Two Beasts Become Friends

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy...And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life...

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed...And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads (Revelation 13:1,8,11-12,16).

This passage describes two beasts that will dominate world events at the end of time. The first arises out of the sea, and the second out of the earth. The second beast causes all that dwell upon the earth to worship the first beast, and in so doing they receive the mark of the Beast. Again, by applying the Biblical definitions to the symbols employed in this great prophecy, we can unravel its mysteries.

The core symbols are beasts, heads, horns, sea, dragon, and earth. A beast represents a king or a kingdom according to Daniel 7:17. The two beasts of Revelation 13 thus represent two kingdoms or political powers that dominate world events in the last days.

The first beast arose out of the sea. Revelation 17:15 tells us that the sea represents "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Therefore the first beast arose from nations (inhabited territory). In contrast, the second beast arises out of the earth, which represents the opposite of nations, multitudes, and kingdoms. Therefore, the second beast must arise in areas of the world where nations, multitudes, and kings were not established (uninhabited territory).

The First Beast—Comparing Daniel and Revelation

The first of the two beasts of Revelation 13 is the same power as the terrible fourth beast in Daniel 7.

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority (Revelation 13:1-2).

The first beast in this passage has ten horns, just like the terrible fourth beast in Daniel 7. Both of these beasts represent Rome, as shown in the chart below.

Comparing Daniel 7 and Revelation 13

Little Horn	Beast from the Sea	
And he shall speak great words against the most High (Daniel 7:25).	<i>speaking great things</i> and blasphe- mies (Revelation 13:5).	
and the same horn made war with the saints (Daniel 7:21).	And it was given unto him to make war with the saints (Revelation 13:7).	
shall wear out the saints of the most High (Daniel 7:25).	war with the saints, and to overcome them (Revelation 13:7).	
<i>more stout</i> than his fellows (Daniel 7:20).	power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations (Revelation 13:7).	
they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time (Daniel 7:25).	power was given unto him to continue forty and two months (Revelation 13:5).	

As we compare the two prophecies, we see that the first beast of Revelation 13 and the little horn of Daniel 7 are one and the same, both representing papal Rome.

Five main points of Revelation 13 clearly indicate that the first beast is none other than the little horn power of Daniel 7—the Antichrist Roman power:

- Inherited Characteristics •
- Papal Rome (the first beast) emerges out of Pagan Rome •
- Forty-two Month Time Period
- A Mouth to Utter Proud Words •
- World Power •

In addition, Revelation 13 tells us more details about the first beast to help us establish its identity more clearly:

- The Counterfeit Wound •
- The Number of a Man

Inherited Characteristics of the First Beast of Revelation 13

The imagery of John's vision in Revelation 13 builds on Daniel 7's description of the little horn Antichrist power by showing us that Rome incorporates components of the lion, the bear, the leopard, and the terrible ten-horned beast:

And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority (Revelation 13:2).

These are the four beasts from Daniel's vision, and are symbols of the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

The Bible's imagery is not random. The attributes of each of the four beasts are indeed contained in this one beast. The Church of Rome has incorporated many of history's systems of worship and styles of governance into its own systems. The absolute power of the ruling monarch, the infallibility of his decrees, the total subservience of the Papacy's officers, the hierarchy of its elite, and the many secret organizations that make Rome's power absolute are all inherited from past empires.

Here is a portion of the oath taken by all cardinals of the Catholic Church:

I [name and surname], Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, promise and swear to be faithful henceforth and forever, while I live, to Christ and his Gospel, being constantly obedient to the Holy Roman Apostolic Church, to Blessed Peter in the person of the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI, and of his canonically elected Successors...ⁱ

Rome also maintains many of the rites and vestments of the bear; the triple crown worn by the Pope, made of solid gold, is of Persian origin. The rites, and ceremonies dating from the Grecian and Babylonian periods form the basis for most of the liturgies, festivals, and grand ceremonies observed by the Roman Church.

