Prophetic ‘Beast’ and its Mark

Summary

What is the “beast” of Revelation 13 and Daniel 7 — and what is its “mark,” really? This article identifies both, and traces a 1260-year prophetic countdown between them.

- The “beast” identified as the Roman Empire and its later “healed” revival as the medieval Holy Roman Empire.
- A 1260-year prophetic period traced from Justinian’s 6th-century restoration to Napoleon’s defeat in 1814.
- The Roman Catholic Church identified as the “image of the beast” and “Mystery, Babylon the Great.”
- The Sabbath — not any physical device or card — identified as Yahweh’s true “sign,” with Sunday observance traced to the 4th-century Council of Laodicea as the historical “mark of the beast.”
- A warning of a future revival of enforced Sunday-keeping under a coming ten-nation European federation.

The full article begins on the next page.

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"For it is those of this very generation who shall be worshipping this beast or his image, or shall have received his mark, that will suffer the terrible horror of the seven last plagues".

Ignorance will not excuse! "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" *(Hos. 4:6),* and the illustration of Ezekiel's watchman shows that those who are unaware, because they are not warned, will suffer just the same *(Ezek 33:6 and 3:18)*. Yahweh expects the spiritual leaders of His people to be the "watchman" *(Ezek 33:7)* and to warn the people of this New Covenant age.

The beast, the image of the beast, and the mark of the beast are all described primarily in the 13th chapter of Revelation verse 1 and 2, and this identifies the beast symbolically. The very word Beast is a symbol and each of the descriptives are symbols and only the Bible identifies the symbols used throughout itself. Yahweh gave Daniel understanding in dreams and visions *(Dan 1:17)* and in the 7th chapter of Daniel we find exactly the same symbols described and identified by Daniel.

Rev. 13:1-2 says; "and the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion; and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority".

Throughout Daniel 7 these symbols are identified: "These great beasts which are four, are four kings which shall arise out of the earth" - verse 17. The word king is synonymous with kingdom, as, "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon the earth". The next verse 24; "and the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise". It follows that the ten horns are ten succeeding kingdoms growing out of the fourth kingdom, which was to rule the earth.

These same four world-ruling Gentile kingdoms are described in the second chapter of Daniel, beginning in verse 36. Daniel says "This is the dream and we will tell the interpretation thereof to the king...thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise" *(V 36-40).* The interpretation of the stone smashing the image at its toes is found in the 44th verse: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever". The Stone is interpreted in many places as the Messiah and His world ruling Kingdom *(see Acts 4:10,11).*

Daniel 2 describes these same four beasts as world-ruling Gentile powers and identifies them as: The first was Nebuchadnezzar's, Chaldean Empire, called "Babylon" after its capital from 625 B.C. to 539 B.C. The second kingdom we know from history to be the Persian Empire of 558 B.C. to 330 B.C. The third kingdom was Macedonia, under Alexander the Great who conquered the Persian Empire in 333 B.C. to 330 B.C.

But Alexander lived only a short year after his conquest and his four generals divided his kingdom into 4 regions: Macedonia and Greece, Thrace and Western Asia, Syria, and the area east of the Indus River including Egypt. So these were the four heads of the 3rd beast of Daniel 7.

Without repeating the descriptions of the beasts, we conclude Daniel's fourth beast, the Roman Empire, had absorbed and therefore it included the three beasts before it, thus it included all seven heads. And John's beast also had seven heads. It was Daniel's fourth beast only that had 10 horns, and John's beast had 10 horns. The Bible interprets these horns as kingdoms, identifying the beast of Rev. 13 as the Roman Empire of 31 B.C. to 476 A.D. as the fourth kingdom out of which 10 kings *(10 horns)* shall arise.

These 10 kings shall continue from 476 A.D. to the time of the Stone - the Second Coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. The beast described by John was that of the 4th beast of Daniel, so the specific "one of its heads" that was wounded to death *(Rev. 13:3)* was the 7th head of the Roman Empire.

