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Revelation 13

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Revelation 13.

Topics.

- A beast with ten horns and seven heads, rises out of the sea.
 - The dragon gave a beast like a leopard his throne and great authority.
 - One of the beasts' head was mortally wounded and healed.
 - The beast was, allowed to blaspheme and have authority forty-two months.
 - All whose name is not in the book of the Lamb will worship the beast.
 - A second beast with two horns like a lamb that spoke like a dragon.
 - The beast performs great signs, making fire come down from heaven.
 - The beast like a lamb tells those on earth to make an image for the beast.
 - All, are marked on the right hand or forehead so no one can buy or sell.
 - The number of the beast, is the number of a man, and his number is 666.
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A personal note: though I have always loved reading and studying the Scriptures and have now walked with Christ and in God's grace for around fifty years the following studies should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware that my mind is limited by mortality and that greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

The previous chapter: began with a great red dragon standing before a pregnant woman clothed with the sun who gives birth to a child, who will rule all nations; the child is caught up to God and Michael fights against the dragon and he is thrown down to earth. Salvation and the Kingdom of Christ comes; the dragon pursues the woman who gave birth to the child and she flees to a place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The chapter ended with the dragon standing on the sea and in great fury going to make war on the woman's offspring.

REVELATION 13:1

A Beast with Ten Horns and Seven Heads, Rises Out of the Sea.

- **Revelation 13:1:** And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems (crowns in KJV) on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

In the previous chapter we read of a great red dragon that has seven royal heads and ten horns. (Rev. 12:3). This chapter is a pause from the chronological order of the main story, that introduces us to a powerful blasphemous beast with seven heads and ten horns. Both the heads and the horns are symbols of powerful kings and their kingdoms or rulers and their empires, that embrace many of nations and multitudes people as the following verses show:

- The angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her --- NOW GO TO VERSE TEN --- they are seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while --- NOW GO TO VERSE TWELVE --- And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. (Rev. 17:7-10).

Ten diadems (crowns in KJV): (v1) crown comes from the Greek word (*diadema*) meaning band or fillet it carries the idea of binding or fastening around. It is a type ornamental headband worn as crown by monarchs and as a symbol of royalty.

Ten horns: (v1) the ten horns symbolise ten powerful world rulers and their governments and nation that have tremendous power, authority and influence over the global world.

Blasphemous names on its heads: (v1) symbolises a frightful monstrous oppressing world power hostile toward Christ and his people, that rises-up out of the widespread troubles (i.e., political upheaval, financial crisis, disasters and wars) taking place across the face of the world. The fact it has blasphemous names on its seven heads shows that the true character of the of this beast is opposed to God and that the source of its ungodly spirit that flows through it is of Satan.

The seas: (v1) occupy about three-fourths of the surface of the globe and are in a perpetual state of unrest. Following are two possible reasons this beast maybe pictured as standing on the sea.

1. During the early generations, many believed the sea was the home of gigantic terrible, fierce monsters.
2. In the book of Daniel, we read:
 - The wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. (Isaiah 57:20).

Based on this verse the sea in John's vision symbolises the following:

- The masses of humanity being in a state of global turmoil and restlessness and under the rule of an ungodly earthly ruler, power or government whose minds are driven by selfish ambition, worldliness, pride, power and greed.
- A world full of troubles and commotions, unruly power, violence, wars and hostile forces. Political tumults, conflicting passions, temptations, rebellious power, terror, sorrow and perpetual unrest.
- Multitudes of troubled people, governments and nations and the widespread ungodly culture and learning of the world.
- The true church of Christ being under the oppressive and corrupt rule of an ungodly earthly ruler, power or government whose minds are aggressively hostile toward Christ and his people.

This same beast was previously mentioned in (Rev. 11:7) rising from the bottomless pit and now we are given greater detail. The word beast comes from the Greek word (*therion and thera*), it refers to a dangerous animal or a venomous, wild creature. Figuratively it carries the idea of destruction. Prophetically, a beast symbolises a tyrannical idolatrous empire. The kingdom of God and of Christ is never represented under the image of a beast.

A beast rising out of the sea: (v1) at the time of this vision John is on the Island of Patmos (Rev. 1:9). Throughout this book there are many visions, prophecies and symbols that appear to signify that this beast refers to the old Roman Empire and Papal Rome, but because these had risen-up prior to the time of John and the following verse shows that what is now shown to him will come after his era.

- I (John) looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." (Rev. 4:1).

Many suppose that this blasphemous beast with ten horns and seven heads, cannot refer to pagan or papal Rome, however, Rome was not fully dead and Papal Rome has far more power today than it ever had during the time when Rome was at its peak, which means the beast here may will refer to the rise of the nations of the Roman empire and the Roman Papal church whose head is the Pope and whose home is the Vatican, an entirely separate state to all other states of the world. Clearly this Beast power cannot refer to the old Roman empire, but there is no reason that it cannot appear in some future time in a different shape and form.

The seven heads: (v1) refer to seven great powers of the world that are separated from the ten world powers represented by the horns (called kings, Rev. 17:12). The seven heads of Johns vision symbolise seven great world kingdoms that have had a major influence upon Israel. The symbolism of the great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, is as follows. The foundation of the seven heads is the red dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2). Upon this foundation the following seven major world kingdom arose:

1. Egypt (the first of the seven heads).
2. Assyria (the second of the seven heads).
3. Babylon (the third of the seven heads).
4. Media Persia (the fourth of the seven heads).
5. Greece (the fifth of the seven heads).
6. Rome. (the sixth of the seven heads).
7. Ten mixed nations (the seventh of the seven heads).

In Daniels vision (Dan. 2:36-45) Rome is pictured as the legs of the great metal image and the ten-horned beast is represented as ten toes. (Dan. 2:41-43). The feet and toes are an extension of the legs, which means that in the latter days these ten toes or horned nations will embrace the nations of the old Roman Empire and form the final global antichristian beast empire. This vision of John also strongly resembles Daniels vision in chapter seven. There Daniel saw four great beasts different from each other rising-up in succession from the great sea that four winds of heaven had stirred up (Dan. 7:2-3), signifying the four nations springing up out of a state of commotion, disorder and anarchy. In this vision, the ten refers the last period of world power, that rises-up out of the fourth kingdom (Rome) which is, connected with and reaches forward to the seventh and final head of the beast, as the following verse shows.

- The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. (the eighth beast). (Revelation 17:12).

Here in chapter seventeen the angel tells John that the beast that he saw is seven kings, five who have fallen, one is and the other has not yet come, and when he does come, he will remain for only a short while. (Rev. 17:10). The following list, shows who the seven kings of John's vision are; who the five that have fallen refer to; who the fourth kingdom of Daniel's vision is and who the one to come refers to. The first of the seven is:

1. **Egypt (fallen):** is the first great power of John's vision, that had major influence over the people of Israel. The Hebrew people were in bondage to Egypt for over four hundred years, and when God by mighty plagues bought them out of Egypt a nation (Israel) was born.

2. **Assyria (fallen):** is the second great power of John's vision, that had major influence over the people of Israel. Assyria's armies invaded the land of Samaria and overthrew the ten tribes of Israel dwelling there and ruled over them.
3. **Babylon (fallen):** is the third great power of John's vision, and the first world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by his head of gold (Dan. 2:32) (Dan. 2:37) and a lion that had eagle wings, that were torn off (Dan. 7:4), meaning it could not fly or stand up, to arise again on its feet, but had to be lifted-up by others and once standing again it was given the mind of a man (v17-18). The inhabitants of Jerusalem and of the land of Judah had become so corrupt God used Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon as His servant to bring His judgment upon Jerusalem and the land of Judah. The armies of Babylon invaded Jerusalem burned the city destroyed the temple and took the people captive for seventy years. (Jeremiah 25:8-9).
4. **Media Persia (fallen):** is the fourth great power of John's vision, and the second world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by his silver chest and silver arms (Dan. 2:32) (Dan. 2:39), and by a ferocious bear destroying and conquering multitudes of nations. (Dan. 7:17-18). Media existed as a kingdom in its own right prior to Persia, but Cyrus the Great king of Persia toppled the Median rulers and turned Media into the Kingdom of Persia. The LORD not only called Cyrus the king of Persia His anointed shepherd and called him by name, but also equipped Cyrus for battle (Isaiah 45:1, 28). Added to this the LORD says, even though Cyrus (a secular king) does not know Him, He will go before him (Isaiah 45:2-3). Cyrus invaded and defeated Babylon and gave Israel written permission to return to their homeland and rebuild their beloved city Jerusalem and the temple of God.
5. **Greece (fallen):** is the fifth great power of John's vision, and the third world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by the middle and thighs being bronze (Dan. 2:32) (Dan. 2:39), and by a leopard with four heads (i.e., four kings over four kingdoms) and four wings on its back with enormous governing authority and ruling power, influence and control. (Dan. 7:17-18). Media Persia fell to Alexander the Great after which the empire of Greece became firmly fixed under his control, and the city of Alexandria grew into one of the greatest cities of the ancient world. Alexandria's death created enormous problems, because there were no plans for a succession, so his empire went to the four strongest generals who were, Ptolemy 1 the King of Egypt, Cassander King of Macedonia, Lysimachus King of Thrace and Seleucus I, King of Syria. Although Alexander is not named in the Bible, but he is described prophetically in Daniel chapter eight as the great horn between the he-goat's eyes. (Dan. 8:5-8) (Dan. 8:20-22).
6. **Rome (one is):** is the sixth great power of John's vision, and the fourth world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by his legs, feet and toes, (Dan. 2:33) (Dan. 2:40-41) (Dan. 2:42-43). It, is said to be different from the previous kings and their kingdoms, in that it appears terrifying and exceedingly strong. It had iron teeth and anything it didn't destroy with its teeth it crushed with its feet. (Daniel 7:7). This is the legs, feet and toes that Daniel saw in his vision in chapter two which was Rome the fourth world kingdom (Dan. 2:40-41) (Dan. 2:42-43).

The legs of iron continue down to the feet and ten toes mixed with iron and clay, which signifies that the final beast is Rome with all its affiliated nations (some strong some weak) and Papal power extending on through history to the last days when it will in some form rise again as the final world power. The early history of the small, but powerful city-state of Rome began with its gradual domination of Mediterranean powers, especially many of the states and nations of Greece. They built

up their empire between the 3rd century BC and the 3rd century AD., and at Rome's height the Empire stretched from North-Western Europe to the Near East and encompassed all the lands of the Mediterranean.

Rome and Religion: Roman state religion was considered the formal link between men and the gods. Their religion was a type of contract between Rome and the highest god amongst all their gods. They held that their highest god would look after Rome's security and progress, providing the state looked after the god's needs by supplying the proper sacrifices and worship. In (Rev.13:2) John sees a ten-horned beast rise-up out of the sea, like a leopard, a bear and a lion which are all symbols of Daniels vision with the leopard symbolizing Greece, the bear Media Persia and the lion Babylon. The natural idea in these visions is that in the latter days the ten-horned beast will embrace the nations of the ancient Roman empire.

- 7. The final world power (still to come):** is the seventh great power of John's vision symbolised by the ten horns of the beast and is the sixth world kingdom, that Daniel saw in his vision of the iron man symbolised by his ten toes. Counting from Babylon the first kingdom of Daniels vision Rome is the fourth Kingdom, counting from Egypt the first kingdom of John's vision, Rome is the sixth kingdom (falling one short of God's perfect number seven). In John's vision Rome, is the successor of the five that had fallen (1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Media-Persia and (5) Greece). All these great world-kingdom were of the same mind and the same spirit in that they were all founded in unrighteousness (i.e., all worshipped pagan gods and were in violation of Gods law). In the previous chapter these beast kingdoms are collectively pictured as a great red dragon (Rev. 12:3), with seven royal heads, symbolising that they are of the same antichristian spirit and aggressively hostile toward Israel, and by extension the church. Historically Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media Persia, Greece and Rome were all major capital cities and empires of the world. Both Daniel and John's vision highlight the truth that that the spirit of the dragon has flowed through history and will continue to do so from generation to generation until its evil power climaxes in the latter days of the final antichristian beast kingdoms and the stone that was cut from a mountain by no human hand (the Lord Jesus Christ), breaks in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold and brings all these kingdoms to an end, after which God's Kingdom which will never be destroyed will stand forever. (Daniel 2:44-45). The seven heads (1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Media Persia, (5) Greece, (6) Rome and (7) the ten toes (mixed empire) are all full of blasphemous names since they all worshipped idols and pagan gods and where aggressively hostile toward God's people Israel. In Daniels vision Rome is counted as the fourth kingdom for his vision starts at the head of the image which was gold and symbolises Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. In John's vision in chapter thirteen Rome is counted as the sixth kingdom for his vision begins at the first world empire which was Egypt. We know that Rome is built upon seven hills and that in Daniels vision the legs of the image symbolise Rome, which means that the empire of Rome flows down to the ten toes, prophetically this carries the idea that Rome in some form and shape will rise again as ten nations (or an alliance of ten sovereign nations or countries, (perhaps something like NATO today) and these ten will form the final world empire. The feet and toes of the great image are partly of iron and partly of clay signifying that latter day ten horned empire would be made up of some strong nations and some weaker nations (Dan. 2:33) (Dan. 2:42).

