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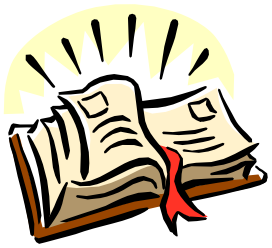

God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Ten-Horned Beast

And

The Man of Sin.

(2017)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal Plans, Purposes and Promises,

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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 special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Ten-Horned Beast and the Man of Sin.

Topics.

- A great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns rising out of the sea.
- The final world power still to come.
- A ten-horned beast like a leopard, a bear and a lion.
- The beast that was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit.
- A stone cut by no human hand.
- A woman sitting on a blasphemous beast with seven heads and ten horns.
- The beast that was and is not, it is an eighth, but it belongs to the seven.

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.

Introduction: in the book of Revelation, we read of a a great red dragon with ten horns (Rev. 12:3), a beast rising out of the sea with ten horns Rev. 13:1-3), and a woman sitting on a blasphemous beast with ten horns. (Rev. 17:3). This study looks at each of these entities to discover who this beast with the ten horns is.

The Great Red Dragon with Ten Horns

A Great Red Dragon, with Seven Heads and Ten Horns.

Revelation 12:3 ---------- 3 And another sign (wonder in KJV) appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems (crowns in KJV).

While sitting on the Isle of Patmos writing all these visions down, for us to read, John's mind is totally devoid of anything worldly and instead filled with the presence and Spirit of God. In a heavenly vision he sees a great red dragon in heaven, this does not mean that there was a literal dragon in heaven the place of glory and happiness, it is spoken of as being in heaven, because it is a futuristic heavenly vision that John is seeing, and because the great power and authority that the dragon symbolises on earth is influenced by the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2).

The meaning of dragon: the word dragon comes from the Greek word *(drakon)* which means to look, it carries the idea of a fabulous kind of serpent (perhaps with the idea of being fascinated). The dragon is a fitting symbol of the god of this world, for its cunning in circumventing and ensnaring the professors of Christianity; and for its cruelty and inhumanity in persecuting them; and for its superstitious religion and idolatry.

It symbolises an alliance of ten sovereign nations or countries, (perhaps something like NATO today) and referred to as a great one, because of its strength and power, which lay in its immense wealth, its combined nations, its numbers of authoritative people in powerful positions, its strong cities and its vast armies and massive billion-dollar stockpile of destructive weapons of war.

It is symbolised as being red, because of the vast amount of blood, of the unbelieving innocent and of the faithful that this ungodly empire has shed and because the empire aptly fits the bloody character and practices of the old serpent the devil who was a murderer from the beginning.

The reference to the dragon in all Scriptures in the book of Revelation carry the idea of a large serpent like creature. Many notions have been attached to the dragon which did not exist, which were ascribed to it by the imagination, such as

- It was of a vast size and had three rows of teeth.
- It was black, red, yellow, or ashy in colour and had a large wide mouth.
- It breathed out fire and made a terribly loud and frightening hiss.
- It had large feet and wings and inhabited dark waste and solitary places.
- It was insatiable in ravenousness and ever thirsting for human blood.

For these reasons the dragon became, an object of great terror. Red is the colour of flame and blood, and the symbol of destruction and slaughter, it is the emblem of the evil spirit, the devil, the perpetual antagonist of good, the persecutor of the church in all ages. The dragon is a truly fitting emblem of him who Jesus declared to be a murderer from the beginning.

It, is very likely that the original of this was a huge serpent, and that all the other characteristics were added by the imagination. However, that does not lessen the force or the prevailing idea regarding it, which is of some type of a fearful destructive creature of great power. In this vision John sees a red coloured dragon (symbolising blood), the second characteristic was that it was great, which carries the idea that it was a huge monster, symbolising some type of mighty, terrible hostile power on earth.

Following are three great powers mentioned in the Bible that are symbolised by the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2): -

1. **Pharaoh king of Egypt:** the great persecutor and ancient enemy of Israel, is likened to a great and mighty dragon in the following verses to signify the Egyptian power

    - Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, 'My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.' (Ezek. 29:3).
    - Son of man, raise a lamentation over Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him: "You consider yourself a lion of the nations, but you are like a dragon in the seas; you burst forth in your rivers, trouble the waters with your feet, and foul their rivers. (Ezekiel 32:2).