The very people now venerated in the Roman Church are renamed versions of Greek gods. As historian Alexander Hislop says, "Popery was baptised Paganism...the Paganism which Rome has baptised is, in all its essential elements, **the very Paganism** which prevailed in the ancient literal Babylon" (emphasis in original).ⁱⁱ

Even the titles used by present-day Popes are the same as those used in early pagan religions and by the monarchs who were seen as representatives of the gods and even as gods themselves.

i. Matthew Bunson, "All about Cardinals," Catholic Almanac, osv.com.

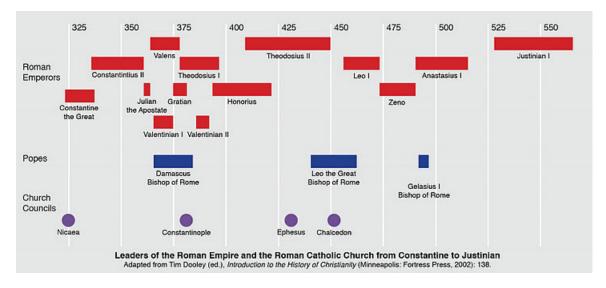
ii. Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons (Ontario: Chick Publications: 2.

Papal Rome takes Pagan Rome's Power

In Matthew 24, Jesus refers to pagan Rome's persecution of God's people and destruction of literal Jerusalem. He was speaking of a type of which papal Rome is the antitype. Papal Rome, like pagan Rome, is an abominable system, a false religion that persecutes spiritual Jerusalem, God's worldwide people. Like the emperors of old, the Pope possesses religious and secular powers. Pagan Rome's pantheon of gods is replaced by Mary and the saints.

When the power of pagan Rome declined (351-476 AD), the power of papal Rome increased as the Church accumulated more power and influence. When the emperor Constantine (306-337 AD) blended paganism and Christianity into one around 321 AD, Rome became the religious capital of the world.

The transfer of the emperor's residence to Constantinople was a sad blow to the prestige of Rome, and at the time one might have predicted her speedy decline. But the development of the Church, and the growing authority of the Bishop of Rome, or the Pope, gave her a new lease on life, and made her again the capital—this time the religious capital—of the world.¹



When Constantine moved his capital to Constantinople (330 AD), the Pope inherited the power, prestige, and even titles of the Roman emperors. The most significant of such titles is *Pontifex Maximus*, a pagan title that means "Bridge builder between heaven and Earth."

After Constantine, his son Constantius came into power. In an effort to unite the various factions of the Church, he forced anti-Nicene doctrines on the Church, saying "Whatever I will shall be regarded as canon."ⁱⁱ Constantius also tried to eliminate some pagan practices from his empire. In 356 AD, he decreed the closure of all pagan temples; however, the decree did not stop the rituals from continuing in Rome.

Constantius' cousin Julian became the next emperor. A pagan, he tried to revert the empire to its pre-Christian pagan practices and the worship of Helios and Mithra. Following the reign of Julian was an era of emperors who practiced some form of Christianity—but remained mostly tolerant to the heresies and twisted doctrine that prevailed in their empire.

In 538 AD, the emperor Justinian issued a decree, proclaiming the Pope to be supreme in religious matters. Since then, the Pope has assumed the garb of representative of Jesus Christ on Earth.

Throughout the mid-first millennium, elements of Pagan Rome were further incorporated into Papal Rome through symbols, rituals, and ceremonies. For example, the Roman clergy wear the same vestments of the priests of Dagon, the fish-god. The fish-head mitre, worn by bishops and popes is also the same as the ancient mitre used by the priesthood of Babylon.

The keys of the pagan god figures have also become a symbol of the Papacy, Christianized into "the keys of Peter." The Pope's staff is the symbol of the snake, and was carried by ancient emperors since Babylonian times. However, this pagan artifact was also Christianized, and became a shepherd's staff.