The deadly wound was the one administered to the Roman Empire, when, in its last decaying stages, the barbarians overran it in 476 A.D. Notice the dragon gave power to the beast. *(Rev 12)*: "The Dragon, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan". So the Roman Empire was given its power through Satan. "They worshipped the beast" *(Rev.13:4)*. History is full of accounts of worship of the Roman Empire and Emperors, for paganism was a state religion. Quoted from Robinson's Medieval and Modern Times: "The worship of the Emperor: in a word, the Holy Roman Empire was not only wonderfully organized...everyone was required to join in the worship of the emperor because he stood for the majesty and glory of the dominion...all were obliged as good citizens, to join in the official sacrifices to the head of the state, as a god".

The Roman Empire was overrun in 476 A.D. - received its deadly wound, but verses 3 and 5 say; "his deadly wound was healed...and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months". So the 10 horns grow out of this "healed" kingdom and last until sometime just prior to the coming of the Messiah.

The Roman empire was overrun in North Africa in 455, then in 476 Odoacer set up his government in Rome, called the Heruli. It was not Roman, but a foreign barbarian government and did not heal the deadly wound. In 554 A.D. Justinian, Emperor of the East, from Constantinople set up his government through an Imperial Legate at Ravenna, Italy, bringing about what is known in history as the "Imperial Restoration" of the Roman Empire - or its "healing". After this "healing", power was given for the beast to continue "forty and two months". In prophecies pertaining to Israel's punishment the Bible uses a "day for

a year" principle as set out in Ezek. 4:4-6, and Num. 14:34. Thus the healed beast - the Roman Empire, is to continue 1260 years in the condition as described by John and Daniel.

Following the healing in 554, came the Frankish kingdom *(French)*, the Holy Roman Empire *(German, then the Austrian Hapsburgs)* and Napoleon's kingdom *(French again),* but when Napoleon was crushed in 1814, the healed beast "continued no longer". "So closed" says West's Modern History, "a government that dated from Augustus Caesar" from 31 B.C. - it "went into the Abyss"! And from 554 A.D. to 1814 A.D.; the duration of the healed beast, is exactly 1260 years!

At that time, eight of the 10 horns having appeared and gone, the beast itself went into the non-existent condition symbolized in Revelation 17:8 as the "bottomless pit". But by the year 1870, Garibaldi had united the many little divisions in the peninsula of Italy into one nation and the kingdom thus established began the 9th horn, which culminated in the fascist rule of Mussolini. The 17th Chapter explains the revival of the beast "out of the bottomless pit" by a federation of 10 European nations within the old Roman Empire. This is actually beginning as modern history records developments in Europe today.

To prove that this latter-day revived beast, is indeed the Holy Roman Empire, we simply have to identify it as the Bible says, by its number "six hundred and three score and six" *(Rev 13:17-18), or 600 and 60 and 6. (Not "666".)*

From scripture we have the following:
1. The beast can be identified, if we have wisdom, by the numbers 600 and 60 and 6.
2. We are told to count this number - that is add it up. The same Greek word used in Luke 14:28, means "Count the cost".
3. This number is the number of a beast and the beast is a symbol for kingdom - so it really is the number of a kingdom.
4. 600 and 60 and 6 must be the number of a kingdom, as well as that of the king who founds it, as both, "the name of the beast", and "it is the number of a man", are scriptural clues.

The founder and first king of Rome was Romulus. The Roman Empire was named after him. But the origin of the kingdom goes back to the time of King Lateinos, or Latinus in Latin, who founded the Latin Kingdom four centuries before Romulus founded its future capital. When John wrote the Revelation, telling us to count the number of the beast, he originally wrote in the Hebrew language, which was later translated into the Greek language. At the time, while he was writing in Hebrew, his work was being directed mainly to the "Greek" audience, thus he originally used the common "Roman Numeral" system to express numbers within his writing. Thus we must look for this name, and the numbers 600 and 60 and 6 in Greek letter values as recognized in the Bible.

In the Roman language, the name of the founder of the kingdom was understood in the second century to have originally been spelled "Lateinos", signifying "Latin Man", or the name of "Latium" from which the Romans derived their origin and their language. This word too, signifies "Roman". In the Roman letter for

number value analysis we find the following: L=30, A=1, T=300, E=5, I=10, N=50, O=70, S=200. Count these figures - add them up - they equal exactly 600 and 60 and 6. It is no coincidence that the name of the kingdom, its founder, and first king, each count to exactly 600 and 60 and 6. Certainly the beast stands identified as the Roman Empire, and it is the "mark of the beast" - the mark of the revived Holy Roman Empire of the last days which Yahweh will punish people for.