    In these verses Pharaoh is pictured as a dragon in the Nile being so full of pride he boasts that all of Egypt is his and as a dragon in the seas (symbolising multitudes of people) causing great sufferings and conflicts and poisoning and corrupting the nations. These verses show that the dragon can symbolise powerful worldly rulers, monarchs, states, kingdoms and empires influenced by a spirit of pride, greed, selfish ambition and the craving for power and fame that are hostile toward Gods people.

2. **The empire of Rome:** Rome the capital city of the empire is built upon seven hills and the dragon of Johns vision in (Rev. 12:3) and (Rev. 13:1) with ten horns links it with the fourth beast of Daniel, which is also Rome and it is also seen with ten horns (Dan. 7:7).

    The great red dragon in the context of Johns vision, refers to the Roman pagan empire and its emperors that were hostile toward Christianity as being under the influence of Satan. The symbol of the dragon became a common standard in the Roman armies and had to some measure superseded the eagle.

The dragon can be viewed as the Roman pagan power engaging in the persecution of Christians at a time when the church was about to be greatly enlarged and take the Gospel to the world. Rome is likened to a great red dragon, because of the vastness of the empire and because of its the cruelty and the blood of Christians it shed.

3. **Papal Rome:** the dragon can also be taken to be the Roman Papal Church and all denotations and religious organisations that have twisted and distorted the Gospel and nations in league with her, which this book describes as: -

   - The great prostitute woman full of abominations and drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus 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, with the name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations," written on her forehead. (Rev. 17:1-6).

   The colour purple or scarlet was the distinguishing colour of the Roman emperors, consuls and generals and is the standard colour of the Popes and cardinals even today there is no lack of outward pomp and ceremony.

   The pagan Roman empire come to ruin, but out of its ashes the Roman Papal power rose in such great strength that today it has power, influence and wealth that is greater and reaches further than the influence and power of the ancient empire of Rome. Papal Rome is likened to a great red dragon, because of the cruel and brutal persecution it inflicted upon true Christians who would not embrace their erroneous doctrines and submit to their rule.

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 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 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 ten horned Beast and the great prostitute woman it supports 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: 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 first being Egypt then, Assyria, Babylon, Media Persia, Greece, Rome with the seventh being the final global antichristian beast powers.

This vision 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 Daniel's 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). (Rev. 17:12).

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 vison 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 plaques bought them out of Egypt a nation (Israel) was born.

2. **Assyria (fallen):** is the second great power of John's vison, 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. (Jer. 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 when 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, 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 ten horns and 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 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.

Now here 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, therefore, in this passage, is that in the latter days power that is represented by the beast would spring up among the nations, when the world is restless and unsettled, like the waves of the ocean.

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 (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia and 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 toes: some commentator 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 been no 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. 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 similiar) 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 the countries.

- Control at a global level of bank institutions, the financial international organizations and foreign investments.

- Control at a federal and regional level 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 would 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: (v4) 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).

Ten Horned Beast like a Leopard, a Bear and a Lion

A Ten Horned Beast like a Leopard, a Bear and a Lion.

Revelation 13:1-3 ------- 1And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. 2And 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 and great authority. 3One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.

Here we have a ten-horned beast with seven heads and the appearance of a leopard, a bear and a lion which is an allusion to Daniels vision of the metal statute and its feet and the ten toes in chapter two and Johns vision in Revelation chapter seventeen. Daniels vision of the metal statute and its feet and the ten toes (Dan. 2:36-45) embraces the entire history of the world as it affects Israel and God's final destruction of the kingdoms of this world and the return of Christ in glory.

NOTE: Daniel 2 is the same as John's vision in Revelation 17 except Daniel starts at Babylon and John starts at Egypt.

Egypt: is not included here in chapter thirteen or in (Dan 7), but it is the first fallen king in (Rev. 17:10).

Assyria: is not included not included here in chapter thirteen or in (Dan 7), but it is the second fallen king in (Rev. 17:10). The vision of Daniel (Dan 2:36-45) starts at Babylon.

1. Babylon is the first head of Gold. (Dan 2:38).

   - Identified as gold in (Dan 2:38).
   - Identified as a lion in (Dan 7:4).
   - Identified as the third king fallen in (Rev 17:10).

2. Media Persia is the second head of silver. (Dan 2:32).

   - Identified as Silver in (Dan 2:32).
   - Identified as a Bear in (Dan 7:5).
   - Identified as the fourth fallen king fallen in (Rev 17:10).

3. Greece is the third head of Brass in (Dan 2:39)

   - Identified as brass in (Dan 2:9).

- Identified as a leopard with four heads in (Dan 7:6).
- Identified as the fifth king fallen in (Rev 17:10).

