

As soon as Jesus Christ victoriously ascended to the throne of heaven, Satan maliciously attacked the followers of Christ. (Revelation 12:5,6,13,14.) Satan's hatred for those who are followers of the Lamb knows no bounds. He has done all in his power to deceive and destroy those who are washed with the blood of Jesus Christ, clothed in His righteousness and sealed with the seal of the living God. During the last days before Christ returns in power and glory, Satan intensifies his assault. This attack upon God's faithful "remnant" people "who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus" is pictured in Revelation 12:17. It is described in detail in the vision of Revelation 13, which exposes Satan's final schemes. In this seminar, we look at Revelation 13.

THE DRAGON



Q1 **The dragon, Satan, used human agents in his attempts to destroy Jesus Christ when He was on earth.** (Matthew 2:13-16; Luke 22:66-23:25) **What two agents does Satan use in his final attack upon the worship of God and God's people?**

A 1. Revelation 13:1

2. Revelation 13:11

In his final attack upon those who remain faithful to Jesus and obedient to the commandments the dragon *SATAN* will use two powers: [1] the *BEAST OUT OF THE SEA*, and [2] the *BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH*.

THE BEAST OUT OF THE SEA



Q2 **What does the beast represent? What does the sea symbolize?**

A **The BEAST:** Daniel 7:17,23

The SEA: Revelation 17:15

A beast in Bible prophecy represents a political power. It is not a computer in Europe, as some have claimed. Nor is it a single powerful individual, as others have suggested. This political power raises from the multitudes of the nations of the world or the world that Satan controls.

**1 The BEAST
—A POLITICAL POWER**



Q3 **What are the features of this political power?** Revelation 13:1,2

A **He had:**

:

:

He resembled:

:

:



Q4 **What is upon each head of the beast?** Revelation 13:1

A

PARALLELS BETWEEN DANIEL 7 and REVELATION 13...

The description of this blasphemous political power would have drawn the attention of the first readers to the vision of Daniel 7. "Daniel said, 'Four great beasts... came up out of the sea. The first was like a lion... a second beast, which looked like a bear... another beast, one that looked like a leopard... this beast had four heads... a fourth beast - terrifying and frightening and very powerful... and it had ten horns.'" Daniel 7:1-7. Daniel was given the interpretation of his vision:

Daniel 17...	Interpretation	(Daniel 7:17,23-25)
Lion	First kingdom	- Babylon
Bear	Second kingdom	- Medo-Persia
Leopard	Third kingdom	- Greece
Monster	Fourth kingdom	- Rome
Ten horns	Ten kings	- From the disintegration of Rome

After seeing the rise of the four beasts and the seven heads of those beasts, and while thinking about the ten horns, Daniel saw "another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully." Daniel 7:8.

The political power that John saw arise out of the sea bears the characteristics of the lion, bear, leopard and monster with its ten horns. The beast out of the sea in Revelation 13 is the same as the little horn power of Daniel 7:

The BEAST: (Revelation 13:1-10)
 Speaks proud words.
 Has authority for 42 months.
 Makes war against the saints.
 Blasphemes God.
 Slanders God's name.

The LITTLE HORN: (Daniel 7)
 Has a mouth that speaks boastfully.
 Oppresses saints for 3 1/2 times or years.
 Oppresses the saints.
 Speaks against the Most High.
 Tries to change God's holy times and laws.

The beast out of the sea in Revelation 13 rises from the collapse of, and bears the traits of, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the ten kings that came from the disintegration of Rome. The political power that arose from the disintegration of the Roman Empire was the Church of the Middle Ages.

2 The BEAST - RECEIVES POWER, THRONE & AUTHORITY



Q5 **What did the dragon give to this political-religious power?** Revelation 13:2

A

Major changes took place in the Christian Church. As it grew the Church gained awesome political power over cities and states. When the Roman Emperor moved the government offices from Rome to Constantinople the city of Rome was given to the leader of the Church in Rome, Sylvester I. He "filled the place of the vacant emperors of Rome, inheriting their power, prestige, and titles from paganism." - Arthur Stanley, History of the Christian Church, p.40. Jesus Christ warned the church at Pergamum

that they lived "where Satan has his throne." Revelation 2:13. (Compare Revelation 2:9,20-24; 3:9; Isaiah 14:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.) Now we read of his throne being established within the Church.

3 The BEAST - A RELIGIOUS POWER



Q6 **What do people do when the dragon gives authority to the beast?** Revelation 13:4

A

Q7 **What does the beast do when he speaks?** Revelation 13:5,6

A

The little horn power of Daniel 7 does the same thing. The little horn "had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully... He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws." Daniel 7:8,25. The religious-political power that arose from the collapse of the Roman Empire was the Church of the Middle Ages. The Church spoke proud and blasphemous words:

1 The Church spoke *PROUD WORDS*. Looking back we note the sad decline of the Church. Not only was the Church guilty of introducing non-biblical dogmas such as prayers for the dead in A.D. 300, Sunday sanctity in A.D. 364, veneration of the dead and images in A.D. 375, purgatory in A.D. 593, the mass as a sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the eleventh century and the celibacy of the priesthood in the days of Gregory VII, but, in 1229 the Church Council of Valencia actually placed the Bible on the Index of Forbidden Books. The Church set aside the Bible, God's law and His set holy time. The Church attacked the scripture, the gospel of salvation, the standard of the ten commandments, the Sabbath, and the promise of the second coming of Christ.

