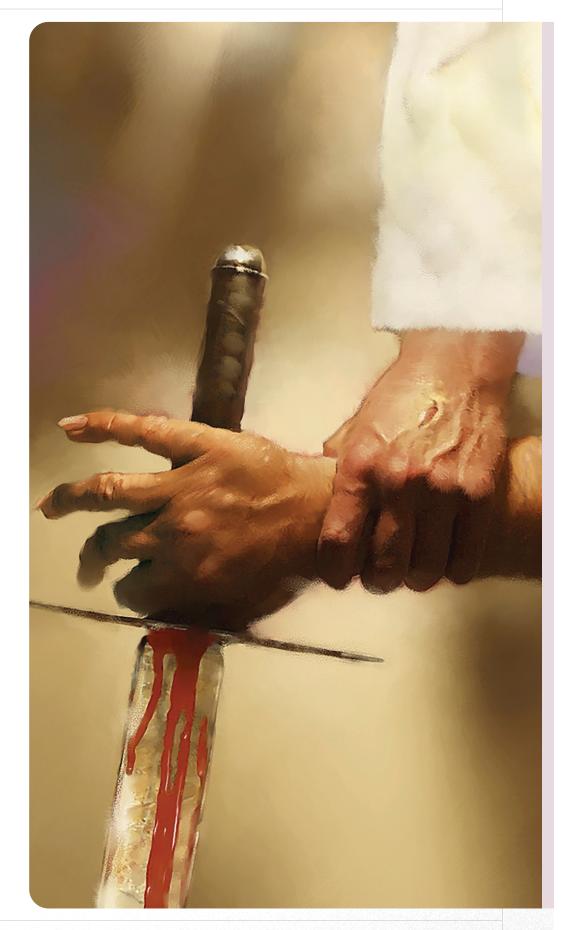
- 7. **Death:** The saints will eventually be sentenced to death for their refusal to accept Satan as their messiah.
- 8. Education: All official avenues of education—schools, media outlets, social media, governmental agencies, academia, medical associations—will accept and promote the propaganda of the beastly system. Those who speak for truth will be silenced, censored, imprisoned, and removed from any platform they may have.
- 9. Ownership: The saints will have their personal property seized by the state. And any business that resists the false messiah and his beastly system will have their assets seized, licenses revoked, and property taken. Churches that resist will have their buildings, schools, hospitals, community centers, publishing houses, and other properties taken by the state.
- 10. Fear: All the powers of Satan, all the movements of his beastly coalition, advance through fear. Every action is designed to incite fear, which increases selfishness that tempts people to give in to the unjust demands to make the fear go away, to make themselves feel safe.