The papacy is but the ghost of the Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof. ⁱⁱ

i. Abbot's Roman History: 236, as quoted in Charlene R. Fortsch, Daniel: Understanding the Dreams and Visions (British Columbia: Prophecy Song, 2006): 105.

ii. J. Gaskin (ed.), Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (Oxford University Press, 1998):463.

The Forty-Two Month Prophetic Time Period

The Bible prophecies about the end times tell us how long the Antichrist will rule. Revelation 13 says that period will be 42 months:

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months (Revelation 13:5).

The 42 months that the Antichrist have authority is the same time period that the little horn power will have authority in Daniel 7:25, because the little horn of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13 are the same power.

The	Length of	Rome's	Authority
Daniel 7:25 given into his h	and until a time an	d times and	the dividing of time
Daniel 12:7 it shall be for a	time, times and a	half	
			hould feed her there
	14 fly into the wilderne time, and times, a		
Revelation 13: power was give	5 n unto him to conti	nue forty an	d two months
A time	times	and half a time	
(1 Jewish year)	(RSV "two times")		
360 days	720 days	180 days	= 1260 prophetic days
12 months	24 months	6 months	= 42 prophetic months

Time, times and half a time, 42 months, and 1260 days are all the same time period written in different forms. This can be deduced from Hebrew parallelism.

Every time the Bible mentions this prophetic period it refers to the Papacy. As prophetic days symbolize actual years, this 1260-year period began in 538 AD when the Papacy established itself as the ruling religious power, and ended in 1798 when the Papacy appeared to receive a deadly wound.

During its period of supremacy, the Papacy wielded more power than even the emperors of Rome. Kings laid their crowns at the feet of the Pope, and had him crown them. The Pope was supreme over all nations and peoples.

A Mouth to Utter Proud Words

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven (Revelation 13:5-6).

Daniel 7:25 tells us "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High..."

These verses show us that the beast will be blasphemous. Rome has always been an ecclesiastical and secular power, combining church and state. When she wielded power during the Middle Ages, she claimed this:

The Church may by Divine Right confiscate the property of heretics, imprison their persons, and condemn them to the flames.

In one of his encyclicals, Pope John Paul asked for secular legislation to support the religious observance of Sunday:

When, through the centuries, she has made laws concerning Sunday rest, (109) the Church has had in mind above all the work of servants and worker...Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.¹

In a further apostolic letter, the Pope used the term "heretic" for the first time since the healing of the wound, and warned disobedient members of the flock that they will be punished if they do not accept papal authority in matters of doctrine:

Whoever denies a truth which must be believed with divine and catholic faith, or who calls into doubt, or who totally repudiates the Christian faith, and does not retract after having been legitimately warned, is to be punished as a heretic or an apostate with a major excommunication.ⁱⁱ

It is interesting that while the Roman Catholic Church considers all other churches heretics and disobedient daughters that must accept papal authority in matters of doctrine, the Catholic Church is also seeking unity with other denominations through the setting aside of differences.

But under Catholic thought, the only differences to set aside are those of other denominations, for all must concede to papal authority. Through the efforts of Rome through the past years, we see that she is stealthily preparing to once again enforce her decrees, just as the Bible predicts.

In the secret recesses of her grand buildings and in the legislative halls of the world's political powers the stage has been set for the final confrontation between those aligned with the prince of darkness and those who stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel.

i. John Paul II, Dies Domini (May 7, 1998).

ii. John Paul II, Ad Tuendam Fidem (May 18, 1998).

The Papacy's International Power

Since the time of the healing of the wound, the power and influence of the Papacy has again grown to worldwide proportions, particularly during the end of the 20th century.

Political Power

Pope John Paul II received heads of state from all over the world and in, turn, visited many countries. His stature as a world leader grew astronomically. Bill Clinton, the last United States president of the previous millennium, thanked the Pope for saving the world from the horrors of nuclear war and for freeing millions from political oppression.

President Bush Jr. and even President Obama have both paid homage to the Pope by visiting him for counsel and blessing, or receiving him as an honored guest.

