

When Religious Persecution Returns

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When The Lamb Becomes A Dragon

The Ominous Future of America

An Exposition of Revelation 13:11-18

In the thirteenth chapter of Revelation , two beasts are brought to view. These represent two kingdoms. The first beast, we have previously shown, represents the Papacy. (1) Verses 1-3 describe its rise and appearance, its deadly wound, the healing of the wound, and finally its restoration to world power.

Verses 11-17 tell how Rome's power would be restored. Another beast or kingdom rises and compels the world to worship or obey the first beast, (the papacy). Verses 13-14 tells how the second beast will accomplish this. Miracles will be performed which seduce the people, and persuade them to form an image to the beast. What is the reason for the image? Why form an image to bring about the restoration of the Papacy? Undoubtedly there are many people in the world who could never be persuaded to accept Roman Catholicism as such. There are many non-Catholics who, while not bigoted, could never accept the Pope or priests, the mass, Mary, or the concept of purgatory etc. In order, therefore, to capture their support, deception will be employed, another organization will be formed; not a Catholic organization but a replica of the Papacy which will be supportive of Papal policy. In this way the non-Catholic groups will be led into submission to the Papacy.

There are very clear identification marks associated with the second beast and by these we can be sure as to who the power is.

1. It rises to power when the Papacy receives a deadly wound.

“He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity. He that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword, and I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth.” Revelation 13:10-11, 13.

Verse 10 is a repetition, or explanation of verse 3. (2)

“I saw one of his heads as it were, wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed.”

The Papacy received its deadly wound in 1798.

2. This power rises out of the earth, an area that is the opposite to the sea, from which the first beast arises. (Verse 1)

Sea, or waters, represent a thickly populated area of the world. (Revelation 17:15) This means that the second beast rises out of a sparsely populated region of the world.

3. It rises silently like a plant growing out of the earth. This is the significance of the Greek word, “coming up”.

4. It is lamb-like. This means that it is youthful, innocent, harmless and gentle, in its appearance.

5. It has two symbols of power that are lamb-like or Christ-like.

6. It ultimately possesses world-wide influence.
7. After the healing of the fatal wound, it enforces Papal policy.
8. It promotes the formation of “the image to the beast”.
9. It enforces obedience to “the image of the beast”.
10. The form of enforcement is characterized by a particular mark, “the mark of the beast”.

The only power that fulfills these ten points is the United States of America.

1. The time of its rise. It is informative to notice the conclusion of the great Methodist John Wesley regarding this prediction. When he wrote his New Testament Notes, in 1754, he applied the first beast to the Papacy. He declared,

“Another beast, but he is not yet come, though he cannot be far off, for he is to appear at the end of the forty-two months of the first beast [that is 1798] and he had two horns like a lamb. A mild, innocent appearance.” (3)

In 1754 Wesley understood that this power had not yet risen, but in 1798, a few decades after Wesley wrote his notes, the U.S.A. was emerging as an independent nation. On July 4, 1776 her Declaration of Independence had been made, ratified by eleven of the thirteen states with a population of 4 million people and scattered over a territory of one million square miles. At the time appointed in prophecy, the U.S.A. rose to power.

2. Its location. It was to rise “out of the earth” in contrast to the sea, i.e., in a sparsely populated area. North America contained about one million Indians occupying about three million square miles (approximately 6 square miles per family). A sparsely populated area.

3. The manner of the rise of this power. The Greek word is “anabainon” which means “coming up”, “to grow up peacefully like a plant”. It was not to rise by military conquest, as did most of the European and other nations. No other nation was overturned in order to make room for the U.S.A. It rose through peaceful migration. It grew as a result of the development of its natural resources. Historians are very clear in regard to this. George Alfred Townsend declared, “Like a silent seed we grew into empire.” (4)

This is exactly what the prophecy indicated. Another writer wrote, “The United States is a wonderful empire which was emerging amid the silence of the earth, daily adding to its power and pride.” (5)

Another wrote, “Behold the mighty regions over which, in peaceful conquest - ‘Victoria sine clade’, [victory without strife] - they have borne the banners of the cross.” (6)

A French writer in his study of the founding America declared, “In that land the great experiment was to be made, by civilized man, of the attempt to construct society on a new basis; and it was there, for the first time, that theories hitherto unknown or deemed impracticable, were to exhibit a spectacle for which the world had not been prepared by the history of the past.” (7)

4. It had lamb-like horns, that is, not fully grown, denoting youthfulness. It was to be a young nation, gentle and innocent, like a lamb. What an accurate description of the founding fathers of the U.S.A. in regard to their form of government. According to Deuteronomy 33:17, horns in scripture denote power. It says “horns like a lamb” indicating that the power would be lamb-like or Christ-like. The term “lamb” is mentioned 29 times in Revelation and generally it represents Jesus Christ. What Christ-like power, or principles of power, are laid down in scripture regarding the governing of man? In the New Testament

Jesus Christ presents at least two remarkable principles.

