

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 56

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

AMERICA IN PROPHECY STUDY GUIDE

AMERICA IN PROPHECY

In this study we are going to be taking a closer look at the land beast in Revelation 13. This study will help us understand from a biblical perspective its relationship to America in prophecy.

Revelation 13:1-3

As a short review, we have already taken a look at the sea beast in Revelation 13 and seen how prophecy and history connect this earthly power to the papacy. This leopard-like, lion-like, bear-like beast that receives its seat from the dragon, follows the succession of the earthly kingdoms of Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, and Imperial Rome. Papal Rome is the clear successor of these previous earthly kingdoms, rising up among the ten horns of Europe while plucking up three horns in its rise. After an infamous church/state reign of 1,260 years, the papacy finally receives a “deadly wound” in the year 1798. Now we will look to the second beast or kingdom, identified in Revelation 13 as coming up out of the earth.

THE EARTH BEAST

Revelation 13:11

The earth is stated as the place from which this second power would arise. The earth, being the opposite of waters, must represent less populated areas of the world, which gives us our first clue into the identity of the second beast. It comes into power in an area of the world that is much less populated than Europe.

Our second clue is that this kingdom comes into existence around the time when the 1,260-year period of papal supremacy is ending, which would be around the year 1798.

John said the “first beast” he saw in vision existed “before” the second beast, and we find this second power arising after the first beast goes into captivity (Revelation 13:11, 12).

Our third clue is that the second beast first appears like “a lamb,” but speaks like “a dragon” and exercises all the power of the first beast. A lamb in prophecy represents Christ (John 1:29). This power would be a Christian nation, founded upon the principles of liberty for the oppressed and offering refuge for the hungry multitudes (Luke 4:18; Matthew 14:20, 21).



“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.”

REVELATION 13:11

So what kingdom arose in an unsettled area of the world around 1798, exhibiting these lamb-like principles? Only one nation fits this symbolic description: The United States of America. From the obscurity of a less populated area, America was born with aspirations of liberty, justice, and refuge for the poor. Let’s take a closer look at each of these clues:

Clue number 1 – It arose at the right time. Notice the context of the prophecy in verse 10 of the chapter: “He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.” (Revelation 13:10).

Here we have the prophetic history of the first beast or kingdom introduced in Revelation chapter 13. The papal power

received a deadly wound when, in 1798, the pope was taken captive by Napoleon’s General Berthier, and the papal government was abolished. This next beast or power is predicted as rising to prominence in the time frame of the captivity of the first power. That would be the late 1700s, which is the very period when the United States, as a nation, was in its infancy.

Clue number 2 – It arose out of the earth, a less populated area of the world. We find this to be clearly indicated in Rev-

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 13:11 COMING UP OUT OF EARTH

John 4:23 TRUE WORSHIPERS WORSHIP THE FATHER

Revelation 12:16 THE EARTH HELPED THE WOMAN

Revelation 13:14 HE DECEIVES THOSE ON EARTH

elation 12. In verses 6 and 14, the woman, God's church, is described as fleeing into the wilderness or a deserted place to escape the persecution of the dark ages. The persecution is described in verse 15 as a flood of waters. This represents the "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" of Europe who were trying to wipe away the faith of those who followed the Bible instead of the state religion. The key verse, Revelation 12:16, reads: "And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth." (Revelation 12:16).

It was the earth that helped the woman escape the persecution of Europe. History testifies to the fact that America became a sanctuary for the faithful followers of the Word of God. The country of America eventually established freedom of religion for all faiths and swallowed up the persecuting flood of the nations of Europe.

Clue number 3 – It is depicted as a new nation, "another beast." The United States broke away from England and all its European roots and eventually became a new nation—a separate power. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776 and, in two short centuries, it has become a superpower of the world.

Clue number 4 – It is a democracy. Notice that this second kingdom is described as having two horns. Horns are a symbol of a kingdom's power, but notice that these two horns have no crown upon them. Compare this to the first beast or kingdom described in verse one that has "upon his horns ten crowns" (Revelation 13:1).

This new kingdom of America would not be a kingly power as those found in Europe. America would be marked by both religious and political liberty, and these principles would be her strength.

Clue number 5 – This is the one that takes us to the very time in which we live. This kingdom was to have a worldwide influence. Notice how verse 12 describes this second kingdom: "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." (Revelation 13:12).

We could probably say without hesitation that there has never been a time in history when America has so completely fulfilled this aspect of Bible prophecy as it presently does. Of all the nations of the world today, there is no other that is in a position to fulfill this aspect of prophetic utterance.

Clue number 6 – It is a lamb-like power. In the Bible and especially in prophecy, a Lamb symbolizes Jesus Christ. To describe this second power in Revelation 13 as having two horns like a lamb, is to ascribe to it Christian qualities. This new power was to be a Christian power, a nation adhering to the

principles of Christianity as outlined in the Bible. Freedom is one of the chief principles offered by Christ: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23).

It was upon these principles that this great nation of America was founded, but prophecy predicts a terrible change.

Clue number 7 – This power reveals both the character of a lamb and of a dragon: "...He had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." (Revelation 13:11).

Much of the history of America reveals the lamb-like principles outweighing the dragon-like voice, yet the dragon voice has been seen and felt throughout the history of this nation.

How does a nation speak? A nation or kingdom speaks through its laws or legislation. Bible prophecy predicts that the nation of America, lamb-like in its constitutional principles, will eventually tilt toward the dragon-like voice. This nation will, in fact, lose its Christian identity by restricting liberty for certain classes of people (Revelation 12:17; 2 Corinthians 3:17).

Summary

Revelation 13 warns that eventually America will use its authority to enforce "the mark" of papal supremacy, some kind of vowed loyalty to Rome. By means of economic boycott and even life-threatening persecution, all will be required to receive "the mark of the beast" in the right hand or in the forehead. Those who refuse to sacrifice their religious liberty will not be allowed to buy or sell. If that doesn't gain their compliance, a death sentence will be employed.

It may be hard to believe that America will ever abandon its lamb-like principle of religious liberty and speak with the voice of a dragon. But Bible prophecy has proven itself accurate in all it has foretold thus far. We can expect all that yet remains of its predictions to transpire as well.

In the end, God will always honor our freedom of choice, even if we choose to turn from Him and be lost. And if God honors our freedom of choice, how much more should those who claim to be His followers do the same?

Let us by God's grace ever be mindful of the freedom of choice and liberty bestowed upon mankind at creation, upheld through the cross of Christ. Let us seek to share the gospel, but never to force or support the violation of freedom of conscience in relationship to belief in God. Amen. ★