The ten horns: some commentators have supposed that the ten horns refer to ten kingdoms that arose after the fall of the Roman empire, the problem with this idea is that should that be the case they would be accurately known, but a careful study shows that this is not so, there are more than twenty different lists given by various commentators and interpreters. Added to this there has never been a kingdom or empire of nations on earth that has fully fulfilled all that is spoken of concerning this ten-horned beast. Following is a far more fitting and likely scenario. The

two legs of iron symbolise that the Roman Empire would be divided into two branches, being the Eastern and Western empires of Rome. The ten toes (five on each foot) signify that each branch of the Roman Empire would consist of five kingdoms. The heart of the Eastern Empire (also called the Byzantine Empire) is modern day Turkey with its capital in Constantinople (formerly Byzantium) now modern-day Istanbul. Thought there are various ideas who these kingdoms are, the four most likely scenarios are:

The first scenario: supposes that the five kings from the Western Roman Empire embraces the following countries:

1. Britain
2. France
3. Spain (or the whole Iberian Peninsula, including Portugal)
4. Italy
5. Germany

While the five kings from the Eastern Roman Empire embraces:

1. Turkey
2. Greece
3. Syria
4. Egypt (including part of Sudan)
5. Libya

One of the kings from one of these kingdoms is the 11th horn who we now know will be the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) who the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8).

The second scenario: there are around two hundred nations that are part of the United Nations, for these nations to submit to only ten kings, seems hardly likely, for this reason many today believe the ten kings symbolise ten regions with one designated leader representing their region, mimicking the Roman Empire. The final makeup of the ten regional unions could be something like the following:

1. European Union.
2. Eastern European Union.
3. North American Union.
4. South American Union.
5. Central American/Caribbean Union.
6. Middle Eastern/North African Union.
7. African/Sub-Saharan Union.
8. South and Central Asian Union.
9. Eastern and South-eastern Asian Union.
10. Asian Pacific Union.

The third scenario: supposes that the ten regions will unite the entire world under a single form of government embracing the following:

1. The European union.
2. The Mediterranean union.
3. The African union.
4. The union of south American nations.
5. The Slavic union.
6. The gulf cooperation council.
7. The south and south east Asian association.
8. The north American union.
9. The Caribbean community.
10. The Arab league.

The fourth scenario: supposes that the ten horns, symbolise the following ten countries:

1. Spain.
2. Portugal.
3. France.

4. Britain.
5. Austria.
6. Italy.
7. Luxemburg.
8. Switzerland.
9. Belgium.
10. Netherlands.

All ten working in concert with earth other to bring about a New World Order for the survival of the planet and humanity and to bring justice and peace to all countries. Any one of these scenarios (or something similar) will form the global New World Order in the latter days. It will be a self-appointed organisation that is most likely composed of scientists, economists, businessmen, international high civil servants, heads of state and former heads of state from all continents. They will deal with a variety of international political issues and will be convinced that the future of humankind must be controlled for the survival of the planet and the human population and for the establishment of permanent justice and peace. This New World Order of ten regions with one designated leader representing their region, will replace the old form of Government with a form of government that will not only have controlling power at a global level, but also have the power to enforce laws across all countries in the world. (Mimicking the Roman Empire). To achieve this ideal global sovereignty, individual and independent nations must be destroyed and replaced with a form of government that will have:

- Control over the world's natural wealth to assure equal access and distribution for all countries.
- Control at a global level of bank institutions, the financial international organizations and foreign investments.
- Control at a federal and regional level of external relations and the international trade practiced by the member states.
- Control over its own economic and military institutions to intervene anywhere in the world to re-establish peace and democracy.
- Control over agents that it can use around the world to frequently create crises.
- Control of people in high positions of the media to promote the crisis and create confusion and fear to bring an end to the old and open the way for the new.

The future New World Order regimes will occupy the highest political, financial and religious positions in the world. No one should think that chaos, especially the present chaos in Europe, will prevent the New World Order from bringing about this final world empire, since it is a principle of life that the New World Order understands very clearly that chaos is necessary to justify making the changes that are needed to achieve a required end.

David Rockefeller wrote: some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as 'internationalists' and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure—one world, if you will. If that's the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it." (taken from David Rockefeller, *Memoirs*, p. 405). Throughout most of human history, political organization has been at a tribal, city and state level and in more recent centuries a subcontinental level, however, now with the advent of superior transportation, weapons and instant worldwide communication there is for the first time the ability for a union of member states to organize at a worldwide level. As the pieces of the New World Order fall slowly but steadily into place, it will become clear that its pattern of government will be according to how the Roman Empire governed its vast empire.

The ten horns: (v1) horns are emblems of power and denote that the dragon in some respects represented ten combined powers. The picture is of a wild beast (the dragon), representing a concentrated single hostile form with all the antichristian forces and power and authority of successive empires that have opposed or oppressed the people of God, and sought to destroy their efforts for good. All evil has its root in a spirit that is at enmity with God, therefore, the dragon symbolises all the sovereignties and powers which have been influenced and guided by that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2).

Blasphemous names on its heads: (v1) this statement highlights the fact that the antichristian spirit of arrogant self-sufficiency characterised all the world-powers. The following verses highlight the Spirit of Babylon:

- The king (Nebuchadnezzar) answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30).

Nebuchadnezzar, became a prideful self-exalting and self-flattering, ruthless and powerful king, crediting his great glory to his own works, rather than God, it is in this sense he is referred to as a beast king. However, this same spirit is not limited to Nebuchadnezzar only, but underpins all past world-powers. The people of the land of Shinar said:

- Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4).

The Roman poets flattered their emperors, and their oppressed followers esteemed them as gods. These prideful self-exalting, ruthless emperors put those who refused to bow down to their rule and laws to death. Even today, world leaders of different nations desire to establish themselves as the head ruler and nation over all the earth, this will certainly be the goal of the man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) and those aligned with him in the latter days. The idea is that the whole collective power of all these great secular nations was blasphemous in character, each one of these ten heads appeared to have a crown with an inscription that was blasphemous, signifying that their entire reign was not only offensive to God, but that they also claimed to themselves some attributes of God that only belonged to Him, which are all applicable to many of the Emperors of Rome and the Popes, the Vatican and the Papacy that arose out of Rome. The following five facts show that the description, "the beast has ten horns and seven heads full of blasphemy," is very apt:

1. Rome sits on seven mountains, and successively had seven forms of government.
2. Rome was divided into ten kingdoms and openly practised idolatry.
3. Rome called themselves the eternal city; the heavenly city; the goddess of the earth; and had her temples and altars, with incense and sacrifices offered up to her.
4. Rome blasphemed the Christian faith and after the reign of Emperor Constantine who accepted a distorted version of the Christian faith the Roman empire was divided into ten kingdoms.
5. Papal Rome arose from the ruin of pagan Rome and has also appropriated to herself the title, "The Mother church upon the earth or of the world."

The real heir of the Roman Empire: the papal church more than anything was the real heir of the Roman Empire The papacy continued to be based in Rome and to exert enormous authority over most of Europe, keeping alive not only many of the ideas of the Roman world but also a sense of a wider community which looked to the ancient city for support and leadership.

Rome and the Vatican City: Rome today is the capital city of Italy and the Vatican City, the seat of the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church is, located in an enclave within Rome and is recognized as an independent state by the Italian government. The majestic dome of St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City dominates the Roman skyline. The Vatican became recognised as an independent papal country that is culturally and politically distinct and different from its surrounding and larger neighbours. A century ago, Rome was a quiet city; its people were living largely in the past, but today not only is it the capital and nerve centre of Italy, but the seat of the Roman Catholic Church and the headquarters of major international agencies and multinational corporations, Rome has assumed a place of worldwide importance and power. (See the title: "The Vatican, the Catholic Church, Rome and the Dragon," at the end of this study).

Whatever power this is, it has the following characteristics:

- It stands as a superior power gathering all who will align with it and submit to its authority and rule.
- It rules not by love, but by fear dominance and force.
- It is the great force of the world-power, which in every age has been antagonistic toward God and His people.
- It is the figure of the kingdoms of this world which are founded on prideful selfish ambition and zealous passion.
- It has seven heads (world-powers) that are likened to mountains for their strength and stability and though all separate powers are all inspired by the dragon spirit, which is the spirit of utter enmity against the rule of the Righteous King.
- It primarily expresses the sum-total of the God-opposed world power attacking the church more from without, than within.

REVELATION 13:2

The Dragon Gave a Beast like a Leopard His Throne and Authority.

- **Revelation 13:2:** And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne (seat in KJV) and great authority.

In Daniel's vision (Dan. 7:4-6) three separate kingdoms are described, one like a lion; another like a bear and another like a leopard. Now here in John's vision this one ten-horned beast embraces all three of these beasts, this is because the character of all these beast kings and nations of Daniels and Johns vision embrace of all forms of world-power. In Daniels vision all, of these creatures are successively brought on the scene as representing different empires. (Dan. 7:2-7). The lion is introduced as the symbol of the Babylonian power; the bear, as the symbol of Media Persia; the leopard, as the symbol of Greece; and a nondescript animal, fierce, cruel, and mighty, with two horns as the symbol of the Roman power and to this empire the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. In Johns vision, there is one beast animal with the character of a leopard, a bear and a lion representing the Roman power, as if it were made up of a leopard with the feet of a bear, and the mouth of a lion, with two horns, and with the general description of a fierce monster. The Roman power was in fact made up of the empires represented by the other animals in Daniel, and combined in, itself all the elements of the terrible and oppressive characteristics of the other great empires that preceded it. At the same time the leopard, with feet like a bear's, and a mouth like a lion's is a fitting symbol to describe the ferocity, the bloodthirstiness and the cruelty of the Roman power and especially of the antagonistic power of the Popes and the Church of Papal Rome, who

shed the blood of all who opposed her teachings and doctrines. This beast unites in-itself the God-opposed characteristics of the three preceding kingdoms, resembling the leopard, the bear, and the lion. It rises-up out of the sea (signifying the populations of the world) and represents in one beast the global world power opposed to God, not of one period and one locality of time only, but of all times, places and generations just as the woman is the church of all ages. This view is also supported by the fact, that the dragon is the representative of Satan as the following verse shows:

- The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Rev. 12:9).

And supported by the fact the dragon is also described as having seven heads and ten horns:

- Another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. (Rev. 12:3).

The seven heads and ten horns are a general description of Satan's universal power as a serpent and deceiver in all ages and places of the world. (Rev. 12:9). If the seven heads referred only to seven Roman emperors, it is difficult to understand why they alone would be mentioned in the original image of Satan (Rev. 12:9)., whereas it makes far more sense if we suppose them to represent Satan's collective power on earth.

The symbolism of the leopard, the bear and the lion: the leopard is an animal that is beautiful and magnificent in appearance and swift to its prey which it devours with fierce bloodthirsty lust. The bear is strong, especially in its feet and claws which it uses to brutally tear to pieces its victims. The lion is the king of beasts whose roar frightens all those who stand in its path and its mouth seizes hold of its prey and devours it. In this vision of Johns these three animals are united together, symbolising a powerful nation or government that appears beautiful to the world, but is a fierce, cruel, tyrannical power. All these animals, the leopard, the bear and the lion and their character of bloodthirstiness, strength and ferocity are combined-together to point us toward an antichristian monster that embraces all the traits of these three animals. History shows that this is a very apt description of Babylon (a symbol of the world and of materialism, luxury and indulgent living) who not only took the people of Israel captive for seventy years and burned Jerusalem and robbed the sacred vessels from the temple of God but is also an apt description of Rome and the Papal power that rose-up out of it.

The dragon gave the beast his power, throne and authority: (v2) in (Rev. 20:2) we are told that the dragon, is the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, which means that the spirit that this ten-horned beast power is influence by and operates from is the spirit of Satan and the Devil, which not only explains why it is so aggressively against God, Christ and his people, but also shows that the heart of all previous nations hostile to Israel were operating from the same evil power. We know that the dragon has seven royal crowns on his head and that Rome sits on seven mountains symbolising seven heads and that these seven heads are on the back of the ten-horned beast monster, which makes this beast power a perfect symbol of Roman supremacy and dominion, Papal Rome, its supporters and its distorted Christian teachings and Babylon the Scriptural symbol of the world.

The dragon and Jesus: we have discovered that the dragon is the devil and Satan (Rev. 20:2) and we know that when Jesus was being tempted the devil claimed, to have all earthly power over the kingdoms of the world and asserted that he could give them to whomsoever he pleased.

- The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written," 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' (Matt. 4:8-10).

Here the titles, the Devil and Satan are interchangeable, we cannot know how far the power of Satan in this respect may extend, but we would be right in saying that the underlying hostile spirit of the Roman power toward the church and followers of Christ was driven by the same hostile spirit that Satan and the devil has toward God. Rome's arrogance, haughtiness, its merciless thirst for world dominion, its bloodthirsty persecution of Christians and support of the papacy, are all characteristics we would expect to find in Satan, symbolised here in John's vision by the dragon. The apostle Paul in the book of Thessalonians wrote:

- The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, (2 Thess. 2:9).

The man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) will manifest cunning subtlety and deception, malice and cruelty, oppression and deceptive signs and lying wonders and a hostile spirit against followers of Christ, which we would expect to find in the character of the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan. (Rev. 20:2). the authority of Rome and Babylon was not only great and powerful but extended over a large part of the earth and was alike in its character, to what we should expect Satan to set up in the world in the latter days. It is through the succession of world-powers (signified by the leopard, the bear and the lion) that the dragon carries on his war against the Kingdom of God and in the latter days it will be through his power and influence that the ten-horned beast rises-up to be the final powerful antichristian sovereign force on earth.

The dragons throne (seat in KJV) and great authority: (v2) there has been some debate over whether this should be translated throne or seat, but it matters little since the primary idea is that it is a seat or throne that kings of the earth sit upon and that the power, authority, influence and dominion that these kings do have comes from the great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2).

REVELATION 13:3

One of the Beasts Head was Mortally Wounded and Healed.

- **Revelation 13:3:** One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound (wounded to death in KJV), but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth (all the world in KJV) marvelled (wondered in KJV) as they followed the beast (the ten horns and seven heads beast) (v1).