The first one is the separation of Church and State.

“Render to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar, and render to God, the things that belong to God.” (8)

This means to keep Caesar and Christ separate. Keep Church and State apart. Do not give to Caesar the things that belong to God, nor to God the things that belong to Caesar. Keep politics out of religion. This is the great principle of the separation of Church and State.

The second great principle is that of religious liberty. Jesus declared,

“If any man hear my words and believe not, I judge him not. For I came, not to judge the world but to save the world.” (9)

We are not to judge our fellow men in regard to conscience, or religion. On earth Jesus Christ did not set himself up as Judge. God does not judge men now. The judgment is future. “Judge not that ye be not judged.” These two important principles were laid down in the U.S.A. constitution.

Article IV: “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government.”

Article VI: “No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.”

This was a remarkable achievement. Never before had this been accomplished in history. It was a marvelous advance in the civilization of man. How important it is for man to realize the significance of this fact so that he may be continually alert to safeguard his religious and civil liberty. It was the nonexistence of these principles through history that brought about so much suffering and the shedding of so much blood. Over the last five thousand years, how seldom has man learned the lesson of religious liberty? What a revelation of the intolerance and arrogance of man. In it we see the out workings of the principles of the “prince of this world”. It is a sad testimony to the sinful nature of man.

Through history only a few minor groups, or individuals have understood the necessity of religious liberty. Among them were the Evangelical Anabaptists who were sorely persecuted by their fellow men at the time of the Protestant Reformation. (20) William of Orange, called “William the Silent” (1533-1584), stood out a century before his time. He was a lover and upholder of religious liberty. (11)

Some German Protestant princes about the same period also stood for religious liberty. Among them was Phillip of Hess, known as “Phillip the Magnanimous”. (12) There were the English Baptists who in 1612 formed themselves into a religious body. They were the first church to set out a declaration of faith that embodied religious liberty.

“This is the first known expression of absolute liberty of conscience in any profession of faith. It was from their little dingy meeting house. That there flashed out first in England, the absolute doctrine of religious liberty.” (13)

It is amazing that it took so long for men to learn the lesson that this principle is essential for the happiness and well-being of man. After the English Baptists, came Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) who also was a great advocate of religious liberty. He hated the persecution of people because of their religious opinions. (14) Later came Roger Williams, a friend of Cromwell, Milton, and other Puritans. He founded Rhode Island Province, “upon the basis of complete religious toleration... a shelter for persons distressed for conscience.” He was baptized by the Ana-baptists and formed the first Baptist church in America. “He was uniformly tolerant and he occupies a high place for complete liberty of conscience. He was the first and foremost exponent in America of the theory of absolute freedom of the individual in matters of religion. Rhode Island was the first colony consistently to apply this principle in practice.” (15)

The U.S.A. was the first nation to legislate religious freedom, to have a church without a pope, and a state without a king. The timing of the rise of the U.S.A. was very providential. It is recognized that had the U.S.A. been founded at a different period in history the above two vital principles may never have been included in the Constitution. Historians are very clear that it was providential regarding the time when the U.S.A. was formed. (16) There were three main countries from which the refugees had come to establish their government. They came from Britain, Holland and Germany. In these countries, these people had passed through extreme periods of persecution and intolerance from Church and State. They had learned through bitter experience, the need for religious and political tolerance. This cemented their resolve to have a church without a pope, and a state without a king. Undoubtedly the hand of God was present. Divine prophecy had foretold that “the earth” would help the “woman” [God’s true church] “and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood [of persecution] which the dragon cast out of his mouth.” (Revelation 12:16)

Scholars are convinced that America in a great degree fulfilled this prediction, for she opened her arms and her vast empty territories, “the wilderness” became a refuge for the oppressed of Europe. Historians have declared this in no uncertain terms. (17) A nation after a new order was established in the U.S.A. The founding fathers of America in forming their constitution, adopted as their motto on the great seal of their government the words, “Novus Ordo Seclorum”, which means, “A new order of the Ages”. The establishment of a government upon such principles had a profound effect upon many other parts of the world. George Townsend said,