Religious Power

The Pope is recognized as the supreme religious leader. At the Council of Assisi, leaders from all persuasions acknowledged him as the supreme ecclesiastical authority.

The stated aim of the Christian ecumenical movement is to reassert papal authority, and Pope John Paul II issued the statement that it is necessary for all denominations to accept papal authority before unity can be achieved. Protestant Churches have made conciliatory advances to reconnect with the Papacy.

On a plaque outside St. John Lateran Church in Rome are the words Ecclesiarum Mater, or "Mother of the Churches." According to the BBC, a papal declaration written in 2001 by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) said that referring to other churches as sisters—and therefore equals—of the Roman Catholic Church is incorrect.¹

The chasm between the world's 1.2 billion Catholics and 350 million Protestants is steadily closing. However, while Rome itself has not changed one of its doctrines, many of the reform churches are lining up to pay homage to Rome, compromising their beliefs.

i. "Vatican Declaration Provokes Churches," BBC News (September 5, 2000).

The First Beast's Wound

The first beast of Revelation 13 comes from the sea. In Revelation 13:3, the beast seems to receive a mortal wound, but it is then healed:

And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast (Revelation 13:3).

This is how the BBE version renders the text:

And I saw one of his heads as if it had been given a death-wound; and his death-wound was made well: and all the earth was wondering at the beast.

And the NIV translates it like this:

One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

The wound is a counterfeit wound, but nevertheless appears to be a mortal wound.

The Beast forms part of a trilogy of powers that constitute the last great confederacy against God, which the Bible calls Babylon. This end-time Babylon consists of three components: the Beast, the Dragon and the False Prophet. This false trinity wars against the true triune God.

The Papacy's Counterfeit Wound

Papal supremacy of the Middle Ages ended in the year 1798, exactly 1260 years after Justinian's decree established the Papacy as the supreme Christian power in 538 AD. In 1798, Napoleon's army took the Pope captive and put him into exile. The murder of a Frenchman in Rome in 1798 gave the French the excuse they wanted to occupy the Eternal City.

It was really believed that the era of papal power had come to an end forever. However, the prophecy says, "And his deadly wound was healed and all the world wondered after the beast" (Revelation 13:3).

Since the Papacy had apparently lost its political status after the Pope's capture in 1798, it was, for all intents and purposes, dead. It could only be resurrected if it regained its political status.

Healing of the Wound

In 1929, Prime Minister Benito Mussolini and Cardinal Pietro Gasparri signed an accord whereby the Pope had to pledge his own political party's support to Mussolini in exchange for the return of his papal seat and power.

This monumental event was recorded in the San Francisco Chronicle with the heading "Mussolini and Gasparri sign Historic Roman Pact." Even at that point, people understood the significance of what had happened. From 1929 onward, the political status of the Vatican was thus reinstated and the wound could heal fully.

The Beast, or Papacy, claims to be the representative of Christ. It demands the world's obedience and also experienced a counterfeit death and resurrection. At the end of time, the power of the resurrected Papacy will be so great that no one would venture to make war against it. The deadly wound will be healed.

666: The Number of a Man

Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666 (Revelation 13:18 NKJV).

The final attribute of the sea beast is that it has a number, and this number is the number of a man.

We must remember that this attribute is not the most important, but is rather just a small piece of the description Scripture gives of this beast.

Modern interpretations of this prophecy apply the 666 to a computer in Brussels. This implies that 666 represents registration of every citizen of Earth who is to be subjected to the new economic policies of the new world order.

However, this computer did not persecute the saints for 1260 years. It did not say it was God. And, it does not claim to forgive sins. These are all attributes of the Antichrist.

Before we can call any entity the Antichrist, we must be sure that it fulfills every descriptor that the Bible gives.

The text clearly states that the number is a man's, but also the Beast's. The number 666 applies to the Papacy (a kingdom represented by a beast in Bible typology) as shown in the chart of papal titles below, and is the number of a man (the supreme ruler of that kingdom), bringing it in line with the "man of sin" recorded in the Scriptures.