The Bible says the beast - the Roman Empire gets its power from Satan *(the dragon).* Satan has his civil government on earth. He gave it "his power and his seat, and great authority". He has also organized religion as his instrument in deceiving the world. According to Rev. 12:9 and 20:3 and 2 Cor. 11:13-15 Satan has his ministers who pretend to be the ministers of righteousness, but are actually false apostles, deceitful workers, calling themselves the ministers of the Messiah.

They are the many, not the few, the Bible says, who also have been deceived. Satan's main labour for 6,000 years has been deceiving the world. "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon" *(Rev. 13:11).* This beast appears as a lamb - looks, acts and pretends to be a *Christian* kingdom, but spoke as a dragon - its true characteristic, for "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" *(Matt. 12:34).*

Here is a kingdom reappearing as that of the Messiah *(lamb)* but in reality it is the Devil, and "he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him" *(Rev. 13:12).* The first beast is the Roman Empire. So here is another government pretending to be the Messiah's government, using and employing all the power of the first kingdom.

In most any encyclopaedia, under "Millennium", you will read the history of how the "Holy Roman Empire" was called the "Kingdom of Yahweh upon Earth". They claimed the Millennium had arrived! So here we have this ecclesiastical organization, which is a two-fold *(symbolized by the two horns)* government, deceiving the people by making an "image of the beast" *(Rev. 13:14).* So here is a deceived congregation; a "church" saying "let us make ourselves into a model or counterpart *[image]* of the civil Roman government *[beast]*".

Human, church government derived its present form in the real sense, by the first Pope, Leo I 440-461 A.D. The *Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature* says that to him the form of government of the Roman Empire was the most marvellous thing on earth. He applied its principles to the church, organized the church into a government, forming the papacy. This church government or organization, now the Catholic Papacy, is the "image of the beast" described in the Revelation.

In Rev. 17:3, this false church is symbolized as a "woman" riding the beast. A woman riding a horse for example, guides the horse, controls it - it does her bidding. In verse 2 and 18:3 we see that the inhabitants of the earth have been deceived by this counterfeit Christianity - she has deceived all nations in these end times. This church became a mother, and daughter churches came out of her in "protest", calling

themselves "protestant", all having worldly, political church government, with man-made laws, rather than Yahweh-GIVEN laws.

"Upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots" *(Rev. 17:5)*. Her daughters are called "harlots". Together they are called "Babylon". They are pagan, teaching pagan doctrines and customs, cloaked in the name of Christianity. And all nations are deceived. "Come out of her my people", Yahweh says, in Rev. 18:4.

So in these end times, we have the Roman Catholic church - the Papacy, already instigating a revival of a resurrected Roman Empire *("New-World" or "One World" Order)* - participating in talks with the European Economic Community that will cause people to be killed that refuse to accept the "mark of the beast" - the mark of the resurrected Roman Empire in Europe. Yahweh says if we do accept the mark of the beast that He will cause us to suffer the seven last plagues - which are horrible beyond description.

In Revelation 17, John pictures this same church as the woman riding the beast; "and I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Yah'shua" *(verse 6)* and Rev. 20:4; "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Yah'shua, and for the word of Yahweh, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with the Messiah a thousand years".

History tells us that in the middle ages about 50 million were killed for their Bible faith and obedience to Yahweh instead of obedience to this church government *(image of the beast)* and the devil. This chapter prophecies that another, future, more staggering martyrdom is yet to take place in "like manner". This means that the mark of the beast is something that was forced on people, on pain of being killed, more than 1,000 years ago, and this "mark" is once again going to be enforced. And those that refuse it will be martyred in the coming Great Tribulation, and those that accept it will suffer Yahweh's last seven plagues and will not reign with the Messiah during the millennium.

