

A Bible Prophecy Series

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The United States in Bible Prophecy

Lesson #16

Introduction:

In our last lesson we saw what the mark of the beast is. In this lesson we will see how that will be enforced. As always let's pray.

1. **Review** – Revelation 13:16-18

The mark of the beast is not 666 like many teach. 666 is the number of the beast's name, the numerical equivalent of the Pope's title Vicarius Filii Dei. The mark is what the beast/papacy uses to prove they are God's vicar, in God's place, here on earth. The papacy points to the fact that they can change the law of God, the fourth commandment, the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. No one now has the mark because it has not yet become a forced issue.

2. **What is the deadly wound and who will follow?** - Revelation 13:1-3

For 1,260 years the papacy had significant world power. In 1798 the papacy received a deadly wound when the Pope was taken captive to France where he died in captivity. In the mid-1800s the papacy lost much of its power in Italy. However the deadly wound would begin to heal in 1929 when the papacy began to regain its lands, autonomy, and power.

The San Francisco Chronicle carried this headline in 1929, "Mussolini and (Pope) Gasparri Sign Historic Roman Pact." The article amazingly used the very words of prophecy to describe what happened. It said that the wound was healed. Of course, the wound between the papacy and other countries of the world continues to be healed. The ultimate goal is for the papacy to regain the type of influence over the world that it once possessed in the Dark Ages. But in order for this to happen, another major world empire needs to assist it. And the Bible reveals who this country is in Revelation 13:11.

3. **How do we identify the second beast of Revelation 13?** – Revelation 13:10-12

This lamblike beast comes to life and brings the world back to the papal beast to worship him.

4 IDENTIFYING MARKS OF THE SECOND BEAST

1 – The **time** it comes up is as the first beast is being led into captivity (Rev. 13:10, 11). This second kingdom comes up in the late 1700's as the papacy is receiving its deadly wound in 1798.

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- 2 – The **location** of the beast is that it comes up out of the earth (13:11). All the other beast kingdoms come out of the water (13:1). Waters represent peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages (Rev. 17:15). They arose out of densely populated areas. This new kingdom is predicted to rise out of the earth – sparsely populated. So far we have a kingdom that will come up in the late 1700’s in an area that is sparsely populated.
- 3 – Its **youthful age** is depicted since it is a lamb and not a full-grown sheep. It is a young fresh country unlike the ancient countries of the world.
- 4 – The **two divisions** of this kingdom are symbolized by its two horns like a lamb. What does a lamb symbolize? (see John 1:29). A lamb represents Christ. This new country will follow Christ like principles (Matthew 22:21) and yet separate Church and State. The other countries of the world mixed church and state and the church controlled the state.
Only one country fits this description, the United States of America. No other country in the millennium has the worldwide influence that the USA has.
4. **What will the lamb do?** - Revelation 13:11
The dragon is Satan (Rev. 12:9), the dragon gave power to the beast (Rev.13:4), and the beast speaks blasphemies (Rev. 13:5).
The Bible defines blasphemy as claiming to be God (John 10:33) and to have His power (Luke 5:20, 21).
The blasphemous spirit of the dragon leads the USA to legislate how to worship. In doing this, the government puts itself in the role of God.
5. **How will the US speak like a dragon?** – Rev. 13:12
The USA will link with the papacy and help it regain worldwide power, thereby healing the wound. It will institute Sunday blue laws and enforce worship on Sunday, thereby honoring the papacy.
6. **How could such a thing happen?** – Rev. 13:13, 14
There will be deceptive miracles and signs to convince people the papacy has the true power of God. Done in the name of Christ, it will be a deception to get people to unite together to worship the beast.
7. **What issues will be the focus of the worship of the papal beast?**
Revelation 13:15-17
The focus here is on being forced to receive the mark of the beast. In our last study we saw the papal mark of authority is the Sunday Sabbath. This is their sign of authority. Those who refuse to worship in this way will not be able to buy or sell, if they still don’t comply with the Sunday law, they will be threatened with execution.
Satan knows his time is short. If he can get people into a false system of worship, he thinks he has the evidence he needs to prove his power is superior to God’s.

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8. **Will absolutely everybody be deceived?** - Revelation 14:9, 12
God's people will patiently endure the persecution pushed by the beasts.

THREE THINGS DESCRIBING GOD'S PEOPLE

1 – They are patient. The Greek word, *hupomone*, indicate endurance. They don't compromise when others refuse to follow the Bible truth.

2 – They keep the commandments of God. They know they are not saved by their works. But because they love Jesus, they obey the law of God and they will not compromise Jesus' seventh-day Sabbath.

3 – They have the faith of Jesus. They believe in Jesus. They do not obey Him to earn salvation, but because they love Him. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

These are the people who receive the seal of God. These are the ones who are not deceived. They get to go to heaven at the second coming.

8. **Why do they not follow the beast like everyone else?**

Daniel 7:25, Isaiah 8:20

They study the Bible and know the truth it speaks about regarding the Sabbath. They understand Sunday keeping is from the papal church. They know only one power thinks to change times and laws, the papal little horn.

God's people love Him and trust Him even when the government tells them they can't buy or sell. They know God will take care of them. Even when threatened with death like the martyrs of old, they are secure know eternity awaits them because they are willing to following the lamb wherever He goes.

Conclusion:

One day soon the mark of the beast will be urged upon us. We can be as loyal as Daniel was when he went to the lion's den. We can be as courageous as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when thrown into the fiery furnace. While some will lose their lives for God (Rev. 20:4) there will be many who will be delivered from death just like Daniel and his friend. The lions didn't eat Daniel. The fire didn't even singe Daniel's friends' clothing or hair. So, God will deliver His people of they will stand as loyal testimonies to the fact that God is Creator
Amen.