This entire beast system is the Great Red Dragon in (Rev 12:3).

4. Rome is the fourth head of Iron in (Dan 2:40).

- Identified as iron in (Dan 2:40).
- Identified as a beast with iron teeth and ten toes in (Dan 7:7, 23).
- Identified in as the sixth head (or king) in (Rev 17:10).

After this forth head Daniel sees the feet and toes of this statue partly of Iron and partly of soft clay. (Dan. 2:41-43). The ten toes (ten horns in Rev.12:3) (Rev.13:1) Rev.17:3, 7, 12, 16) symbolise ten latter day kingdoms. After seeing the ten toes John says: -

- In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, 45just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure." (Daniel 2:44-45).

In Revelation the spirit of the beast and his kingdom is of irreconcilable antagonism to Christ, this is not a new image; Daniel in his vison saw four great beasts (symbolizing four kings), which history shows were (1) Babylon (2) Media Persia (3) Greece and (4) Rome that would be different from all previous kingdoms and devour the whole earth and trample it down, and break it to pieces.

He predicted that out of this fourth kingdom ten kings would arise, and out of them another who would be different from the previous kingdoms in that he will speak blasphemous words against God. However, God will judge this final ten horned empire and destroy its dominion and greatness under the whole heaven. After this judgment the kingdom of men will become the Kingdom of God and be an everlasting kingdom. (Dan. 7:17-27).

The Beast that Was, and is Not, and is About to Rise

The Beast that Was, and is Not, and is About to Rise from the Bottomless Pit.

Revelation 17:8-11 ----- 8The beast that you saw (the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns) was, and is not, and is about to rise 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. 9This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; 10they are also 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. 11As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.

Before looking at the beast that was and is not and is about to rise let's take a brief overview of what we have learned of this beast so far. Revelation chapter twelve speaks of a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems (Rev. 12:3). Then in Revelation chapter seventeen we read of a great prostitute woman drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus that had written on her forehead the name mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations," sitting on a scarlet beast full of blasphemous names that had seven heads and ten horns.

We are then told that the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated and are also seven kings, five who have fallen, one who is and another that has not yet come, and when he does come he will only remain for a little while. It goes on to say that this beast that was and is not, is an eighth, but belongs to the seven kings. (Rev. 17:1-11).

The great prostitute woman full of abominations sits on seven mountains evidencing that the focus is Rome, while the expression, "was, and is not, and is about to rise," refers to the ten-horned beast (ten toes in Daniels vision), which arises out of Rome, being the fourth kingdom of Daniels vision and the sixth kingdom of Johns vision. This clearly evidences by two witnesses that, both secular (or pagan) Rome, and religious (or Papal) Rome is the focus.

By putting the visions of the book of Revelation and Daniel's visions together we can discover who this ten-horned beast with the seven heads symbolises. The first of these seven heads are: -

1. **Egypt:** though Egypt is not included in John's vision or in Daniel's vision in (Dan. 7), history shows that it is the first great fallen king spoken of in (Rev. 17:10).

2. **Assyria:** is not included in in John's vision or in Daniel's vision (Dan 7), but history shows that it is the second fallen king spoken of in (Rev. 17:10). The vision of (Dan 2:36-45) starts at Babylon, not Egypt and Assyria this, is why Rome is counted as the sixth kingdom in Johns vision and the fourth kingdom in Daniels vision.

3. **Babylon:** is the third of the five kings that have fallen in John's vision (Rev 17:10) and the first head and beast kingdom of Daniels vision (Dan. 2:36-38) symbolised by: -

   - A head of fine Gold. (Dan. 2:32) (Dan 2:38).
   - A lion (Dan. 7:4)

4. **Media Persia:** is the fourth of the five kings that have fallen in John's vision (Rev 17:10) and the second head and beast kingdom of Daniels vision which is Media Persia (Dan. 8:20) symbolised by: -

   - Another kingdom inferior to Babylon (Dan 2:39).
   - A chest and arms of silver (Dan. 2:32), (Dan 2:39).
   - A bear (Dan. 7:5)

5. **Greece:** is the fifth of the five kings that have fallen in John's vision (Rev 17:10) and the third head and beast kingdom of Daniels vision which is Greece (Dan. 8:21) symbolised by: -

   - The middle and thighs of bronze (or brass) (Dan 2:9) (Dan. 2:32).
   - A leopard with four heads in (Dan 7:6).
   - A kingdom that will rule over all the earth. (Dan. 2:39).
   - The fifth king fallen in (Rev 17:10).

