

Metro Men's World Ministry

Bible Prophecy: The Papacy, the United States, and the United Nation

By Dr. Jeff Wehr

### Introduction

Twenty five hundred years ago, the prophet Daniel was shown the rise and fall of world empires. These empires would begin in the day of the prophet Daniel with the empire of Babylon. History records that the Babylonian empire would fall in 539 BC, then would follow the empires of Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Rome would fall in 476 AD and would be replaced by the Church of Rome. The Papacy would rule the world for exactly 1,260 years, from 538 to 1798, as predicted by the prophecies. After Daniel saw the rule of the Papacy during the Dark Ages of Church and State, he saw a majestic judgment scene. The judgment would then be followed by the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

But do the prophecies say anything about these last days just prior to our Lord's return? They do. The prophecies unmask the powers that will create a New World Order. These end time prophecies also reveal that the world will be brought into a worldwide religious crisis that involves worship. The Bible says, "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God..." Revelation 14:9, 10 On the other hand, earthly powers will punish those who do not worship the beast. As the Bible says, "And he [the second beast] had power to give life unto the image of the [first] beast, that the image of the [first] beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the [first] beast should be killed." Revelation 13:15. What a religious crisis! Those who worship the first beast face the wrath of God, and those who do not worship the first beast face the wrath of man.

Well, I hope you will be blessed by the study of these prophecies. Yet at the same time I must forewarn you, that there will be things revealed in this prophetic study that will greatly disappoint you, as it certainly disappointed me. I wish that these things were not true. But sad to say, I found that they are.

As you study these four prophecies found in the books of Daniel and Revelation, I know that you will be challenged to examine your own beliefs, as I was of mine. And it is my hope that all of us will discard any error that we find. For in the end, it really doesn't matter who is right, but what is right. It will be my responsibility, therefore, to set before you certain facts, taken from historical materials and current news items that support this prophetic interpretation. It will be your part to scrutinize everything that I say.

When you have finished studying these prophecies, it is my hope that it will do more than enlighten you about future events. I pray that it will rouse all of us to an understanding of our duties and responsibilities in the crisis brought about by this New World Order of Church and State. For if there is one sin that God abhors above another, it is our indifference and neutrality in the midst of a religious crisis. Therefore, prayerfully consider the contents of this study, and may God bless.

## Daniel Chapter Two: The Rise and Fall of Kingdoms

We will begin our prophetic adventure with a dream that God gave to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. It is recorded in the second chapter of Daniel. It was a dream that the king could neither remember nor interpret. The dream had disturbed him and he commanded that the “magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dream.” Daniel 2:2. But they were unable. The king then made a decree to kill all the wise men of Babylon. This would have been carried out except that God revealed to Daniel the prophet both the king’s dream and its interpretation. The dream and the interpretation are recorded in Daniel 2:31-45 as follows:

### The Dream

Daniel said, (31) “Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. (32) This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, (33) his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. (34) Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and broke them to pieces. (35) Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

### The Interpretation

(36) This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. (37) Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. (38) And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. (39) And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. (40) And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. (41) And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. (42) And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. (43) And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. (44) And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (45) Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.” Daniel 2:31-45.

In these few verses we have the most comprehensive outline of the rise and fall of nations spanning more than two thousand years. The head of gold, the silver breast and arms, the belly of brass, the legs of iron, and the feet of iron and clay represent the succession of world empires beginning with Babylon.

### **Babylon**

In this dream, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw a giant metallic image. Daniel told the king that he, as king of Babylon, was represented by the head of gold. Daniel 2:36-38. He was then instructed that the silver and brass represented nations that would arise after Babylon. Daniel 2:39

### **Medo-Persia**

In the book of Daniel, it accurately records the fall of the Babylonian empire to the Medes and the Persians. See Daniel 5:1, 4-5, 25-28, 30-31. Historically, we know that the Medes and Persians defeated the Babylonians in 539 B.C. The Medes and Persians are represented by the silver breast and arms.

### **Greece**

Twice in the book of Daniel we are told that the Medes and Persians would be defeated by the Greeks. In Daniel chapter eight, the Medes and Persians are described symbolically as a ram with two horns and the Greeks are described symbolically as a goat with a notable horn. The Bible says, "The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. And the he goat came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with anger against him, and smote the ram, and broke his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him." Daniel 8:20-21, 6-7. See also Daniel 11:1-3.

The "great horn" of the goat is none other than Alexander the Great who defeated the Medes and the Persians in 331 B.C. Therefore, we find the brass belly and thighs accurately representing the Grecian empire.

### **Rome**

The iron legs represented the fourth world empire. See Daniel 2:40. History records that the Greeks were defeated by the Romans in 168 B.C. Rome is well described by the Bible as an empire that crushes like iron.

### **Europe**

The ten toes made of iron and clay represents the ten divisions of the iron kingdom. See Daniel 2:41-43. In A.D. 476, the Roman empire fell and was divided amongst ten smaller kingdoms, namely, the Anglo-Saxons (English), Alemanni (Germans), Franks (French), Burgundians (Swiss), Suevi (Portuguese), Visigoths (Spanish), Vandals (in north Africa), Lombards, Ostrogoths, and the Heruli (each in part of Italy).

The Bible predicted that these ten kingdoms would try to “adhere one to another,” but that they would always fail. Both Hitler and Napoleon tried to unite Europe into one great nation through force, but failed. Daniel 2:43. Others have tried through the “seed of men,” but all the intermarriages amongst the royal families have also failed to bring Europe into one singular nation. Daniel 2:43.

So far this simple prophecy has already predicted events hundreds of years in advance from the time it was written by the prophet Daniel. The Bible predicted that a great iron empire would arise after the brass empire of Greece, and it happened. It predicted that this great iron nation would decline and be divided up into exactly ten smaller kingdoms, and it also happened.

But the prophecy does not stop here. In Bible prophecy, “clay” symbolically represents a church or religious body. For example, Israel of old, the church of the Old Testament, was symbolically described as clay in the hands of God. “But now, O Lord, thou art our father, we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” Isaiah 64:8. And again, “O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.” Jeremiah 18:6.

### **Papacy**

The feet of iron and clay has a dual application. It not only represents the breakup of the Roman empire into ten smaller kingdoms, but it also signifies the continuation of Rome [the iron] by a religious power [the clay]. The religious power that took over the reins of the Roman Empire was the Papacy. History records, ‘With the break-up of the Roman bureaucracy the structure of daily life was threatened with disintegration. The only trace left of the Roman organism was the Catholic Church, and the only men with administrative experience were the bishops” Katherine Scherman, *The Birth of Prance: Warriors, Bishops, and Long-Haired Kings*. New York: Random House, 1987, page 25. This mixture of iron and clay represented that period of time when the church and the state were united together.

