

REVELATION: Chapter 13

Part Two, Vs. 11-18;

The earth Beast

I. Symbols of Revelation 13, Part Two

A. The Earth; _____

1. Opposite of Sea!
 - a. Rev 17:15; _____
2. After 1798, Rev 13:3; 12:13-16
3. *anabainw*; to go up (literally or figuratively):--arise, ascend (up), climb (go, grow, rise, spring) up, come (up).
{growing up silently as a plant}

B. Two Horns like a Lamb;

Habakkuk 3:3, 4

The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as "coming up" in 1798. Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America and sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that "all men are created equal" and endowed with the inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity. The oppressed and downtrodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. Millions have sought its shores, and the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth.

C. Spoke like the dragon;

The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus

represented. The "speaking" of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak "as a dragon" and exercise "all the power of the first beast" plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopardlike beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns "causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast" indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy. *The Great Controversy*, p. 441, 442

D. Deadly wound; Rev 13:3, 12,14; 17:8

E. Signs and wonders; Mt 24:24; 2Th 2:9; Re 16:14

The time is at hand when Satan will work miracles to confirm minds in the belief that he is God. All the people of God are now to stand on the platform of truth as it has been given in the third angel's message. All the pleasant pictures, all the miracles wrought, will be presented in order that, if possible, the very elect will be deceived. The only hope for anyone is to hold fast the evidences that have confirmed the truth in righteousness.

Miracles Wrought Under Supervision of the Enemy.--[Matthew 7:21-23 quoted.] These may profess to be followers of Christ, but they have lost sight of their Leader. They may say, "Lord, Lord"; they may point to the sick who are healed through them, and to other marvelous works, and claim that they have more of the Spirit and power of God than is manifested by those who keep His law. But their works are done under the supervision of the enemy of righteousness, whose aim it is to deceive souls, and are designed to lead away from obedience, truth, and duty. In the near future there will be still more marked manifestations of this miracle-working power; for it is said of him, "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men." 7BC 975

F. Image and its work;

Such action would be directly contrary to the principles of this government, to the genius of its free institutions, to the direct and solemn avowals of the Declaration of Independence, and to the Constitution. The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on

the part of the church, with its inevitable result--intolerance and persecution. The Constitution provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," and that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation's liberty, can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority. But the inconsistency of such action is no greater than is represented in the symbol. It is the beast with lamblike horns--in profession pure, gentle, and harmless--that speaks as a dragon.

"Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast." Here is clearly presented a form of government in which the legislative power rests with the people, a most striking evidence that the United States is the nation denoted in the prophecy.

But what is the "image to the beast"? and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself--the papacy.

When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of "heresy." In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.

Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. An example of this is given in the long-continued persecution of dissenters by the Church of England. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, thousands of nonconformist ministers were forced to flee from their churches, and many, both of pastors and people, were subjected to fine, imprisonment, torture, and martyrdom.

It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy--the beast. Said Paul: "There" shall "come a falling away, . . . and that man of sin be revealed." 2 Thessalonians 2:3. So apostasy in the church will prepare the way for the image to the beast. *The Great Controversy*, p. 442. 443

G. Mark of the beast; Re 14:9-11; 15:2; 19:20; 20:4

When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result. *The Great Controversy*, p. 445

While the worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment,--since this is the sign of His creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage,--the worshipers of the beast will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial, to exalt the institution of Rome. It was in behalf of the Sunday that popery first asserted its arrogant claims (see Appendix); and its first resort to the power of the state was to compel the observance of Sunday as "the Lord's day." But the Bible points to the seventh day, and not to the first, as the Lord's day. Said Christ: "The Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." The fourth commandment declares: "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord." And by the prophet Isaiah the Lord designates it: "My holy day." Mark 2:28; Isaiah 58:13. *The Great Controversy*, p. 446

The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel's message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God's judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them. Prophecy declares that the first angel would make his announcement to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." The warning of the third angel, which forms a part of the same threefold message, is to be no less widespread. It is represented in the prophecy as being proclaimed with a loud voice, by an angel flying in the midst of heaven; and it will command the attention of the world.