6. **Rome:** the sixth is the king that had fallen in John's vision in (Rev 17:10) and the fourth head and beast kingdom of Daniels vision which is Rome (Daniel doesn't mention Rome, but history clearly shows it refers to Rome) symbolised by: -

   - Legs of iron. (Dan 2:33, 40).
   - A beast that had great iron teeth that will devour the whole earth. (Dan. 7:7, 23).
   - Out of this sixth beast kingdom ten horns (i.e., ten kings and their kingdoms) will arise (Rev. 7:23-24).

7. **Ten toes:** is the other one that has not yet come of John's vision in (Rev 17:10) and the fifth head and beast kingdom of Daniels vision which is a latter day's world empire ((Dan. 2:41-43) symbolised by: -

   Feet and ten toes (ten horns in Rev.12:3) (Rev.13:1) (Rev.17:3, 7, 12, 16), partly of iron and partly of soft clay and therefore will be divided. (Dan. 2:41-43). The ten toes will be a latter day divided kingdom, some with the strength of iron and others as soft as clay, meaning the ten toed kingdoms will be partly strong and partly brittle.

   This means that though they are in league with each other they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. (Dan. 2:40-43).

8. **Little horn:** is the eighth beast kingdom of John's vision and the little horn of Daniels vision (Dan. 7:8) symbolised by: -

   A little horn arising out of the ten toes of Daniel and ten horns of Revelation who will speak against God and against His people. (Dan. 7:8) (Rev. 7:23) and whose kingdom and dominion will be taken away and given to the faithful of God for an everlasting kingdom. (Rev. 7:18) (Rev. 7:26-27). The apostle Paul refers to this little horn as the the man of lawlessness in the following verses: -

   - Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day (the day of the Lord) will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) is revealed, the son of destruction, 4who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

A stone cut by no human hand: struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke it in pieces so that the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. (Dan. 2:34) (Dan. 2:45) became chaff of the threshing floors and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. (Dan. 2:35). Daniel ends his interpretation of the Nebuchadnezzars dream saying: -

- In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, 45just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure." (Daniel 2:44-45).

In the days of the ten kings, the stone (symbolizing Christ) will set up a Kingdom that that fills the whole earth forever and will never be destroyed. (Dan. 2:35) (Dan. 2:44). This vision of the metal statute and its feet and the ten toes (Dan. 2:36-45) embraces the entire history of the world as it affects Israel and God's final destruction of the kingdoms of this world and the return of Christ in glory. The entire beast kingdoms are founded upon the great red dragon. (Rev 12:3).

In this vision there is no mention of Gog or the false prophet, however, the character of the little horn in Daniel, is the same as the 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).

NOTE: Daniel chapter two is the same as John's vision in Revelation chapter seventeen, except Daniel starts at Babylon and John starts at Egypt.

Overview of complete vision: out of the fourth kingdom (being Rome) ten kings (symbolized by a ten horns) will arise, and another king (symbolized by a little horn) will arise out of the ten kings. He will speak against God and against His faithful, but his kingdoms will be given to the people of God and their kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom. (Rev. 7:24-27). Revelation seventeen fully details the ten-horned beast with seven heads.

The Dragon: that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:1-15) is the source of life of the ten-horned beast kingdom and all that it embraces which means that all mankind is founded upon and influenced by the dragon, the serpent, the devil and Satan.

Ten Horned Beast and the Prostitute Woman

A Woman Sitting on a Blasphemous Beast with Seven Heads and Ten Horns.

Revelation 17:3 --------- 3And he (one of the seven angels) carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

The fall of Babylon is described at large in chapter eighteen. Here in chapter seventeen John is given a vision of a great prostitute woman drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and full of abominations with the name mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations” (Rev. 17:1-6) written on her forehead, seated on the ten-horned beast.

This woman symbolizes the Papal Roman Church, the Vatican, its Bishops, Cardinals, priests and clergy, but is not limited to the Papal church only, but embraces all denominations and religious organizations that teach contrary to the words of Christ and the Gospel that Paul and the apostles proclaimed.

