



Revelation Predicts the United States in Prophecy

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After our nation's founding fathers signed the *Declaration of Independence* on July 4, 1776, the Liberty Bell was rung. The United States has always pictured itself as the place where freedom rings, where liberty is cherished—it's become a stronghold of democracy in the world. And since it has played such a key role in history as a world power, we can't help wondering, "Is the United States pictured in prophecy?" EGYPT and BABYLON, GREECE and ROME are mentioned prominently. And when Rome fell, even the nations of modern Europe are depicted as ten "toes" or "horns." But does the UNITED STATES play a role in the Book of Revelation? Is it pictured there in any way? Several clues say it certainly is! Before we examine those clues we should realize that **Revelation 13**—a key chapter in the Bible—deals with *two* separate and distinct beasts. The *first* is introduced in **Verse 1** and is "like a LEOPARD"; our last lesson identified it as the Papacy. The *second* is introduced in **Verse 11** and is—at first—"like a LAMB." Remember also that **Daniel 7:17 & 23** teach that a "beast" is a king or kingdom—a ruling power, civil or religious.

Clue Number One: The *first* beast, the Papal power, rose "up out of the SEA" in **Revelation 13:1**. And ALL the *other* prophetic beasts in **Daniel 7:3-7**—the lion, bear, leopard, terrible beast with iron teeth, representing the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—also "came up from the SEA," which means a *densely populated area* according to **Revelation 17:15**. So it's interesting that when John introduces this *second* beast, the one "like a lamb," he says: "Then I saw ANOTHER beast coming up out of the EARTH," which would represent an unpopulated area. This beast, this nation, arose in an unpopulated area, in an unsettled wilderness. Does that ring a bell? The United States precisely *fits* this clue about WHERE the second beast arose! But let's move on . . .

Clue Number Two: Here we learn the time period WHEN this second beast arose. **Revelation 13:10** describes the first beast going "into captivity," and the very next verse, eleven, speaks of the rise of the second beast. So we can conclude that this *second* beast arose about the same time the *first* beast was taken captive, when it received that wound in its head, **Verse 3**. In our last lesson we learned that the first beast, the papacy, received a serious wound in **1798** when the pope was taken captive by the French and Papal supremacy was broken. That was when this second beast rose to prominence—in the late 1700's. Does that fit the history of the United States? Yes, it does. In fact, as we scan the horizon of history, we discover that ONLY ONE world power was "coming up" in 1798—the United States of America.

Clue Number Three: Now let's look at the nature of this second beast. **Revelation 13:11** tells us that this beast or nation which rose out of the earth "had two horns like a LAMB." What does that mean? A lamb has a gentle, innocent nature—in strong contrast with the other *fierce* beasts of prophecy, like the lion, bear, leopard, *etc.* A lamb also denotes youthfulness: a lamb's "horns" have barely begun to grow. This is not an old beast—it's a baby lamb, a new power arising among older nations. Although a mature, established power may come into sudden prominence, the *second* beast emerged as a *young* or *youthful* one.

Revelation of Hope

Clue Number Four: Here we learn that this prophecy is talking about a DEMOCRACY—for TWO reasons. *First*, on those lamb-like horns, there are no crowns. You'll recall that when John described the *first* beast in **Revelation 13:1** he said: "I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and *ten horns*. And on his horns TEN CROWNS." Crowns indicate kingly authority. But on the second beast there are no crowns on its horns. A crown is the fitting symbol of a monarchy, so the absence of a crown indicates a *democratic* government vesting its power in the hands of its people—not in any ruling king. If the Bible depicted this beast wearing a crown, we couldn't maintain the prophecy represented the U.S.A., for we've never had a king. *Secondly*, a democracy, by definition, is "government of the people, by the people, for the people." **Revelation 13:14** makes clear that this power says to the PEOPLE "that THEY should make an image to the [first] beast, which had the wound by the sword, and did live." A dictator or powerful king can act autocratically and pass laws without asking any permission, but the President of the United States must ask *the people in Congress* to make and pass a law. Here God foretells a form of government in which the *legislative power* rests with the PEOPLE—in simple terms, a DEMOCRACY.

Clue Number Five: Revelation also suggests that this lamb-like beast has WORLD-WIDE influence. **Revelation 13:12** says that it "causes the EARTH and those who dwell in it to worship" a certain power. The United States didn't fit that picture a century ago. But *now* it certainly does. As a world-class superpower, its influence is indeed GLOBAL. It impacts people everywhere financially, politically and culturally. Revelation has again pinpointed the United States of America—our nation fits the prophecy precisely!

Clue Number Six: It's exciting to find our country named in prophecy and know it has a role to play in the end-time drama. But what role exactly will the U.S. play? Look at the evidence in **Revelation 13:11**—the pretty picture becomes grim rather quickly—this beast that began "like a lamb" ended up speaking "like a DRAGON"! How does any nation speak? Through its *laws*. In fact, the only official "speaking" a nation or government can do is through the action of its legislative and judicial bodies. Since the United States is unquestionably the nation denoted by the symbol that will speak "as a dragon," it follows that *it will enact oppressive laws* to become a persecuting power. But the picture gets even darker. **Revelation 13:12** says, "He exercises all the authority of the first beast . . . and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." Look carefully at what God is saying. The *second* beast actually causes those who dwell on the earth to worship the *first* beast. TRANSLATION: The United States will cause people in the world to worship the papacy. Church and state, separated for so long, will unite to enforce a specific religion. The strong arm of the state will enforce papal doctrine. America will reach across the ocean and join hands with the papacy in a dangerous alliance of church and state. And what is the sign of papal power? Sunday worship. That's their claim. It's the day which the Roman Catholic Church has declared holy.

