

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

power to tamper with the Ten Commandments, but that is what prophecy has foretold would take place in the Christian era.

To make doubly sure that mankind clearly understood the matter, God gave a second prophecy regarding the new power. In this lesson we have studied the identifying points Daniel wrote down. In the next lesson we will see the characteristics the Apostle John presented in the Book of Revelation.

Do you wish to have a part in the coming eternal kingdom Daniel predicted in his prophecy? Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21. He also said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. In the coming crisis of human history, loyal obedience to God's will is going to be a burning issue. Do you love Him? Do you wish to be obedient to Him in all things? Check the box here if it is your sincere desire. ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Lesson 6

The Third Angel's Message—Part III

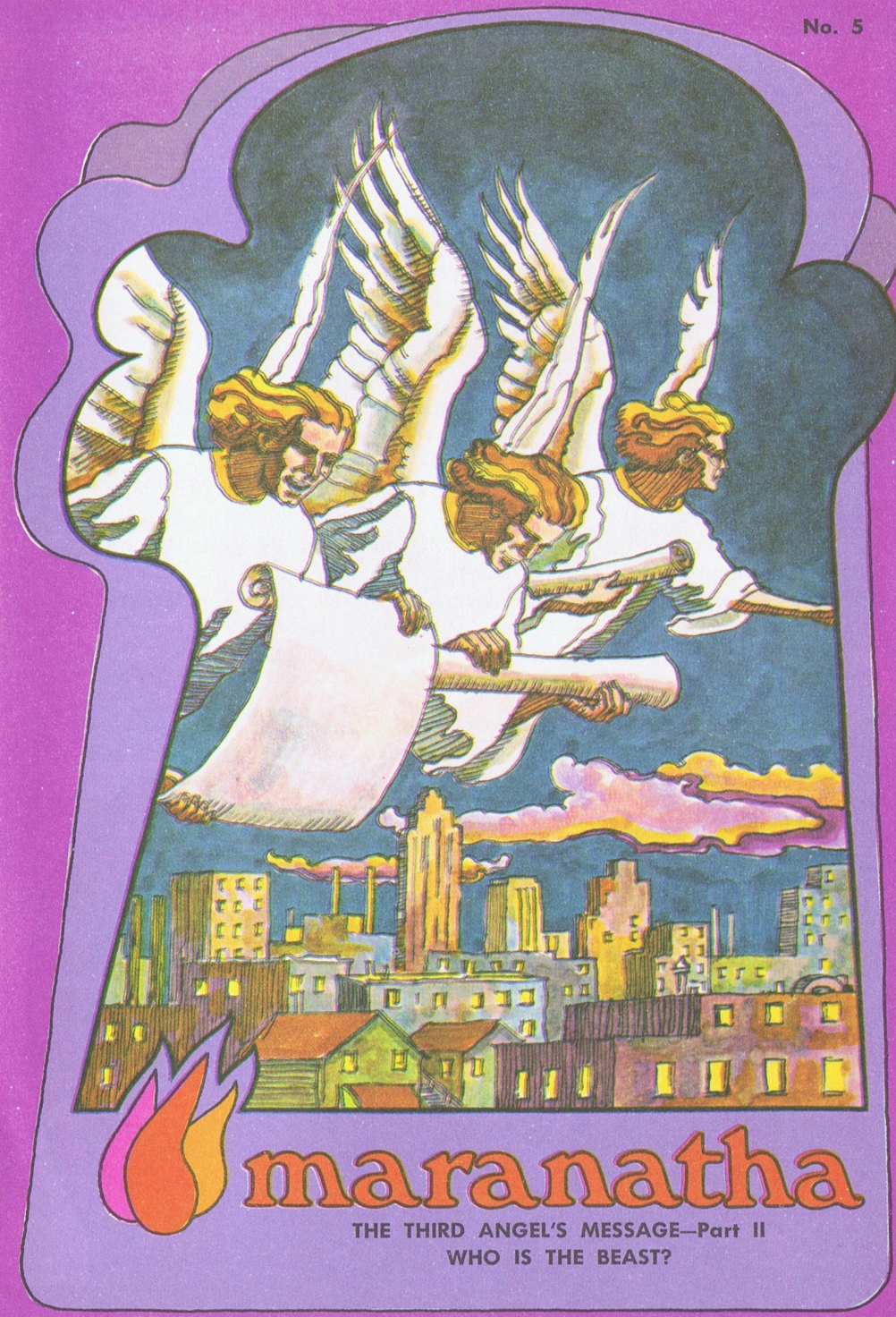
Who Is the Beast? (continued)

This Maranatha Bible Reading Guide comes to you with the compliments of your friends in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You can receive further information by writing or phoning the address nearest to you.