The ten-horned beast that this woman is pictured sitting on is the secular global world empire headed by the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22). The ten kings receive authority as kings for one hour (i.e., a limited and short period of time), together with the beast (the man of sin and lawlessness), the ten are all of one mind and hand over their power and authority (i.e., military might) to the man of sin

God passes a sentence of condemnation on the great prostitute woman full of abominations and all who she symbolises. He brings her judgment about by putting it in the heart of the man of sin and lawlessness and the hearts of the ten horned beast nations to destroy her, according to the will of God (Rev. 17:11-18). After this great destruction of the great prostitute woman the man of sin and lawlessness pridefully and foolishly leads the ten horned beast nations against Christ and he destroys them with the breadth of his mouth as the following verse shows: -

- The lawless one will be revealed, whom 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)

In Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians told them that: before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him comes, there will be a rebellion in which the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) the son of destruction, is revealed, who 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.

The Lord Jesus Christ will kill him and the armies with him, with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing his entire empire by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:3-8).

When this world changing event takes place the faithful will be gathered to be with the Lord while the seven vial/bowls of wrath rapidly fall. After all hostile opposition to Christ’s Kingdom have been removed the Lord and those gathered to him will establish God’s Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. At this present time, it could be said that God is in the process of making Christ’s enemies a footstool for his feet.

- You, LORD, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end." 13And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? (Hebrews 1:1-14).

In the latter days the head of the the grand deceptive Christian power in the world will be the Vatican and the Roman Papal Church and all other denominations and religious organizations aligned with them that teach messages contrary to the words of Christ and the Gospel and the combined and consolidated antichristian ten horned nations or an alliance of ten sovereign countries, perhaps something like NATO today, by which they are supported through taxes and revenues.

One mighty beast power existing in two distinct forms (religious and secular) closely united, and mutually sustaining each other. (Revelation 17:1-6).

The Beast that Was and is Not, it is an Eighth, but it Belongs to the Seven.

Revelation 17:11 ------ 11 As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.

The chapter goes on to talk about an eighth arising up out of the seven kingdoms, this eight refers to the man of sin spoken of in the following verses: -

- The man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV), the son of destruction (of perdition in KJV), who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God, who the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:3-8).

He arises out of the ten, which is the final seventh empire made up of ten mixed nations or ten consortiums of regions with one designated leader representing their region, working together. He does not fall like the other seven, but is destroyed, going to his own destruction (perdition in KJV), by the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ. This eighth can be counted as being of the seventh in the following ways: -

- Counting from the first world empire: (1) Egypt (2) Assyria (3) Babylon (4) Media Persia (5) Greece (6) Rome (7) Ten nations (8) the Head of the ten.

- The underlying spirit of the seven kingdoms was idolatry and hostility toward Christianity and persecution against Christians, which is the same spirit of the eighth, so in this sense it is of the seventh.

- Though all seven kingdoms came to ruin, their ungodly character remains and the eighth, embraces this same character and in this sense, is of the seven.

- The eighth refers to the man of sin and his antichristian government, that arises out of the ten and becomes the head of the ten, which are of the seven.

- It is the eighth in continuing order in keeping with the character, sovereignty, entity and power of the previous seven and in this sense, can be viewed as a continuance of one and same sovereign power.

- The eighth is not merely one of the seven restored, but a new power or person that embodies all the God-opposed features of the previous seven concentrated in it, and in this sense, it is of the seven, because the eighth is the embodiment of all the previous seven manifested in the man of sin.

He is spoken of as the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth, because he arises out of the ten kingdoms that came out of Rome which at the time of John was not, but in the latter days will again emerge as the final world power, symbolized in Daniels interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image of the metal man in which the legs of iron symbolize ancient Rome, while the feet with ten toes symbolize the rise of Rome in the latter days of which the man of sin and lawlessness is the head.

It is in this sense he is referred to as the eighth of the seven previous kingdoms symbolized by the different metals of the image, the first being (1) Egypt, (2) Assyria, (3) Babylon, (4) Media Persia, (5) Greece, (6) Rome, (7) ten mixed nations symbolized by the toes, and lastly the eighth the man of sin and lawlessness. He is the final antichrist, the lawless one whom the Lord will destroy with the brightness of His coming (2 Thess. 2:3).

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 element of human, thought and wisdom, and of society disciplined by intelligence and culture.

However, the wisdom, that guides both beast 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).

The lesson: we learn from this is that no matter how great a city, is and how wealthy and powerful when it comes before God all its great glory, wealth and power counts as nothing.

For further information click or tap Overview of Topics in Revelation and select the following titles.

- Popes Declare Salvation is Only Found in the Catholic Church.
- Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican.
- Rome, its Religion and Ten Renowned Emperors that Persecuted the Church
- The Great Prostitute Woman and Mystery Babylon.

FOOTNOTE: 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.