Isn’t that simply amazing? What human being could have predicted the breakup of the Roman empire into exactly ten smaller kingdoms? I think none. Who could have predicted nearly one thousand years in advance that a religious institution would take over the reins of the Roman empire? I believe only God could have.

I think you would have to agree that these few verses have accurately described the rise and fall of nations from Babylon, to Medo-Persia, to Greece, to Rome, to the breakup of Rome, and to the Papacy with phenomenal accuracy. But there is more!

### **Christ’s Kingdom**

This simple prophetic dream declares that all earthly kingdoms will come to an end. See Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45. Daniel chapter two is much more than a measuring stick outlining the history of nations. It declares that only God’s kingdom, the stone cut without human hands, will reign forever and ever. No

earthly power, nothing made of man, whether it be monarchies, republics, or religious powers like the Papacy, will set up God's kingdom here on earth. This is a very important point!

We are not to be deceived that the Church of Rome or any other power or powers, independently or collectively, will usher in a millennium of peace in this old world. All earthly powers, both secular and religious, will be destroyed in the seven last plagues. See Revelation chapter sixteen.

Jesus made it very clear that His kingdom is not of this world. See John 18:36. Yet, each one of us can become citizens of that eternal kingdom with Christ reigning in our hearts by faith. We can have the principles of God's kingdom written upon our hearts and minds.

### **Repeat and Enlarge**

Before we study our next prophetic message found in the seventh chapter of Daniel, it would be helpful for us to consider the following Biblical principle of *Repeat and Enlarge*. This principle is widely used in the prophecies of both Daniel and Revelation. As we will see, visions are repeated using different symbols, so that we can enlarge upon the picture. For example, the image of Daniel chapter two made up of four different metals, corresponds exactly to the four different beasts in Daniel chapter seven. The four metals represented the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The four beasts represent the same empires. Therefore, through this repetition and enlargement, we learn important additional information.

As these visions are repeated, greater attention is given to the latter part of the vision. For example, the iron legs of the metallic image representing the fourth kingdom (Rome), receives a great deal of attention in chapter seven as the fourth beast [which is also describing Rome]. We will be particularly interested in the "little horn" power that comes out of the Roman empire. Why? This "little horn" power is same as the antichrist power of Bible prophecy and the first beast of Revelation chapter thirteen.

But for now, let us continue our prophetic adventure by turning to Daniel chapter seven and see what new information it has for us.

## **Daniel Chapter Seven: Intolerance in the Church**

In Daniel chapter seven, we have a detailed description of a vision that Daniel received from God. In this prophetic vision Daniel saw four ferocious beasts different from one another, namely, a lion, bear, leopard, and the ferocious fourth beast. See Daniel 7:1-7.

### **Babylon**

We are told that these four beasts represent four kingdoms that will arise on the earth. See Daniel 7:17. The first beast looked like a lion with the wings of an eagle. Daniel 7:4. In archaeological digs, we find

that Ancient Babylon used the lion and the eagle as common symbols. In fact, lions would have the wings of eagles. The Bible describes Babylon as a lion. See Jeremiah 50:17.

In Daniel chapter two, Babylon was symbolically represented by the most precious metal, namely, gold. Likewise, in chapter seven, Babylon is symbolically represented by the lion, the king of beasts.

### **Medo-Persia**

The second beast looked like a bear which raised itself up on one side and had three ribs between its teeth. See Daniel 7:5. As we have seen, the Medes and the Persians defeated the Babylonians in 539 B.C. In Daniel chapter two, the Medo-Persian kingdom was represented by the silver breast and arms. In Daniel chapter eight, she is symbolically represented as a ram with two horns. The ram has two horns because one horn represents the Medes and the other horn represents the Persians. In that prophetic vision, one horn was described as being higher, but the higher horn would come up last. See Daniel 8:3. In the beginning, the Medes were the stronger of the two. However, in the end of their dual kingdom, the Persians would become more dominant. Therefore, the prophecy accurately predicted that the higher (the Persians) would come up last.

In chapter seven, the bear is said to have raised itself up on one side. One side represents the Medes and the other side, the higher side, represents the Persians.

In Daniel chapter eight, the ram with two horns representing Medo-Persia, is said to have pushed in three different directions, “westward, and northward, and southward.” Daniel 8:4. Historically, the Medes and Persians defeated its three major opponents, namely, Egypt (westward), Lydia (northward), and Babylon (southward). This is why, in Daniel chapter seven, the bear has three ribs between his teeth.

### **Greece**

The third beast looked like a leopard with four wings and four heads. See Daniel 7:6. We know that the Greeks defeated the Medes and the Persians in 331 B.C. In chapter two of Daniel, Greece was represented by the brass belly and thighs. In Daniel chapter eight, she is represented as a goat.

Since Alexander the Great conquered the world so quickly, the goat, representing the Grecian empire in chapter eight of Daniel, is described as not touching the ground. In like manner, the leopard in chapter seven was seen as having four wings, representing Alexander’s speedy accomplishment. See Daniel 8:5, 21, 22.

Because Alexander died at such an early age and had no son to take over his empire, the Grecian empire was divided amongst Alexander’s four generals. Therefore, the goat of chapter eight had four horns, and the leopard of chapter seven was described with four heads. See Daniel 8:8. In Bible prophecy, both

“heads” and “horns” symbolically represent political powers or kingdoms. See Daniel 7:24; Revelation 17:9, 10, 12.

### **Rome**

The ferocious fourth beast with iron teeth represents the fourth kingdom that will arise upon the earth. Daniel 7:23. History identifies Rome as becoming the fourth world empire by defeating the Greeks in 168 B.C. In chapter two, Rome was represented as the iron legs which “breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things.” Daniel 2:40.

### **Europe**

On the head of this fourth beast are ten horns. These ten horns represent ten kings or kingdoms that would come out of the Roman empire. See Daniel 7:24. When Rome fell in 476 A.D., she was divided up into ten smaller kingdoms: Anglo-Saxon, Alemanni, Franks, Burgundians, Suevi, Visigoths, Vandals, Lombards, Ostrogoths, and the Heruli.

### **The Little Horn Power**

After the formation of these ten kingdoms, there arose another little horn. See Daniel 7:8. Because of this little horn power, three of the first ten horns were plucked up by their roots or destroyed as nations. See Daniel 7:8, 23. The nations who were destroyed were the Heruli in 493 AD, the Vandals in 534 AD, and the Ostrogoths in 538 AD.

This little horn looked more stout or larger than the others. See Daniel 7:20. It had eyes like the eyes of a man. See Daniel 7:8. It had a mouth speaking great words or blasphemous words against God. See Daniel 7:8, 20, 25.