“Since America was discovered she has been a subject of revolutionary thought in Europe. Out of her discovery grew the European reformation in religion; out of our revolutionary war, grew the revolutionary period of Europe.” (18)

6. It would be a non-Catholic power. The principles mentioned above are anti-Catholic. They are opposed to Catholic principles. They are contrary to the published principles and policies of the church of Rome. (19) They are basic Biblical, or Protestant, principles. Therefore this lamb-like power would be a non-Catholic power. From inception, the U.S.A. has been a strong Protestant country.

Time has confirmed the interpretation of this prediction by Seventh-Day Adventists. Since the 1840’s, Seventh-Day Adventists have consistently taught that the two horned beast of Revelation 13:11-17 is the U.S.A. For over one hundred and forty years they have had no cause to alter one detail of their interpretation. In the past, some people have been skeptical of the Adventist interpretation of this prediction but today the facts are indisputable. America has fulfilled, is fulfilling, and will fulfill the remaining points of this prediction.

7. America is to enforce Catholic policy in the world.

“He exercises all the power of the first beast before him and causes the earth... to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed.” Verse 12

This signifies, that in the U.S.A., several major changes would take place, firstly the U.S.A. would change its attitude to the Roman Catholic Church. Instead of being anti-Catholic it would become pro Catholic in its outlook. Secondly, it would change its constitution so that church and state would no longer be separate. Religious liberty would disappear and religious oppression would be legalized. This reveals an ominous future for America.

It is very significant, that at least 100 years ago, the Church of Rome planned the conquest of the U.S.A. In 1890 at the Centennial conference of Catholics in Baltimore, Archbishop Ireland made this statement, “Catholics of the U.S.A. are called to make America Catholic. Catholic truth will travel on the wings of American influence and with it encircle the universe.” (19a)

Again in 1894,

“The U.S.A., it can be said without exaggeration, are the chief thought of Leo XIII, a few days ago, an receiving an eminent American, Leo XIII said, ‘The United States of America are the future, we think of

them incessantly.' That is why Leo XIII turns all his soul, full of ideality, to what is improperly called his American policy. It should be called his Catholic universal policy." (20)

Thirdly, in 1909, a report of the third Washington conference of Roman Catholics, stated, "Our purpose is to make America dominantly Catholic." (21) Notice this statement made in 1910,

"It seems to me that the main support of Protestantism comes from the U.S.A, and England. If we put an end to this effort in the U.S.A. and England, by making these nations predominantly Catholic, we will have removed the chief obstacle to the conversion of the world to the true faith. A vigorous effort in the United States at this time, will reduce the opposition to an insignificant condition. In the course of another century the [Protestant] sects will be a study for the historian and antiquarian, along with Arianism." (22)

About fifty years ago Catholic Action was established. It focused on America in particular, not in an antagonistic way, but in a quiet, wisely-planned way, in order to gain favor for Catholics among Protestants. How remarkably successful it has been. Dr. E. Boyd Barrett, for many years a Jesuit, made the following statement in 1935 in regard to the plans of the Roman Catholic Church.

"In theory, Catholic action is the work and service of lay Catholics in the cause of religion, under the guidance of the bishops. In practice it is the Catholic group fighting their way to control America."

"The effort, the fight, may be drawn out. It may last for five or ten years. Even if it lasts for twenty - what is twenty years in the life of Rome? The fight must be fought to a finish - opposition must be worn down, if it cannot be swept away. Rome's immortal destiny hangs on the outcome. That destiny overshadows the land."

"And in the fight, as she has ever fought when battles were most desperate in the past, Rome will use steel and gold and silvery lies. Rome will stoop to conquer." (23)

What an admission, but how true! A communication from Vatican city, published in the St. Paul Pioneer Press of November 1936, stated,

"Pope Pius feels that the United States is the ideal base for Catholicism's great drive. The Catholic movement, Rome's militant organization numbering millions all over the world, will be marshaled direct from Rome, by Monsignor Pizzardo - next to Pacelli the Holy See's shrewdest diplomat and politician." (24)

This gives a glimpse of the tremendous organization and effort that the Catholic church, the Papacy, has been making over the last 100 years in order to capture America. According to investigators, Rome, in her plans, planned to take five steps to capture the United States. These five steps are:

1. To Catholicize school textbooks of the public schools.
2. To revise the books of reference.
3. To muzzle or control the public press or media.
4. To capture or control the public libraries.
5. To censor books that are not friendly to the Roman Catholic Church.

