

which seeks to model and reflect Christian principles of liberty, freedom and fairness, and would eventually possess unprecedented global influence?

Only one nation could fit: _____. Revelation 13 foretells the coming together of these two entities: one a super-power, the other the perceived “moral” super-power. This marriage will not be a pretty one.

And How Was the Roman Church-State Originally Formed?

The Roman Church-State has no standing army. It has always worked through existing _____ governments to achieve its purposes. So the image of the _____ will not be a literal _____. Rather it will be the resurgence of the kind of power and influence the Roman Church had in the Dark Ages. As the church worked, historically, through secular _____ to achieve its ends, so too at the end of time the resurrected beast will work through secular _____ to achieve its ends. The United States will, sadly, play that role. This is what the prophecy means in 13:11 when it says it will speak like a _____, that is like the _____.

God made man in His own _____ (Genesis 1:26) then He _____ into Him. So too the “image of the beast” comes to life when the _____ breathes his power into the Roman Church. The “image of the beast”, which looks just like the beast did in the Dark Ages, will be suddenly brought back to life. The _____ works with the Roman Church to “bring this nation back to God”. This seemingly noble experiment climaxes when _____ the _____ of the Roman Church’s authority in religious matters is enforced, first with economic sanctions, and then finally on pain of death.

All Roads Lead to Rome

Protestant churches are beating Rome’s door down to be allowed back into the _____ church. The phenomenon, called _____, is happening at an alarming rate. This coming together of the churches strengthens the Roman Church’s plans and potency. More on this in a future lesson.

Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, God’s last-day people will be forced to choose between “forced worship” and God’s commandments. In Daniel 3 we find them standing strong by God’s enabling grace. May Jesus Christ grant us the grace, courage, and power to do the same. May we say with Peter: “We ought to obey God rather than man.” Amen and amen.

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

Discover: The United States’ Role in Bible Prophecy

No. 20

The United States is unquestionably the most powerful nation on earth today. More than this, it is the most powerful nation that has *ever existed* in the history of the human race. This political, economic, and military potency has caused many to inquire what role, if any, the United States would play in Bible Prophecy. This is precisely the question we will seek to answer in the lesson.

Worship or Else!

The word _____ is an important word in Revelation 13. It occurs there _____ times. The word _____ means to _____ in this context. We might ask the question: Does God ever force people to worship Him? The answer, plainly, is _____. See Matthew 11:28-30; Jeremiah 31:3. God urges, invites, encourages, woos, and draws us to worship Him, but He never _____ us to. Forced worship, like forced love, is a contradiction in terms and is surely rooted in Satan’s perverse and insatiable desire for worship.

The Mark of the Beast

The mark of the beast is the mark...of the _____. That is, it is the beasts’ mark of authority. We have identified, from the Bible, the beast as none other than the Roman Church-State. This identification is consistent with essentially *every one* of the protestant reformers from Martin Luther and John Wesley to William Tyndale and John Calvin and many, many others. The mark of the beast, then, would be the mark of the Roman Church-State. Simple.

Last lesson we learned that the mark of the Roman Church-State’s authority in religious matters is found in her presumptuous claim to have _____ the Christian day of worship from _____ to _____. This is her claim. And it is an amazing one indeed.

Remember Daniel 7:25 which says that this antichristian power “will _____ to change times and laws.” Have they attempted to do this? The answer of history is: yes! They have sought to “transfer” the holiness and

solemnity of the 7th day Sabbath to Sunday, the first day of the week. There is no Biblical authority or mandate for this change! The church has done it out of her own sense of authority. She has placed convenience and tradition above the Bible. The Roman Church-State has historically made this claim, and continues to even today. She claims that this change proves her sovereignty and authority in religious matters. It is a _____ of her authority. It is a mark, an identifying mark, of the beast and its usurped ecclesiastical power!

We're Not There Yet...

The key word in Revelation 13 relating to the mark of the beast issue is the word: _____. The second beast of Revelation 13 will enforce and command the worship of the first beast of Revelation 13, the Roman Church-state. This will happen when mandatory _____ observance, to the exclusion of the Biblical Sabbath, is enforced by the secular government. It will be a choice between God's law or man's law. The Biblical _____ will be forgotten, despised, and neglected.

"Impossible" you say. Note that 36 states already have _____ laws on the books just waiting to be enforced. The climate is ripening for just this kind of thing. Many a politician, and many a religious leader are keen on "getting this country back to God." We also are keen on it, but we have serious reservations about the methods that modern-day politicians and religionists have in mind for doing this. Their primary goal is to use *legislation* to promote their religious agenda. This is always a dangerous mixture, as the 1260-year period known as the _____ ages clearly reveals. The first amendment of the constitution is a safeguard against this very kind of thing, but the constitution is being radically reevaluated. The climate of the United States right now, post-9-11 is a very different world than the pre-9-11 world. The world will never be the same again. Neither will the United States. We are living in strange and portentous times indeed, as an increasing number of politicians and legislators claim that they are Christians on a mission to "turn this nation back to God."

To put it very plainly: Sunday observance will be _____. This will be the enforcement of the _____ of the beast. It's really quite simple. The transfer from the Biblical Sabbath to _____ is the beast's _____. This _____ will be "caused" or enforced. The United States will play a pivotal role in this enforcement, as Revelation 13 makes clear.

Two Beasts: Who is the Second?

Revelation 13 describes _____ beasts. The first beast rises up out of the _____ and has _____ horns, the body of a _____, the feet of a _____ and the mouth of a _____. This imagery, of course, comes directly from Daniel 7, as we have already seen and studied. Notice the sequence:

- 10 horns—leopard—bear—lion

This is the exact opposite order that Daniel had seen them. He saw:

- Lion—Bear—Leopard—Strange beast with 10 horns

Why the difference? Daniel was looking forward into the future, that is _____. John was looking backward into history, that is _____. The first beast is the Roman Church-State, as we have already compellingly seen. Who is the Second beast? Note the following identifying characteristics:

1. Rises out of the _____ as opposed to the _____.
2. Has two horns like a _____, but eventually speaks as a _____.
3. Horns have no _____; there is no _____ or _____.
4. Rises up about the same _____ the first beast goes _____.
5. Does not conquer other nations but was seen _____ up.
6. Eventually possesses _____ power and influence.

What nation arose around 1798, not by violent conquest so much as by quiet, plant-like growth in a relatively unpopulated and "new" area of planet Earth, that advocates a democratic form of government, without a king or queen,