

UNLOCKING PROPHECY #14

The United States in Bible Prophecy

The Second Beast Of Revelation 13

- † Revelation 13:10-15, “He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. 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. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 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. 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.”
- † According to the Bible, what does a beast represent in prophecy? Daniel 7:23, “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth. . .’”
- † What do waters represent? Revelation 17:15, “Then he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw . . . are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’” So water represents what? Peoples.

3 Questions About The Second Beast

1. Where this power arises?

- † Revelation 13:11, “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth . . .” If the sea represents a populated area, the opposite of the sea, the earth, would represent a sparsely populated area.
- † Arising in a relatively unpopulated area, not previously occupied by other biblical empires.

2. When this power arises?

- † “He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity” (Rev. 13:10). The second beast in Revelation 13:10 arises at the same time that the first beast is going into captivity. We studied earlier in this series that the first beast represents the papacy. The papacy reigned from 538-1798. So this new power would arise around the end of that time period, arising around 1798.

3. How this power arises?

- † Revelation 13:11, “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb . . .” A lamb is a young beast. So this would be a new empire.
- † What is not on the horns? There are no crowns on the horns of the second beast, but there were crowns on the horns of the first beast (Rev. 13:1). Crowns indicate kingly authority. The absence of crowns indicates freedom. The second beast’s power does not come from a king.
- † It has two horns, a democratic/republican form of government. Horns are a symbol of power. They indicate that this beast derives its power from political and religious freedom. There are no crowns on their horns like the first beast of Rev. 13 had.

What Power is Symbolized by the Land Beast of Rev. 13? The United States of America meets the description.

1) North America was not nearly as populated as Europe was; 2) The young U.S. arose in 1776, very close to 1798; 3) The U.S. values political/religious freedom, and isn’t ruled by a kingship, but by elected officials.

The Lamb-Like Beast Eventually Speaks Like A Dragon (Rev. 13:11)

- † How does any nation speak? A nation speaks through its laws.
- † Does the book of Revelation describe the events that will lead up to this erosion of religious liberty, this union of church and state? Revelation 13:12, “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.” There is an alliance. There will be a religious-political union.
- † Revelation 13:13—“He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.” The “he” in this is referring to Satan.

- † Do you see how it might be possible at a time of national crisis for Satan to initiate a false religious revival based on false miracles to unite people under his banner?
- † What is the “image to the beast”? An image is “a likeness of.” The Bible says that the second beast, America, will make an image to the first beast, the papacy. In other words, there will be a political-religious union and church and state will unite. When that occurs, religious practices will be enforced.

Revelation 18: Events Surrounding The Union Of Church & State

1. Revelation 18:5 says, “Her sins have reached to heaven.”
 2. She has lived luxuriously (Rev. 18:7).
 3. She experiences natural disasters (Rev. 18:8).
 4. God’s judgments begin to fall on the land (Rev. 18:10).
 5. Her riches come to nothing (Rev. 18:17).
- † The above events will push religious leaders to call the country back to God. Satan takes advantage of this situation by introducing a false spiritual revival under the auspices of the anti-Christ (Rev. 13:13, 14).
 - † Then pressure is put on legislators, notice what happens at this time. Revelation 16:14—“For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” This false revival will lead to a union of church & state.

How Can You Tell The Difference Between The True And False Revival?

- † Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven....And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”
- † The evidence is not what they claim to do in His name. The evidence is whether the grace of God has led them to obedience and to follow Jesus Christ all the way in keeping His commandments and having the faith of Jesus. Love always leads to obedience.
- † “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20). The Bible says, to the law – the Ten Commandments, the testimony of scripture, if they are not teaching in harmony with God’s law, it is because there is no light.
- † What vehicle did he use in the days of ancient Rome to unite paganism and Christianity at a time when the Roman Empire was falling apart? In the ancient pagan Roman Empire the pagans had their differences from Christians but the “venerable day of the sun” united them. The devil will do that again in at the end.
- † Former Chief Justice William Rehnquist has said—“The wall of separation between church and state is a metaphor based on bad history.”
- † "All businesses including gasoline stations and restaurants, should close every Sunday ...by force of legislative fiat [order] through the duly elected officials of the people" (Harold Lindsell, *Christianity Today*, May 7, 1976—during the gas crisis). Sunday laws will be passed in our world, even in the United States.
- † Revival in the U.S. will never come by political laws or by Christians putting pressure on their legislators. This will only lead to religious intolerance for those that do not worship in the prescribed way.
- † Here is how God says revival will come, 2 Chronicles 7:14—“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
- † Revelation 14:12 describes God’s people: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Death Penalty Enforced

- † What does the Bible say ultimately will happen? Revelation 13:14, 15—“... telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 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.”
- † Though hard to imagine, the United States will become religiously intolerant and will eventually persecute and kill those who do not worship in the required way. Only those who receive the mark of the beast (Sunday) will be able to buy and sell. Jesus will return very soon after these things happen.