Notice the statement by a French cardinal, Alfred Baudrillart when he was Director of the Catholic Institute of Paris. He was a very scholarly man. After giving a frank statement about the many persecutions of which the Catholic church is guilty, he says in the words of Monsignor d'Hulst:

"Indeed, even among our friends and our brothers we find those who dare not look this problem in the face." [i.e. the problem of Rome's dark and awful past.] "They ask permission from the church to ignore or even to deny all those acts and institutions in the past, which have made orthodoxy [Catholicism] compulsory" (25)

This is a frank Roman Catholic admission that Catholics have sought permission and obtained it, to deny and ignore the facts of history in order to whitewash the church of Rome. Senator Thomas E. Watson declared in 1928, before the United States Senate:

“In the public schools the Catholics have stealthily introduced textbooks written by Jesuits; and your children are being taught that the Roman church was misunderstood in the past; that its doctrines are not fatal to humanity and gospel religion; that its record is not saturated with the blood of innocent millions, murdered by Papal persecutors, and that there never was such a monstrosity as the alleged sale of papal pardons of sins.”

“Educate youth in this Catholic way, and the consequences are logical.” (26)

This reveals the fulfillment of the five steps needed to capture the United States. How successful the church of Rome has been. Notice the statement by Harold Laski in 1947. He was a prominent member of the British government of that time. He was a professor and an author, and he lived for some years in America, as a member of the faculty of Harvard University. He contributed a series of articles on world conditions to an American journal. Amongst the dominant forces operating in the U.S.A., in particular, forces tending towards reactionism, he lists Roman Catholicism. What he says is both calm and convincing and the more convincing because it is calm:

“I add with both hesitation and regret, my feeling that a good deal of what is most reactionary in the political and social life of America today, is directly traceable to the Influence of a militant Roman Catholic church, which is as much the expression of the purposes of a foreign power as any Influence exerted by the Communist Party. No other body has devoted itself so consistently, to poisoning the relations between the U.S.A. and Russia. It protects child labor, it is building from infant school to University, its own educational emperium in emperio. It has immense influence over the movie industry, not least where film of a political complexion are concerned. It plays a major part in the repression of freedom of speech. It is attempting with subtlety and skill to establish a concealed control of trade unions in cities where there is a large Catholic population. I doubt whether there are three Americans today whose authority direct and indirect counts for more than that of the Cardinal- Archbishop of New York.”

“And to this must be added the curious and significant fact that the members of the Roman Catholic church seem able, like their co-religionists in Great Britain, to obtain pivotal posts in the foreign service, exercising a power of infiltration which must make members of the Communist party feel that they are infants at the game.”

“Anyone who measures Roman Catholic strength in the United States today with what it was a generation ago cannot fail to be impressed by its growth, as well as perturbed by its direction. Spain apart, I doubt whether there is any country in the world today in which its authority is greater than in America.” (27)

How successful has Roman Catholic policy been over the last one hundred years, in the United States? Today Americans look upon the Catholic Church with great favor. She is accepted as a Christian church whereas the truth is that it is not a Christian church, but there are many Christians within the Catholic church. It is the largest single church in the U.S.A. today. The largest group of congressmen are Roman Catholics. The financial income of the Vatican, from the U.S.A., outstrips the income from all other nations of the world combined.

Recently when an American ambassador was appointed to the Vatican, it was done with hardly a murmur from the people of the U.S.A. Americans have been thoroughly blinded to the character and aims of the Papacy. Notice this admission recently written in a letter by Father Patrick Henry O’Brien to the Reverend A. Dominica, former Catholic of Philadelphia. This may reveal the thought of the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

“We, the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic church expect all loyal children of the church to assist the president [of the U.S.A.] with all our strength to see the individuals comprising the U.S.A. Supreme court shall obey the President’s injunctions. And if necessary, we shall change, mend or blot the present

constitution so that the president may enforce his, or rather our, humanitarian program. And all phases of human rights as laid down by our saintly popes and the holy Mother Church.”

“We elected our worthy president by the greatest majority ever recorded in history. We are going to have our laws made and enforced according to the Holy See, and the popes and the canon law of the Papal throne. Our entire social structure must be rebuilt on that basis. Our educational laws must be constructed to the end - that atheism, the red peril of totalitarianism, PROTESTANTISM, communism, socialism and all other like ilk and stamp, be driven from this fair Land.”

