

The USA in Prophecy



The following notes contain some of the material presented in the series "Is God for Real?"

As we have seen so far in this series many nations have been featured in the Bible in regard to their impact on God's people, the message God has given them and their mission to the world. In Revelation chapter 13 we find two beasts described which represents two influential powers at the end of time. God has revealed this information in the Bible in order that we understand the issues of the end time and how we can best prepare to stand for God in a time of spiritual confusion.

In our last study of Daniel chapter 7, we identified the Little Horn antichrist power, as the Roman Papal power. A careful comparison of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13:1-10 will reveal that the same power is being described in these two chapters in the symbols of the Little Horn and the Beast. As we have seen previously a beast in Bible prophecy represents a kingdom, a nation or a political power. In Revelation 13:3 we notice that this power would receive a deadly wound, and that the wound would be healed. Furthermore, the Bible says that all the world would follow the beast. Think about it, does the Roman Papal power have a global influence today? In Revelation 13:8 we are told that 'all who dwell on the earth will worship him.' Evidently this state will become even more powerful as we approach the end of time.

This power had taken many captives through the centuries and so it too would be taken captive, Revelation 13:10, thus receiving the deadly wound of verse 3. This took place in 1798 when Napoleon's general Berthier took the Pope prisoner. The Pope would later die in prison. The next verse, Revelation 13:11, describes another beast coming up at this time. Who is this second Beast power of Revelation 13? First of all, this power comes up just as the first beast is going down into captivity. So, we must look for the rise of this power around 1798. This beast goes on to influence the whole world, so it has to be a significant global power. For more than a century and a half this power has been identified as the United States of America. Between 1776 and 1789 the US emerged as an independent nation, so it fits the time frame of the prophecy. In addition, today the United States leads the world politically, militarily, financially and culturally exporting its culture around the world through Television, Hollywood, Fast Food, Fashion and the Internet.

Revelation 13:11 tells us that this second beast has certain characteristics that help us to identify it. The Lamb represents Christ whilst the dragon represents Satan. This nation would begin lamb like but would ultimately speak like a dragon. The two horns represent the source of its power, civil and religious liberty. Many migrants fled to the New World seeking religious and political freedom. They wanted a country without a king and a church without a Pope.

Revelation 13:12 says that this second beast causes the earth to worship the first beast.

Here we see that this power must have global influence because it 'causes the earth and those who dwell in it' to do something. Over the past century the growth in the power and influence of both the papacy and the United States has been dramatic. Significantly, they have also been growing closer together as well.

When the Christian church began in Acts 2:1-4 the Holy Spirit fell upon believers as fire from heaven, and they spoke with new tongues to communicate the gospel in languages that the hearers understood. At the end of time revelation 13:13 indicates that this gift will be a counterfeited, and this movement will begin in America. Has it happened? The modern charismatic movement with its

emphasis on the gift of tongues began in the US at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1967 the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was born, also in the US, and this common emphasis has drawn many evangelicals and Catholics together in recent years. The current pope, Francis I, is also a strong supporter of this movement.

The Bible says that this second beast will make an image to the first beast, Revelation 13:14. Just as the first beast used its political power to achieve its religious agenda, so the second beast will do the same. Ultimately persecution will result for those who refuse to worship the image of the beast, Revelation 13:15, as the protections we currently enjoy will be removed. This may seem hard to believe now, but as we have seen, during a time of crisis things can change rapidly. There is a parallel here in Revelation 13:14-15 to Daniel 3 where people were called to worship the image of Babylon or face the death penalty. God delivered His faithful people then, and at the end, He will deliver them again.

Before the death penalty is threatened, economic sanctions will also be enforced to persuade people to comply with the religiously motivated political agenda, Rev 13:16-17.

Revelation 13 is about who we worship. Notice the contrast below:

Ten Commandments

1. No other Gods
2. Don't worship Images
3. Don't take God's name in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath

Revelation 13

- Worship the Beast v 4
- Worship the Image v 15
- Speaks Blaspheme v 6
- Mark of the Beast v 17

God issues an urgent warning against worshipping the beast and its image in the last days, Revelation 14:9-10. This is the strongest warning in all the Bible indicating the seriousness of the times. The greater the danger, the stronger the warning. The confederacy of political and religious forces at the end of time is called Babylon in Revelation 17:5. Babylon means spiritual confusion. In verses 12 and 13 of that chapter the Bible says that the kings of the earth unite with the beast for one hour at the end of time. They make war with the Lamb, v15, but are ultimately defeated. God issues an urgent call to His people to leave Babylon, (Revelation 18:1-4), which has become corrupt and is seeking to force people to worship its man-made system. The ultimate architect of all this is Satan himself, and it is really him they are worshipping, (Rev 13:4).

Revelation 15:2-3 pictures a scene where God's people are with Him on the sea of glass in heaven. They have gotten victory over the beast, his image and the mark of the beast. They sing praise to God who has delivered them. This is reminiscent of the celebration of God's people when they had left Egypt under Moses having been delivered by the blood of the Passover lamb.

At the end of time there will be a time of trouble and we see the beginnings of it in the world already. But God will deliver His people as He has done in the past. We must make a choice between yielding to the popular religious influences of the two-beast powers, or willingly follow Jesus and obey the God of heaven. Following Jesus will not be popular, but we will have peace of mind when the trouble of the final days arrives, John 16:33.

Jesus chose to deliver us at great cost to Himself. Will you choose to obey Jesus no matter the cost?

If you would like to know more about this subject, or others in the series, 'Is God for Real?' then please contact one of our staff and they will be happy to help you.