

leon's general, Berthier, entered Rome, taking the pope a prisoner and abolishing the papal government. Although a few years later the Papacy was reestablished, it suffered another setback in 1870 when it lost the Papal States to the new republic of Italy.

However, prophecy foresaw a healing of the wound and a new papal resurgence. In 1929 the wound began to heal with the restored temporal power in Italy through the Concordat with the Italian government under Mussolini. Since that time the Papacy has steadily grown back into renewed strength—exercising its influence throughout the modern world in both temporal and spiritual activities. The prophecy predicted, “And his deadly wound was healed: and *all the world wondered after the beast.*” Revelation 13:3. We see the latter statement coming true. Mankind marvels at the Roman Catholic Church. The nations of the world study her pronouncements with great care, and the documents directly affect the affairs of men. Protestantism seems determined to join hands with the Papacy through the ecumenical movement or some other association. Prophecy fulfilled.

Please understand that it is not our desire to malign anyone's religion. The Roman communion abounds with fine, sincere Christians. But the Scriptures identify this religious system that has so guided the fortunes and the affairs of mankind in the Christian era, and foretells the role it will exercise in the near future. In our next lesson we will explore and explain “mark” of the beast and show how this symbol of papal authority will figure in the future of human destiny.

I ask an interest in your prayers that God's Spirit will continue to lead me as I study the Bible. □

Name _____

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Lesson 7

The Third Angel's Message—Part IV

The Mark of the Beast

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who is the beast?

The prophetic books of Daniel and the Revelation complement each other. One brings out details the other omits. In our last lesson we found that Daniel's prophecy focused on a "little horn" power that would attempt to change God's law. In this lesson we shall review a prophecy given to John dealing with the same power.

THE BIBLE SAYS

Read Revelation 13 carefully.

1. What did John see rise up out of the sea? Revelation 13:1 (NT 219).

The Bible says: _____.

Note: See question 3, Lesson 5. Waters represent "peoples, and multitudes, and nations."

2. How do the four beasts of Daniel 7 introduce the beast of Revelation 13? Revelation 13:2 (NT 219, 220).

A. "And the beast which I saw was like unto a _____."

B. "And his feet were as the feet of a _____."

C. "And his mouth as the mouth of a _____."

D. "And the dragon gave him his power."

3. What kind of name does its head have? Verse 1 (NT 219).

The Bible says: _____.

4. What are the two Biblical definitions of blasphemy?

a. Luke 5:20, 21 (NT 57). b. John 10:33 (NT 93).

The Bible says:

A. When a man claims he can _____ Jesus was certainly

2. *Commits Blasphemy:* We have shown from the Scriptures that men commit blasphemy when they attempt to usurp God's place or to exercise God's powers such as to forgive sins. Note some astounding claims the Papacy has made:

"We [the pope] hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty."
—Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter "The Reunion of Christendom," dated June 20, 1894.

"The priest holds the place of the Saviour himself, when, by saying 'Ego te absolvo,' he absolves from sin."—Alphonsus de Liguori, *Dignity and Duties of the Priest*, p. 34.

"Thus the priest may, in a certain manner, be called the creator of his Creator, since by saying the words of consecration, he creates, as it were, Jesus in the sacrament, by giving him a sacramental existence. . . . So it is sufficient for the priest to say, 'Hoc est corpus meum,' and, behold, the bread is no longer bread, but the body of Jesus Christ."—*Ibid.*, pp. 32, 33. Prophecy fulfilled.

3. *A Persecuting Power:* "The measures for the repression and extermination of heresy culminated in the organized system, known as the Inquisition. Its history presents what is probably the most revolting spectacle in the annals of civilized Europe." "The Inquisition was a thoroughly papal institution, wrought out in all its details by the popes of the thirteenth century." "Down to the very close of the Middle Ages, the pages of history were disfigured by the decrees of popes and synods, confirming death as the penalty for heresy."—Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. V, pp. 515-517, 524.

It is estimated that between fifty and seventy million people paid with their lives for believing differently from Rome. "That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history."—W. E. H. Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe* (re-print), Vol. 2, p. 40. Prophecy fulfilled.