What is blasphemy? Jesus was accused of blasphemy because He claimed to be God (John 10:33), and claimed to have the authority to forgive sins (Luke 5:20-21). Jesus was not speaking blasphemously because He is the Son of God and He can forgive sin. However, when a mere man, no matter his rank or file among men, claims to be God or to have the authority to forgive sins, he is speaking great words against God. In other words, this little horn power is taking prerogatives upon itself that belong alone to God.

We are told that this little horn power would destroy many of the saints. See Daniel 7:21, 25. It would also think to have the authority to change “times and laws” Daniel 7:25. In other words, this little horn would think that it had the power to change the very precepts of God’s Ten Commandments.

We are even told the length of time this little horn power would rule politically. We are told that it would rule politically for a “time, times, and the dividing of time.” Daniel 7:25.

Who is this little horn power? We know that the fourth beast represents the Roman empire, and that the ten horns represent the ten nations in Europe. These ten horns or kingdoms arose out of Rome. This little horn power also arose out of Rome. Let's draw a more definitive description of the little horn.

This little horn is to be a kingdom possessing political power as the other horns are kingdoms. For it says, "And *another* [horn] shall arise..." Daniel 7:24. Remember, a "horn" represents a kingdom or political power in Bible prophecy. See Daniel 7:24.

This little horn is to come from the same area as the other ten horns. For it says, "... there came up *among* them another little horn." Daniel 7:8. In other words, this little horn power was to arise out of Europe or Rome.

We can get the approximate date when this little horn was to arise to power. For it says, "And another shall rise *after* them." Daniel 7:24. This little horn would arise to political power after the last of the ten divisions of Rome was formed in 476 AD.

He was to uproot three horns or three kings, namely, the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths. Daniel 7:8, 24.

This diverse kingdom was still to have a singular male leader at its head. For he is to have the eyes of a man and a mouth. Daniel 7:8.

This mouth would speak great words against God. He is to speak blasphemously by claiming to be God and to forgive sins. Daniel 7:25.

This power would think that it had the authority to make alterations in the Ten Commandments or makes changes in "times and laws." Daniel 7:25.

He shall be diverse from the first ten kingdoms. This would be a different kind of kingdom. See Daniel 7:24.

We are told the length of time that this power would have supremacy. It says, "... until a time and times and the dividing of time." Daniel 7:25.

### **A "time, times, and the dividing of time"**

How long is a "time, times, and the dividing of time"? We find the answer by comparing scripture with scripture. Let us consider the following verses found in the book of Revelation:

"And to the woman [God's true church] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." Revelation 12:14.

“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore [or 60] days.” Revelation 12:6.

According to Revelation 12:6, 14, “a time and times and half a time” equals “one thousand two hundred and threescore days.” In other words, “a time” equals one year, “times” equals two years, and “half a time” equals 6 months. Three years and six months is the same as 42 months or 1260 days. A biblical year is 360 days. Therefore,  $360 + 360 + 360 + 180 = 1260$

But wait! How could any entity accomplish all these things if it were in authority for only 1260 literal days? In Bible prophecy, a “day” represents a year. See Numbers 14:33, 34; Ezekiel 4:5, 6.

This little horn power was to rule for 1260 years. There is only one institution that fits all nine descriptions of the little horn power. It is the Papacy. Let us now consider each identifying mark with its historical support.

#### **Is the Papacy another kingdom? Did it arise out of Rome?**

The papal power was not only a religion but also a kingdom. And just as the little horn power came out of the fourth beast so did the Papacy come out of the Roman empire.

“Long ages ago, when Rome through the neglect of the Western emperors was left to the mercy of the barbarous hordes, the Romans turned to one figure for aid and protection, and asked him to rule them; and thus, . . . commenced the temporal sovereignty of the popes. And meekly stepping to the throne of caesar, the vicar of Christ took up the scepter to which the emperors and kings of Europe were to bow reverence through so many ages.” *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, April 1911.

“The Church, with the shadow of the ancient authority behind it, was the only symbol left of imperial Rome; and its bishop, the Pope, was the city’s only recourse for leadership and protection. . . . The Roman Empire in Europe would be replaced by the spiritual empire which came to be temporal as well, whose reigning seigneur was the bishop of Rome.” Scherman, *The Birth of France*, page 164.

“Out of the ruins of political Rome, arose the great moral Empire in the ‘giant form’ of the Roman Church.” A. C. Flick, *The Rise of the Medieval Church*, 1909, 150.

“Under the Roman Empire the popes had no temporal powers. But when the Roman Empire had disintegrated and its place had been taken by a number of rude, barbarous kingdoms, the Roman Catholic church not only became independent of the states in religious affairs, but dominated secular affairs as well.... the well-organized, unified, and centralized church, with the pope at its head, was not only independent in ecclesiastical affairs but also controlled civil affairs.” Carl Conrad Eckhardt, *The Papacy and World Affairs*, The University of Chicago Press, 1937, 1.

### **Did the Papacy arise at the proper time? Did she rule for 1260 years?**

The Papacy began and reigned exactly the time predicted. She would arise to political power after the first ten horns had been established and she would reign for exactly 1260 years.

“The recognition of the Roman See as the highest ecclesiastical authority remained the cornerstone of his [Justinian’s] policy in relation to the west.” G. Kruger, “Justinian I, Emperor of the East,” in *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, Volume 6, 286. [Note: Justinian reigned in the sixth century.]

“Down to the sixth century all popes are declared saints in the martyrologies. Vigilius (537-555) is the first of a series of popes who no longer bear this title, which is henceforth sparingly conferred. From this time on the popes, more and more involved in worldly affairs, no longer belong solely to the Church; they are men of the state, and then rulers of the state.” Charles Bemont and G. Monod, *Medieval Europe from 395 to 1270*, 120-121. [Note: It is widely recognized that Vigilius’ reign began in AD 538, the year that so much power was given to the Papacy by Justinian. His predecessor, Pope Silverius, did not die until June, AD 538.]

The ten nations of Europe were formed by AD 476. The Papacy began her political reign in AD 538, fulfilling the prophecy that she would arise to political power after them. Therefore, if she arose in AD 538, then her temporal reign should have ended 1,260 years later in AD 1798. Let’s see what happened that year.

“When in 1797, Pope Pius VI fell grievously ill, Napoleon gave orders that in the event of his death no successor should be elected to his office, and the Papacy should be discontinued. But the Pope recovered. The peace was soon broken: Berthier [one of Napoleon’s generals] entered Rome on the tenth of February 1798, and proclaimed (Rome to be) a republic. The aged Pontiff refused to violate his oath by recognizing it, and was hurried from prison to prison in France. Broken with fatigue and sorrows, he died on the seventeenth of August, 1799, in the French fortress of Valence aged 82 years. No wonder half of Europe thought Napoleon’s veto would be obeyed, and that with the Pope, the papacy was dead.” Joseph Rickaby, *The Modern Papacy*, 1.