What does "an image of the beast" mean? An image of anything is something that looks like or resembles it. If a little boy is his Dad's "spittin' image," he looks just like his Dad. In Revelation, we're dealing with *symbols*. This image of the beast won't be some *literal* image, a statue or idol. It will be a replica, a REPEAT PERFORMANCE of what the beast did before, of what the papal power did during the Dark Ages. At the height of its power, the papacy clothed itself with civil power and created a UNION of church and state. It had authority to punish dissenters, confiscate goods, imprison and even execute. So what will an *image* of the beast, an image of the papacy, be? It will be *another*

union of church and state, another ecclesiastical establishment clothed with civil power. It seems impossible. But in a time of CRISIS, people could demand, “Lawmakers, DO something! Legislate morality! How about if we all unite and worship on Sunday, in one Spirit? We can be one country again, one Christian nation under God!”

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“IT IS WRITTEN . . .”

The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation follow the sequential flow of history, discussing those NATIONS which play a prominent part in God’s overall plan and purpose.

Amos 3:7 God makes the mysteries of the future plain through the Bible prophets.

Revelation 13:1-10 SIX Bible clues reveal that the leopard-like beast represents the Roman church:

1. Revelation 13:1—Rises from the *sea* (from a *populated* area) - Revelation 17:15.
2. Revelation 13:2—Receives the SEAT of its government from pagan Rome.
3. Revelation 13:5—Blasphemously claims the POWER of God (Luke 5:20-21).
4. Revelation 13:7—PERSECUTES the saints (believers).
5. Revelation 13:5—Reigns supreme for 42 months = 1,260 prophetic days— or 1260 literal years (from 538 to 1798).
6. Revelation 13:18—Is identified with the mysterious number **666**.

Revelation 13:10 The *second* beast arises at the SAME TIME the *first* beast goes into captivity, or around 1798. It is a separate power.

Revelation 13:11 The *second* beast rises rapidly from an UNPOPULATED area—“the earth.”

Revelation 13:11 The *second* beast has two horns with NO CROWNS. It has no king. It’s not an autocratic dictatorship but a DEMOCRACY, saying to the *people* that “they” should make an image to the first beast. (Revelation 13:14)

Revelation 13:11 The *second* beast is a young beast, a youthful power, full of freedom and innocence—a NEW nation. (A beast represents a nation—see Daniel 7:17, 23.) In this prophecy, (1) a NEW nation arises (2) around 1798 (3) in an UNPOPULATED area (4) without kingly authority (5) governed by the people. It has the lamb-like quality of Jesus, allowing its people (6) freedom of choice. The ONLY nation that fits ALL these prophetic specifications is the UNITED STATES.

Revelation 13:11-12 The features of the lamb-like beast rapidly turn into a DRAGON. *Religious liberty* is followed by *religious oppression*.

Revelation 13:12 The *second* beast, the UNITED STATES, gives its influence to the *first* beast, the PAPACY, and becomes the *enforcer nation* with a UNION of church and state.

Revelation 13:12 The central issue in the final conflict is “WORSHIP.” (See Revelation 14:6-7, 12.) The Sabbath is God’s eternal SIGN of true worship of Him as CREATOR. (Revelation 4:11; Exodus 20:8-11; Ezekiel 20:12 & 20)

Revelation 13:13-14 Satan will use MIRACULOUS SIGNS and WONDERS at a time of international crisis to forge a UNION of church and state which will violently oppose and oppress God’s people. (See Revelation 16:14 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9)

Revelation 12:17 God’s faithful people will not yield to the coercive pressure to violate God’s law.

Quick Quiz

Our heavenly Father has *so much* He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward—a series of “lessons from heaven.” May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God’s Word, the Bible—our Textbook for this seminar—offers **Learning Unlimited!**

#19 - Revelation Predicts the United States in Prophecy

1. John saw the *first* Beast, which made war with the saints and blasphemed God, “rise up out of the _____.” The angel explained this means *a densely populated area*, that *waters* symbolize “_____ , and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” And it did arise in *Rome*.

To check your answer, see Revelation 13:1 and 17:15.

2. In stark contrast, John saw the *second* beast “coming up out of the _____ ,” which means an *unpopulated* area—such as was afforded by the New World of America.

To check your answer, see Revelation 13:11.

3. T F The Bible positions us precisely in the Stream of Time, for the second beast was seen *arising* around the time that the *first* Beast was going into “captivity,” which History tells us occurred in 1798. **To check your answer, see Revelation 13:10-11.**

4. T F The Bible predicts *a frightening change of character* in the second beast, for although it *begins* with the harmless innocence of a LAMB, it *ends* by speaking as a DRAGON!!

To check your answer, see Revelation 13:11.

5. The second beast obviously grew to become *a power of worldwide influence and leadership*, for the Bible says, “He exercises _____ the power of the first Beast . . . and causes the _____ and those who _____ in it to worship the first Beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

To check your answer, see Revelation 13:12.

6. The “IMAGE of the Beast”—a “carbon copy” or *repeat performance* of the first Beast during its days of power and persecution—*enforces* the Mark of the Beast by threatening the *death penalty*: “that as many as would not worship the Image of the Beast should be _____ ,” and *economic boycott*: “that no one may _____ or _____ , except one who has the Mark.”

To check your answer, see Revelation 13:15-17.