4. *A 1260-Year Period of Supremacy in Europe:* The period of papal domination began with the political endorsement of Justinian and the overthrow of the Ostrogoths, who had restricted papal freedom in A.D. 538. The Papacy grew in power and prestige until at its height it sought to control both the temporal and the spiritual spheres of Europe—and to a large degree succeeded.

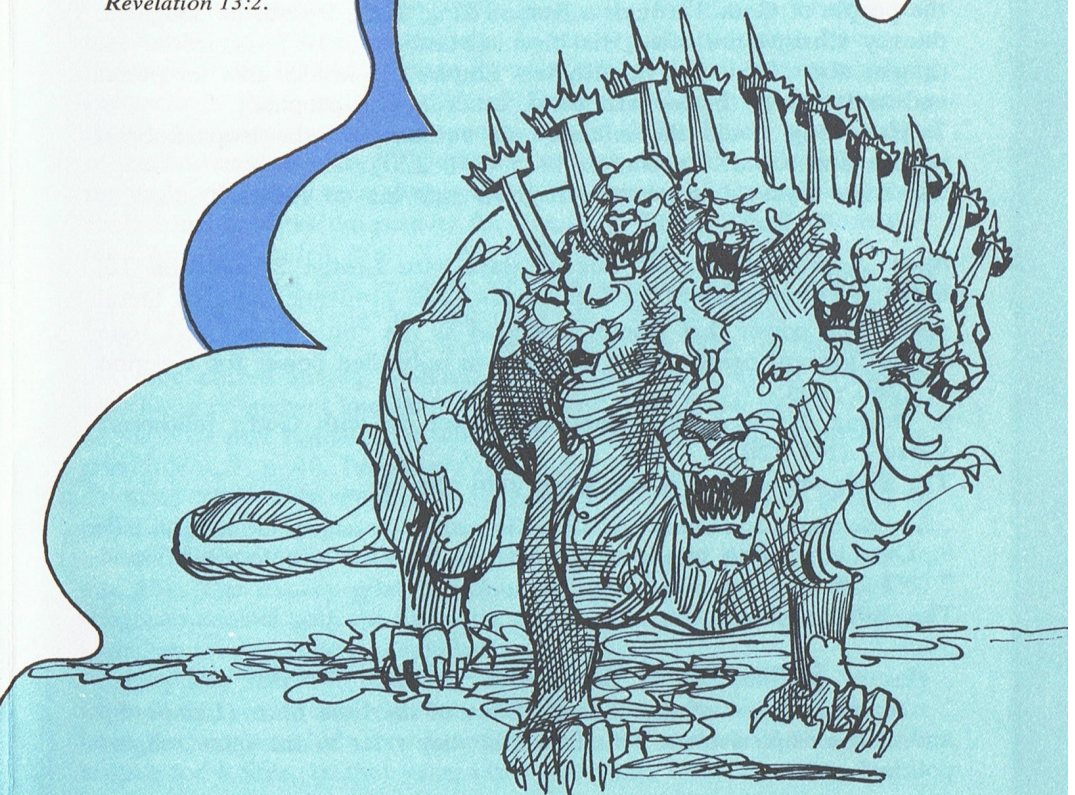
Prophecy foresaw, however, a wounding of the beast, a "deadly wound" that would severely limit its power. Twelve hundred sixty years later, in the year 1798, its temporal hold on the nations of Europe was broken for a time. In that year, just 1260 years from A.D. 538, Napo-

1. *Time and Place of Origin:* The Papacy arose among the nations (ten horns) of Western Europe after the breakup of the Roman Empire. It vanquished three of the new nations (the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths) as it grew into prominence, the last in A.D. 538, allowing it freedom to forge its own future. Furthermore, the Papacy inherited the city of Rome (the capital seat of the pagan Roman Empire) and received its authority to rule over Christian churches from Roman emperors. The emperor Justinian, whose armies freed the Papacy of the Ostrogoth occupation, acknowledged the bishop of Rome as "the head of all the Holy Churches." He legally established the supremacy of the popes in his famous "Civil Code," which governed the legal system of Europe until Napoleon. Prophecy fulfilled.