## Jesus Disarms Satan's Powers (Ten Horns)

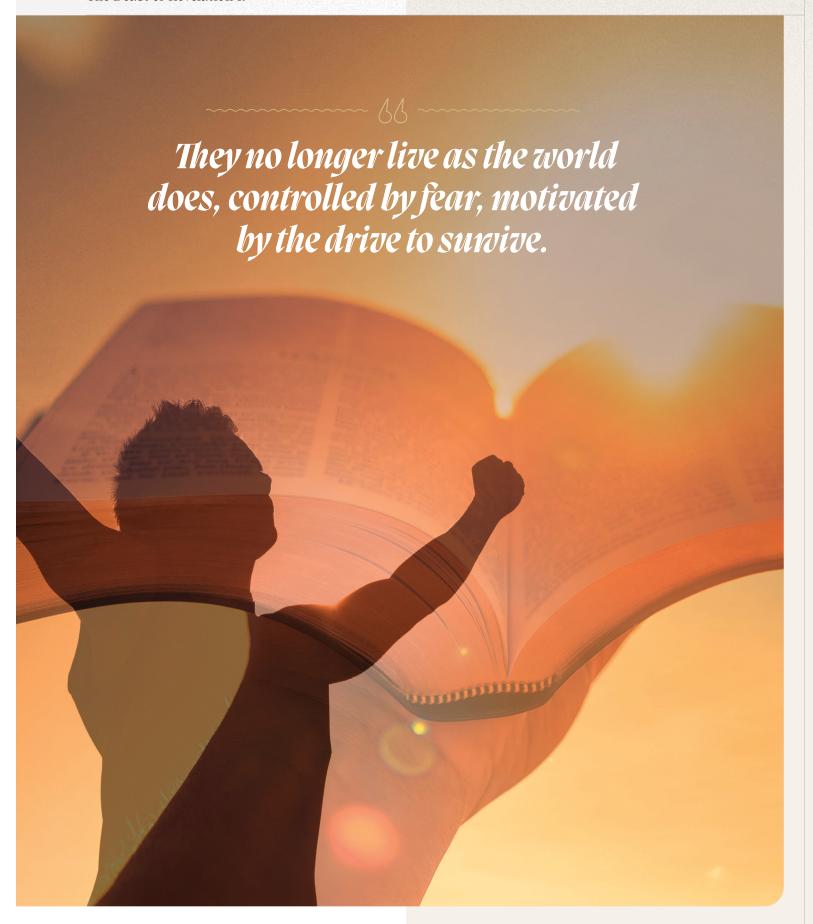
While Satan will use all ten powers (horns) of his beastly systems, the saints overcome "him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (Revelation 12:11 NIV84). The saints have Christ active and living within their hearts; they are not controlled by fear and selfishness-but by love and trust. They are victorious in Christ, because Jesus has "disarmed the powers and authorities [of Satan and his beastly system], he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15 NIV84).

Jesus was tempted in every way just like we are, yet He overcame every temptation and never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). He faced lies, scorn, humiliation, poverty, hunger, wrong theologies, and misguided teachers; He was falsely accused, arrested, tried, found guilty based on perjury, and then was beaten, stripped, and crucified. He faced powerful human emotions of fear and the natural desire to not suffer (Mark 14:32-36). Yet Jesus was not overcome. He overcame and destroyed all of Satan's powers, including the power of death (Hebrews 2:14, 15). And the saints, through their love and trust in Jesus, are empowered by Him to also overcome every one of Satan's powers!



- 1. Lies: Jesus is the truth that sets us free from the lies of God's enemy (John 8:32), thereby restoring us to trust in God. Those who are loyal to God are renewed in heart and mind, sanctified by the truth (John 17:17), enlightened and empowered by the Spirit of truth (John 16:13). Thus, through Jesus, the lies of Satan and his beastly system have no power over the saints. They are sealed to God.
- 2. Imposed laws: Those who are in union with Jesus do not live in fear of law, human or divine, for those who have been reborn in Christ have God's law written on their hearts (Hebrews 8:10). These Christlike people make the best neighbors. The converted who once stole are now honest, productive members of society (Ephesians 4:28, 1 Peter 4:12–16), and they know the accusations of the beast are lies. These righteous ones do all in their power to be "peacemakers" and seek to live in harmony with everyone, but they know, like Peter, that because they "must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29 NIV84), they will be mistreated and unjust laws will be used against them. The righteous know that no matter how human law is used to condemn, "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1, 2 NIV84). These saints have had their heart's affections cut away from this world; their citizenship is in heaven; their loyalty is to God (Philippians 3:20).
- 3. Police and prosecution and ...
- 4. Judicial: Because of Jesus, the saints don't live in fear when the state accuses, arrests, and prosecutes or when the unrighteous say all manner of evil against them falsely, because great is their reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11, 12). They know that when we are called before

- earthly authorities, God will turn such events into an opportunity to advance His kingdom (Luke 21:12-19). God will empower His people to turn the attacks of the enemy into demonstrations of the power of His kingdom of truth and love, like Daniel did in the lion's den (Daniel 6:16-28), like the three worthies did in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:6-28), and like Paul did in the many trials in which he witnessed to kings, governors, and even Caesar (Acts 27:24). The kingdom of God advances through truth and love as the saints place their faith in the true Savior. They will overcome by living out the life of Christ within, metaphorically described as "the blood of the Lamb," and by the word of their testimony, not afraid of what the state can do to them because they trust the outcome to Jesus (Revelation 12:11).
- **5. Economic:** The saints have had their hearts sealed to God and know that they "cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24 NIV84). Those loyal to Jesus don't live in fear of economic ruin, for what they will eat or drink or for what clothes they will wear, for Jesus has promised to provide every need to those who seek His kingdom first (Matthew 6:25-34). The members of God's kingdom value people, not stuff, and treasure the things of heaven more than the things of this world. They follow Jesus' instructions to "not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21 NIV84); for "what good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26 NIV84).