“In October, 1797, General Bonaparte sent him [Berthier] to Paris to deliver to the directory the treaty of Campo-Formio. In January, 1798, he received the chief command of the army of Italy, and was ordered by the directory to march against the dominions of the pope. In the beginning of February, he made his entrance into Rome, abolished the papal government, and established a consular one.” *Cyclopedia Americana*, Volume 2, 80-81. Article under “Berthier.”

We know that the Church of Rome existed as a religious institution before 538 AD, but she did not rise to political power as another “horn” until this time. And as the prophecy perfectly predicted, the Papacy

would rule for exactly 1260 years. Isn't that just amazing! The Bible predicted the exact length of time the Papacy would rule both civilly and religiously. I would think by now, you can agree that we can trust the prophetic word. If the Bible predicts it, it will happen!

### **Did the Papacy instigate the destruction of the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths?**

"I might cite three that were eradicated from before the pope out of the list first given, viz., the Heruli under Odoacer, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths." Edward B. Elliott, *Horae Apocalyptica*, Volume III, 139, Note 1.

The Arians, represented by the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths were the most formidable rivals of Catholicism. The Arian doctrines, which were supported by the "whole of the vast Gothic population," were also irreconcilably different from Catholicism. Arthur P. Stanley, *Lectures on the History of the Eastern Church*, 151.

As a result, there was a real death fight between Catholicism and Arianism. One of them was going to determine the next one thousand years of church history. In the end, the Arians were eradicated by the Papacy. Hence, the Papacy gained the upper hand in ruling the empire. For more information on this subject, see Uriah Smith's excellent book, *Daniel and the Revelation*, 120-128.

### **Was the Papacy a different kind of kingdom from the other ten smaller kingdoms?**

The Papacy was a different kind of political power, in that it was a religious power, exercising civil authority in the name of Christ.

### **Does the Papacy have a man at the head of its organization?**

"The Vatican structure of power is a pyramid with a very thin peak, where the Pope is perched in a position of such grandeur and isolation that he is qualitatively detached from the rest of the machinery of power. . . The Pope is the absolute monarch of this whole structure. Elected for life by a committee of princes, the cardinals, he has exclusive power to appoint new princes as vacancies occur, and the princes have no power to discipline him or to remove him after they have once elected him." Paul Blanshard, *Communism, Democracy, and Catholic Power*, 49-51.

### **Does the Papacy speak blasphemous words? Does she claim to have the authority of God on earth? Does she claim to have the power to forgive sins?**

"All the names which in the Scriptures are applied to Christ, by virtue of which it is established that he is over the church, all the same names are applied to the Pope." Robert Bellarmine, *On the Authority of the Councils*, chapter 17, 1628 edition, 1, 266.

"We hold upon the earth the place of God Almighty." Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter of June 20, 1894.  
"For not man, but God separates those whom the Roman Pontiff (who exercises the functions, not of mere man, but of the true God), having weighed the necessity or benefit of the churches, dissolves, not

by human but rather by divine authority.” *Decretals of Gregory IX*, book 1, title 7, chapter 3, in *Corpus Juris Canonici*, 1555 edition, volume 2, col. 203.

Pope Boniface VIII, in 1294 AD, said in his celebrated bull *Unam Sanctum*:

“The Pope is of so great dignity and excellence, that he is not merely man, but as if God, and the vicar of God. The pope alone is alone called most holy, ... Divine monarch, and supreme emperor, and king of kings. . . . The pope is of so great dignity it he constitutes one and the same tribunal with Christ, so that whatsoever the pope does seems to proceed from the mouth of God. . . . The pope is as God on earth.” Reverend William Arthur, *The Pope, the Kings, and the People*, volume I, 211.

Concerning the forgiveness of sins, we find the following in the 1994 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: “One who desires to obtain reconciliation with God and with the Church, must confess to a priest all the unconfessed grave sins he remembers after having carefully examined his conscience.” Page 374, #1493.

Pope John II himself dismissed the “widespread idea that one can obtain forgiveness directly from God,” and exhorted Catholics to confess more often to their priests. Don A. Schanche, “No Forgiveness ‘Directly From God.’ Pope Says.” *Los Angeles Times*, December 12, 1984, 11.

### **Has the Papacy thought to change the Law of God?**

The Papacy has admittedly changed the fourth commandment, the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week, Sunday. A change that she admits is not biblical.

“The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.” *Catholic Mirror*, September 1893.

“Question: Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?”

Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that which all modern religionists agree with her; she could not substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is not Scriptural authority.” Stephan Keenan, *A Doctrinal Catechism*, 3rd Edition, 174.

“Question: Which is the Sabbath day?”

“Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath.”

“Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?”

“Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the council of Laodicea (336 AD) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” *The Convert’s Catholic Doctrine*, by Peter Geiermann, 50.

“If the Bible is the only guide for the Christian then the Seventh-day Adventist is right, in observing the Saturday with the Jew. Is it not strange, that those [Sunday keeping Protestants] who make the Bible their only teacher, should inconsistently follow in this matter the tradition of the Catholic Church?”  
*Question Box*, 1915,179.

Although the Papacy has purported to have changed the Law of God, many Christian groups continued to keep the seventh-day Sabbath.

“Wide-spread and enduring was the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath among the believers of the Church of the East and the St. Thomas Christians of India, who never were connected with Rome. It also was maintained among those bodies which broke off from Rome after the Council of Chalcedon, namely, the Abyssinians, the Jacobites, the Maronites, and the Armenians.” Schaff Herzog, *The New Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, article on “Nestorianer.”

“In 1310, two hundred years before Luther’s thesis, the Bohemian brethren constituted one-fourth of the population of Bohemia, and that they were in touch with the Waldenses who abounded in Austria, Lombardy, Bohemia, north Germany, Thuringia, Brandenburg, and Moravia. Erasmus pointed out how strictly Bohemian Waldenses kept the seventh-day Sabbath.” Armitage, *A History of the Baptists*, 313.

### **Did the Papacy wear out the saints of God?**

It is estimated that the Vatican is responsible for the martyrdom of 75-150 million innocent people.

“That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history”  
William E. H. Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, Volume II, 35.

“Know that the interest of the Holy See, and those of your crown, make it a duty to exterminate the Hussites. Remember that these impious persons dare proclaim principles of equality; they maintain that all Christians are brethren, and that God has not given to privileged men the right of ruling the nations; they hold that Christ came on earth to abolish slavery; they call people to liberty, that is, to the annihilation of kings and priests! Whilst there is still time, then, turn your forces against Bohemia; burn, massacre, make deserts everywhere, for nothing could be more agreeable to God, or more useful to the cause of kings, than the extermination of the Hussites.” L. M. de Dormenin, *The Public and Private History of the Popes of Rome*, Volume II, 116-117.