“The cross was planted on our shores by a staunch Roman Catholic. [Columbus]. This land belongs to us by every right. Long enough have we compromised on every important question. Now we demand what is really ours, and we are going to have it. We will support our president in every way to obtain it, peacefully, honestly if we may. If necessary we are ready to fight and die for it.”

“We want as cabinet members, children of the Holy Mother Church, holding important positions in the entire structure of our government.”

“We control America and we do not propose to stop, until America, or Americans are genuinely Roman Catholic and remain so. God help us.” (28)

What a bold and arrogant assertion! If this is an accurate admission then it indicates that Rome is well nigh in control within the U.S.A. Her objectives, it appears, are about to be reached. She feels confident that her one hundred year old plan is on the verge of fulfillment.

However, while Rome may believe that she will make America Catholic, nevertheless the prediction of Revelation 13 informs us that the method used indicates that Rome may not succeed in the manner she plans. While many of the millions of Protestants in the U.S.A. are not anti Catholic, they will not be bullied into submission to a Roman Catholic hierarchy. The method used to bring the U.S.A. into line will have to be much more deceptive. Notice what the prediction says:

“He, [U.S.A.] doeth great wonders, so that he makes fire come down on the earth in the sight of men and deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast.” Verses 13-14.

In order to bring America into line, there will be performed remarkable miracles that will delude the people. In particular it predicts the bringing of fire down from heaven. Maybe this refers to the control of the lightning. Whatever it is, it will convince the people. No doubt these miracles will be performed by the power of the occult, by spiritualistic forces or demons. Other scriptures make this very clear.

“For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles which go forth to the kings of the earth and the whole world to gather [or unite] then to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:14.

This is speaking of the final climax of history, which is just before us. The spirits of devils working miracles will delude the world. Again,

“Some will depart from the faith, giving head to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1

It is very clear as to what is coming. The miraculous power of Spiritualism, evil spirits or demons, is going to exercise wonder-working power to delude the population of the world. It will commence in the U.S.A. As Jesus said, in speaking of the last days,

“There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, in as much that, if it were possible, they should deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24

If the very elect, or God's own people, are almost deceived, what about the rest of mankind? They won't have a hope. They will be swept in by the great delusion, and in this way the population of the U.S.A, will be brought into line with Catholic policy. It is interesting to notice how one author describes this:

“Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens in token of the power of miracle working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on-to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects, will be alike deceived. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ himself, and claiming the title and worship which belongs to the world's Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing, and will profess to have revelations from contradicting heaven the testimony of the scriptures.” (29)

We should beware of miracles! We should know the Word of God so well that we can discern between good and evil and between truth and error. The powers of the occult are to have great influence in U.S.A. affairs. In the past we have seen evidence of this in individual leaders in the USA government. Many are aware of the confessions of Jean Dixon, once a leading spirit medium in the USA. She tells how, during the World War II, she conducted seances with Franklin D. Roosevelt and his war chiefs in order to obtain guidance in the conduct of the war.

If that transpired at that time, why should it not occur again. It may already be occurring. Today, witchcraft is taking hold of millions. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, are involved in the occult in America. In 1973 it was reported that there were 100,000 avowed witches in the U.S.A, which means that there could be many more thousands of secret witches. The Church of Satan has organized groups in most of the big cities of America. In its various forms, such as astrology, the use of the Ouija board, seances, spiritual healing, glossolalia etc., these occult forces are influencing an increasing number of organizations and individuals in the U.S.A. Among them is the New Age Movement which is deeply involved in the occult, and is very popular in many American circles.

Under these deceptions, the prediction declares the U.S.A, will move to form an image to the beast,

“Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast which had the wound by the sword and did live.” Verse 14.

This suggests that the form of government in the USA is democratic, not autocratic, which is quite correct. It is dependant upon the support of the people. Thus with authority, backed by miraculous power, the United States government will urge the people, will persuade its legislators, to form an image. A literal image or a symbolic image? It says “an image to” or, “of the beast.” (Verse 15) It says “the image has life”. This indicates that it is not a literal image. It must be a symbolic image.