#### 6. War and ...

- 7. Death: God's saints don't live in fear of human conflicts, wars, or even death, for they don't fear the one who can destroy the body but cannot destroy the soul (Matthew 10:28). They have been reborn and are no longer controlled by the survival drives; they do not love their temporal lives so much as to shrink from the first death (Revelation 12:11), because they know that Jesus holds the keys to death and the grave (Revelation 1:18), that Jesus is "the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25, 26 NIV84).
- 8. Education: The Bible is clear that "the time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching but will find many more teachers who please them by saying the things they want to hear. They will stop listening to the truth and will begin to follow false stories" (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NCV). The wicked love lies and propaganda, but the saints have minds enlightened by God. The Word of God is a lamp that lightens the path of the righteous as they journey through life (Psalm 119:105). They are not deceived by the false education of this world because they have
- studied God's Word, have matured in Christ, and have the ability to discern the right from the wrong (Hebrews 5:14). They don't fear inquiry or investigation, because truth loses nothing by close examination, but lies are exposed. They are like the Bereans, who, having mature and noble characters, eagerly sought truth and examined the Scriptures daily for themselves to certify that what they were told was, indeed, true (Acts 17:11). The saints of God have learned the importance of reasoning for themselves (Isaiah 1:18) and of being fully persuaded in their own minds of the truth (Romans 14:5). They do not allow others to tell them what to think. The saved are lovers of truth and pursue it with an eagerness to grow in godliness, but the wicked "perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10 NIV84).
- 9. Ownership: The righteous have surrendered all that they are and all that they have to Jesus and know there is nothing in this world, other than people, that is worth holding onto.

  They understand that every material possession will melt in the heat when Jesus creates the earth anew as the home of the righteous (2 Peter 3:12, 13). They understand that their current earthly possessions

- are entrusted to us by God to be used for the uplifting of His kingdom, advancing the gospel, and saving souls. In other words, the righteous live in the reality that they own nothing, that all is the Lord's, and that they are His humble and faithful stewards managing the resources He has placed in their hands for the advancement of His kingdom (Luke 12:42, 43; 1 Corinthians 4:1; 1 Peter 4:10).
- 10. Fear: Having accepted the truth that Jesus has revealed about Himself, His Father, His living law of love, His methods of truth, love, freedom, His kindness, graciousness, and mercy, the saints are won to trust. And in that trust relationship, they open themselves fully to their Savior and God pours His love into their hearts (Romans 5:5)and God's love drives out all fear! (1 John 4:18). They no longer live as the world does, controlled by fear, motivated by the drive to survive. No! As reborn, renewed, recreated children of God, they live motivated by love for God and love for their fellow human beings. Enlightened and empowered by the indwelling Spirit of God, they stop making fear-based decisions and live by making truth-based and love-based decisions. Satan's powers, all of them, over them are completely broken!