This prophetic vision is simply amazing. No one but God could have given nine distinct, clear, and comprehensive identifying marks of the Papacy before she existed. It is also important to note that these nine identifying marks of the little horn power could not possibly fit any other earthly power.

After this tragic description of the spiritual fall of the Papacy, and its 1,260 year reign from 538 AD to 1798 AD, the Bible turns our attention to the judgment, saying “. . . the judgment was set, and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:10.

Daniel’s name means “God is judge.” In the book of Daniel, God judges the powers that have allied themselves against the people of God, from ancient Babylon to the Papacy. Yet, the judgment here spoken about is not so much about corporate entities, but about each one of us as individuals.

In our next prophetic chapter, we will study Revelation chapter thirteen. In this vision given to the beloved John, we will discover the two superpowers that will lead this world into a stupendous religious crisis.

## **Revelation Chapter Thirteen: The Vatican and the United States**

In this third prophetic picture, we will see that the first beast power of Revelation chapter thirteen, the leopard-like beast, is the Papacy. It is that religious beast power that the whole world will worship. But there’s more! John sees two beast powers, the first rising out of the “sea” and the second rising out of the “earth.” See Revelation 13:1, 11.

The Bible tells us that “seas” or “waters” represent a very populous part of the earth with its teeming multitudes. The Bible says, “The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Revelation 17:15. The “earth,” therefore symbolically represents a new world with its few inhabitants. Who are these two superpowers?

### **The Papacy**

The Papacy has long been identified as the first beast of Revelation thirteen because it has the same characteristics of the little horn power of Daniel chapter seven. For example, the first beast has spoken great things and blasphemies against God. See Revelation 13:5-6. The little horn power of Daniel chapter seven has spoken great words and blasphemies against God. See Daniel 7:25.

The first beast made war with the saints and persecuted them. See Revelation 13:7. The little horn of Daniel chapter seven also persecuted the saints of God. See Daniel 7:21.

The first beast, the leopard-like beast, rises up out of a “sea” of people, likewise the little horn power arose amongst the ten horns of the populous old Roman Empire. See Revelation 13:1; Daniel 7:24.

The first beast rules for forty-two prophetic months or 1260 years. See Revelation 13:5. The little horn power of Daniel chapter seven rules for 1260 prophetic days or 1260 years. See Daniel 7:25. They both ruled for the exact same time.

The Papacy is without question the first beast of Revelation chapter thirteen. It is that beast power that the Bible warns us against, saying, "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God." Revelation 14:9-10.

### **The Leopard-like Beast**

As we studied earlier, the first beast, the Papacy, is symbolically composed of three different beasts. "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion." Revelation 13:2. We found these three beasts described elsewhere in Daniel chapter seven. These three beasts represented Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon.

Notice that these three beasts in Revelation chapter thirteen are given in the reverse order as found in Daniel chapter seven. Why? Because Daniel was looking forward in time (Babylon the lion, Medo-Persia the bear, and Greece the leopard), and John was looking back in time (Greece the leopard, Medo-Persia the bear, and Babylon the lion).

Even though these three kingdoms were defeated militarily, Daniel was told that they would continue. The Bible says, "As concerning the rest of the beasts [the lion, bear, and leopard], they had their dominion taken away [by losing their political power]; yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time." Daniel 7:12. The lives of these three defeated empires were prolonged as their pagan beliefs and customs were continued and absorbed by others that followed. So what does this have to do with the Papacy? The lives of these defeated empires were prolonged by the Papacy assimilating their pagan beliefs and customs. Again we quote the following authors:

Historian Alexander Hislop states:

"To conciliate the pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christians and pagan festivals amalgamated [or mixed together], . . . it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get paganism and Christianity, now far sunk in idolatry, . . . to shake hands." Alexander Hislop, *Two Babylons*, 105.

Historian Mosheim points out that:

"The Christians were pronounced atheist, because they were destitute of temples, altars, victims, priests, and all that pomp in which the vulgar suppose the essence of religion to consist. . . . To silence this accusation, the Christian doctors [particularly in Rome] thought they must introduce some external rites, which would strike the senses of the people; so that they could maintain that they really had all those things of which Christians were charged with being destitute, though under different forms." A. T. Jones, *Ecclesiastical History*, cent. 2. part 2, chap. 4, sec. 3.

To facilitate the conversion of the pagans to Catholicism, the Church of Rome instituted pagan sites. Instead of many simple churches, there emerged the grand cathedrals with altars and idols. Instead of pastors, evangelists, apostles, and teachers, there emerged the Catholic priesthood. The apostasy went

even so far as to have a bloodless victim, namely, that the wafer at communion supposedly became the literal body of Christ.

I pray that I will not be accused of Catholic bashing on this point. That the Papacy is the first beast is without dispute. That she has assimilated the customs and practices of pagan religions is not only documented by historians but is confirmed by her own admittance.

Cardinal Newman wrote:

“Confiding then in the power of Christianity to resist the infection of evil and to transmute the very instruments and appendages of demon worship to an evangelists use.... we are told by Eusebius, that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own... . The use of temples, and these dedicated to particular saints, and ornamented on occasions with branches of trees; incense, lamps and candles; votive offerings on recovery from illness; holy water, asylums; holy days and seasons, use of calendars, processions, blessings on the fields; sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure, the ring in marriage, turning to the east, images at a later date, perhaps the ecclesiastical chant, are all of pagan origin, and sanctified by their adoption into the church.” Cardinal Newman, *Development of Christian Doctrine*, 372-373.

### **Seven heads**

This first beast also had seven heads. Revelation 13:1. “Heads” represent kings or kingdoms in Bible prophecy. Revelation 17:9-10. Therefore, these seven heads represent seven different kingdoms or major political powers. The Papacy represents one of those seven heads. The Bible says, “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death [when it lost its political power]; and his deadly wound was healed [when he regains his political power]: and all the world wondered after the beast [the Papacy].” Revelation 13:3.

The first beast, the Papacy, is clearly represented by one of these seven heads. This is further supported by the fact that twice in Revelation chapter thirteen the beast is said to have received the deadly wound which was healed. John wrote, “And he [the second beast power]. . . causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed .. . saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword and did live.” Revelation 13:12, 14.

When the Papacy received her deadly wound in 1798 AD, she ceased to be a major beast-political power. Remember, a “beast” represents political power. The Papacy continued as a church, but she lost her political power over the nations. However, the prophecy predicts that the Papacy will become a major beast-political power again, because the deadly wound of the beast [the political power of the Papacy over the nations] will be healed just prior to the second coming of Christ.

Now concerning the rest of the seven heads, they represent the seven consecutive major political powers beginning with the kingdom of Babylon. We have already identified the first five, namely, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Papacy. The second beast power described in this chapter is the sixth world empire, which is the United States.