The following verses (there are many others) show that the expression, "the whole earth," (all the world in KJV) (v3) can refer to a large district of country, the land of Judah and Israel or the whole Roman Empire or the entire world.

- In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. (Luke 2:1)

The degree did not go out to the entire globe, but to the Roman world at that time which was considered all the world because of its vast power and influence over many nations.

- I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. (Rom. 1:8).

At, this time the Gospel was proclaimed to much of the world, but certainly not the entire world.

- Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing. (Col. 1:5-6).

History clearly shows that there has not been an era in which the entire world was proclaiming the Gospel. The idea here is that the Gospel has gone out to Jews and Gentile alike and is no longer limited to one nation only (i.e., Israel). However, verse thirteen states:

- All who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain. (Revelation 13:8).

This shows that it matters not what region of the earth all the world refers to, since all those whose name has not been written in the Lamb's book of life will worship the Beast no matter where they are. This could never have been achieved by the generations before us but can easily come to pass today since we have the internet which gives us instant global communication and visual pictures and videos. The idea here is that all the world is astonished, amazed and struck with wonder at the uniqueness of this beast, so much so they not only admire and follow it, but also worship it.

- They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast (the ten-horned beast with the great prostitute woman riding it), and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" (Rev. 13:4).

The general idea is, that the beast received such universal reverence, and inspired such universal awe, that masses of the earth's population worship it. This does not necessarily mean that people congregated together in churches as Christians do to worship God, but that in their hearts and minds this beast leader held the highest place, in that it could be rightly stated he sat on the throne of the heart of his followers as Christ sits on the throne of the heart of his followers. True worship does not only involve standing in an assembly with raised hands singing songs of praise (though this is good and is certainly a part of worship), but also embraces the heart of those worshipping being fully surrendered to the will of the one they are worshipping and their speech and behaviour being such that it is in harmony with the character of the one they are exalting and praising. Many commentators have shown that throughout history there have been various rulers and kingdoms that have come to ruin and risen again, but the primary kingdom in focus in this prophetic vision is Rome that came to ruin, but out of it arose Papal Rome to rise-up with even greater influence over the global world.

A mortal wound (wounded to death in KJV): (v3) this wounded head was Rome the sixth head, for five were fallen (Rev. 17:10) (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media Persia and Greece), before John's time and the sixth head was that of the Roman Caesars and Emperors who were previously, kings, dictators and military champions elected by the people. Rome (the one that is) includes the legs, the feet and the toes of Daniels vision of the metal man (Dan. 2:33) (Dan. 2:40-41) (Dan. 2:42-43), symbolising the final world power (still to come) symbolised by the ten horns of the beast in John's vision here in the book of Revelation and the ten toes of Daniels vision. When the ten-horned beast rose from the sea, John saw a deadly wound on one of its seven heads. This wounded head is the sixth head of the seven and refers to Rome, while the wound refers to that time when the Roman empire was overturned and brought to ruin by the northern nations, while its wound being healed refers to the Vatican and the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church that rose up out of its ruins and through it the Roman name again became a formidable worldwide power and in this way the wound of Rome was healed. In verse twelve we read:

- I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹²It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. (Revelation. 13:11-12).

The beast here with two horns like a lamb, that speaks like a dragon refers to the Roman Papal Church, the two horns symbolize its religious and secular power, like a lamb identifies it with Christ and speaking like a dragon symbolizes the Popes proclaiming a distorted version of the Gospel

of the Lord Jesus Christ. Under this new form, Rome has all the power (though in a different form) and influence over the world that it had before. Every wound that was inflicted on the power of the empire of Rome's was healed by the papacy, and under this form its dominion and influence spread as wide over the world as it had ever been. The former predominance and pre-eminence of the Roman Empire would have forever ceased after it was brought to ruin by the invasion of the Northern armies inflicting a deadly wound upon it, if its deadly wound had not been healed by the rise of Papal Rome, the Popes and the Vatican. In Revelation chapter twelve we read:

- The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction (perdition in KJV). And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. (Rev. 17:8).

The beast that was, refers to ancient Rome, and is not, refers to the ruin of Rome, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit, refers to the Papal Roman Church. All, of these beasts rise-up out of the bottomless pit, meaning they are earthly in contrast to being heavenly, they are ungodly in contrast to being godly, they proclaim a distorted version of Christs teaching and thereby deceive many and by their false religion and hypocrisy draw people away from God rather than toward Him. The ten-horned beast with the great prostitute woman full of abominations being carried on its back (symbolising Papal Rome and all nations and supporters aligned to her), now healed of its temporary and external wound, returns, not only from the sea, but from the bottomless pit, signifying that it returns with greater, power, evil and hostility and a greater ability to spread their erroneous teachings throughout Christianity:

- One of its (seven) heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast (ten-horned beast). (Revelation. 13:3).
- I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon (signifying Papal Rome). ¹²It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast (ten-horned beast), whose mortal wound was healed. (Rev. 13:11-12).
- By the signs that it (the two-horned beast) is allowed to work in the presence of the beast (ten-horned beast) it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. (Rev. 13:14).

Earlier we read:

- When they have finished their testimony, the beast (ten-horned beast) that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them (signifying Papal Rome) and conquer them and kill them. (Rev. 11:7).

And then we are told:

- The beast that you saw was (Rome), and is not (Rome brought to ruin), and is about to rise (Papal Rome) from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. (Rev. 17:8).

A different form of an old beast breaks in upon the Christianised world, worse than the first, in that it emerges in a Christianised form in appearance and character and is more deceptive and as such more dangerous than it was in its previous form. The first was a hostile pagan beast hostile toward God's people, that only had power to outwardly destroy Gods church, whereas in its new form it not only has the power to destroy outwardly, but also the power to destroy from within. The apostasy of this beast power and of the great prostitute woman full of abominations accumulates until it reaches its peak when the man of lawlessness (sin in KJV) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) the son of destruction (perdition in KJV meaning utter disaster, ruin and destruction) who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god appears.

- Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Now consider the following:

- Understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (2 Tim. 3:1-4).

These verses (and the ones following) are not only descriptive of the character of the collective population of the world in the last days but is also a very fitting description of the old Roman Empire. Paul in the book of Romans describes the character of those who exchange the truth about God for a lie and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator in the following manner:

- They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (Rom. 1:29-32).

These verses give us a good idea of what the character of those dwelling on earth at the time of the antichrist will look like. Secular and pagan Rome was wounded, but later healed under Constantine when pagan worship of the emperor's image gave way to a distorted teaching of Christianity. However, this healing was followed by image worship not of pagan gods, but of Papal errors of the Roman Catholic Church which was introduced into Christianity. These false and deceptive doctrines are continuing to be spread throughout most nations even today and will continue to do so until the last great apostasy, when the second antichrist beast appears like a lamb with two horns (Rev. 13:11), the same seventh head (world power), but in another form. This means that Christians are endangered, by two powers, firstly, the counterfeit Christianity of the great prostitute woman, and secondly, by the open and hostile anti-Christian spirit of the ten-horned beast.

The fall of the Roman Empire: The Roman Empire lasted over a thousand years and represented a sophisticated and adaptive civilization. The expression, "the Fall of Rome," suggests some cataclysmic event ended the Roman Empire which had stretched from the British Isles to Egypt and Iraq, but its end cannot be placed upon a single event, since its fall did not come suddenly, but rather fell slowly because of the following things:

- The Roman Empire became too big to control easily and it lost control over much of its military.
- The split into an Eastern and Western empire governed by separate emperors caused schisms and massive trade deficits.
- The incompetence of its Emperors and the failing strength of its economy.
- The many changes of religions and the lack of efficient civil administration.
- Increasing pressure from invading barbarians outside Roman culture.
- The slow diminishing of political and financial power.
- Challenges from within and without over the course of hundreds of years.

Together these issues combined to bring about the decline of the Roman Empire's glory, strength and power and eventually resulted in the complete fall and ruin of Rome. However, from her ashes rose the Papal Church which has now by far surpassed the power authority and influence (both secular and religious) worldwide that ancient Rome had.

Rome Emperor Constantine and Christianity: when the Roman Empire started, there was no such religion as Christianity. In the 1st century Pontius Pilate, the prefect of the Roman province of Judaea had Jesus the founder of the Christian faith crucified. It took followers of Jesus a few centuries to gain enough strength that they were, able to win over Roman support which began in the early 4th century with emperor Constantine, who stopped all forms of Christian persecution and established religious tolerance in the Roman Empire. Constantine himself was not baptized until he was on his deathbed, and because of this (and various other reasons) there has been much debate over whether he was a Christian or not, but the answer to this is better left to the eternal Shephard who knows his sheep. What we do know for certain concerning emperor Constantine is:

- He stopped all forms of Christian persecution and established religious tolerance throughout the Roman Empire.
- He was actively involved in Christian policy-making and gave Christians privileges that they did not have under the rule of pagan Rome.
- He oversaw major Christian religious disputes and took on the title of Pontiff (meaning, Pope as leader of the Roman Catholic Church).

Over time Christianity superseded the old Roman religions and gods and Christian church leaders, became increasingly influential, eroding the emperors' powers until A.D. 390 when Christianity became the official religion of Rome.

Doctrinal errors of the Papal Church: (v3) false doctrines of the Papal Church refer to their doctrines that teach:

- The Catholic Church is the true church and the Mother church over all the earth and universal church over all nations and all churches.
- The worship of the Virgin Mary.
- During the Eucharist, the wine mystically turns to the literal blood of Christ and the bread to his flesh.
- Attending mass and strictly adhering to the church's holy days, ceremonial rites and keeping its religious practises and traditions saves a person and secures their salvation.
- Celibacy and forbidding marriage to priests.
- Purgatory is a a place or state of suffering where the souls of sinners go to atone for their sins before going to heaven.
- To receive forgiveness of sins followers must confess their sins to a human priest rather than to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Priests have power to pardon sins.
- Popes have authority to exalt the dead to sainthood.

Added to these is the outward show of pompous, hypocritical and theatrical religion and the followers of its religion highly esteeming and exalting the Pope for his supposed infallibility and holiness and the splendour of the Vatican and its worldly riches, grandeur and pomp. This same self-exalting superior religious spirit the Popes manifest is the same spirit the great prostitute woman and the antichrist will manifest in the latter days and the same adoration the Popes receive from their followers, is the same adoration the great prostitute woman and the antichrist will receive from their followers.

Papal Church likened to the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes: the Papal Church of Rome could be likened to the religious rulers of Jesus Generation, the prideful and hypocritical chief priests, Pharisees and scribes believed they were doing the work of God, but were so spiritually blinded that they enticed a secular Roman king (Pilate) to have his soldiers crucify their own Messiah the Son of God, yet as evil as this act was, they were not only acting in God's sovereign will, but also bringing about the fulfilment of many prophecies. Likewise, the Papal Church of Rome wrongly believes they are upholding the true word of God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but like the prideful and hypocritical chief priests, Pharisees and scribes are so spiritually blind that they will like Israel's religious leaders of old, entice secular kings to send their armies against the King of kings and Lord of lords, yet as evil and foolish as this act is, they are not only acting in God's sovereign will, but also bringing about the fulfilment of many prophecies, because this time Jesus is not coming as a Lamb to be slaughtered, but as a King to conquer. For information concerning the power and influence of the Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican.

REVELATION 13:4

The Dragon, Gave Authority to the Beast; Who can Fight the Beast.

- **Revelation 13:4:** And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast (the ten horns and seven heads beast), and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

The statement, "they worshiped the dragon," raises the question, how does one worship such a mystical and monstrous creature? But this does not mean that they literally worship a dragon like creature but worshiped what the dragon symbolised. In (Rev. 20:2) we are told that the dragon is that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan. In this chapter we are presented with a beast that rose-up out of the sea, with ten horns and ten crowns and had seven heads, full of blasphemous names and spoke blasphemous words against God. This best refers to a secular global world superpower that receives its seat of authority from the dragon (i.e., Satan). Then we are told of another beast rising out of the earth, that had two horns like a lamb (symbolizing a global religious superpower) that spoke like a dragon, meaning by skilful oratory and false signs he enticed the inhabitants of the earth to worship the previous secular global world superpower. This secular and religious global world superpower collectively symbolizes one beast influenced by the antichristian spirit of the dragon, the serpent the devil and Satan. Symbolized in the book of revelation as a great prostitute woman arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, full of abominations and drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and on her forehead written the name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations, sitting on a ten-horned Beast with seven heads clothed in scarlet and full of blasphemous names. (Rev. 17:1-6). This means that the expression, "they worshipped the dragon" (Rev. 13:4) carries the idea that they submitted themselves to this latter-day secular and religious global superpower and willingly gave themselves over to it. It means that respect and reverence is given to this higher power, which in this context is an ungodly beast power. The worship of this power may take any of the following forms:

- Followers will idolise this global superpower in their hearts and minds, much like followers of the Papal Church worship the Pope.
- Followers will exalt and esteem the final global superpower and the man of lawlessness (sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22), in their heart and mind as being greater than all others, much like the secular world hero-worships their favourite rock idol or movie star.

- Followers will openly worship the ungodly beast super power in a religious sense as God is worshipped in churches.

There is no doubt that the Dragon, the Devil and Satan approve of the ungodly civil and ecclesiastical power and domination the Popes and Bishops set up under the Roman Papal Church and the homage their followers render to them. It also equally certain that God would utterly disapprove of the dominion of the Roman Papal Church since it is contrary to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE: it should be mentioned here, when these studies talk about the Vatican, the Pope and Papal Church, it is not limited to the Papal Church only, but embraces churches of all denominations and all nations and all followers worldwide who align themselves with the Pope and his empire and who proclaim teaching contrary to Jesus word and the Gospel.