P.O. Box 99, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135. Ph 747 5655
P.O. Box 129, Hamilton, N.S.W. 2303. Ph 61 2531
P.O. Box 800, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601. Ph 49 6822
19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, Qld. 4000. Ph 221 7972
P.O. Box 51, Townsville, Nth Qld. 4814. Ph 79 3988
P.O. Box 120, Prospect, S.A. 5082. Ph. 269 2177

P.O. Box 41, North Hobart, Tas. 7002. Ph. 34 2344
P.O. Box 44, Hawthorn, Vic. 3122. Ph. 818 1513
P.O. Box 118, West Perth, W.A. 6005. Ph. 321 5154
P.O. Box 10-018, Balmoral, Auckland, N.Z. Ph. 689 039
P.O. Box 25-085, Victoria St., Christchurch, N.Z. Ph. 62 899

SIGNS PRINT



maranatha

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE—Part II
WHO IS THE BEAST?

who is the beast?



In Lesson 4 we discovered that God is holding the closing events of the earth's history in check until His servants are sealed. We saw that the symbols describing the seal of God and the "mark of the beast" are similar. Further, we shall discover, as we begin to identify the beast in this lesson, that just as the seal of God appears in His law, so the mark or seal of the beast involves God's law—its alteration. We now turn our attention to the question, "Who is the beast?"

In answering this question we will use the Bible and recorded history. As we have seen in the prophecies already studied, God has given us in the Bible the keys needed to unlock their mysteries. The Biblical guidelines, combined with close scrutiny of the pages of history, are all

"Four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another." Daniel 7:3.



word translated "time" means "year," and in this case the period under study would amount to $3\frac{1}{2}$ years used in a prophetic sense. Revelation 12:6, 14 equate the same $3\frac{1}{2}$ times or years to 1260 days. (Dividing 1260 days by $3\frac{1}{2}$ shows that a prophetic year consists of 360 days; dividing 360 by 12 indicates that a prophetic month equals 30 days.) Using the year-day principle of prophetic reckoning out-

$$1260 \div 3\frac{1}{2} = 360 \text{ DAYS}$$

$$12 \overline{) 360}$$

$$\underline{36}$$

lined in Ezekiel 4:6 (OT 652) and Numbers 14:34 (OT 138), we can see that the $3\frac{1}{2}$ times, or 1260 prophetic days, is really a period of 1260 literal years during which the little horn would dominate Europe.

11. What will eventually check the career and reign of the little horn? Daniel 7:26 (OT 703).

The Bible says: _____.

"But the judgment shall sit, and they _____."

For a few minutes, by means of Bible symbolism, you have watched a prophetic drama. Nations, represented by different animals, have appeared before you briefly and have faded. The prophecy has focused on one power in particular, the little horn. A number of clues indicate its identity. One in particular is startling.

This power would "think" to change times and laws. Evidently the prophet is thinking of divine laws, inasmuch as those in authority can change human laws at will—something that one would naturally expect. But to change God's law is a serious matter. The major law that God has given to mankind is the Ten Commandments. So important is it that, as we found in Lesson 4, God has placed in it His seal. The commandments are an expression of His will, the principles He operates the universe on. You can see that it would be a daring act for any

9. How many of the ten horns does he uproot? Verse 8 (OT 703).

The Bible says: -----

Note: The prophecy clearly points out the time and the place for the rise into prominence of the "little horn." *Time:* The "little horn" would appear sometime after A.D. 476, following the breakup of the Roman Empire. *Place:* It would develop in Western Europe among the territories of the ten horns, and would uproot three of the kingdoms in its rise to power.

10. What four other characteristics distinguish the little-horn power that would appear upon the ruins of the Roman Empire? Verses 24, 25 (OT 703).

- A. It blasphemes—"He shall speak great words against the most High."
- B. It persecutes God's true followers—"and shall wear out the saints of the most High."
- C. It would attempt to change God's law—"and think to change times and laws."
- D. It holds control for 1260 years—"and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

Note: "A time, two times, and half a time." (R.S.V.) The Hebrew

"The same horn made war with the saints." Daniel 7:21.



we need to answer the question presented in this lesson.

Two major prophecies (one in the Book of Daniel and one in the Book of Revelation) discuss the power represented by the beast. These prophecies complement each other and together help to identify the symbolic beast.

THE BIBLE SAYS

Read Daniel 7 carefully.

1. What does a beast represent in prophecy? Daniel 7:17, 23 (OT 703).

The Bible says: -----

Note: Biblical prophecy sometimes uses a beast or horns as symbols to represent political powers. Verse 24 (OT 703). Compare Daniel 8:8, 22 (OT 704).

2. Out of what do the prophetic animals rise? Daniel 7:2, 3 (OT 702).

The Bible says: -----

3. What do seas or waters stand for? Revelation 17:15 (NT 222).

The Bible says: -----

Note: Since the prophetic symbol of seas or waters represents "peoples, and multitudes, and nations," the fact that the animals arise from the sea indicates that the political powers emerge from previously established nations or from populated areas.