As we will see in Revelation chapter seventeen, the seventh head is the United Nations that will cooperate with the Vatican in establishing a New World Order of Church and State. The United Nations will provide the platform for the Vatican to speak to all the nations. It will also provide the political apparatus or vehicle to have governance over the nations. The United States provides the force and influence to make this all possible. By the influence of the United States, the whole world will follow the lead of Protestant America in clasping hands with the Vatican to enforce religious legislation. Without the cooperation of the most powerful nation in the world, the United States, there is no new world order of any kind, whether it be secular or religious.

### **Ten horns**

This first beast has ten horns and ten crowns representing ten distinct kingdoms. Revelation 13:1. In Daniel chapter two, the image had ten toes, representing the ten divisions of Rome. In Daniel chapter seven, the ten horns of the fourth beast represented the ten divisions of Rome. The ten horns of the first beast of Revelation thirteen also represent the ten divisions of Rome. This emphasizes the point that the first beast, the Papacy, would arise out of Rome.

### **The United States**

John sees another beast, another political power, but it arises out of the earth, signifying that it would arise out of the New World with its few inhabitants. See Revelation 13:11. When would this great nation arise? While John sees in vision the first beast, the Papacy, going into captivity in 1798 AD, he sees another beast rise up out of the earth. See Revelation 13:10-11. The United States is that beast-political power that arises out of the sparsely populated New World around 1798.

The United States is described as a beast with two horns like a lamb. See Revelation 13:11. A “lamb” is used in the Bible to describe Jesus. See Revelation 13:-8; John 1:36. Therefore this nation would have “Christ-like” features. It would be a professedly Christian nation.

Other nations have been described as ferocious beasts because of their intolerances both civilly and religiously. However, this lamb-like nation that occupies the New World offers both civil and religious tolerance. This is why it has **two** lamb-like horns.

However, in the end, this professedly Christian nation will speak as a dragon. Revelation 13:11. It did not say that it would look like a dragon. No. It will look like a professedly “Christian” nation; it will look like a “lamb.” But it will speak as a dragon by repudiating her two great principles of civil and religious liberty. She will trample upon liberty of conscience by legislating religious laws against the law of God.

This behavior is nothing new in Christianity. Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” Matthew 7:15. We have seen this intolerance in both the Papacy and certain Protestants. But the question we must ask, “Will Protestants in America pursue a course that will persecute others over the subject of religion? What exactly does the prophecy predict concerning America?”

### **The Worship of the Beast**

The Bible says, “And he [the United States] exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast [the Papacy], whose deadly wound was healed [when it comes back to political power].” Revelation 13:12.

The second beast power “causeth the earth... to worship the first beast [the Papacy].” The second beast does not merely refer to the government of the United States. It also refers to that religious element within the United States that is pressuring our own lawmakers to pass religious legislation concerning worship. This religious legislation leads the United States to form a religious allegiance to the Church of Rome. But who in America is clasping hands with the Vatican and also pressuring our lawmakers to pass religious legislation?

Ralph Reed, former executive director of the Christian Coalition, said:

“The future of American politics lies in the growing strength of Evangelicals and their Roman Catholic allies. If these two core constituencies, Evangelicals comprising the swing vote in the South, Catholics holding sway in the North, can cooperate on issues and support like-minded candidates, they can determine the outcome of almost any election in the nation.” Ralph Reed, *Politically Incorrect*, 16.

Melady, former ambassador to the Vatican, said, “And I believe that, just as the Evangelicals have become the base vote of the Republican party, Catholics are now today the swing vote in American politics. Any candidate who wins the Catholic vote will be able to govern America.... The Catholic vote holds the key to the future of America. And I believe that if they can unite, if Catholics can unite with the Evangelical Christians, the Protestants, who share their views on the sanctity of innocent human life, on the need for religious liberty and school choice and common sense values, I believe if Catholics and Evangelicals can unite there is no person who runs for office in any city or any state in America that can’t be elected and there is no bill that can’t be passed in either house of Congress or any state legislative chamber anywhere in America. It is the emerging force in the electorate today” G. Edward Reid, *Sundays Coming!*, 71.

The coalition between many Evangelical Protestants and the Church of Rome is gaining strength in American Politics. It is perhaps the strongest singular voting bloc today. It is my firm conviction that this coalition between Evangelicals and Catholics will bring pressure upon our lawmakers to pass religious legislation. But such religious legislation will not be confined to the shores of America. The Bible predicts

that the United States is able to “cause” the world to worship the first beast, the Papacy. How strong are the United States and the Papacy?

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Jim Hoagland wrote in the *Washington Post*, “America would now determine all major global events.” Clifford Goldstein, *Day of the Dragon*, 25.

Former President George Bush said in his State of the Union address, “It’s a big idea: a new world order, where diverse nations are drawn together in common cause... only the United States has both the moral standing and the means to back it up.” *Los Angeles Times*, February 18, 1991.

An article in TIME magazine called the United States the “world’s sole remaining superpower, no prospect in the immediate future of any power to rival the United States.” *TIME*, July 29, 1991, 13.

Melady, former ambassador to the Vatican, said, “I believe that the U.S., as the world’s only superpower, and the Holy See, as the only worldwide moral-political sovereignty, have significant roles to play in the future. Their actions will impact the lives of people in all parts of the globe.” G. Edward Reid, *Sundays Coming!*, 31.

Pope John Paul II “insists that men have no reliable hope of creating a viable geopolitical system unless it is on the basis of Roman Catholic Christianity” Malachi Martin, *The Keys of This Blood*, 492.

The two superpowers today are the United States and the Vatican. The United States is the greatest nation in human history, with a strong and diverse economy and superior military force. And Protestants in America not only possess political prowess in the United States, but they influence people all around the world.

The Vatican is the world’s most multi-racial and multi-cultural institution, claiming one-fifth of the world’s population as her adherents. The pope is the most popular international figure who controls a worldwide infrastructure of schools, universities, churches, hospitals, libraries, newspapers, magazines, publishing houses, and radio and television stations. He has a working force of half a million priests overseeing more than 200,000 parishes. The Vatican Bank, “with its team of international advisers who administered an extensive portfolio of the Holy Sec’s holdings and investments in virtually every sector of the world’s commercial and industrial activity,” makes the Papacy a major economic force in geopolitics today. Malachi Martin, *The Keys of This Blood*, 111.

### **The Image of the Beast**

The prophecy predicts that the United States will cause the world to worship the Papacy. But how? Will it be by political muscle alone? The Bible says: “And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that

dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” Revelation 13:13-14.

There are two things in these verses that capture our attention. First, the second beast, Protestant America, not only leads the world to “worship the first beast,” but it also leads the world to “make an image to the beast.”

Second, the world is deceived by the means of miracles to worship the first beast and to make an image to the beast. The apostle Paul forewarned us of this deception in the latter days, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of defile” 1 Timothy 4:1.