# **Preparing for What's Coming**

As we move into the final moments before Christ's return,

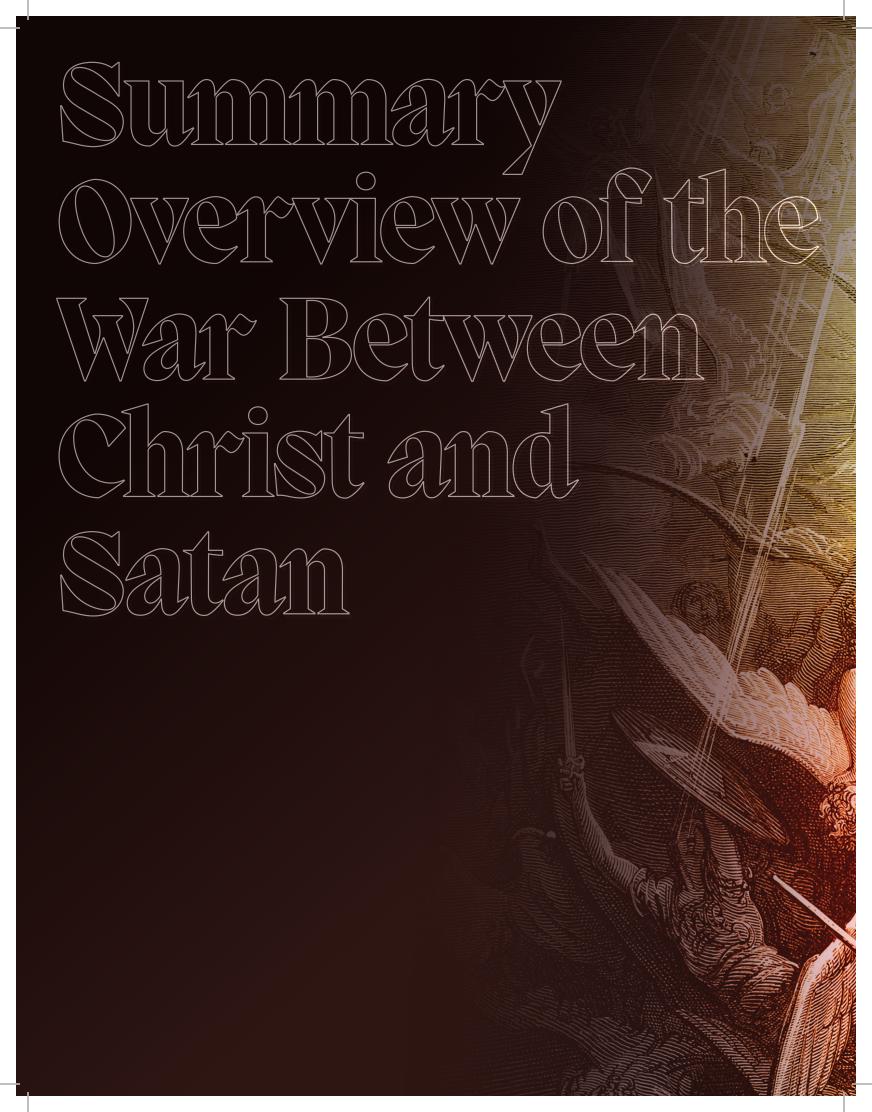
Arm your minds with God's full set of armor so that when Satan's grand deception comes and it seems the heavens are about to fall, you are able to stand; and when you have done everything to present the truth and expose Satan's lies-don't falter; stand! Stand firm, with the truth of God wrapped around you like a belt; with a righteous, Christlike character developed within-like a breastplate; and the peace that comes from accepting the good news about God-like track shoes providing good traction and a solid foundation. Also, hold fast the shield of trust, which extinguishes all the burning fear and insecurity brought by the devil's temptations. Take with you the helmet of a healed mind-a mind protected from the assaults of Satan; and attack the lies about God with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God-the truth. And talk with God with an enlightened mind, intelligently, on all occasions, about all of your concerns, requests, plans, and issues (Ephesians 6:13-18 The Remedy New Testament Paraphrase).

The final events leading up to the second coming of Christ are upon us. Satan's forces are moving, and the people of God are being pressured to choose whose law, whose methods, whose principles, that we actually embrace. The righteous choose truth, love, and freedom and refuse to embrace and practice the coercive methods of the beast. They do not defile themselves; they remain pure in heart and mind to Jesus. The victory is ours in Christ—choose life, choose love, choose Christ, and choose victory!





The righteous choose truth, love, and freedom and refuse to embrace and practice the coercive methods of the beast.







Revelation 12: There is war in heaven, and Satan, the dragon with seven heads and ten horns, is cast to the earth. Jesus the Messiah comes to the earth as a human, is victorious over Satan, and returns to heaven. Satan then turns his attacks on the "woman," the true church.