The dragon had given his authority (power in KJV) to the beast: (v4) referring to the ten horns and seven headed beast empires which embraces the central anti-Christian and religious apostate power. The statement, "the dragon gave this beast his throne," shines a brilliant light upon the fact that this beast empire is of Satan not of God. The great authority and dominion that it does have over all the nations of its empire is from below not from above. The beast here refers to the idolatrous pagan Roman empire and to all other corrupted religious powers that have from generation to generation come after the emperors of Rome and whose collective power and authority will in the latter days climax in one enormously powerful global ungodly beast power.

Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it? (v4) this implies that in the latter days the beast, his government and his kingdom will have greater authority, financial power, military might and weapons of war (i.e., weapons of mass destruction) than all other kingdoms. Its power will be so great that it would be foolishness to resist or oppose it. It will prevail and triumph over all the world in the spread of its religion and civil laws throughout a vast-majority of nations and much of the world will submit to its authority and religion.

NOTE: it should be mentioned here, that the the man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) and his antichristian empire in the eyes of the world will appear as an angel of light. He will speak with charm, authority skilful oratory, and appear to have answers that will solve much of the world's problems. He will be motivated by the spirit of humanism, meaning the well-being of mankind and the planet, which is not only a good thing, but also fulfils Christ second commandment. "love your neighbour as yourself," but from heavens view it is an evil, beast system, because it will not only deny God and the Lord Jesus Christ but will also be hostile toward those who openly proclaim the Gospel. In the eyes of the antichristian world, the final world empire and its head will appear as a saviour, so much so that much of the world's population will adore him and give their heart and mind over to him.

It is only from heavens viewpoint that he is spoken of as arising up out of the bottomless pit, because he will be hostile toward God, toward Christ and toward his people and eventually lead the world into ruin and destruction. It should always be kept in mind, that the tree Eve ate of did not appear harmful, corrupted or poisonous in any way, if it had she would never have eaten of it, but rather when she looked at it she saw a tree that was good for food, and that was a delight to the eyes, and a tree that was to be desired to make one wise. (Gen. 3:6), likewise the final beast empire will appear to the eyes of the world as something good and to be desired.

REVELATION 13:5

The Beast Blasphemed and had Authority Forty-Two Months.

- **Revelation 13:5:** And the beast (with ten horns and seven heads) was given a mouth uttering haughty (great things in KJV) and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

John does not say by who this was given; but we are safe to suppose that it was by the dragon, who is, the ancient serpent, the devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9). This is the force that flows through all mankind to lessor and greater degrees. It would be right and proper to say that the all the world is founded upon these three spirits (the serpent, the devil and Satan), while all those whose names are written in the Lambs book of life are founded upon the spirit of God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. When the serpent, the devil and Satan, are combined as one force they are summed up in the word dragon, because of the magnified power and the greater potential for destruction and the wider influence over the populations of the world. An easy way to visualise in our minds eye the symbolism of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9) is to imagine a tree whose roots are the dragon, the serpent, the devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9) while the trunk and branches of the tree is the world. The life-force of the tree rises-up from its roots feeding the trunk, the branches and the fruit. Everything on the tree is contaminated to lessor and greater degrees with this evil life force. The ten horns beast with seven heads is said to be given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words carry the idea that the character, the seat and authority of this whole beast power will be blasphemous and fully motived by the hostile power of the dragon towards God and toward Christ and his people. This power will be manifested through the secular antichristian world power symbolised by the ten horned kings and the ecclesiastical Papal power of the Vatican in Rome, from where the Pope speaks, and all religions and nations aligned to her, symbolised in this book by the great prostitute woman full of abominations. (Rev. 17:1-6).

Blasphemous and haughty words (great things in KJV): (v5) following are some of the ungodly claims of authority the Catholic Church teaches:

- It is the true church and the Mother church over all the earth and the universal church over all nations and all churches.
- The Divine title for their Popes is, His Holiness, the Infallible (i.e., perfect and flawless) Sovereign of kings and kingdoms; Christ's Vicegerent, God upon earth.
- The Popes and Bishops have divine authority and right over all people and that the law they were given came by God's authority and is absolute therefore they have the divine right to impose their doctrines on the consciences of their congregations
- The worship of the Virgin Mary and that, the wine during the Eucharist mystically turns to the literal blood of Christ and the bread to his flesh.
- Attending mass and strictly adhering to their church's holy days, ceremonial rites and keeping its religious practises and traditions saves a person and secures their salvation.
- The doctrine of celibacy, forbidding priests to marry, purgatory is a place or state of suffering where the souls of sinners go to atone for their sins before going to heaven and that Popes have authority to exalt the dead to sainthood.
- To receive forgiveness of sins followers must confess their sins to a human priest rather than to the Lord Jesus Christ and that their priests have power to pardon sins.

These ungodly claims cannot be found in the Bible they are all manmade doctrines and as such rightly fit the description, "blasphemous words." Any speech that is offensive to God and contrary to the Gospel and the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and demeans, dishonours and degrades his name, and any act of idolatrous worship, whether to images, saints, or angels is speech and behaviour that can be referred to as blaspheming

God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Added to this is the truth that whatever a person does to God's people (good or bad) is the same as doing it to God, which means that blaspheming also embraces deliberate mocking and ridiculing the faithful who belong to God and to Christ's Kingdom. It has been previously said that the beast had the mouth of a lion (i.e., fearful and powerful) (Rev. 13:2), but now the beast is moved and stirred up by the dragon, to open his mouth, to speak blasphemous words (v5) meaning in a superior, proud, arrogant, conceited, self-important, lying, and blasphemous manner. Though this was by the prompting of the dragon (the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan) (Rev. 20:2) it was also by God's permission as the following verse shows:

- The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thess. 2:11).

The beast will speak great swelling words, giving himself high and lofty titles, as Christ's vicar, Peter's successor, head of the church, universal bishop and. promising great things to his followers, riches, honours, pleasures, pardons, and heaven itself, all the while uttering great blasphemies against God (v6). Likewise, the little horn (who is the same with the Romish antichrist), is said to have a mouth speaking very great things, and to appear superior to all others.

- I (Daniel) considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. (Daniel 7:8).

Overview of 42 months and 1.260 days: in the time of John one month was thirty days. Forty-two months is only used in two verses, in the first one John is told not to measure the outer court of the temple, because the nations, will trample the holy city for forty-two months. (Rev. 11:2). The second one, says, the beast with ten horns and seven heads will be permitted to speak with authority blasphemous words for forty-two months. (Rev. 13:5). There are also two verses that speak of one thousand two hundred and sixty days which is also forty-two months, the first one says, the two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days, (42 months) (Rev. 11:3), the second one tells us that the woman will flee into a place prepared by God, where she will be nourished for 1,260 days (42 months) (Rev. 12:6). Revelation chapter seventeen shows us that the secular anti-Christian global world superpower and the apostate ecclesiastical beast (symbolised by the ten-horn beast and the great prostitute woman) are so closely linked that they are often spoken of as one beast hostile toward Christ and his people. The forty-two months (1,260) symbolise that the space of time for the reign of the final latter-day secular anti-Christian global world superpower and the apostate ecclesiastical beast, is limited and that both these powers will exist during the same space of time. The anti-Christian global world superpower and the apostate ecclesiastical beast began in the civil power of the Roman Empire, and was over time transformed into the ecclesiastical power of the Popes and Bishops of Rome whose power and supremacy eventually surpassed the power and supremacy of the Emperor of Rome symbolised by the great prostitute woman full of abominations riding on the back of the ten-horned beast with seven heads full of blasphemy. (Rev.17:1-6). As history passes by these two powers combine to become one global anti-Christian superpower in the latter days that will dominate world affairs during the forty-two months (1,260 days) that the man of lawlessness (sin in KJV) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) the son of destruction (perdition in KJV meaning utter disaster, ruin and destruction) who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god. (2 Thess. 2:1-4), is given to tread down the outer court of the temple (i.e., the holy city Jerusalem). We are also told that the two-horned beast like a lamb that spoke blasphemy also appeared during this same space of time during which he, by lying signs, miracles and wonders deceived the

inhabitants of the earth to make an image for the ten-horned beast and worship it. (Rev. 13:11-14). The forty-two months (1,260 days) is the length of time the ten-horned beast, the great prostitute woman and the false prophet is given to prosper in their ungodly rule over the inhabitants of the earth. This does not necessarily mean that these beasts will only exist for this length of time, but it does mean that they will only prosper and prevail for forty-two months from the holy city Jerusalem. The holy city is to be trodden under foot by the Gentiles (Rev. 11:2) (i.e., the man of sin (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god. (2 Thess. 2:1-4) and his beast empire for forty-two months, the same as the twelve hundred and sixty days. It is very likely that this beast and the man of sin are in position of power sometime before this, but when they reach their peak and move their headquarters to the Holy City their reign will be limited to forty-two months. It is difficult to know with absolute certainty, exactly what the forty-two months refers to, so this scenario is by no means dogmatic, however, the general idea is that these events will occur during the same space of time and that the length of time will be limited.

Overview of times, times and half a time: following are the only three verses that mention a time, times and half a time. The first mention is:

- He (a little horn) shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time (a time and times and the dividing of time, in KJV). (Dan. 7:25).

This verse is in the context of the following four great beasts coming up out of the sea.

1. The first beast was like a lion: symbolizing a great king, which was Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.
2. The second beast like a bear: symbolizing a great king which was Cyrus king of Media Persia.
3. The third beast, like a leopard: symbolizing a great king which was the king of Greece.
4. The fourth beast: exceedingly strong with great iron teeth, symbolizes another great kingdom, that will devour the whole earth (this fourth kingdom was Rome). Out of Rome Daniel saw ten horns arising symbolizing ten latter day kings and their kingdoms or rulers and their empires and out of these ten horns a little little-horn arises speaking great things against God and His people for a time, times, and half a time, until One like the Son of man comes in the clouds of heaven and God pours out His judgment upon the little horn and his ungodly empire and the kingdoms of the world are given to the people of God after which all peoples and nations will serve him forever. (Daniel 7:3-28).

Here time, and times, and half a time refers to a space of time in the latter days when a final world leader with tremendous authority, power and influence over the nations will arise speaking great things against God and His people.

Following is the second mention of the expression, "times, time and half a time."

- I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. (Dan. 12:7).

This verse is in the context of the time of the end when Michael, the great prince who has charge over God's people stands up during a time of trouble on earth as there has never been, out of which everyone whose name is found written in the book of life will be delivered and those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel asks, "When will the end

of these wonders be?" He is told they will be for a time, times, and half a time, when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end and all these things would be finished. The expression, "The shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end," means when the hostile antichristian persecution of God's people come to an end and all God's plans for this world as we know it comes to an end. (Daniel 12:1-13). This means that the expression, "A time, times, and half a time," refers to a space of time in the latter days during which God completes his judgments and the kingdoms of the world become the Kingdoms of God

Following is the third mention of the expression, "times, time and half a time."

- The woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. (Rev. 12:14).

This is in the context of four events:

1. The Virgin Mary giving birth to Jesus who will rule all the nations with a rod of iron. (Rev. 12:5).
2. Jesus being resurrected up to God and to his throne. (Rev. 12:5).
3. Salvation and the kingdom of God and the authority of Christ coming. (Revelation 12:10)
4. Woes to the earth and sea, for the dragon, the serpent and the devil come down in great wrath. (Rev. 12:12)

Summary, times, times and half a time: combining the verses that uses this expression we see that they refer to a space of time in the latter days that embraces:

- A time of great trouble and of a final world leader with tremendous authority, power and influence over the nations who will speak great things against God and His people.
- A time when all whose name is found written in the Book of Life will be delivered and those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- A time when God completes his judgments of wrath and the kingdoms of the world become the Kingdoms of God.

Conclusion: the forty-two months, 1,260 days, times, time and half a time all refer to a space of time in the latter days and show that this space of time will be limited. It should be noted here that it is difficult to know with absolute certainty, exactly what these time periods refers to, so this conclusion is by no means dogmatic, however, the general idea is that these events will occur during the same space of time and that the length of time will be limited.

REVELATION 13:5-7

The Beast was Permitted to Conquer the Saints.

- **Revelation 13:6-7:** It (the beast whose mortal wound was healed (v3) opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation.

Saint: comes from the Greek word (*hagios*), it means sacred, most holy thing or holy one, and carries the idea of being physically pure, clean, innocent, perfect, chaste, pure, morally blameless or ceremonially consecrated, and can refer to an animal sacrifice or a person, in the context of these verses it refers to faithful Christians devoted to Christ.

God shows John that sometime during the reign of the beast whose mortal wound was healed God allows it to make war against God's holy ones (this may apply to Jerusalem). This, does not mean that this beast conquers their devotion toward Christ or causes them to give up their faith, but rather that the beast by his great power forces them to submit to his rule.

Authority was given to the ten-horned beast: (v7) in chapter seventeen an angel shows John a great prostitute woman arrayed in purple and scarlet, drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and on her forehead a name written mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations. John sees, this woman seated on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns full of blasphemy. John marvels greatly at the vision of this beast so the angel tells him the mystery of it. The seven heads are seven mountains (symbolizing seven kings) upon which the woman is seated, the ten horns are ten kings and the woman is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth, since this vision covers a vast period of history and the prostitute woman and the beast are so intertwined with each other they are sometimes seen or referred to as one beast. The power, authority and dominion of this beast will be set up over the world. The fact that such a large a portion of the kingdoms of the earth are already under the influence of the Papacy, and kings of many nations sustain the Papal Church and its popes claim to be the universal church and mother church of all churches is in harmony with the following language used concerning the beast.

- He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (Dan. 7:25).

The Dragon makes war on the woman's offspring: (v7) referring to the remnant of the woman's seed:

- Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. (Rev. 12:17).