In the issue of the contest all Christendom will be divided into two great classes--those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel "all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond" (Revelation 13:16), to receive "the mark of the beast," yet the people of God will not receive it. The prophet of Patmos beholds "them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over

his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:2, 3. . *The Great Controversy*, p. 449, 450

H. 666; Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is six hundred and sixty-six.

I saw all that "would not receive the mark of the Beast, and of his Image, in their foreheads or in their hands," could not buy or sell. I saw that the number (666) of the Image Beast was made up; and that it was the beast that changed the Sabbath, and the Image Beast had followed on after, and kept the Pope's, and not God's Sabbath. And all we were required to do, was to give up God's Sabbath, and keep the Pope's, and then we should have the mark of the Beast, and of his Image. {Broadside3, April 7, 1847 par. 5} {WLF 19.1}

I. Gematria was a pastime by which numerical equivalents were put on alphabetical letters in a name. This was especially practiced by the Romans and the Roman world.

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. The pope, in Catholic theology, stands for the whole church. One of the pope's title's is said to be *Vicarius Filii Dei*, "Vicar of the Son of God." In response to a readers question, the Catholic journal *Our Sunday Visitor* for April 18, 1915, replied, "The letters inscribed in the Pope's mitre [his priestly crown] are these, *Vicarius Filii Dei*, which is Latin for Vicar of the Son of God. Catholics hold that the church, which is a visible society, must have a visible head."

The numeric value of this title, using the numeric value of Latin letters, is easy to calculate (as the *Visitor* acknowledges).

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|----|---|-----|------------|
| V | 5 | F | 0 | D | 500 | TOTAL: 666 |
| I | 1 | I | 1 | E | 0 | |
| C | 100 | L | 50 | I | 1 | |
| A | 0 | I | 1 | | | |
| R | 0 | I | 1 | | | |
| I | 1 | | | | | |
| U | 5 | | | | | |
| S | 0 | | | | | |

II. The most prominent number in the book of Revelation is seven: churches, trumpets, seals, and so on. Seven is also the number of God's Sabbath. Revelation 14:7, tells us to worship the creator who rest on the Seventh-day. Therefore, seven is the number that honors God.

The number 666 is a "human" number, R.S.V. (for it is a human number). Six is a legitimate number when it leads to seven; it represents man on the first evening of his existence entering into the celebration of God's creative power. Six hundred sixty six, however, represents the refusal of man to proceed to seven, to give glory to God as Creator and Redeemer. It represents man's fixation on himself, man's seeking glory in himself, and his own creations. The beast of Revelation 13 represents man exercising his own sovereignty apart from God. Man conformed to the image of the beast rather than to the image of God.

The mark of the beast, then, is a rejection of the sovereignty of God—the Sabbath principle which is designed to encourage man to seek his dignity not in himself or in nature, but by communion with God and participation in His rest. It is the Sabbath which distinguishes between the creature and his Creator, which reveals who deserves worship and who does not. It is the Sabbath which demonstrates God's sovereignty and man's dependence. Six hundred sixty six by contrast is the symbol of the worship of the creature rather than the Creator.

III. In Revelation 17 the beast is linked with the harlot "Babylon." The number 6 and multiples of it were significant to ancient Babylon. Sixty was the number of Anu and Marduk, her supreme gods at different times. A popular amulet worn by the Babylonian priests contained a mysterious configuration of numbers in a square:

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 32 | 34 | 3 | 35 | 6 |
| 30 | 8 | 27 | 28 | 11 | 7 |
| 20 | 24 | 15 | 16 | 13 | 23 |
| 19 | 17 | 21 | 22 | 18 | 14 |
| 10 | 26 | 12 | 9 | 29 | 25 |
| 31 | 4 | 2 | 33 | 5 | 36 |