

The Revelation Chapter 13 resumes the saga of Satan's relentless attack upon Jesus' Bride, the Church, through two accomplices, the **Leopard-like Beast from the Sea** and the **Lamb-like Beast from the Earth**. The Dragon, a symbol of Satan working through various medium, the Beast from the Sea, and the Beast from the Earth, all form a **Counterfeit Godhead**; three distinct entities, working as one with the common purpose of warring against God and His Church. We will more clearly understand the workings of this triumvirate in a subsequent lesson, however, in this lesson we will focus on the **Leopard-like Beast from the Sea**.

In preparation for this study, please provide an interpretation for the following terms and symbols:

Q: A sea or a body of water? See Revelation 17:15

A: A densely populated area of the earth

Q: A beast? See Daniel 7:17, 23

A: A kingdom or a nation

Q: Both a head and a horn? See Daniel 7:24, Isaiah 7:1, 8, 9

A: A kingdom (king) or a nation

Q: The term "blasphemy"? See John 10:33; Mark 2:5-11

A: The act of professing to be God, or assuming characteristics and prerogatives belonging only to God

Q: A crown?

A: A government ruled by a monarch, a kingdom

The chapter commences with John the Revelator beholding a great beast arise from the sea.

Q: Consider the physical attributes of the beast. Where have

we seen this beast? Review the following verses: Daniel 7:3-7

A: The Beast from the Sea in Revelation 13 is a physical and spiritual composite of the four beasts of Daniel Chapter 7 that also arose from the sea. It occupies the same territories, mimics the works, doctrine, and traditions of the four empires of which it is spiritually composed:

- **BODY:** The leopard beast in Daniel's prophecy represented the **Greek Empire**. Alexander the Great, in his self-glorification, ordered all Greek citizens to worship him as a god. Further, Greek philosophy separated the spiritual and physical dimensions of human existence, believing that human souls were immortal. Therefore, the Bible reveals that the Beast from the Sea would also seek worship as a god, and would promote the unbiblical doctrine of an **immortal soul**. The Prophet Jeremiah foretold the perpetually evil, and deceptively crafty character of the Leopard-like beast when he wrote, "*Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? [then] may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil*" Jeremiah 13:23; 5:6.
- **FEET:** The bear in Daniel's prophecy represented the **Medo-Persian Empire**. Medo-Persia enforced ironclad government policies, which once ratified by the king, were considered **infallible** and thus, unable to be revoked. The Bible reveals that this beast would pridefully boast similar tenets in its governance.
- **MOUTH:** The lion in Daniel's prophecy represented the **Babylonian Empire**. Babylon was one of the wealthiest

kingdoms on earth. The kings of Babylon also claimed worship as gods and were *desolators of God's people*. The name Babylon is used often in Bible prophecy and is spoken in the feminine gender ["she/her"] (Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:10). Recall that a woman in Bible prophecy represents a church (Jeremiah 6:2, 31:32; Isaiah 54:5, 62:5; Hosea 2:16-20). Therefore, by inference, the Sea Beast of Revelation 13 would be exceedingly wealthy, bearing political power of the State, as well as *religious influence of a church*.

- **HEADS:** The beast is said to have the name of blasphemy written on its heads. Therefore, the kings or leadership of this power are ones who *claim to be God*, or to wield *prerogatives belonging only to God*.
- **HORNS:** The fourth beast of Daniel chapter 7 represented The **Roman Empire**. It is described as a dreadful and terrible beast having 10 horns, among which arises a **Little Horn** that uproots 3 of the original 10 horns, leaving 7 (Daniel 7:7-8). Never conquered, but divided into 10 divisions, Pagan Rome's cruel, iron-fisted governance that oppressed the people of God and crucified Jesus Christ, would be a characteristic of this beast power. Pagan Rome also glorified paganism (*the daily*) through the amassing and exaltation of world deities and idols. Similarly, this beast would *glorify paganism* through its works and teachings.
- **CROWNS:** Heads of this beast power would rule over its subjects as an authoritarian monarch.

The leopard-like Beast from the Sea is said to acquire three things from the Dragon of Revelation 12. Again, the Dragon symbolizes Satan (Rev 12:3-4, 9), who, through history has used various medium to persecute the people of God. Given the chronology of world empires, and by comparison of details in Revelation chapter 12, the dragon of Revelation 13 must represent Satan working through Pagan Rome. The dragon is said to yield its **power, seat, and great authority** to the Leopard-like Beast from the Sea, indicating a change in governance from Pagan Rome to this new power.