To understand what the image to the beast is, we need to understand what the beast is, because it is an image to, or of, the beast. What is the beast? A beast represents a political power. Here it represents the Papacy. We must now ask, what is the Papacy? Is the Papacy simply a church? No! The Papacy is a religion-political organization. It is more than a church, and more than a political entity. It is a combination of a church and state. Therefore an image to or of the beast, would be a replica, a likeness of that organization, and it will be formed in the U.S.A.

How was the Papacy formed in order for it to become “the beast”? History reveals that it involved the taking of five significant steps and we suggest that the same five steps will need to be taken in order for the image to the beast to be formed in the U.S.A.

1. The first step was taken by the early Christian church. As the decades went by, finally the majority of Christians departed from the original faith of the scriptures and became apostate. Acts 20:28-31 informs us, and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 confirms, that this would take place.

There was a great “falling away” or an apostasy in the Christian church.

2. As a result of this apostasy, there was a loss of spiritual power on the part of the church in its proclamation of the gospel. In place of the simplicity of the gospel, and the Word of God, forms, ritual and ceremony took over. False teachings entered, and controversies began to wrack the church. Pagan philosophies permeated contemporary thinking and the power of love and the power of the gospel was replaced by a love of power, a love of position, a desire to dominate.

3. The apostate church began to amalgamate with the popular pagan religion of the day. That religion was a form of sun-worship called Mithraism. It originally came from Babylon through Persia. "Mithra" was the Persian term for the sun. This Mithraism united with the apostate Christianity of the day. The result was that paganism, with its unscriptural ceremonies and rites, became a part of the church's faith. Such festivals as Christmas, Easter, Lent, Sunday sacredness, the celebration of the Mass, purgatory, prayers to and for the dead, and all the other pagan rites, ceremonies and doctrines that we now find in the professedly Christian church, entered into the orthodox church in that period.

4. The fourth step involved the convening of great ecumenical councils in order to unite the churches of the Mediterranean world. This is where the word "ecumenical" originated. They brought together the leaders of the churches in these councils in order to settle their differences, that the churches of the Roman Empire might become one. Finally unity was achieved. They became one and the Bishop of Rome was accepted by the majority as the Head of all churches. The church now spoke with one voice.

5. The fifth and final step was the union of the one super church with the civil power of the state. Church and state united. The civil power executed the wishes of the one super church. Religious liberty vanished and persecution began. The result was the Papacy, the formation of the beast power.

We conclude therefore, that in order for the image of the beast to be formed, the same five steps will need to be taken. In fact, three steps have already been taken. We are now in the midst of the fourth step. Revelation 13 reveals that there are six features associated with the formation of the image to the beast.

1. It is to originate in the U.S.A.
2. It is to be initiated by the U.S.A, government.
3. It is formed after the healing of the wound, that is, after the Papacy's political power is restored. That healing began in 1929.
4. It is to be separate and distinct from the first beast. It will be non-Catholic in its profession.
5. It will be supported by the majority of the American people.
6. It will be similar in its character and form to the Papacy, that is, it will be religious, political and intolerant.

The only entity that fits the picture are the American Protestant churches. Already these churches have taken the first three of the five steps that the early church took. They have departed from the original faith of Christ. They have departed from the scriptures as the sole guide for man. These churches, for many years have been sliding deeper into apostasy. This may be a shock to some, but it is a proven fact that Protestantism has lost its protest. No longer do the Protestant churches protest against the errors of Rome. For 140 years they have been slipping further away from God. There has been a retreat from the authority of the Bible. This is step number one: apostasy on the part of the Protestant churches.

As a result of apostasy, Protestantism as such, has lost its spiritual power. This has been so for many years. Religion, for many, is a mere form. False teachings permeate the Protestant churches, particularly the clergy; psychology, evolution, the social gospel and worldly standards are the norm. Thirdly, instead of rejecting pagan rites and ceremonies, the Protestant churches are increasingly tolerant of them and uphold and practice many of them. Instead of receiving the light of truth which show that these are of pagan origin and are not of God, they promote them.

These include Christmas, Easter, Sunday observance and other pagan practices under a Christian cloak. Fourthly, Church councils have convened to bring about church union. This we have witnessed for a number of decades. Church union is the order of the day. Powerful forces are bringing the churches together. Doctrinal differences are being put aside. This prediction, Seventh-Day Adventists have

proclaimed for 140 odd years. Originally there was little evidence to confirm it, but time as usual, has confirmed the accuracy of the Seventh-Day Adventist interpretation of the book of Revelation.