These are those who Christ has cleansed from sin by his blood, and who are saved by God's grace who under the influence of Christ's love live according to the Gospel against such Satan has always been hostile. This same malicious spirit stirred up the Roman Papal Church to make war against those who held true to Christ's teachings and denied the doctrines of the popes. This war of the man of lawlessness (sin in KJV) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god. (2 Thess. 2:1-4) against the faithful, is not about forcing them to deny their faith, but about him literally making war against them, (v10), not just to submit to him, but to destroy them, as the driving spirit of Islam in the middle East is to destroy Israel, but by their enduring unshakable faith they overcame him, in the sense that they never give up their faith and in this way, they are more than conquerors through him that loved and died for them. This war is permitted by God for the trial of the faith and patience of His people. Peter wrote to those who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation whose eternal inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for them ready to be revealed in the last time to rejoice in these things, even though they may for a little while be grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of their faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire would be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:4-6). It is those with this kind of enduring faith that will overcome the great dragon, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2).

REVELATION 13:8-9

Whoever's Name is Not in the Book of the Lamb Worship the Beast.

- **Revelation 13:8-9:** and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain. ⁹If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

For information concerning "all who dwell on earth will worship the beast," see the notes following verse four above.

The book of life: The Bible speaks of two main books, the Book of Life and the Book of the Lamb, plus some other books that record the good and bad people do. When a person is born, their name is written into the Book of Life, if they accept Christ during their life their name is transferred to the Book of the Lamb. If their name is in the Book of the Lamb, they are guaranteed eternal salvation and will be rewarded for their good deeds or suffer loss because of a lack of them, but they will be saved. Paul wrote:

- If anyone builds on the foundation (being the Lord Jesus Christ) with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—³each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned up, they will suffer loss, though they themselves will be saved, but only as through fire (1 Cor. 3:11-15).

This means that those who have their name written in the Book of the Lamb are not judged for salvation by their deeds, but by their faith, but they will be rewarded or suffer loss according, to how they have lived before Christ (i.e., with integrity, honesty, faithfulness and such like things) and how they have lived according, to the law of love. The book of Revelations not only speaks of those who belong to Christ being raised in the first resurrection and reigning with the Lord as priests of God and kings with Christ for a thousand years (signifying a long age of time), but also speaks of a second death that will have no power over those raised in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6).

The second death: refers to the Great White Throne judgment. At the end of Christ thousand-year reign God Himself descends to earth on a Great White Throne and opens the Book of Life. This book has the names of those not blotted out of the Book of Life and the names that were never entered, into the Lamb's Book of Life. Those whose names have remained in the Book of Life (i.e., kept in the memory of God) are judged by God Himself at the Great White Throne judgment according, to how they have lived their life and according, to their deeds or lack of them which the following verse shows are recorded in another set of books.

- I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. (Rev. 20:12).

Christ is not involved in this judgment this is God the Father Himself descending and judging. If a person's name is not found in the Book of Life they are automatically cast into the lake of Fire (Rev. 20:15) (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., total extinction). Those who are judged favourably according, to what they had done are seen dwelling outside the Holy city the New Jerusalem in which God and Christ are the light of. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life dwell in this heavenly Holy City of God the New Jerusalem with the Lord Jesus Christ and with God.

- Nothing unclean will ever enter it, (the New Jerusalem) nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev. 21:27).

The New Jerusalem is the inheritance and reward for those (Jews and Gentiles) who have remained faithful to Christ from the beginning of time to the end of Christ's glorious millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords on earth, which takes place after the first resurrection. The rest of the dead do not come to life until Christ's millennial Kingdom reign as King of kings and Lord of lords is ended. (Rev. 20:5). For further information click or tap [Various Topics](#) and select the title: "The Book of Life and the Book of the Lamb.

Whoever is Taken Captive to Captivity They Go.

- **Revelation 13:10:** If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Whoever is taken captive, to captivity he goes: (v10) (He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity in KJV). This simply means if anyone (Christian or not) stands up against the beast, his rule and his government and is caught by his appointed authorities, civil police force or his army they will be either put in prison or killed. It seems to be a warning not only to the faithful, but also to all who dwell on earth that should they attempt to resist the rule of the beast or stand against him and find themselves taken captive they will be either put in prison or killed. The special warning to the faithful seems to be twofold:

1. It is a caution not to resist or strive against the beast since they will be powerless to change anything, because the might of the beast, his armies and civil police force will be so great and widespread.
2. If they do find themselves taken prisoner, hold fast to their faith and endure.

Added to this, the weapons of the faithful are not weapons of military might and of violence, but weapons of faith and patience and of truth and righteousness; and should tribulation come their way they must take up the cross of suffering and accept the tribulation, as their Lord did on the bloodstained cross of Calvary. At the same time, their stand would act as a witness to their enemies and all those who surround them, as Stephen's was to those who witnessed his death and as Christ's death was and still is to the world. The general meaning is that:

- People will be dealt with according to their character and the way they treat others.
- Nations dominantly characterized by war and conquests will be subject to war and conquest.
- People and nations should expect to share the same evils that they have brought upon others.

These are in harmony with what Jesus said in the following verses:

- Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. (Matt. 26:52).

The expression, "Whoever is taken captive to captivity they go," also carries the idea that God (through John) is assuring the church, that the man of sin who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god. (2 Thess. 2:1-4) will have the same measure meted out to him that he meted out to others, meaning his empire will be brought to ruin by war. In this context the sense is, that the faithful will require faith to believe that this final antichristian beast system will be destroyed and to wait with patience until the time comes for God's judgment to fall upon the antichristian world. It means that the faithful, who in prayer cry, "How long will it be before our blood is avenged?" Will need to have patience to rest a while, until their prayers are answered.

He that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword: (v10) though it is a principal of life, that what we sow we reap, and the behaviour we treat others with is the behaviour we will reap in return, the main purpose of this statement is most likely to show that there will be a just judgment made against the antichristian beast, for all his cruelty to the faithful, and to the murders of them; and that whoever has shed their blood their life will also be taken.

Endurance and faith of the saints: (v10) there is a time for God's people to exercise their faith and patience: patience, because they may have to wait a long time before they are delivered from their trouble and suffering, during which time they will need to hold fast their faith and trust in the security of their salvation and the promise of God, because their deliverance is not something that can be seen and will come suddenly when Christ returns in glory to gather the faithful to himself.

THE SECOND BEAST

REVELATION 13:11-12

A Second Beast with o Horns like a Lamb that Spoke like a Dragon.

- **Revelation 13:11-12:** Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹²It exercises all the authority of the first beast (the ten-horned beast) in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

Now we are introduced to a second beast rising out of the earth that had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon (v11). It refers to the revival of a powerful false prophet corrupting and destroying the church from within, which has all the power of the first beast (meaning they give or submit their authority and power to him), and he in return causes the inhabitants of the earth to worship the first beast. In chapter seventeen John sees a great prostitute woman arrayed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and on her forehead written the name mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Rev. 17:1-6), riding on the beast with ten-horns.

The great majority of interpreters, understand this ten-horned beast to be a global secular power and the great prostitute woman riding it to be the Pope fortified with Papal and ecclesiastical power that will arise in the latter days.

Coming up out of the earth: (v11) carries the idea of ascending from the earth and being more settled, stable and firm than the waters of the sea, symbolising that this beast with two horns gradually rose-up from amongst the populations of the world and out of a civilized society and a consolidated and ordered government, in contrast to the ever-moving waters of the sea, which symbolise, the troubled agitations of various peoples, nations and governments from which the ten horned world power and its seven mighty world kingdoms have emerged.

Two horns like a lamb: (v11) horns speak of power and strength so two horns carry the idea that the power and strength is doubled, meaning the strength, power and authority is greater than those who have gone before him and his influence covers a vast region of the earth.

He spoke as a dragon: (v11) when a dragon opens its mouth, he breathes out fire which destroys everything in its path, therefore to speak as a dragon carries the following ideas:

- He spoke words and doctrines that bring death.
- He spoke lies in hypocrisy, blasphemies and idolatries.
- He spoke distorted, twisted and corrupted teachings of the Gospel.
- He had a haughty, imperious and arrogant spirit and spoke in a harsh, haughty, proud, arrogant tone as we might suppose a dragon would if he had the power of utterance.
- He spoke doctrines that Paul calls doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1)

- The result of his words and practices eventually bring all things to ruin, very much like the flames of fire that dragons' breaths out of their mouth.

Two horns, the false prophet, the little horn, the man of lawlessness and the antichrist: all have the same character in that they are all powerful leaders of great authority and influence over nations; are hostile towards God and His people; great deceivers who bring about destruction and all motivated by the same spirit, which is the spirit of the great dragon, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2). Though this evil spirit has been manifested in various Pharaohs, kings, emperors and rulers at various times throughout history it will be fully manifested in the two-horned beast like a lamb (also called the false prophet) that rises-up out of the final ten-horned beast nations.

The beast with two horns like a lamb: we only find the title, "two horns," in this chapter, following is all we are told concerning this beast with two horns like a Lamb:

- It speaks like a dragon and has all the authority of the ten-horn beast.
- By great signs it deceives those who dwell on earth into making an image of the ten-horned beast and worship it.
- It causes the inhabitants of the earth to be marked so that no one can buy or sell without the mark and its number and name is 666 which is the number of a man.

The false prophet: we also discover that the title, "two horned beast," changes to the title, "false prophet," in chapter sixteen, nineteen and twenty. From these chapters we discover that the false prophet is:

- One of the characters that deceived the kings of the whole world into gathering for battle on the great day of God the Almighty at the place that is called Armageddon.
- Deceives the inhabitants of the earth into receiving the mark of the beast (with ten-horns) and worship its image and is thrown into the lake of fire.

The little horn: in Daniel chapter seven and eight we read of a bold little horn that arises out of ten kings (who arose out of the fourth kingdom (being Rome), of this little horn we are told:

- He has great authority and power and stately and worldly wisdom.
- He throws truth to the ground and speaks great things against God and prospers.
- He grows exceedingly great over all the earth, Jerusalem and over God's people, but not by his own power, but by power given to him from other kings.
- By cunning he makes deceit prosper under his hand and in his own mind becomes great.
- He succeeds in what he does and without warning causes fearful destruction; destroys mighty men; makes war against the faithful of the Prince of princes and prevail over them until God judges and Christ returns in glory and takes his dominion and gives it to the faithful of God forever. (Dan. 7:1-28).

Daniel is told that this vision refers to the appointed time of the end. (Dan. 8:8-27).

The two-horned beast like a lamb: (v11) this symbolism carries the idea that the two-horned beast will appear harmless, meek and mild like a lamb, but his speeches are likened to a dragon, meaning that though they sound enticing and seem to offer solutions to much of the world's

problems, they will be full of deceit, empty promises and lies that will eventually lead to ruin and destruction. Much like the Roman emperors who usurped divine titles for themselves and promised a utopia empire, but rather than bring happiness and a better world, their reign led to widespread suffering, misery and death for thousands and brutal and cruel persecution of true worshippers of God and faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. The two horns can refer to his two-fold secular and ecclesiastical power, since he will for a time have authority with both the religious powers and the ten horned nations, but since these two are predominately represented separately by the two beasts the two horn can also signify the two parts of the Roman empire, the Eastern and Western, into which it was divided, when this Papal Beast Church was raised to its power and by which the two supreme pontiffs, the bishop of Rome, and the bishop of Constantinople arose and was supported by the secular Roman emperors.

This two-horned beast (also called the false prophet) is an ecclesiastical person who intermixes himself in civil affairs. He is the prime minister, adviser, and leader who brings the first beast with ten-horns together as one. They give him their authority and he, exercises all their power sustaining as it were a religious empire within a secular empire (like the Vatican City sits as a separate state in the Empire of Rome and Europe). The following is a list of some of the traits and characteristics of the two-horned beast like a lamb:

- It is most likely he will at first appear in a gentle manner, and work under the cloak of religion, good deeds and acts of charity, but later his true destructive and hostile character will be revealed, especially toward those who proclaim Christ and the Gospel and oppose his errors and false teachings.
- By his great authority, power, pomp, wealth and false teachings he will entice the hearts and minds of his followers to be upon mystical things, religious rites and church traditions rather than upon the true things of God and true worship.
- By joining himself to the ten-horned secular beast kingdoms, he will make himself the central power that cements and unites together in mind and purpose all the notable nations of the Roman empire and bring about in their followers a blind obedience to his religious doctrines, traditions and teachings.
- He will be driven by pride and selfish ambition and be of the world and speak of worldly things, such as philosophical enlightenment and humanism (i.e., a rational system of thought that is centered on the ability of mankind to make the world a better place and save it), rather than focus on the Gospel and will trust in his own wisdom and rather than God.
- He will influence an increasing number of will intentioned ministers and preachers who have no oil in their lamps to consciously or unconsciously pave the way for worldliness and humanism to grow amongst their congregations, by embracing his twisted, distorted and deceptive humanistic teachings clothed in various Scriptures lifted out of context and teachings that appeal to self, ego and pride and promise prosperity.
- He will claim secular and worldly power and authority as well as ecclesiastical, religious and spiritual authority and power and will establish his rules, principles and religious decrees by cunning, deceptive and enticing oratory and speeches and by the authority of his government and the civil magistrate and by using the military might of the ten horned nations.
- By, lying wonders, pretended miracles, mystical teachings and clever speeches, he will dull the mind and will of his followers and will entice the world to worship a new image in the form, shape or likeness of the ten-horned beast and worship it.

- He will be very much like the popes or the final pope, since they not only claim to be the head and supreme universal vicar of Christ on earth and the mother of all churches, but also ascribes to themselves infallibility, and call themselves his Holiness and "servus servorum", meaning, the servant of servants.