Tragically, many will be lead away from “the love of the truth” because of these seducing spirits and their lying wonders. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10. As a result men and women the world over will worship the beast and his image.

### **So what is the “image of the beast?”**

The “image of the beast” is an image to the first beast, the Papacy. It is an image or likeness to the Papacy when she ruled during those dark centuries. How did she rule?

When the Church of Rome became corrupted by departing from the simplicity and purity of the gospel, by accepting into her practices and teachings the beliefs and customs of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, she lost the Spirit and power of God. In order to gain control over the conscience 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 interests, especially in the punishment of those who believed differently.

When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon certain points of doctrine, pressure our lawmakers to enforce their beliefs and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image or likeness to the Papacy, and the infliction of punishment upon dissenters will inevitably result.

### **The Penalty for not Worshiping the Beast**

What is the penalty for those who do not worship the beast and his image. The Bible says, “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:15-17.

What a religious crisis! Those who do not worship the beast or his image, or receive the mark of the beast, cannot buy or sell, and eventually face a death decree. The “image of the beast,” the union of church and state, leads to religious laws and religious persecution.

### **The Mark of the Beast**

But what is meant by receiving the “mark of the beast”? First, the “mark of the beast” is the mark of the first beast, the Papacy. It is the “mark” of Papal authority. Second, the “mark of the beast” has to do with the “worship of the beast.” Therefore this mark of papal authority has to do with worship. Third, the “mark of the beast” has to do with the “image of the beast,” the union of church and state. Therefore, the receiving of the “mark of the beast” begins when the state passes religious legislation that forces people into a certain mode of worshipping God.

### **What does the Papacy declare to be the mark of her ecclesiastical power?**

“Sunday is our mark of authority... The Church is above the Bible, and this transference is proof of that fact.” *The Catholic Record*, London, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

Again she states:

“Of course, the Catholic church claims that the change [from Sabbath to Sunday] was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and religious without her, and the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.” *The Catholic Mirror*, September 23, 1893.

The Papacy is clear that the mark of her authority is Sunday. She considers this change as a mark of her ecclesiastical power.

### **Does this mark of papal authority have to do with worship?**

It does. Will Sunday worship create a bond of sympathy with the Church of Rome? It will. Does the “mark of the beast,” Sunday sacredness, lead to the uniting of church and state? It does. There could be no national Sunday law without the state supporting the institutions of the church.

Here is the challenge of Rome to Protestants:

“The Catholic church over 1000 years before the existence of a Protestant; by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday. . . Reason and common sense demand acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping of Sunday” *The Catholic Mirror*, December 23, 1893.

What makes the “mark of the beast,” the enforcement of Sunday laws, doubly dangerous? First, it strikes directly against freedom of conscience. Second, it is in direct opposition to the law of God. The day that God has set apart for worship is the seventh-day Sabbath. See Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11.

## **The Number of the Beast, 666**

Let us now conclude our study of Revelation chapter thirteen with the “number of the beast.” We are told that the first beast, the Papacy, has a mark, namely, Sunday worship. However, the Papacy also has an identifying number. We are told that the number 666 is the number of the beast, and the number of a man, and that it is the number of his name. See Revelation 13:17-18.

The letters in the alphabet of these ancient languages also had numerical value. The ones we are most familiar with are the Latin letters. For example, the numerical value of I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100.

We know that the number 666 is the number of a man, the pope, who is the head of the entire papal system. In Latin, the official name and office of the pope adds up to 666. In English it means “Vicar of the Son of God.”

V	I	C	A	R	I	U	S		F	I	L	I		D	E	I	
5	1	100	0	0	1	5	0		0	1	50	1	1	500	0	1	= 666

Catholic sources agree that the pope’s title adds up to 666. “The title of the Pope of Rome is Vicarius Filii Dei, and if you take the letters of his title which represent Latin numerals (printed large) and add them together, they come to 666.” Our Sunday Visitor, November 15, 1914.

## **Another Amazing Fulfillment of Prophecy**

Just think for a moment what this prophecy predicted nearly 2,000 years in advance. The Book of Revelation was written around 100 AD, and it has been foretelling events that have occurred throughout the Christian era leading up to our day. For example, it predicted the rise of the Church of Rome to political power. It concurred with the prophecy of Daniel that the Papacy would not only rule politically for exactly 1,260 years, but that it will rise back to political power in these last days. It predicted the enforcement of the “mark of the beast,” Sunday legislation. It predicted the rise of the world’s super-power from a sparsely populated New World. It predicted that this great nation, the United States, would form its basis of government on civil and religious liberty. It predicted that this great nation would repudiate these two great principles of freedom. The result will be religious intolerance and persecution.

Imagine that, the Bible predicted that the two superpowers in the end of time would be the Papacy and a great nation arising not from Europe with its teeming multitudes, but from a distant land.

We do not have a national Sunday law yet, but they are promoting it as one solution to solve the world’s problems with immorality, crime, drugs, and worldliness. In fact, it is being promoted in relation to global warming, workers’ rights, and family time.

We will now consider our final prophetic outline in Revelation chapter seventeen, which brings the United Nations into the prophetic picture.

## Revelation Chapter Seventeen: The United Nations in Bible Prophecy

This fourth and final prophetic picture found in Revelation chapter seventeen, does two main things. First, it will show us the judgment of the harlot church. And second, it brings the United Nations into the prophetic picture. So let us begin by asking some simple questions to unlock its meaning.

### What does John see?

John sees a harlot sitting on many waters. See Revelation 17:1. In Bible prophecy a “woman” represents a church. If she is a pure woman, then she represents God’s true church. See Revelation 12:1, 2, 6, 14, 17. If she is described like a harlot, then she represents an apostate church.

However, this harlot is also a “mother.” Revelation 17:5. In other words, she is the main apostate church, but she has daughters which have also apostatized from the truth.

### This harlot represents an apostate church and what else?

The Bible says that this harlot church also represents a “great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” Revelation 17:18. If we can identify the city, we can identify the harlot church, and vice versa.

### What are the three things that she is sitting on?

This harlot church is described as sitting upon seven mountains (verse 9), upon a scarlet beast (verse 3), and upon many waters (verse 1). This harlot church is that “great city” that sits on “seven mountains.”

The city famous for sitting on seven mountains is Rome. As we have seen throughout these prophecies, the Papacy ruled from the great city of Rome over the kings of the earth during the Dark Ages. According to Revelation chapter thirteen, she will again have governance in our world.

This harlot church also sits upon a scarlet-colored beast. A beast in Bible prophecy represents political power. See Daniel 7:17. This prophecy is concurring with Revelation chapter thirteen that the Papacy will regain her lost ascendancy and come back to political power.

She also sits on many waters. In Bible prophecy, “waters” represent “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Revelation 17:15. In Revelation thirteen, this situation was described as the whole world wondering after the first beast, the Papacy. See Revelation 13:3, 8. Here she is riding upon a sea of peoples and nations.