It is often claimed by those who advocate church union, that the divisions of the church confuse the world, that the church is failing because of its divisions. This is untrue. The correct cause of failure is apostasy on the part of the church which has resulted in a loss of spiritual power. The power of love is being replaced by a love of power, and so often this is the pattern, not only with organizations, but with individuals. Church union is a backward step. It is a further step into apostasy. In fact down through history, divisions in the church have been essential in order to preserve truth. Take Luther and the Protestant reformers. If they had stayed in Rome, there would never have been the mighty Protestant Reformation. Had the Wesleys stayed in the Anglican church, there would never have been the great Evangelical Revival. Likewise with the Seventh-Day Adventists. If they had stayed in the Protestant Churches there would never have been this world-wide Advent movement presenting the truth of the Second Coming of Christ. It appears that the basic motive for church union is power, although many sincere people are deceived, believing that it is the will of God. Notice some of the statements by leaders of church union.

“The church today faces a life and death struggle in which a totalitarian Christianity, or a totalitarian government is the issue. To achieve this goal of Christianity, all minor differences separating the churches must be forgotten.” (30)

That is ominous. The Archbishop of York, who later became Archbishop of Canterbury, addressing an ecumenical church council declared:

“We deeply lament the absence from this gathering the collaboration of the great church of Rome, the church, which more than any other has known how to speak to the nations, so that the nations heard.” (31)

What an admission! But how true! The church of Rome did speak so that the nations heard. And how did she speak? By anathema, by interdict, by persecution, by martyrdom, by crusades, by dictating to the State. That is how Rome spoke. The same spirit is evident in the National Council of Churches. They officially advocate violence for the achieving of certain ends. It is a love of power. The purpose of the Ecumenical Movement is to take the Protestant churches back into union with Rome. The Charismatic Movement likewise is a movement with the aim of uniting all churches with the Roman Catholic church.

Today we are witnessing the fourth step in the formation of the image to the beast. The fifth step, is not far off. The one super, united church will accept the support of American civil power. There will then be a union of church and State. The prediction indicates that the U.S.A. civil power will “give life to the image of the beast”.

“He [the U.S.A.] hath power to give life to the image of the beast, that it should both speak and cause that as many as who would not warship the image of the beast should be killed.” Revelation 13:15, (or “He was granted power to give life to the image.” N.K., T.V.)

A government speaks through its laws and policies. This means that the civil power of the U.S.A. will put the policies and rules of the one super church into operation. It enforces them. In doing this, the state or civil power unites with the super church and thus becomes a part of the image to the beast. Then the lamb-like power will “speak as a dragon”. Remember what the prediction said?

“I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth. And he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon.”

Thus the next step to be taken in the U.S.A., will be the enacting of civil laws that will lead to religious intolerance. The dragon always speaks in terms of persecution, therefore we must expect oppressive laws against those who dissent from the wishes of the super church. Finally, because many dissenters refuse to submit, the prediction reveals that capital punishment will be re-enacted, and used against religious dissenters.

“And cause that as many as would not worship [or obey] the image of the beast, should be killed.”
Revelation 13:15.

It is informative to notice that this prediction of the image and its worship, is culled from the Old Testament. As previously emphasized, the book of Revelation is a mosaic of the Old Testament. It is based on the Old Testament. The imagery of this prediction is borrowed from the third chapter of the book of Daniel. Daniel gives an account of how Nebuchadnezzar, after he had conquered the then known world, set up a golden image and demanded its universal worship on pain of death. But three Hebrew worthies, three Jews, refused to obey. As a result they were cast into a fiery furnace from which the Son of God publicly delivered them. The record of that incident is recognized as a picture of the final crisis over the worship of the image of the beast of Revelation 13.

“All this typifies the last apostasy.” (32)

There are 14 significant parallels between Daniel 3 and Revelation 13.

PARALLELS BETWEEN DANIEL 3 AND REVELATION 13

Daniel 3.

1. Literal Babylon.
2. “Great Babylon.”
3. Dominated the World.
4. Connected with the Number 6.
5. Its Fall Predicted in Daniel 2:39; 5:25-31.
6. Erected Image Representing Babylon Forever. Representing Babylon Forever.
7. Compels All to Worship.
8. Three Literal Jews Refuse.
9. Hailed Before the Ruler.
10. Wrath Against the 3 Jews.
11. Issue Over Worship (10 times in chapter 3).
12. Death Decree.
13. A Fiery Trial.
14. Delivered by Son of God.

Revelation 13.