If the official secular and religious titles of the Roman Church are examined, then the number 666 is prominent. Latin letters have a numerical value, as we can see in the following chart:ⁱ

The Vicarius Filii Dei Controversy

One of the official titles of the Pope, *Vicarius Filii Dei* or "Vicar of the Son of God," is at times disputed by Catholic theologians, but can be verified in papal canons and other Catholic publications.

Catholic F. Lucii Ferraris, in his Latin encyclopedia called *Prompta Bibliotheca canonica juridica moralis theologica* said this:

Ut sicut Beatus Petrus in terris **vicarius Filii Dei** fuit constitutus, ita et Potifices eius successores in terris principatus potestatem amplius, quam terrence imperialis nostræ serenitatis mansuetudo habere videtur (emphasis added).ⁱⁱ

The English translation is as follows:

As the blessed Peter was constituted Vicar of the Son of God on earth, so it is seen that the Pontiffs, his successors, hold for us and our empire the power of a supremacy on the earth greater than the clemency of our earthly imperial serenity.ⁱⁱⁱ

Our Sunday Visitor, a Jesuit publication, published two admissions that *Vicarius Filii Dei* is in fact a title for the pope—on November 15, 1914, and April 18, 1915. The November 15, 1914, issue, as shown in the picture, tells us this:

The title of the Pope of Rome is Vicarius Filii Dei. This is inscribed on his mitre; and if you take the letters of his title (printed large) and add them together they come to 666...add these together and the total will be 666.

Note what our Protestant forefathers had to say about Vicarius Filii Dei:

Dr. Henry Grattan Guinness, in Babylon and the Beast, said this:

An English officer of high rank, who in 1799 by a special favor, was given the special opportunity, while in Rome, to get a close look at the Pope's jewels and precious things, discovered thereby, that the papal tiara bore this inscription: 'Vicarivs Filii Dei.'

When you take out the Latin letters, which have a numerical value, and which still are used to represent numbers, and which are: V, I, C, L, and D, these letters form the number given below. In these Latin words there are two V's, which letter denotes 5, six I's denoting 1, one C which denotes 100, one L, which denotes 50, and one D, which denotes 500, thus, V,V=10; I,I,I,I,I=6; C=100; L=50; and D=500, the sum 666.^{iv}

Richard Cunningham Shimeall (1803 - 1874), wrote this in his book *Our Bible Chronology*:

It is to be observed as a singular circumstance, that the title vicarius filii dei (Vicar of the Son of God), which the Popes of Rome have assumed to themselves, and caused to be inscribed over the door of the Vatican, exactly makes the number 666, when deciphered with the numeral signification of its constituent letters...^v

Many in the Protestant Church today would wish to apply the number 666 to the whole of humanity rather than the Papacy specifically. But if both Catholics and Protestants agree on the title, and even the Jesuits—the society sworn to protect the Pope at any cost— confirmed the title and number twice in their own publication, can we doubt its validity?

i. Chart adapted from Roy Allan Anderson, Unfolding the Revelation (Mountainview, CA: Pacific Press, 1974): 130-131.

iii. Christian Edwardson, Facts of Faith (TEACH Inc., 2001): 222.

iv. H Grattan Guinness, Baylon and the Beast: 141, as quoted in S. Svensson, Kyrkans Strid Och Slutliga Streger (Stockholm: 1908): 126, 128.

v. Richard Shimeall, Our Bible Chronology—Historic and Prophetic, Critically Examined and Demonstrated (New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., 1867): 180.

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ii. F. Lucii Ferraris, "Papa," Prompta Bibliotheca canonica juridica moralis theologica Volume IV (Rome: Press of the Propaganda, 1890): 43, as quoted in Christian Edwardson, Facts of Faith (TEACH Inc., 2001): 222.<

The Second Beast of Revelation 13

Having identified the first beast of Revelation 13, we now must identify the second beast that will work together with the first beast and force the world to pay homage to the first beast .