"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of Yahweh" *(Rev. 14:9-10).* THE MARK WAS BRANDED on all but the martyrs OVER 1,000 YEARS AGO, it is still the brand of traditional *Christianity* and other false faiths - those who receive it will suffer Yahweh's wrath.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yah'shua" *(Rev 14:12).* Here are those who refuse to receive the "mark" of the beast, which plainly means the rejecting or breaking of Yahweh's commandments. In James 2:10-11, Yahweh says if we break only one of them, we are guilty of all. Therefore, the inevitable and sole conclusion, is that the mark is something enforced by the false church *(Christianity)* originating in the paganism of the Roman Empire, which a cunning, deceiving devil has seized upon as a means of cleverly deceiving people into breaking Yahweh's

commandments. And it involves a direct connection with holding a job, earning a living - being able to "buy and sell" *(Rev. 13:17).*

Satan is clever - cunning - a deceiver. He palms off *Christian* counterfeits, which look like genuine. Naturally he would select the one commandment of Yahweh to counterfeit with a substitute, one in which by human reason alone, no man could see where it would make any difference. He would select the one of least importance to the carnal human mind. He would not try to deceive the whole world into idolatry, profanity, stealing, lying, murder, adultery - although he has led people into all of these.

There is only one of the commandments that affects a man's ability to "buy and sell" or to hold a job - earn a living - the Sabbath commandment. This is the only commandment which was altered by the Roman Empire as prophesied by Daniel 7:25; "times and laws" that would be changed by the little horn - the political government of the church. That is, the great false church, would change Yahweh's law in respect to time - the time for the Sabbaths!

The Sabbath sets one apart from the world, and always did - as a sign, identifying one who is obedient and belongs to Yahweh. Can you think of any reason why anyone would ever keep the Sabbath, except to obey Yahweh? Would any man defy human custom, mainstream tradition and invite persecution, and be set apart as different, through human reason? Could any atheist or "New Age" thinker be a Sabbath keeper? The Sabbath clearly identifies Yahweh's obedient and faithful servants.

The Sabbath is the only commandment the world rejects in its mind *(forehead)* and disobeys by working with the hand. It distinguishes between those that have the mark of the beast or the sign of Yahweh.

The book of Revelation is written mostly in symbols. The right hand symbolizes work or labour - the forehead symbolizes intellect or mind. It has to do with what we believe, in the mind, and whether we obey, with the hand.

The mark of the beast clearly states this: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand" *(Rev. 14:9-10).* Also; "And he *[the beast]* causeth all...to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads" *(Rev. 13:15-16).*

Now how about Yahweh's sign? Regarding Yahweh's annual Sabbaths; "it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes [*forehead]* that Yahweh's law may be in thy mouth" *(Ex. 13:9).*

"Now these are the Commandments ...and these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart...and thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes" *(Deut. 6:1,6-8).*

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes" *(Deut. 11:18).* Also see Proverbs 7:2-3 and

Revelation 7:3-4, and 14:1.

There is absolute proof! The Sabbath is Yahweh's sign, standing more than any other commandment, for obedience. It was symbolically in the hand and in the forehead, just as the mark of the beast - the pagan Sunday - was in the right hand and in the forehead. Sunday observance, Easter, *Christ*mas, New Year's, Lenten, etc., this is the mark of the beast.

The false *Christian* church, deceived by Satan, did *(as secular history records prove),* cause all under the "Holy Roman Empire" to receive this mark during the middle ages. The local *(Roman)* council of Laodicea, about 363 A.D. passed this decree: "*Christians* must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But if any be found to be Judaizing, let them be declared anathema from the *Christ*"!

Not only were active Congregation members caused *(forced on pain of death)* to observe Sunday instead of the Sabbath, but it became a universal custom so that all the Western world, regardless of religious connection or belief, accepted Sunday instead of Saturday as the weekly day of rest! It has become universal in the Western world except for Judaism, Islam, a few sects in *Christianity* and the comparative few whom Yahweh has called out of this world and into His true Congregation of Israelite believers.

Has the beast stopped? It is presently in the "Abyss", but it is also in the process of resurrecting itself as a new united group of European nations. The Bible says a group of 10 nations that will be associated with the great false church will soon cause another future martyrdom of saints; a war against the true Israelites!

Yahweh's last warning for this New Covenant age is to "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" *(Rev. 18:4).*

Again; "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the Commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yah'shua" *(Rev. 14:12).*

How plain and simple is Yahweh's Word!

← Return to the Articles Index