The Jewish religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes), believed they were men of God defending His word, yet their own Messiah told them, that they were of their father the devil, and that their will was to do their father's desires. He then went on to say that their father (i.e., the devil) was:

- A murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44).

This is a very fitting description of the two-horned beast like a lamb.

The two-horned beast and the little horn: John, fully defines the character of the two-horned beast but is entirely silent concerning the little horn spoken of in Daniels visions. In contrast to this Daniel, fully defines the character of the little horn, but is silent concerning the two-horned beast. However, when we read of the little horn and the two-horned beast we discover that they act in the same manner, with each exercising the power of the first beast before them, and each perishing in one common destruction with it.

The man of lawlessness: in the book of Thessalonians we read of a man of lawlessness called, the son of destruction, of him we are told:

- He opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god and object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.
- By false signs, wonders and all wicked deception he deceives those who have pleasure in unrighteousness and are perishing.
- After he is revealed the Lord Jesus Christ will return and kill him with the breath of his mouth and bring him to nothing by the appearance of his coming in glory. (2 Thess. 2:1-17).

The antichrist: John speaks of many antichrists having come into the world and of many more coming, of them he says antichrists have gone out from the apostles and that antichrists and deceivers have gone out into the world and are already in the world. (1 John 4:3). He describes those who have the spirit of antichrists as:

- Those who deny God and deceive those seeking Him and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Those who deny the apostles and their teaching.
- Those who do not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh (i.e., through a human birth).
- Those who deny Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (2 John 1:1-13) (1 John 2:18-23).

All, of these characters are motivated from the same spirit, which is the spirit of the great dragon, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2). This evil spirit will be fully manifested in the two-horned beast like a lamb (also called the false prophet) that rises-up out of the final ten-horned beast nations.

The Papal churches rise to power with the ten-horned beast kings: the word Catholic refers to the Roman Papal Church and comes from the Greek word (*katholikos*), which means universal. The Churches Popes assume to themselves the position and title, Catholic the Mother of all churches and universal authority in all religious matters. At this present

time, it coexists with the nations of the world, but in the latter days during the space of forty-two prophetic months will not only rise in powerful unity with the ten-horned worldly beast empire, but will also prompt it to persecute all who would dare to rise against it, or challenge the usurped exalted position, authority and dominion that God gave to the pope (according to them). Here we have two beasts, one secular another religious working in unity together and appearing to the world as one singular kingdom, which rightly described as a kingdom within a kingdom, being a powerful global religious kingdom working within a powerful global secular kingdom, much like the Vatican today is a totally separate state, that operates as a kingdom within the kingdom or within the nation of Italy and the nations of Europe. For further information concerning the power and influence of the Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican.

The ten-horned beast and two horned beasts exist at the same time: the second two horned beast exalts the first ten horned beast and deceives the inhabitants of the earth to make an image of it and worship it which clearly shows that these two beasts exist at the same time when they reach their peak state of power. Based upon this it is very likely that the first ten-horned beast refers to secular Rome and its allied nations and the second two horned beast to Papal Rome by which dying Rome was revived, especially since there is no other beast spoken of after these two beasts.

The wisdom of both beasts: (Rev. 13:11), both beasts rise from beneath, the first out of the sea, which represents the tumultuous impulses and passions of mankind, while the second (the two-horned beast) rises-up out of the earth, signifying, the more fixed aspect of human, thought and wisdom, and of society disciplined by intelligence and culture. However, the wisdom, that guides both beasts is not wisdom from above which is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere, but earthly, sensual and devilish wisdom, that arises from pride and selfish ambition, envying and strife, partiality and hypocrisy. It is wisdom that is unspiritual and false to the truth and causes disorder, chaos and eventually ruin and destruction. (James 3:13-18).

Mankind's spirit remains unchanged: the rapidly increasing intelligence and knowledge of the world and its forever advancement of amazing technology, satellite GPS systems, internet and global communication and surveillance of the global world produces a chance in the collective thought, consciousness and behaviour of the populations of the world to enhance mankind's life and the well-being of the planet, but the spirit of mankind (i.e., selfishness, pride, ego, the desire for worldly riches and the lust for power, fame and importance) remains unchanged, and because of this the world continues to move toward decay and ruin.

Six hundred and sixty-six 666: (Rev. 13:18) the fact the two-horned beast is likened to a lamb and his number is 666 (Rev. 13:18) signifies that he is of the earth, (i.e., worldly). He resembles a lamb, a mild harmless creature, meaning he will appear to those of the world as a humble man of peace, but from heavens viewpoint will be seen as an abominable beast creature and a false prophet, who came to God's Kingdom in sheep's clothing, but was inwardly a ravenous wolf. (Matt. 7:15), such a thing should not surprise us since the apostle Paul tells us that even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light and his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

Their end (2 Cor. 11:15). The two-horned beast is the only beast, whose mark, name, and number is 666. It is called another beast, because he appears in another shape and different form to the first ten-horned beast, which typified the civil power of the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) whereas this second two-horned beast typifies ecclesiastical power. Those who have wisdom and understanding, will see that all the enemies of God are marked out

for destruction and that all nations will submit to the King of righteousness and peace. For further information concerning 666 click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Six, Six, Six (666).

Whose mortal wound was healed: (v12) amongst Commentators there are four major interpretations concerning what the expression, "The wound that was healed," refers to, the first, covers the time of Daniel to the end of the age, the second covers the rise of emperor Constantine to the end of the age, the third, covers the rift between Catholics and Protestants and the fourth, refers to the diminished power of the ten-horned beast in the last days. We will look at each one of these separately, since they all have valid points and takes use through history to the end of the age.

1. **The time of Daniel to the end of the age:** Daniel interpreted a dream that king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon dreamed. The dream was of a metal man whose head was Babylon, his chest Media Persia, his waist, Greece and his thighs and legs Rome with his ten toes signifying the final world power. Here the wound that was healed refers to Rome the fourth Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzars dream. It was wounded and healed in the following manner, Rome came to ruin and would have died, had not the Papal Roman Church risen with great power out of its ruin. Johns vision had seven heads, these heads refer to: (1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Media Persia, (5) Greece, (6) pagan and civil Rome, which was wounded (came to ruin), and was healed by the Roman Papal Church which will continue to increase in power through to the end of the age. The title of the Roman Emperors, who were the civil and religious leaders was, "Pontifex Maximus," so when the Popes of Rome took power around A.D. 538 after the last Western Roman Emperor was removed from power in A.D. 476., the popes took the title: "Pontifex Maximus," for themselves and so the deadly wound was healed. Catholic teachings claim the Papal Church of Rome is the Mother of all churches and the Bride of all Catholic priests, bishops, cardinals and popes. This, is why popes, bishops, cardinals, priests and clergy are forbidden to marry because they are counted as being married to the Church. Revelation chapter seventeen calls this Church, "the Great Whore, Mystery Babylon, and the Mother of Harlots." The exact spot where St. Peter's Basilica stands today, in Vatican City, is over the historical site of the Circus of Nero, which was the site of the first organized, Roman sponsored mass martyrdoms of Christians in A.D., 65., which means that the Roman Catholic Church is built on unholy ground for the soil on which it stands is soaked with the blood of Jews and Christians, that was wilfully and deliberately shed by the Romans. As great an empire as, ancient pagan Rome was Papal Rome today has surpassed the authority, power and influence it had over nations and the inhabitants of the earth. The wound of the ten-horned beast was the downfall of Rome, the fourth kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar dream and the sixth kingdom of John's vision, it was healed through the rise of the Roman Papal Church.

2. **The rise of emperor Constantine to the end of the age:** the wound of the ten-horned beast, the fourth kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar dream and the sixth kingdom of John's vision, refers to the wound that the pagan religion of ancient Rome suffered by the rise of Christianity at the time of emperor Constantine who destroyed the idols of Rome and made Christianity the state religion of the Roman empire. Over time the Papal Roman Church rose up with great power and with a distorted and corrupted form of Christianity; false doctrines and mystical religious rites and traditions. In this sense the wound of pagan religion of Rome was healed through the false, corrupted and erroneous mystical teachings of Papal Rome.

3. **The rift between Catholics and Protestants:** the deadly wound refers to the rift and dissensions in Christianity between Catholics and Protestants. Many faithful Christians who refused to accept the authority and teaching of the Catholic Church were imprisoned, tortured and killed. There has always been, strong contention;

unwavering anti-Catholic bigotry; great distrust and distain between protestant churches and the Roman Catholic Church. It was common for Protestants churches to regularly teach to their congregations the errors of the Roman Catholic Church.

The wound being healed: refers to this rift between Catholics and Protestants being restored and cured, which is slowly taking place. In support of this idea is Pope Francis speech to a recent gathering (2017) of Christians from several denominations at a gathering in Phoenix, Arizona where members of the "John 17 Movement," which describes itself as a contagious call to all professing Christians to relate together properly, meaning in unity so that the wound and the division between Catholics and Protestants would be healed. The Pope went on to say that the devil views all Christians (Catholics, Protestants Lutheran etc) as one regardless of their doctrines and traditions and will do everything he can to keep us divided, therefore, to heal the wound we should look at all Christians in the same way as the devil does, in that they are all one and for the sake of unity unite as one loving family and not allow the devil to keep us divided, for Christian division is a wound in the body and is the work of the "Father of Discord." Jesus in his final prayer prayed for those who God had given him, that they may be one, even as he and the Father are one. (John 17:9-10). (John 17:21-23).

For the sake of unity and to heal the wound between Catholics and Protestants the Vatican and the John 17 Movement, beckons all Christians to embrace these words of Jesus. We are living during a time that the Papacy is being restored to even greater power than it exercised during the Middle Ages. The influence of the medieval Papacy was, for the most part, confined to the region of Europe; however, the new and revived form of papal power is today asserting its mighty influence over the whole earth. The ten-horned beast spoken of in Revelation corresponds to ten toes of Daniel's iron man, since both rose up out of Rome the fourth beast kingdom. Likewise, the two-horned beast of Revelation (also called the false prophet), that rises-up amongst the ten horns corresponds to the little horn of Daniel that rose-up amongst the ten toes, since both also came out of Rome the fourth beast of Daniel.

4. **The diminished power of the ten-horned beast in the last days:** the wound refers to the greatly diminished power of the ten horned beast kingdoms in the last days, while the healing of it refers to the power the two-horned beast like a lamb (also called the false prophet), restores to it by deceiving the inhabitants of the earth through lying signs and wonders and false deceptive teachings to worship and give their favour to the ten horned kingdoms and thereby the authority, power and influence of the ten horns was greatly increased and in this manner the wound was healed. (Rev. 13:11-12). Jesus in his teachings to the disciples concerning the last days warned them that:

- Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. (Matt. 24:11).
- False christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. (Matt. 24:24).

All the kingdoms of Daniels and Johns vision have passed away only Rome, the city on seven hills from whose royal seat the law was given, and a large part of the world listened to the emperors' mandates, and though its vast empire was greatly wounded, it has risen-up in a new shape and form. In all the above four scenarios the Roman Catholic Church is the dominate character. It is through the Vatican, the Catholic Church, its popes, bishops, priests and clergy that the deadly wound was healed and will continue to be healed until Christ returns in glory. For this reason, it is pointless to debate over which one applies since all can apply at different times of history. The pope over generations has altered the form and manner of the ancient pagan and civil empire of Rome and will in the last days for limited time establish himself as the head of both the secular tyrannical empire, and the empire of the false prophets. This means that

the beast, though in two different forms, the first, secular pagan Rome and the second, Papal Rome, is by birth and substance one entity. For further information concerning the Papal Roman Church click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: John 17 Movement.

REVELATION 13:13

The Beast Performs Signs, Making Fire come Down from Heaven.

- **Revelation 13:** It (he in KJV) performs great signs (wonders in KJV), even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people.

We have seen the greatness of the power and authority of the two-horned beast like a lamb, and now we see what path he pursues to establish it. He pretends, like other false prophets, to show great signs and wonders, and even to call for fire from heaven. Why this pretended miracle of fire from heaven is specified here is difficult to know for certain, following are the most likely reasons:

- It lies beyond all human power and therefore would be among the most striking and impressive of the pretended miracles performed.
- It is a hyperbole (exaggeration) to highlight the deceptive wonder of these pretended miracles.
- It refers to modern day missiles of mass destruction descending from the heavens to earth. In a vision during the ancient times of John these would certainly look like fire from heaven.

The following verses show that the general idea of fire coming down from heaven is to consume ungodly people or consume a sacrifice:

- Fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering. (1 Kings 18:38).
- Elijah made fire come down from heaven and consume two captains of fifty men with their fifties. (2 Kings 1:10) (2 Kings 1:14).
- It was the usual custom with the Jews to express all wonderful and miraculous events by the miracle of Elijah calling down fire from heaven and destroying the false prophets therefore this miracle is put forward for all other miracles.
- Solomon finished his prayer and fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices. (2 Chron. 7:1).
- Armies of nations surrounded the beloved city and fire came down from heaven and consumed them. (Rev. 20:9).
- James and John asked Jesus if they should call down fire upon the Samaritans (to consume them), because they would not show him hospitality. (Luke 9:54).

The two-horned beast (also called the false prophet), mimics true miracles, but these are miracles of a demoniacal kind, like those of the Egyptian magicians, performed to deceive and draw people away from God. Fire from heaven commonly represents judgment and the destruction, especially of ungodly people. Based upon this reality, the statement, "the two-horned beast made fire come down from heaven," may be mentioned to symbolise that the false miracles the false prophet does will be followed by or lead to God's judgment, wrath and destruction.

It is not necessary to suppose that the false prophet literally made fire come down from heaven, these pretended miracles are to be understood as being included in the false signs and wonders that Paul speaks of in the following verse:

- The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders. (2 Thess. 2:9).