4. What are the four beasts? Daniel 7:4-7 (OT 702, 703).

The Bible says:

A. "The first was like a _____." Verse 4.

B. "A second, like to a _____." Verse 5.

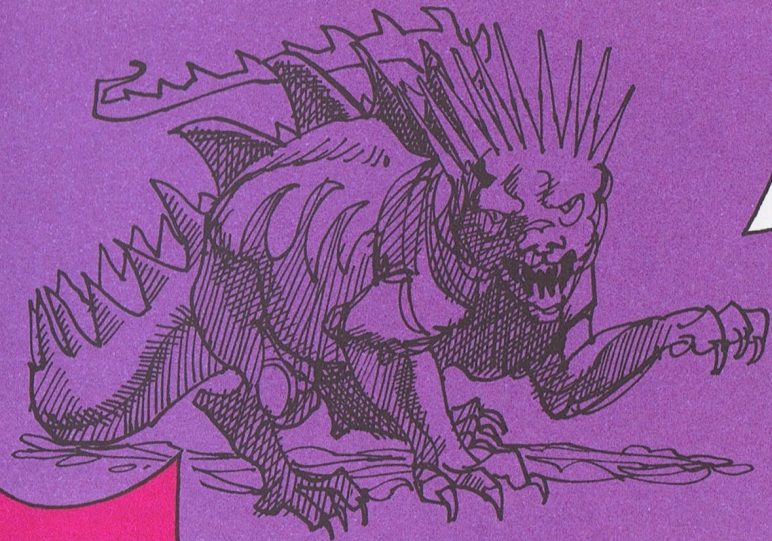
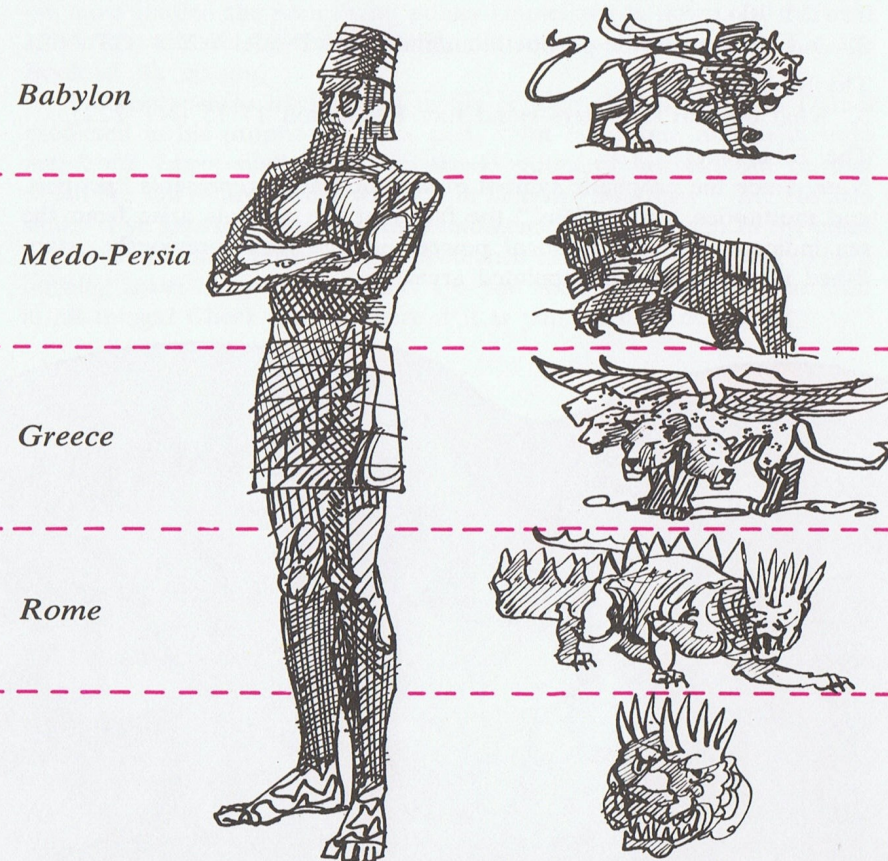
C. "Another, like a _____." Verse 6.

D. "And behold a fourth beast, _____." Verse 7.

5. What do they represent? Verse 17 (OT 703).

The Bible says: "These great beasts, which are four, are _____."

Note: The four kings or kingdoms (see verse 23) are the same four kingdoms Daniel described in Daniel 2 in the great metal image. You



*"It was diverse
from all the beasts
that were before it."
Daniel 7:7.*

will recall that they were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The chart below shows the comparison of the two prophecies.

6. How many horns does the fourth beast, the kingdom of Rome, have? Daniel 7:7 (OT 703).

The Bible says: _____.

7. What do they represent? Verse 24 (OT 703).

The Bible says: "And the ten horns . . . are _____ that shall arise."

Note: As you discovered in Lesson 1, the Roman Empire came to an end as ten tribes divided the empire among themselves by conquests between the years A.D. 351 and 476. They were the Anglo-Saxons, Franks, Suevi, Visigoths, Burgundians, Alemanni, Lombards, Vandals, Heruli, and Ostrogoths. We see again God's plan for nations unerringly carried out. Our attention turns to another government that arises among the ten kingdoms.

8. What does the Bible call the new power? Verse 8 (OT 703).

The Bible says: "There came up among them another _____."