Q: Are the leopard-like Beast from the Sea and the Little Horn of Daniel 7 the same power? Consider the following table:

DANIEL <i>Little Horn</i>	REVELATION <i>Beast from the Sea</i>	FACTS
7:8	13:18	Has characteristics of fallen men and not of God
7:25	13:7	Makes war and wears-out the saints of God
7:25	13:6	Speaks blasphemous words against God
7:8	13:1, 2	Appears during the era of the 10 divisions of Rome
7:20, 24	13:1	Details the destruction of 3 kings of the divided Roman Empire, leaving 7 kings
7:25	13:5	Rules for 1,260 years

A: Clearly, the Leopard-like Beast from the Sea and the Little Horn are the same power. All the symbols of Revelation

13:1, 2 when combined undeniably represent **Papal Rome**.

Let us now consider the three things yielded by Pagan Rome to Papal Rome in its rise to power:

Power History confirms that the dissolution of the Roman Empire into 10 parts by savage tribes descending from northern Europe was completed with the Ostrogoth occupation of Italy in A.D.476. Soon after this date, Clovis I, the pagan king of the Franks, through the influence of his Catholic wife Clotilde, was baptized as a Catholic on Christmas Day A.D.496. Clovis' conversion was the first of a succession of conversions among 7 barbarian kings, concluding in A.D.508, when Arthur, king of the Anglo-Saxons was converted to Catholicism. With their conversion came a pledge of allegiance to the Papal See and church. These kings formed the military and civil arm of the papacy for enforcing its rules and uprooting its foes (Luke 20:19, 20).

Seat Pagan Rome's seat of authority was the city of Rome itself, the *Eternal City*, once the capital of a massive world empire. As of September 2, 31B.C. Octavian, nephew of Julius Caesar, subdued his uncle's rivals, Mark Antony and Cleopatra at the *Battle of Actium*. This battle marked Rome's decisive conquest of the last remains of the Greek Empire and established the city of Rome as the seat of the new empire's government. In speaking of Rome's conquests of lands, and the distribution of its military forces, its culture, and its customs among subdued territories, Daniel 11:24 "forecasts" that Rome would prosper in these practices for a "time", a literal 360-year period. God prophetically

forespoke the forsaking of the capital city, Rome, after 360 years in A.D.330, by the Roman Emperor Constantine, for the newly established capital of the empire bearing his name, Constantinople, Turkey. Constantine's economic and militarily strategic move of the empire's seat of government created a leadership vacuum in the former capital city that was immediately filled by the Church of Rome. Power-hungry bishops promptly seized the opportunity to replace the civil authority in Rome with a proxy representative structure that gave the appearance of support and loyalty for the Roman emperor, but covertly sought to expand its own interests. In time, the Bishop of Rome became the most powerful figure both in church and state affairs.

Great Authority A band of religious leaders from the Church of Rome accompanied the relocation of the Roman Empire's seat of government to Constantinople (*Nova Roma*), seeking to keep close ties to the Roman executive power structure. The bishops that moved to Turkey formed the *Eastern Church*, what today is called the Eastern Orthodox branch of the Roman Church. In time, questions arose regarding the source of authority in leadership, whether the bishops in Rome or those in Constantinople bore supremacy in matters of faith, interpretation of doctrine, and apparent headship (Matthew 8:9). This contest of authority would come to a head centuries later in what would be known as the *Great Schism*. However, in an intermediate attempt to settle the rivalry and to curry favor with the Bishop of Rome, who by A.D.533 was the uncontested power broker in Rome,

Justinian, a mere figurehead and one of the last Roman emperors, interjected himself in matters of church affairs by issuing the *Code of Justinian*. The Code declared the Bishop of Rome, the legitimate successor of Peter, "head of all Bishops and the true and effective corrector of heretics." Further, he blasphemously ascribed to the Bishop of Rome rather than to God the Bible text, "By Me Kings reign, and the Powers dispense justice" Proverbs 8:15. This move temporarily settled the question of primacy in the East-West church competition, but more importantly, it empowered the office of the Bishop of Rome (soon to be called Pope - "the Holy Father"), and subjected kings and earthly powers to papal authority. Being declared a heretic was accompanied by punishment deemed appropriate by the Roman pontiff, including death. Thus, the Pope was granted the authority to rule over all men on earth, even kings.

The Bible continues to expound upon the age-long struggle between God and the rebellious angel, Satan, through the world power described as the Leopard-like Beast from the Sea, the papacy. Notice that the papacy received three things from its predecessor Pagan Rome, namely its *power*, *seat*, and *great authority*. However, Papal Rome also seized or subdued three things from its predecessor, namely the three pagan tribes that refused to convert to Catholicism, the Heruli, Vandals, and the Ostrogoths. We will continue to explore the workings of this ancient and modern world power in our studies of the Revelation.

The Leopard-like Beast from the Sea

Revelation Chapter 13 – Part 1
[Based on verses 1, 2]



Lesson 28