Which political power would arise on Earth with enough power to compel the world? What will its relationship be with Rome?

When the Second Beast Arises

The verse that lies at the transition point between the descriptions of the two beasts is Revelation 13:10, which says this:

He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword (NKJV).

This text is significant because it identifies when the second beast will arise. Verse 11 begins, "then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth " (NKJV).

In 1798, the first beast, the Papacy, was taken into captivity. This is the time in which John saw the other beast arising. It arises not out of the sea (the multitude of nations) but out of the earth, in an area that was previously not inhabited by great nations, multitudes, peoples, and tongues.

Identifying the Second Beast of Revelation 13

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed (Revelation 13:11-12).

There is only one nation that qualifies to be the second beast, based on the criteria mentioned in this passage. The power described would have to become a mighty nation in order to exercise authority over all the nations of the world. It had to have arisen out of an unoccupied territory, because it was "coming up out of the earth," or the opposite of the sea, which symbolizes occupation of many nations and languages.

As seen in the passage above, the power would have lamb-like qualities, but would speak like a dragon. This means that the nation must have attributes of Christ, but that it would relinquish these in favor of attributes of the dragon.

Only America Qualifies

The United States of America is a global power that was established in a sparsely populated area of the world. During the 1260 years of persecution against the Protestant Church, God was preparing a place of escape for His persecuted saints. At the right time, as the Reformation was gaining power and the Catholic Church was weakening, Protestant Christians came across the Atlantic to escape the reach of Rome's oppressive arm.

In Revelation 12:15-16 we are told this:

So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth (NKJV).

In this passage, the earth represents the uninhabited New World to which the woman (the persecuted Church, see Jeremiah 6:2 and 2 Corinthians 11:2) fled to escape papal persecution. By 1776 the War of Independence had ended. The American Constitution was written in 1789. In 1798, France, the mightiest nation in Europe at the time, formally recognized America as an independent nation, giving the country the Statue of Liberty.

America was founded on lofty Christian principles of freedom and equality. It represented everything Rome hated. America's two greatest documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, are filled with Protestant declarations that are absolutely intolerable to Rome. America was the bastion of Protestantism, a free world with no monarch that could be controlled by Rome as the many monarchs of Europe had been for centuries.

America had a republican form of government. It spelled a massive threat to the rebuilding of Rome's control in the aftermath of the Protestant Reformation. Not surprisingly, we find the Vatican opposed to the founding documents of the United States, as Avro Manhattan, British broadcasting journalist and author of over 20 books on the Vatican tells us:

The Vatican condemned the Declaration of Independence as wickedness and called the Constitution of the United States a Satanic Document.ⁱ

Plans had been laid at the Council of Trent (1545-1563) and subsequent Councils to regain the power lost during the Reformation. This Counter Reformation that began during the Council of Trent had to ensure that the new nation of America did not get strong enough to oppose Rome's plans. The early founders of America recognized the threat their new country posed to the Old World power. Many founding leaders wrote of this threat and did what they could to prevent it.

Charles Chiniquy, an ex-Catholic priest and author of the book Fifty Years in the Church of Rome, lived during the early part of America's history. In his book, he writes, "Rome saw at once that the very existence of the United States was a formidable menace to her own life."ⁱⁱ

He also wrote, "Liberty of conscience is proclaimed by the United States a most sacred principle, which every citizen must uphold...But liberty of conscience is declared by all the popes and councils of Rome, a most godless, unholy, and diabolical thing, which every good Catholic must abhor and destroy at any cost."ⁱⁱⁱ

It was in 1854 that Pope Pius IX wrote, "The absurd and erroneous doctrines or ravings in defense of liberty of conscience are a most pestilential error—a pest, of all others, most to be dreaded in a state."^{iv}

The Papacy thoroughly detests liberty of conscience. In 1864, in his encyclical Quanta Cura, Pius IX condemned to hell "those who assert liberty of conscience and of religious worship."^v The United States of America's founding principles were obviously a serious threat to Rome, and not to be tolerated. Many saw Rome making silent subtle advances into America's inner workings through Rome's secret police, the Jesuits.