**Revelation 13:1:** Satan uses his power to create his tool, puppet, agency on earth—the chameleon beast of Revelation 13:1, which also has seven heads and ten horns and

arises out of and with the support of the sea of people, but it receives its power from Satan, the dragon. This papal iteration of the chameleon beast gets wounded in 1798; while the papal head is healed, the chameleon beast does not come to worldwide power. It only has regional power when one of the seven heads wields the ten horns.



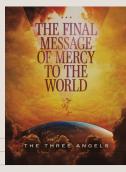
Revelation 13:11: Before Christ returns, a new beast with lamblike horns (Satan impersonating Christ) appears upon the earth and performs miracles; in doing so, he gains the support of the majority of people. He then creates an image, or simulation, of the first beast, only this is a worldwide coalition system—a new world order. He doesn't resurrect the first beast; instead, he creates a new beastly coalition with himself as the head. (This is the beast of Revelation 17 upon which the harlot rides.)

The first beast of Revelation 13:1 is the chameleon beast, which has one of the false religions (seven heads) direct the various states and state powers (ten horns) to dominate the people and war against God regionally, not globally. But the image to the beast set up by Satan will be different. It will not be controlled or directed by one of the seven heads—but by Satan himself pretending to be Christ. This final, end-time beastly system is the worldwide confederated rebellion against God that "once was"—Noah's day, "now is not"—hasn't existed since the Flood, "and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction"—will arise when Satan comes out of the Abyss to impersonate Christ (Revelation 17:8).



Revelation 14:6–12: Jesus gives a special end-time message to prepare the saints so that they won't be deceived by the beastly system and Satan's impersonation of Him. You can read about this in our magazine *The Final Message of Mercy to the World: The Three Angels.* 





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jeffrey Richards (May 2014). "The Popes and the Papacy in the Early Middle Ages" (Routledge Revivals): 476-752. Routledge, 2014. p. 130. ISBN 9781317678175.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> th Grk "it is man's number." ExSyn 254 states "if ἀνθρώπου is generic, then the sense is, 'It is [the] number of humankind.' It is significant that this construction fits Apollonius' Canon (i.e., both the head noun and the genitive are anarthrous), suggesting that if one of these nouns is definite, then the other is, too. Grammatically, those who contend that the sense is 'it is [the] number of a man' have the burden of proof on them (for they treat the head noun, ἀριθμός, as definite and the genitive, ἀνθρώπου, as indefinite—the rarest of all possibilities). In light of Johannine usage, we might also add Rev 16:18, where the Seer clearly uses the anarthrous ἄνθρωπος in a generic sense, meaning 'humankind.' The implications of this grammatical possibility, exegetically speaking, are simply that the number '666' is the number that represents humankind. Of course, an individual is in view, but his number may be the number representing all of humankind. Thus the Seer might be suggesting here that the antichrist, who is the best representative of humanity without Christ (and the best counterfeit of a perfect man that his master, that old serpent, could muster), is still less than perfection (which would have been represented by the number seven)." See G. K. Beale, Revelation, [NIGTC], 723–24, who argues for the "generic" understanding of the noun; for an indefinite translation, see the ASV and ESV, which both translate the clause as "it is the number of a man" (Biblical Studies Press. (2005). The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible. Biblical Studies Press).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Froom, LeRoy. "The Query Column: Dubious Pictures of the Tiara." The Ministry, vol. 10, no. 21. p.35. November 1948. http://documents. adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/MIN/MIN19481101-V21-11.pdf

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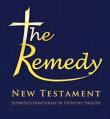
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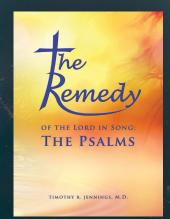
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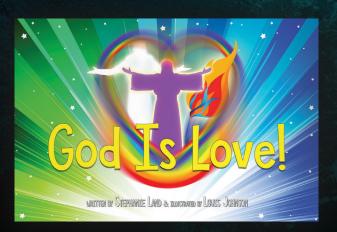


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