2 The Church spoke *BLASPHEMIES*. In the days of Jesus Christ it was considered to be blasphemous for a person to claim to be God or to claim to have the authority of God to forgive sins. (Matthew 9:2,3; Luke 5:20,21; John 10:31-33.) Tragically, during the Dark Ages, the leaders of the Church made these claims as the rulers of the Roman Empire had done before them. Speaking of the activities of the "man of lawlessness," or the beast, Paul wrote, "He will oppose and exalt

himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God." 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

3 The Church *SLANDERED GOD'S NAME*. The name of God is the seal of God and represents the salvation He has provided and His holy character. (See Revelation 7:1-4; 14:1.) The Church of the Middle Ages put aside the gospel of salvation through faith in the grace of God and changed the ten commandments, which reveal God's character.



Q8 **For how long would this religious-political power exercise his authority?** Revelation 13:5

A

This period of "forty-two months," or "1,260 days" or "a time, times and half a time," is mentioned in seven verses in Daniel and Revelation. (See Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 11:2,3; 12:6,14; 13:5.) It is a period of intense persecution for God's true people or saints. This tribulation is caused by the little horn, (Daniel 7:25) the Gentiles, (Revelation 11:2,3) the dragon Satan, (Revelation 12:5,6,13,14) or the beast out of the sea. (Revelation 13:5-7.) When Jesus Christ returned to heaven, Satan attacked the true people of God. He was prepared to do this through the power of the Church of the Middle Ages. In A.D. 533, seeing the Church's growth in power, the Roman Emperor Justinian decreed that whoever was bishop of the Church in Rome would be "head of all the holy churches." - Code of Justinian, Book 1, title 1. This established what has been called the Papacy.

4 The BEAST - THE DEADLY WOUND AND ITS HEALING



Q9 **What happened to one of the heads of the beast?** Revelation 13:3

A **It seemed to have had**

A **But the fatal wound had**

Revelation 13:12 and 14 makes it clear that the wounding of the head is the wounding of the beast itself.



Q10 **What caused the wound?** Revelation 13:14

A

The sword of the Word of God *WOUNDED* the Church of the Middle Ages. (Compare Revelation 1:16; 2:12; 19:15,21.) The incisive preaching of the Word of God by the Reformers, Wycliffe, Hus, Jerome, Luther and Zwingli, exposed the excesses and corruption of the Church of the Dark Ages, and it suffered a major setback. Then, in 1798, after 1,260 years of domination, the sword of a military campaign *WOUNDED* the established Church. It lost its political power. One of Napoleon's generals, General Berthier, marched to Rome where he "proclaimed the restoration of the Roman republic, made Pope Pius VI a prisoner, and stripped him of his property." - James D. McCabe, History of the World, p. 756.



Q11 **What is the response of people to the healing of the fatal wound?** Revelation 13:3,4

A

The spirit that pervaded the Dark Ages will be seen again. The wound inflicted upon the Church of the Middle Ages is *HEALED* by the revival of its spiritual authority.

The wound that was inflicted upon the Church has also been *HEALED* by the revival of its political authority. With the signing of the Lateran Pact in 1929 the Church from the Middle Ages was revived as a political power and state. Once again it has become expedient for political leaders and heads of governments to note the words and advice of the Church. In its revived form it is a powerful religious-political force.



Q12 **What does the beast do to God's people?** Revelation 13:7 (Compare Revelation 11:7.)

A

Q13 **What qualities will be needed by faithful and obedient believers to withstand the pressures of the world and the persecution of the Church?** Revelation 13:7-10

A 1.
2.

In his final attack upon those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ and obedient to the commandments the dragon will use the *CHURCH OF THE MIDDLE AGES IN ITS REVIVED FORM*.

THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH



Q14 **How does John describe this second political power?** Revelation 13:11

A 1. **Coming out of**
2. He had
3. He spoke like

This political power *RISES FROM THE EARTH*. In contrast to the sea, which represents the multitudes of evil, the earth represents the territory of God's people. (See Ezekiel 8:12; 9:9. Compare Revelation 12:6,14.) In fact, the "earth" helped the true people of God when they were faced with persecution. (Revelation 12:16.) Now we read of a blasphemous political power rising from among the reformers from where that help had come.

It *APPEARS TO BE CHRISTIAN*. In Bible symbolism the Lamb is Jesus Christ. This political power is extremely deceptive for it has the appearance and form of true Christianity, however, it is *SATAN INSPIRED* for it speaks as the dragon. (See 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; John 8:44; 2 Thessalonians 2:9,10; Revelation 2:9,13,20,24; 3:9.)