- By the signs that it (the two-horned beast like a lamb) is allowed to work in the presence of the beast (with ten horns) it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast (with ten horns) that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. (Revelation 13:14).

The deceptions and pretences of the lawless one and of the two-horned beast like a lamb (also called the false prophet) are so successful, that they deceive those who dwell on the earth. Whatever these signs, wonders and miracles maybe, they appear real to the great majority of the inhabitants of the earth, even though they are pretended deceitful, counterfeits. This shines a brilliant light upon the fact that miracles should not be used as proofs that someone is teaching the true word of God, since they can be enormously deceptive, in fact many may be proof of a false church and a distinguishing mark of a false prophet. The following verses show that in times past God at certain times allowed false prophets to perform false signs and wonders to test who was true to Him and who was not:

- If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ²and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' ³you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

The chapter goes on to say that the prophet or that dreamer of dreams is to be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD the God of Israel. (Deut. 13:5). Prophets were to be judged true or false, not from any signs or wonders that they did, but from the doctrine they taught. Whatever miracle, "fire coming down from heaven to earth," refers to it deludes the eyes of the unlearned to believe that the person performing the miracle is a person of holiness, but they are being cheated and deluded by an appearance and show of things that is not of God. Whatever these miracles maybe the people of the earth credit the two-horned beast like a lamb, with the ability to do great wonders, which not only strengthen their belief that he is a man of holiness and establishes religious superstition and false doctrine, but also deceives and leads them away from God. The Popish legends are full of accounts of miracles seen or done by the priests, or by other members of the church. Following is a list of some of the supposed miracles the Catholic Church have claimed throughout the ages:

Saints without sin: it is held by the Papal Church that the bodies of those they claim to be saints is incorruptible (i.e., without sin).

Miracles of the Eucharist: during Catholic mass and the partaking of communion it is believed the wine turns to the literal blood of Christ and the bread to his flesh.

The Eucharist and the church of the holy miracle: (AD. 1225) a married woman (Ricciarella) went to Mass at the Church of St. Steven, and took the communion host in her veil intending to give it to a sorceress, believing she would be able to mystically get her husband to return to his old affectionate kind ways, but along the way, the Host began to bleed inside her veil. She went home and placed the bloody veil containing the Host into the bottom of a trunk. Later in the night she and her husband were suddenly awakened by mysterious bright rays of light coming from the trunk illuminating the entire room. This bloody host was later placed in a crystal pyx (the container in which the consecrated bread of the Eucharist is kept) along with the blood, various other mystical phenomenon occurred, and the Church of Saint Stephen was renamed "The Church of the Holy Miracle."

Miracle of the Eucharist in Amsterdam: (A.D. 1345) a dying fisherman called for a priest to give him the last rites of the Church and Holy Communion after eating the host the sick man vomited it up still intact. His wife threw the host into the fireplace and in the morning the host was sitting on top of the burning coals, she took it and placed it in a chest. A

priest placed the host into a pyx (the container in which the consecrated bread of the Eucharist is kept) in the church of Saint Nicholas. In the morning the host had vanished and was later discovered by the same woman in the chest. She returned it to the priest and he again placed it in a pyx. After another disappearance and discovery, the priest and the clergy all agreed that it was direct proof of God's intercession, and a sign that the miracle should be openly honoured so that the Miraculous Host would be a light to shine over all Europe and a sign that Jesus wanted to use this miracle to awaken His sleeping people. The fisherman who had been dying, who the priest brought the Eucharist to on the first night, didn't die. Due to these miracles his house soon became a sort of shrine, and afterwards a Chapel. On the 600th anniversary of the miracle, March 13, 1945, the Dutch Catholics attributed all the growth for which Amsterdam is now famous and progress of their city to this Eucharistic miracle.

The second miracle in Amsterdam: (A.D.1452) one hundred years later the entire city of Amsterdam was engulfed in fire most buildings were destroyed and the Chapel of the Miraculous Host (the former fisherman's hut) collapsed and burned to the ground. It is claimed that the host itself had been saved from the fire. So, once again the Lord saved the same host from fire in the same house. The fame of the Eucharistic Miracle of Amsterdam, spread to all of Europe and a new chapel was built. It, is said, that the Hapsburg Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Maxmillian, went to Amsterdam in pilgrimage to the Eucharistic miracle and prayed for a healing at the shrine and was healed, after which Amsterdam and the Eucharistic Miracle became a major place of pilgrimages and processions. (In A.D. 1665 it was taken by unknown thieves).

The miraculous blood of St Januarius: Gathering the blood of martyrs in flasks to keep as devotional items was a common practice beginning in the days of persecution. Blood once removed from the body soon coagulates and eventually spoils, but it is alleged that the liquefaction (becoming liquid) of the collected blood of Saint Januarius (Gennaro) is an extraordinary miracle of the Church that has been occurring up to eighteen times each year for the past 600 years and of certain other martyrs whose blood was collected soon after their death.

The miraculous medal of Saint Catherine Laboure: following Catherine's apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Rue du Bac, Paris, France, she designed a medal and Adrien Vachette a goldsmith crafted it for her. Paying homage to this medal excites pious thoughts and is believed to prepares people to receive God's grace and enable them to live accordingly and increase their devotion to the Church

The miraculous Crucifix of Limpias: it is claimed Jesus Christ came alive on the Cross located in the 16th century Church of St. Peter in Santander, Spain and turning his head from side to side looked at people in different ways (i.e., in a kindly manner; with a penetrating and stern glance; having tears in his eyes and drops of blood running down from his temples pierced by the crown of thorns etc.).

The Incorruptible bodies of the saints: it is claimed that the night following saint Charbel burial (1898) villagers saw a miraculous apparition of light over his tomb for forty-five nights and that when the tomb was opened his body was perfectly incorrupt; the muscles supple; the hair of his head and beard intact and a liquid mixed with blood seeping from its pores. The body was placed in a small monastery in a wooden coffin with a glass top. Records claim that over the following twenty-seven years his clothing was changed twice weekly, because a great amount of blood continued to seep from the body.

The miraculous mystical voice from Purgatory: it is claimed that one night a soul suffering in purgatory in a clear, sweet voice told Mr Livingston to arise, call his family together and to pray. He did so, and the mysterious voice from the other side prayed with them, after which the Voice explained to them the mysteries of the Catholic faith. On

another night it is said that the voice made the Livingstons get up three times to pray for a certain soul in Purgatory. As they prayed, they suddenly heard a voice shrieking: "Help! Help!" When asked what kind of help was needed, it replied, "Prayers, for we are in excruciating torments." It is also reported that:

- While pope Zachary, was on a journey to Ravenna, he had during the daytime a cloud to protect him from the heat, and during the night had armies of fire appeared in the clouds to go before him.
- While pope Innocent was at mass, a golden crown was seen, and on it a dove, and under it a smoking censer, and close by them two burning firebrands
- Whenever pope Hildebrand, pleased, he could shake his sleeves, and sparks of fire would come out.

It is believed that by prayerfully meditating upon these extraordinary mystical miracles or visiting their icons and relics the believer will be inspired with a greater love and devotion for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and for the church that esteems them. These miracles, delude the eyes of the unlearned to believe that the person performing the miracle is a person of holiness, but they are being cheated and deluded by an appearance and deceptive show of things that are not of God. The Papal books are full of these types of mystical and imagined miracles, which are listed in the records of the Catholic Church. To those whose minds are not clouded with mysticism these types of so-called miracles confirm the belief that the Papal Church is fraught with the fraud of deceived priests and prophets.

Facts and characteristics of the Catholic Church: following is a list of realities and traits of the Roman Papal Church:

- It is one of the oldest religious institutions in the world, and the largest Christian church, with more than 1.29 billion members worldwide.
- Has played a prominent role in the history and development of Western civilization headed by the Bishops of Rome known as the Pope.
- Its central administration, the Holy See, is in the Vatican City surrounded by the sovereign territory of Rome within Italy.
- Teaches that it is the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic church founded by Jesus Christ, that its bishops are the successors of Christ's apostles and that the Pope is the successor of Saint Peter to who pre-eminence was conferred upon it by Jesus Christ.
- Maintains that it practices the original Christian faith reserving infallibility passed down by sacred tradition.
- Its doctrines are summarized in the Nicene Creed originally adopted in the city of Nicaea by the First Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325.
- The Eucharist is the principal sacraments of its seven, celebrated in its public worship in the Mass, it is believed that through consecration by a priest the communion bread becomes the literal flesh of Christ and the wine the literal blood of Christ.
- The Virgin Mary is venerated as Mother of God and Queen of Heaven, honoured in dogmas and devotions.
- Its social teaching, emphasises support for the sick, the poor, and the afflicted through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and is the largest non-government provider of education and health care in the world.
- It has influenced Western philosophy, culture, science, and art.

- Through missions, diaspora, and conversions Catholics live all over the world, with the majority residing in the Southern hemisphere since the 20th century, due to secularization in Europe and increased persecution in the Middle East.
- From the late 20th century, it has been criticised for its doctrines on Celibacy (the state of abstaining from marriage and sexual relations), its refusal to ordain women and its handling of sexual abuse cases.

It performs great signs in front of people: (v13) this expression, implies that these pretended miracles would be done publicly and displayed in a flamboyant manner.

For information concerning the power and influence of the Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican.

REVELATION 13:14-15

The Beast like a Lamb tells those on Earth to Make an Image.

- **Revelation 13:14-15:** and by the signs that it (the two-horned beast like a lamb) is allowed to work in the presence (sight in KJV) of the beast (with ten horns) it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast (to the beast in KJV) that was wounded by the sword and yet lived (referring to Rome). ¹⁵And it was allowed to give breath (life in the KJV) to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

The wound here refers to the Roman empire, which was brought to ruin (i.e., wounded by the sword symbolising war) by the barbarous nations, and was revived through the revival of the Papal Roman Church. For further information concerning this wound see the title: "Whose mortal wound was healed," following (v12) (above)

Nebuchadnezzar's golden image: (v15) King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits (approximately thirty meters high) and its breadth six cubits (approximately three meters wide) and set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. All his governors, counsellors, magistrates and officials not only commanded, all people, nations and languages to worship this gigantic golden image, but also commanded that whoever refused to worship the image were to be immediately cast into a burning fiery furnace. (Dan. 3:1-6). It is said that the image of the beast would be given life and speak, so it cannot be applied to a gigantic golden image like that of King Nebuchadnezzar or to some form of pagan idol since neither of these could speak.

But it could be applied to an image of the global world leader being shown at the same time to almost every nation and inhabitant of the world via the internet. Today (2018), we have in place the ability to send a live video image of a person around the world, that would immediately appear on massive screens on buildings in every city of the world and on TV screens, smart phones and every other device that has a screen (i.e., fridges, kitchen splash backs, schools etc.). The image would not only speak, but also appear to have life, such is the medium of modern-day technology. It is also very possible that technology will have advanced so far by the time this latter day global beast empire does appear that our TVs, laptops, computers and smart phones will have the ability to make holograms of Apples Siri, and Amazons Alexia, and others appear in the air rather than on a screen.

Make an image to the beast: (v14) the two-horned beast like a lamb (also called the false prophet), most likely refers to the final Pope since he is the head of the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church and has even today enormous religious influence over much of the world and will

have in the last days even greater religious authority over the world, since many secular nations and Christian churches and various global religious organisations will be enticed and deceived into aligning themselves with the Vatican.

NOTE: it should be mentioned here, though the final Pope and the Vatican with its Cardinals, Bishops, priests and clergy will be the head of this prostitute woman it does not mean that every believer under its umbrella will be judged and condemned.

None of us can judge the eternal salvation of an individual: since none of us can see the true motives of the heart, however we can discern the collective spirit of an organisation (secular or religious). It could be likened to saying, "All the world is full of sin," this is a true statement, but it does not mean that every inhabitant dwelling in the world is an evil person. Though the true church of believers is hidden and dispersed in and amongst the visible outward church, the division that separates the prostitute woman from the true invisible spiritual church are not denominational nor external but can only be spiritually discerned. At this present time God may have a people even in Babylon, but a warning here is given to all that expect mercy from God, that they should separate themselves from this latter-day world system signified by the names, the prostitute woman (Rev. 17:5) and Mystery Babylon. (Rev. 18:4-6).

The beast that was wounded and healed: (v14) refers to the ten toes of Daniel's metal man and the ten horns of John's vision which all rose up out of Rome the beast that was wounded and healed. These ten kingdoms (powerful nations) symbolise the final global empire ruling over the earth in the last days. As we have seen today the image that appears to have life and can talk most likely refers to modern day mobile phones, the image maybe of the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) who will be the head of this final global beast empire. Through an image of himself downloaded on the internet he will be able to talk to almost all the civilized world via, mobile phones, laptops, TV and any other electronic device invented prior to that time. This is the first time in history one man has been able to communicate with the entire global world at the same time and in a matter of seconds. This technology is greatly advancing in sophistication at an amazing speed and though it can be used for much good, it will also be used to deceive and control the inhabitants of the earth, especially when it is coupled with facial recognition worldwide and perhaps later some type of micro or nanochip in the body. This man of lawlessness could be likened to the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:4) who said in his heart:

- I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' (Isaiah 14:13-14).

Like the king of Babylon, the man of lawlessness the head of the final global empire will believe in his heart that he will succeed in his endeavours and will bring about a better world, this, is why he will be so deceiving, but rather than bring a utopia world ruin and destruction follow him.