1. Spiritual Babylon.
2. “Babylon The Great!”
3. Will dominate the world.
4. Connected with Number “6” (Appendix)
5. Its Fall Predicted in Revelation 18:7-8.
6. Is to Erect a Spiritual Image. Representing Babylon Forever.
7. Compels All to Worship.
8. Spiritual Jews of 3 Angel’s Message Refuse to Worship.
9. Hailed Before Rulers.
10. Wrath Against Spiritual Jews.
11. Issue Over Worship (7 times in chapters 13-14).
12. Death Decree. (Revelation 13:15)
13. A Fiery Trial.
14. Delivered by Son of God. (Revelation 17:14)

The next point in this prediction is the method by which submission to the Image of the beast will be enforced.

“He causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their forehead. 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 13:16-17.

Here we have two symbols of submission. Firstly, “the mark of the beast in the right hand or the forehead”. The right hand denotes the prostration of the body - or the physical powers. The forehead denotes the prostration of the intellect. The term, “the name of the beast”, is used only once in scripture, and there are doubts on the authenticity of this phrase. It is not confirmed elsewhere in scripture.

On the other hand “the mark of the beast” is mentioned eight times in six chapters. “The image of the beast” is mentioned ten times in six chapters. Secondly, “the number of the beast” is mentioned five times in two chapters.

The Mark of the beast is the predominant symbol of submission. In the dire warning in Revelation 14:9-11, against the reception of the worship of the beast and his image, only the mark is mentioned. The number, and the name is omitted. This indicates that the dominant symbol of submission will be the Mark of the beast.

What is the significance of the number of the beast? When we dealt with verse 18 in the previous topic or chapter, we presented the initial application of the number and showed that it fits perfectly the official title of the leading man of the Papacy. However, it appears that the number 666 will also apply to a segment of mankind when religious laws are enforced in the coming crisis. Many confuse the mark with the number, but verse 17 makes a clear distinction between the two. The number is 666, but the mark is something that is distinctly different. It appears that some receive 666 as a sign of submission, while the great majority receive “the mark of the beast”.

SIX IS THE NUMBER OF MAN

1. Man was created on the SIXTH day of the week
2. The work of creation concluded on the SIXTH day of the week: representing secular completeness.
3. Six days were given to man for labor.
4. Six words in scripture are used for man - 4 in Hebrew & 2 in Greek.
5. Six represents man trusting in, and exalting himself.
6. Cain and his descendents involved six generations only.
7. In the 600th (6x10x10) year of Noah’s life, man filled up his cup of self exaltation and was destroyed.
8. 666 is comprised of 3 x 6’s. 3 represents completeness. Thus 666 represents the peak of human exaltation.

The number 666 is derived from Babylon. It was the secret symbol of the ancient mysteries of that system which in fact was the worship of Lucifer. 666 is deeply involved in Theosophy, the religion of the east, and is also in the modern occult. (For an in depth, documented study on the origin and significance of the number 666, see “666 THE MYSTERIOUS NUMBER” by Murl Vance.) (33) This concludes Revelation 13. What a dramatic and moving prediction! To the uninformed it is a daunting prospect. To the enlightened saint it calls for a special form of preparation. It also involves a call to warn our fellow men. This is featured in the next chapter, Revelation 14:6-13 – “God’s Final Ultimatum to Men”. The purpose of this prediction is to warn God’s people that they might make full preparation and be delivered when Christ intervenes on behalf of His people.

APPENDIX

A. The Number Six in Daniel 3.

1. The Gematria (i.e. the value of each letter) of Daniel 3:1 = 4662 i.e. 666 x 7.
2. The height of the golden image is 60 cubits x 6 cubits.
3. The musical instruments employed in Babylon's worship number 6.
4. The expression "worship the golden Image" is also employed 6 times.
5. The phrase "these three men" or "these men" referring to the 3 Hebrews, is used 6 times.
6. Belshazzar in praising Babylon's gods, praises 6 gods. (Daniel 5)

B. The Number Six Associated with Babylon in Revelation

1. The term "Babylon" is employed six times.
2. The term "woman" of Babylon is employed six times.
3. The Babylonian woman has six items of attire.
4. Six items of Babylon will "be no more all" (18:21-23).
5. Babylon's merchants trade with her in 30 items (6x5) commencing with gold the highest value in her sight, and concluding with the item of lowest value in her sight, "the souls of men" (18:12-14).
6. Six major sins are leveled against Babylon.

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