*"There was given
unto him a mouth
speaking great things."
Revelation 13:5.*



*"The dragon gave
him his power,
and his seat,
and great authority."
Revelation 13:2.*



not guilty of blasphemy, because He could forgive sins. Anyone else claiming such a power, however, would be.

B. When a man claims he is _____.

Note: To summarize at this point, we may infer from the prophecy that the beast is: (1) A political power. (See Lesson 5, question 1.) (2) A political power headed by men who claim to act in the place of God and who attempt to exercise the power to forgive sins. (3) Consequently, a power that is religious in nature as well as political.

5. Who gave the leopard beast his power? Revelation 13:2 (NT 220).

The Bible says: _____.

6. What does the dragon represent? Revelation 12:1-5, 9 (NT 219).

The Bible says: _____.

Note: In the symbolic prophecy of the woman, the dragon, and the Child, the Child depicts Jesus. Primarily the dragon represents Satan. But Satan often works through political powers in his efforts to destroy the people of God. Through a Roman king, King Herod, he sought to destroy Christ soon after His birth. (Matthew 2:16.) Therefore the dragon also stands for the Roman Empire. It would give its power and authority to the leopard beast, according to prophecy.

7. How long would the influence or authority of the leopard beast remain unchecked? Revelation 13:5 (NT 220).

The Bible says: "And power was given unto him to continue _____."

Note: A prophetic month has 30 days (see Lesson 5, question 10, note); 42 months times 30 days equals 1260 prophetic days, or literal years. The power that Daniel identified as the "little horn" and John as the "leopard beast" would continue in unbridled power for a period of 1260 years.

8. During this time what does this power do with God's followers? Verse 7 (NT 220).

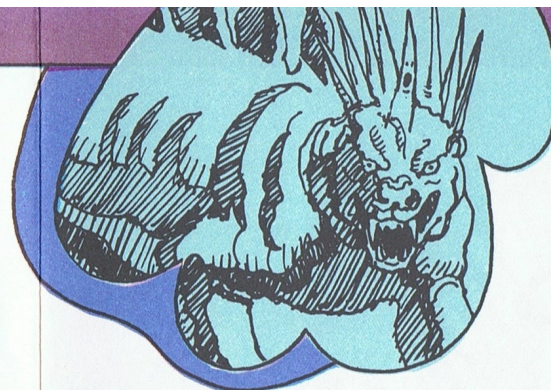
The Bible says: "And it was given unto him to _____."

9. Over how much of the world did this beast have authority? Verse 7 (NT 220).

The Bible says: _____.

Comparison of the Visions of Daniel and John

A quick review of the characteristics of the little horn (Lesson 5) and of the leopard beast will show that they refer to the same religious-political power.



Little Horn



Leopard Beast

1. A power that arises in Europe.

Arose among the ten horns following the breakup of Roman Empire. Daniel 7:8.

The dragon (Roman Empire) gave the beast his power, seat (Rome), and authority. Revelation 13:2.

2. A power that blasphemes.

Speaks "great words against the most High." Daniel 7:25.

"A mouth speaking great things and blasphemies." "He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God." Revelation 13:5, 6.

3. A power that persecutes.

"Shall wear out the saints of the most High." Daniel 7:25.

Makes war with the saints and overcomes them. Revelation 13:7.

4. A power that dominates Europe for 1260 years.

"A time and times and the dividing of time." Daniel 7:25.

"Power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." Revelation 13:5.

Who Is the Beast?

Under the direction of our heavenly Father we must bear witness to the truth of His Word. The many identifying marks of the prophecies fully fit only one political-religious power: the Papacy, the administrative structure and teachings we know as Roman Catholicism. We have no personal animosity against the people belonging to this religious communion, but the Scriptures do identify the system, portraying its career and activities. We may seem to be reviving some outworn prejudice, but note some of the points of Biblical identification. As Christians we cannot ignore anything the Bible has to say.