In summary, the harlot sits on seven mountains, representing her location in Rome. She sits on a beast, representing her rise as a political force. And she sits on many waters, representing the support of the multitudes of the earth.

### The seven heads represent seven mountains upon which the woman sits, and what else?

The seven heads also represent seven kings. “And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.” Revelation 17:10-11.

The seven heads are seven kings or kingdoms. We saw in Revelation thirteen that these kingdoms referred to the seven world powers beginning with Babylon. These are from first to last: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, the Papacy, the United States, and the United Nations.

### **Which are the five kingdoms that have fallen?**

These kingdoms fell in the order that they consecutively reigned. John saw this vision when Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Papacy had already fallen. Therefore, John must have been taken forward in time, to the “time of the end,” when the Papacy fell in 1798 AD. How do we know that?

First, when John saw the vision, the harlot church was already “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” Verse 6. Of course, the Papacy was not drunken with the blood of the saints in the first century, but between the years of 538 AD to 1798 AD. Second, we know that the scarlet-colored beast represents the political power of the Papacy. John saw the vision when the beast “was” [Past tense: John saw the vision when the Papacy had already exercised political power from 538 AD to 1798 AD], “and is not” [Present tense: John is taken forward in time when the Papacy lost her political power in 1798], “yet is” [Future tense: John is looking forward in time when the Papacy shall regain her political power in these last days]. Therefore, John saw this vision when five of these kingdoms had already fallen, namely, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Papacy.

### **The sixth kingdom is the United States.**

The next major political power described in Bible prophecy that follows the reign of the Papacy is the United States. For example, in Revelation chapter thirteen, John saw a second beast arise from the earth while the first beast was taken “into captivity” and received its deadly wound. See Revelation 13:3, 10. While Napoleon’s general captured the pope and placed him in captivity in 1798 AD, John saw America rise to prominence. Therefore, he says, “five are fallen” (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Papacy), “one is” (the United States), “and the other has not yet come”

Again, it is evident that John was not seeing this vision in his day. He was taken forward in time to the year 1798 AD, when the Papacy fell. John saw this vision when the Papacy was already “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” Revelation 17:6.

As we will, the seventh head is the United Nations that did not exist when John saw the vision, for the prophecy says that “the other [the seventh head] has not yet come [to political power].”

### **The Eighth Head**

The “eighth” king is that beast power “that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is [one] of the seven, and goeth into perdition.” Verse 11. The Papacy, which is one of the seven, is that first beast of Revelation thirteen which received a deadly wound that was healed. The eighth king is the Papacy “that was” a beast political power (ruling both civilly and religiously from 538 to 1798), “and is not” a beast political power (when she received the deadly wound when America was rising to prominence), and “even he is the eighth” (when the deadly wound is healed and the Papacy becomes a political power again).

Many students of the Bible have often noted that the number eight represents something that has gone from old to new or something that has been resurrected. For example, there were eight people on Noah’s ark that brought them from the old world into a new world. Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week or the eighth day, the day after the seventh. This old world will be recreated into a New Earth when the eighth millennium begins. See Revelation 20; 21. Therefore, the eighth head must be a resurrected kingdom—a power that once was, but has been revived to control again. The Papacy is the only one of the seven kingdoms that fits that description. The Papacy “was” a political power. She experienced her “is not” state after 1798. She will rule again in the imminent New World Order of Church and State.

### **What do the ten horns represent?**

“And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings for one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Revelation 17:12—13.

These ten kings “who have received no kingdom as yet,” represent the seventh head which “has not yet come.” Notice that they are ten kings or ten political powers that presently do not have a kingdom. They are not ten kings that have ten kingdoms. They are ten kings that have “no kingdom as yet.” However, when they have power with the beast, the political arm of the Papacy, they will have a kingdom—the New World Order of Church and State. Rome will be the primary capitol. The pope will reign supreme when the Sunday laws are made universal.

These ten kings represent the world through the United Nations. They will give their allegiance to the Papacy. They will be supportive of Sunday laws throughout the world.

### **But why is the United Nations described as ten kings?**

The United Nations has divided the world up into ten economic and political regions. The United States, Canada, and Mexico are in region one.

Through the mechanism of the United Nations the United States is able to cause the whole world to worship the first beast, the Papacy. The National Sunday Law in America will be followed by a Universal Sunday Law that will be enforced by all the nations.

### **The Seventh Head and the Ten Horns**

Notice that the seventh head, the United Nations, has the same description as the ten kings. When John saw the vision in 1798, the seventh head had “not yet come,” and the ten kings had “no kingdom as yet.” This means that the seventh head and the ten kings would arise after 1798. The United Nations was established in 1949.

We are told that the seventh head would “continue for a short space,” and that the ten kings would rule for “one hour.”

And according to prophetic symbols, both “heads” and “horns” represent political powers. Therefore, the seventh head, which is a political power that rules for a short time, is the same as the ten horns or ten kings that rules for one hour. It is very clear that the seventh head and the ten kings represent the same political power, namely, the United Nations.

### **Will this union of the nations with the Papacy bring persecution to the people of God?**

“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” Revelation 17:6, 14

As the blood of the saints was shed of old, persecution will be rekindled. This should not surprise us for Jesus said, “They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.” John 16:2.

But notice how it ends, the Lamb shall overcome them. The saints throughout ages shall receive eternal life. Therefore, let us remain steadfast in the truth and continue to abide in Christ.

It will look like the Papacy and her supporters will win, but in taking over the world they lose. By rejecting the truth and persecuting God’s commandment keeping people they will receive the wrath of God.

### **The Pope’s Visit to the US in 2015**

As we consider what we just studied in the prophecies, what did we see take place in the recent 2015 papal visit? We saw the three major powers of the New World Order come together. The Bible says, “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” Revelation 16:13-16

The “dragon” which represents spiritualism, well represents the United Nations with its New Age religion. The “beast” represents the Papacy. The “false prophet” represents that apostate religious element in America that will pressure our lawmakers to form an image to the beast.

So in this papal visit we saw the pope (the representative of the beast power) go to the White House and the United States Congress (where the political power resides for the false prophet). And we saw the pope visit the United Nations (the New Age/Political organization that represents the voice of the nations).

These three end-time superpowers are all speaking about climate change and the need to bring legislation to bear upon all nations. The pope has tied the healing of our environment to Sunday legislation. Soon we will hear the dragon and the false prophet make the same assessment.

Watch the steady trend of events as these three end-time superpowers (the dragon, beast, and false prophet) speak about the same issues, sign agreements for change, and begin to bring Sunday into the discussion. Time is short brethren. The dragon, beast, and the false prophet are now working together. It is only a matter of time that they will enforce the Sunday laws as predicted in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.