Q15 **What does this political-religious power do for the Church of the Middle Ages in its revived form?** Revelation 13:12

A

Q16 **What spectacular feats does this second beast perform?** Revelation 13:13

A

Q17 **What does this second beast do because of his stunning power?** Revelation 13:14

A

1. **He**

2. **He**

This second beast *DECEIVES PEOPLE INTO SUPPORTING THE REVIVED CHURCH OF THE MIDDLE AGES*. The false prophet is not a single individual. This power is called the false prophet. (Compare Revelation 19:20.) The final crisis centres on worship. (Also see Revelation 14:6,7,9,11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4.) Masquerading as a servant of righteousness the false prophet will counterfeit the power and the presence of God. (2 Corinthians 11:14. Compare the experience of Elijah in 1 Kings 18:20-39 and the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4. Also read Matthew 24:4,5,10,11,24; Mark 13:22; Luke 21:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:9,10; Revelation 16:13,14.)

The *FALSE PROPHET SETS UP AN IMAGE TO THE FIRST BEAST*. This symbol represents a system that duplicates the manner of worship and the control of the Church of the Middle Ages. It represents the unholy alliance of church and politics, which always produces apostate worship

and persecution. (Compare Daniel 3; 8:11,12,23-25; 9:26,27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4.) Political power is used to persecute God's people in the last days.



Q18 **As well as political pressure, what other methods does the false prophet use to force people to reject the scripture, the Saviour, the standard of the ten commandments and the Bible teaching concerning the second coming of Christ?**

A

1. **Revelation 13:15**

2. **Revelation 13:16,17**

The false prophet will use the *THREAT OF DEATH* and *ECONOMIC SANCTIONS* to accomplish the purposes of Satan. Those who concentrate on whether the economic pressures involve a cash system, credit cards, a cashless society, a bartering system or the use of the bar-code are missing the real issue. The context simply says that economic pressures will be brought to bear upon God's people so as to lead them from their loyalty to Jesus Christ, His Word and His ten commandments. Satan is pleased to have speculation on the money system or a new world economic order for in that way he can divert attention away from faithfulness to Jesus Christ and obedience to His ten commandments.



A

Q19 **What is Satan's ultimate aim?** Revelation 13:16,17

A

In his final attack upon those who remain faithful to Christ and obedient to the commandments the dragon will inspire *THOSE WHO WERE REFORMERS* to give their support to the *CHURCH OF THE MIDDLE AGES IN ITS REVIVED FORM*.

666 AND THE MARK



Q20 **What is the mark of the beast?**
Revelation 13:17

A

Q21 **What is the number of the beast's name?** Revelation 13:18

A

It is "man's number." The figure of speech is the same as that in Revelation 21:17 and draws attention to human characteristics. In the Jewish mind the number 6 was associated with evil and falling short of truth. The triple 6 suggests potency of evil. It points to the final apostasy when the trinity of the dragon, beast and false prophet do their work.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST & THE SEAL OF GOD



Q22 **What choice are we presented with?**
Revelation 13:16-14:1 (Compare Revelation 7:1-4.)

A

or

To have the *MARK OF THE BEAST* which is the *NAME OF THE BEAST* means to serve the Church of the Middle Ages in its revived form, and those who were once reformers, in their rebellion. We serve by giving support to their counterfeits of Bible truth and worship. The counterfeit of *SCRIPTURE* is tradition, the counterfeit of the baptism of *SALVATION* is christening, the counterfeit of the *STANDARD* of the ten commandments is the changed law, the counterfeit of the *SABBATH* is Sunday, the counterfeit of the Bible teaching on the *SECOND COMING* are the theories of Futurism. The change of the Sabbath is at the very heart of this

rebellion for the Sabbath commandment declares God's name and authority. The mark of the beast is not a literal bar-code or tattoo mark. If it were, the seal of God would also have to be a literal mark.

To have the *SEAL OF GOD* which is the *NAME OF JESUS AND THE FATHER* means to belong to God and to identify with His holy character. We belong to God when we believe His Word, the *SCRIPTURES*, and receive *SALVATION* through faith in Jesus Christ. We identify with His holy character when we obey the *STANDARD* of the ten commandments and are ready for the *SECOND COMING* of Christ. *BAPTISM* by immersion and the seventh day *SABBATH* are the evidences of salvation and obedience to the Creator-Saviour. Obedience to the Sabbath commandment is the outward, visible evidence of the worship of the true Creator God. (See Ezekiel 20:12,20.) Those who refuse the mark of the beast and receive the seal of God are characterized by their obedience to the commandments of God. (Read Revelation 14:6-12.)



response...

The Sabbath and Sunday symbolize the two paths, which are clearly defined by the final conflict. The Sabbath represents the Creator and Saviour Jesus Christ, and our salvation and obedience to Him. Sunday represents the traditions of men, and their counterfeits and rebellion against God. "Anyone, then who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." James 4:17.



In deciding to be faithful and obedient to Jesus Christ, what issues have you had to struggle with?