NOTE: it should be mentioned here, that the final global world ruler, the man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) and his antichristian empire in the eyes of the world will appear as an angel of light. He will speak with charm, authority skilful oratory, and appear to have answers that will solve much of the world's problems. He will be motivated by the spirit of humanism, meaning the well-being of mankind and the planet, which is not only a good thing, but also fulfils Christ second commandment. "love your neighbour as yourself," But from heavens view it is an evil, beast system, because it will not only deny God and the Lord Jesus Christ but will also be hostile toward those who openly proclaim the Gospel. In the eyes of the antichristian world, the final world empire and its head will appear as a saviour, so much so that much of the world's population will adore him and give their heart and mind over to him. It is

only from heavens viewpoint that he is spoken of as arising up out of the bottomless pit, because he will be hostile toward God, toward Christ and toward his people. It should always be kept in mind, that the tree Eve ate of did not appear harmful, corrupted or poisonous in any way, if it had she would never have eaten of it, but rather when she looked at it she saw a tree that was good for food, and that was a delight to the eyes, and a tree that was to be desired to make one wise. (Gen. 3:6), likewise the final beast empire will appear to the eyes of the world as something good and to be desired. During the ancient days the Egyptian Pharaohs and the Ptolemies (the last of the Egyptian Pharaohs) and Lycurgus and Lysander of Sparta, and Alexander the Great were worshipped as divinities both while living and when dead. Skilfully crafted stone or bronze images of exalted Roman emperors were made and worshipped. In some cases, this led to a ruler of the Roman empire being acclaimed as a god. The primary objective of Roman worship was to gain the blessing of their gods and therefore it was common to make an image or more correctly a statue (usually made of stone or bronze) of the emperor who was, considered to be a god.

The worship: referred to here is not necessarily worship as people of God worship in a church, but more likely about honouring, acknowledging and willingly submitting to the authority of the beast, in contrast to rebelling.

History shows that the six great nations: that dreamed of ruling the world, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media Persia, Greece and Rome all by war and violence destroyed nations that did not submit to their authority. The final world power will be no different since they are all driven by the spirit of the great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:1-15). It should not be difficult to comprehend such a latter-day scenario since it was the decrees of the ancient pagan Roman empire and the Papacy during the Inquisition and at various other times to put to death all who did not embrace their civil laws, religion and doctrines. Even today (2018), the government of Syria with the aid of Russia are destroying all who stand against their government and rule, bombing men, women and children and driving hundreds of thousand out of their cities. Added to this chapter seventeen of this book pictures the latter-day prostitute woman full of abominations sitting on the ten-horned beast as being drunk with the blood of the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. (Rev. 17:3-6).

- I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." ⁶And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. (Revelation 17:3-6).

REVELATION 13:16-17

All, are Marked on the Right Hand or Forehead so No One Can Buy or Sell.

- **Revelation 13:16-17:** Also it (the two-horned beast like a lamb) causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast (the ten-horned beast) or the number of its name.

The meaning of a mark: the word mark comes from the Greek word (*charagma*), it means a scratch or graven etching, (i.e. stamp or mark as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure such as a statue or images of idols. It can also apply to a mark cut in or stamped on a coin. Applied to people, it was used to denote some mark or stamp on the hand or

elsewhere. The mark may literally be on their hand or forehead, or figuratively be spoken of as being on the hand or forehead, because those who received it had given their mind and heart and their service (symbolised by the right hand) fully over to what the mark symbolised.

The forehead: signifies the mind, thoughts heart and character.

The right hand: in this context signifies general work or service to a master or ruler or to ceremonial rites, holy days, religious customs and traditions. It was and still is in some places a common thing:

- For soldiers to voluntarily have stamped on their arms the name of the general they served under to identify their rank, or for it to be a compulsory mark for the purposes of denoting ownership and prevent their escaping for by such a mark they would be easily identified.
- For sailors to voluntary tattoo the names of their vessels or a picture of an anchor etc., on their hands or arms to identify themselves as sailors and to the ship they served and sailed on.
- For masters to stamp their name on the hand or arm of their slaves or servants to denote who they belonged to.
- For monarchs to stamp a mark on their servants.
- For those devoted to a pagan deity to band themselves with some type of mark that clearly identified them with their god and their places of worship. These religious marks generally consisted of hieroglyphic characters, or of the name of the god expressed in flamboyant and elaborate lettering, or the name disguised in numerical numbers. Receiving such a mark symbolised that the person had given their heart and life over to the idol or god the mark symbolised.

In contrast to these marks is God's seal and name in the foreheads of His servants, (Rev. 7:3) (Rev. 14:1) (Rev. 22:4) and the suffering marks Paul beared in his body as the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ testifying that he was the Lord's soldier and servant. (Gal. 6:17).

The mark is the name or number of the ten-horned beast: (v17) the first thing to notice is that the mark is linked to the ten-horned beast, not the two-horned beast like a lamb so it will have nothing to do with the Papal Church or doctrines. The ten-horned beast represents the nations that united together form the final world empire, which will embrace the global financial banking system, so it is only natural that this mark will be linked to the global money system, that allows the inhabitants of the global world to trade buy and sell much like our bank cards today. The three major things we know about this mark:

1. Is that it is identified with the number 666 (Rev. 13:16-18).
2. It will be placed on or in the body. The King James Bible says (in), while the English Standard Bible says (on).
3. It allows a person to use the global world financial banking system.

Figuratively speaking the right hand signifies work, actions and service while the forehead symbolizes the mind, thoughts heart and character. However, it should not be thought that this mark is not some type of literal mark, especially since every barcode on every product worldwide has two thin vertical lines at the beginning, two in the middle and two at the end, which are the computer number six. This means that every barcode has within it the number 666 which identifies it with our global trading and banking system that the world operates on today. (2018). It is very likely the entire population of the world in the days of this final global world beast power will be marked with a similar identification perhaps firstly in the form of facial recognition, and secondly a nanochip in the body or flowing through the bloodstream. Since the right hand signifies strength,

labour and work the fact the mark is mentioned as being in the right hand may simply signify that without this mark no one will be employed or able to work, while being on the forehead may simply mean that those who have this mark are totally given over to and dependent upon this final world's global banking and financial system. There is no-doubt that the world is moving toward a cashless society which began with bank cards and is moving to smart phones (2018) and from there to some type of mark on or in the body that allows a person to buy and sell.

The mark, name and number of the beast: (v17) he who has the control of the money has control of the world. The underlying aim of all global world rulers and empires throughout its history has been to gain control, and dominion over nations, the population of the world and its trade and wealth, in order that they would establish a New World order and be the head of it. This was the enormous pride, ego and goal of the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:4) who said in his heart:

- I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. (Isaiah 14:13-14).

The arrogance, pride and ego expressed in these verses will perfectly apply to the final man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) the son of destruction (perdition in KJV meaning utter disaster, ruin and destruction) who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god. (2 Thess. 2:1-4). However, like the king of Babylon he will be brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. (Isaiah 14:15).

The following verses show that the statement, "No man might buy or sell," (v17) refers to the final mighty world power having control over the finances and trade of the global world and that they will be crushed when the day of their judgment comes:

- The merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, ¹²cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, ¹³cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls. (Revelation 18:11-13).
- In a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste. "And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off ¹⁸and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?" ¹⁹And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste. (Revelation 18:17-19).

The statement, "no one might buy or sell except by its permission," shows that this beast has absolute control over the wealth of the world. Revelation chapter seven and twenty-two speaks of God's faithful servants being sealed in their foreheads which testified that they belonged to God. (Rev. 7:3) (Rev. 22:4). The power of Satan also has its mark, which in this context is money and profit. Jesus said:

- No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (Matthew 6:24) (Luke 16:13).

REVELATION 13:18

The Number of the Beast, is the Number of a Man, 666.

- **Revelation 13:18:** This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast (the ten-horned beast), for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

Here is wisdom: (v18) this statement implies that the understanding of this name and number is attainable to those with wisdom and understanding. It shows that it is not vain or ridiculous to attempt to search into this mystery, to discover its meaning, but rather that it is by divine authority recommended to do so. Following are ten clues that help understand the meaning of 666:

1. Man was created on the sixth day, so six became commonly known as the number of mankind.
2. Six falls one short of seven the number that is taken to be the perfect number signifying God, perfection and completeness, and is therefore a fitting symbol of something imperfect and defective in God's eyes.
3. It is a human number that refers to a human entity, not an idol or demon and embraces sin and the embodiment of godlessness and the spirit of self-sufficiency, worldliness human imperfections and failings resulting from sin and imperfection.
4. Being repeated three times emphasizes the imperfection and deficiency, the utter godlessness and tyranny and that it is not limited to a single man, but more likely embraces a human world power or government ruled by many powerful leaders that manifests certain ungodly human traits that powerfully points to one unmistakable conclusion, man's gross shortcoming and failure in the eyes of God. This idea is in harmony with the failure of human rulership throughout history. All world rulers that have attempted to rule the world and establish a New World, have ultimately collapsed, proving that human history is a tale of rulers and governments that failed and a story of aspirations that weren't realized.
5. Three multiplies of six amplifies the ungodliness and the power of man's self-effort to establish a New World Order, which will ultimately be manifested in the combined beast of (Rev. 13:1-2) and (Rev. 17:3-6) that symbolizes the latter days worldwide political system, empowered and controlled by the great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2).
6. Goliath the huge Philistine enemy of Israel and a man of great stature who is a symbol of all who are hostile toward God's people had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. (1 Chron. 20:6-7).
7. Immediately after speaking about the number 666 in this chapter, we read in the following chapter of the 144,000 followers of the Lamb who have his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads (Rev. 14:1). The number 144,000 symbolises those who belong to God and His Son and faithfully serve him. Likewise, the number 666 symbolises those who belong to the beast and who serve him. It is a symbol that identifies its bearer as one who gives worshipful support to the beastlike political systems of the world whether the mark is on the right hand or on the forehead.
8. Those having the mark of the beast give worshipful honour to the final global political beast empire and its military might, to which they look for hope and a better world rather than look to God and worship Him.
 - They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" (Revelation 13:4).
 - All who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain. (Revelation 13:8).

In contrast to these the Bible urges us not:

- To put trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. ⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. (Ps. 146:3-4).

9. 666 is the neighbour to the sacred number seven but is severed from it by an impassable gulf. It is the number of the world given over to judgment. It is interesting to notice there is a pause between the sixth and seventh seals, and the sixth and seventh trumpets and that the six judgments on the world are completed by the fulfilment of seventh judgment, when the kingdom of the world becomes the Kingdom of Christ.

666 and numerical numbers: it was a common practise among the ancients to denote names by numbers. Over the years there have been many names amongst commentators of great and ungodly men (secular and religious) that added up to the number 666 that have come and gone. What we can be certain of is that it must be some Greek or Hebrew name, that embraces qualities of the beast and contains the exact number six hundred and sixty-six. Following are the most likely names that have been put forth:

The Vicar (Vicarius) of Christ: is a title used almost exclusively of the Pope of Rome as successor of Peter and of bishops and priests in general. The word, "vicarious," from various dictionaries means:

- Something experienced in the imagination and emotions through the feelings or actions of another person.
- An action of suffering performed and undergone for another person as if one was taking part in the experience or feelings themselves.
- Serving as a substitute for another and taking their place.
- One person performing the functions normally performed by another.
- Having sympathetic participation in another's persons experiences.

Lateinos and 666: The Catholic Church of Rome is commonly known as the Latin Church of which the Pope of Rome is its head; his seat and the Vatican is in the Latin empire; its official language is Latin; all church documents were normally published first in Latin and then translated into other languages; their services were always in the Latin tongue and their Bible is kept in that language. Now here is the interesting thing, the ancient Greek word for a Latin speaking person was Lateinos.

L ----- 30
A ----- 1
T ----- 300
E ----- 5
I ----- 10
N ----- 50
O ----- 70
S ----- 200
666

It was Rome that ruled at the time of John and though the language spoken by the Roman Empire was Greek, the main written language was Latin. Irenæus (130-202 A.D.) proposed that the number 666 could refer to the name of the fourth kingdom (Rome) spoken of in (Daniel 7:7) and very likely the name of the last kingdom (symbolized by the ten toes) of the four kingdoms seen by him. After the division of the Roman empire into West and East, the Greeks and other orientalist called the people of the Western Roman Papal Church, Latins and they Latinized everything (i.e., made people conform to the ideas and customs of the ancient Romans, the Latin people, and the Latin Church), such as Mass, prayers, hymns, litanies, canons, decretals, bulls, which in past times were all written and spoken in Latin. Added to these:

- The papal councils spoke in Latin and women prayed in Latin.
- Under Popery the Scripture were read in Latin and the council of Trent commanded Latin to be the only authentic version of the Bible.

- Their doctors prefer Latin to the Hebrew and Greek text which was written by the prophets and apostles.
- The Pope spoke his native language Latin to the people under his dominion and as a result Latin became the mark and character of his empire and the people choose to be called Romans and Roman Catholics

Romiith: means, "the Roman Kingdom," and contains the exact number 666.

R ----- 200
 O ----- 6
 M ----- 40
 I ----- 10
 I ----- 10
 TH --- 400
 666

Romiti: meaning a Roman Man also contains the exact number 666.

R ----- 200
 O ----- 6
 M ----- 40
 I ----- 10
 T ----- 400
 I ----- 10
 666

The number six hundred and sixty-six: can apply to any of the following:

- To Rome when it reached its highest glory and the Roman Papal Church with its Pope, bishops, priests and clergy.
- To a false religious prophet who by great oratory skill and speeches has built a global religious empire
- To an ungodly prideful global world ruler who has great authority, wealth and military might who vainly promises a world of happiness and peace without faith and without knowledge of God and by these empty promises deceives the inhabitants of the earth into openly and willingly giving their allegiance and favour to his ungodly beast empire.

Those who understand that human nature is infected with an incurable disease called sin, that can only be healed by faith in Christ are not disillusioned when governments fail to deliver on their promises or when religious leaders fall from their positions of honour.

NOTE: what I have presented here in this chapter should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
