

PURPOSE OF STUDY: To discover America's role in earth's final conflict, and to determine how to be sure to take our stand on God's side.

TEXTS:

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| 1. REV 13:1, 11 | 6. REV 19:20 w/13:12 (1KI 18:21-4, 38-9) |
| 2. REV 13:3, 10 | 7. REV 13:15-17 |
| 3. REV 13:12 | 8. AC 5:29 (DA 6:20-22) |
| 4. REV 13:14 | 9. HEB 13:5-6 (PS 46:1) |
| 5. REV 13:13-14 (MT 24:24) | 10. REV 15:2-3 |

THE STUDY:

1. What two beasts does John see in Revelation 13, and where do they arise from? REV 13:1, 11

The first beast come up out of the sea, and has seven heads and ten horns. The second beast comes up out of the earth, having two horns and a lamb-like appearance, but he speaks like a dragon. We understand from our previous studies that a beast represents an earthly kingdom or power. We have also identified the first beast as Roman Catholicism. The first beast comes up out of the sea, or a populated area (Rev. 17:15), as a result of conquest. The second beast rises up out of the earth, or a relatively remote area. Furthermore, the first beast has crowns on his horns, while the second beast has none. This means there would be no kingly power – no monarchy – in the second beast.

2. When does this lamb-like beast come to power? REV 13:3, 10

At the same time the first beast receives its "deadly wound." The Papacy received its death blow in 1798 A.D., when General Berthier captured Pope Pius VI and broke the temporal power of the church. It was at this time that the two-horned beast is seen "coming up out of the earth." The NT Greek uses a word to describe how plants grow out of the ground, while "lamb-like" indicates a young nation. This beast

- *grows from a very small beginning to worldwide power and influence (as we shall see)*
- *is just beginning to grow up as the first beast receives its "deadly" wound in 1798*
- *grows out of a remote area where no nation existed before it*
- *has a republic form of government rather than a monarchical form of government*

*This is a clear representation of the rise of the **United States of America**. Describing the growth of this country, G. A. Townsend wrote*

"The mystery of her coming forth from vacancy... Like a silent seed we grew into an empire." – The New World Compared With the Old, p. 635.

3. What is the main agenda of these two beasts? REV 13:12

The central issue in the final conflict is worship. America, exercising the authority of Papal Rome, will enforce the worship of the teachings of Papal Rome.

4. What does the Bible predict that this country will do? REV 13:14

It will seek to make an image to the first beast – Papal Rome. The essence of Rome was its church-state union. The founding fathers of America built our Declaration, Constitution and Bill of Rights on a separation of church and state, which is represented by the two crownless horns. However, America will repudiate the principles of its own Constitution by uniting church and state in our country for the common good of humanity. Religious liberty will soon be followed by religious oppression.

5. What will the religious leaders in Protestant America do in the sight of Papal Rome to convince the people to go forward with the forming of the image? REV 13:13-14 (MT 24:24)

They will work false miracles to deceive the masses. The only foundation that many professed Christians have for their faith is what they can see and feel. Such individuals who have failed to make the Word of God their guide will be swept away with the deceptions of the last days.

6. What other name does John give to this two-horned beast? REV 19:20 w/13:12 (1KI 18:21-4, 38-9)

The False Prophet. Just as a true prophet acts as a mouthpiece for God, so Protestant America will act as a mouthpiece for Papal Rome. Just as true prophets of God worked true miracles to give credibility to God's truth (1 Ki. 18:21-24, 38-9), so the religious leaders of Protestant America will work false miracles to give credibility to the lie.

7. When the Image to the Beast is formed, what events will take place? REV 13:15-17

a. *"Breath" will be given to the image. In other words, civil authority will be given to the religious bodies, bringing to "life" the new church-state union and enabling them to "speak." A nation speaks through its legislative bodies; so the churches will be given the ability to enact religious laws and enforce religious observances (v. 15). This will culminate in a law to honor the false Sabbath – Sunday – the "mark" of the authority of the Church of Rome.*

b. *Economic pressures will be brought to bear upon those who refuse to comply with the laws of this new world order (v. 17).*

c. *Finally, a death decree will be imposed to ensure compliance of all those who refuse to worship Papal Rome through this new church-state union (v. 15).*

8. What must be the attitude of God's people in this final crisis? AC 5:29 (DA 6:20-22)

While the Bible commands us to show proper respect and obedience to our government (Ro. 13:1-4), when the laws of the government conflict with the Law of God, we must obey God rather than men. When Daniel obeyed the Law of God instead of the law of the Medes and Persians, he declared that he had done "no wrong" to God or the king (Da. 6:20-22).

9. How will God's people make it through the final crisis? HEB 13:5-6 (PS 46:1)

Jesus has promised that He will never leave or forsake us. God is always a present help in our trouble.

10. How does Revelation describe those who have gained the victory over the Beast and his Image? REV 15:2-3

Through the power of Jesus Christ you can remain loyal through these last days. John saw in vision the triumphal celebration given in heaven for those who had been victorious over the beast and his image.

APPEAL:

The final conflict will revolve around worship. The contest will be between the Law of God and the laws of men. God is seeking those who will be faithful to Him in the crisis ahead. He has given us a glimpse of the final outcome, and the celebration of the reward of His saints. Don't you want to be a part of that great celebration?