As the years progressed, through the subtlety of these enemies and America's diminished faithfulness to its Protestant roots, the nation was slowly changed and infiltrated. It no longer resembles the lofty ideal it once stood for.

- iii. Ibid: 284.
- iv. Pope Pius IX, Encyclical Letter (August 15, 1854).
- v. Pope Pius IX, Quanta Cura (December 8, 1864).

i. Avro Manhattan, The Dollar and the Vatican (Ozark Book Publishers, 1988): 26.

ii. Charles Chiniquy, Fifty Years in the "Church" of Rome (California: Chick Publications, 1985): 291.

America: Losing Hold of the Truth

Many of America's early leaders were dedicated Christians who sought to build a nation free from religious oppression of any kind, founded on love and obedience to God. But today, many have forgotten this important fact.

As the years have passed, more and more American people have forsaken their Protestant Christian roots, and now we have a country that wears its Christian name loosely. Some realize that America has been under a quiet siege in an effort to tear down the Protestant fabric of the nation and replace it with a system that gives Rome the dominion and admiration it craves. Today, that plan is almost complete. There are many who believe that through Jesuit infiltration, the Papacy has gained power in America. One such person is journalist and author Paul Blanshard, who writes this:

There is no doubt that the American Catholic hierarchy has entered the political arena, and that it is becoming more and more aggressive in extending the frontiers of Catholic authority into the fields of medicine, education, and foreign policy...the Catholic hierarchy in this country [i.e., the USA] has great power as a pressure group, and no editor, politician, publisher, merchant or motion-picture producer can express defiance openly—or publicize documented facts—without risking his future.ⁱ

Father Isaac Hecker, creator of the Catholic World periodical, wrote this in July, 1970:

There is, ere long, to be a state religion in this country, and that state religion is to be the Roman Catholic.

1st. The Roman Catholic is to wield his vote for the purpose of securing Catholic ascendancy in this country.

2nd. All legislation must be governed by the will of God, unerringly indicated by the pope.

3rd. Education must be controlled by Catholic authorities, and under education the opinions of the individual and the utterances of the press are included, and many opinions are to be forbidden by the secular arm, under the authority of the Church, even to war and bloodshed.ⁱⁱ

Today, such sentiments are considered old-fashioned and unenlightened. But are they? Take a look at the number of Catholics in positions of government in Bush's 2001-2009 presidency and Obama's 2009-2013 time in office.

Does it matter what denomination anyone is? It wouldn't matter at all, except that the Papacy itself has an agenda for world dominion and the extermination of Protestantism, and demands total obedience to itself from its followers. Due to Rome's agenda, we can not but wonder if the decisions being made in the US are really best for the American citizen or simply best for Rome. Many years ago, a wise man said this:

If the liberties of the American people are ever destroyed, they will fall by the hands of the Catholic clergy.ⁱⁱⁱ

The telltale sign is that America is beginning to speak like a dragon instead of a lamb. With its globo-cop mentality, it is showing that behind its lamb-like guise is a dragon's voice campaigning to make the Papacy's agenda a reality.

Paul Blanshard's book was written in 1949. Since then, the power of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the USA has grown. Many powerful Knights of Malta (a group that is under the control of the Roman Catholic Jesuit Order) have held key positions in US media, banking, and government. Consider Henry Robinson Luce and William Randolph Hearst in mainstream media or CIA Directors William Donovan, John McCone, William Casey, William Colby, and George Tenet. Top-level Knights of Columbus—such as Senator Ted Kennedy—have also held, and continue to hold, key positions in the US government.

The changes in America have not just been political or economic, but spiritual as well. Protestantism is Rome's most hated foe. Read what secret plans were formulated in the Councils of Rome shortly after the Reformation:

What we aim at, is the Empire of the World...It is upon the great [men] that we ought particularly to exert our influence. We ought to bring them to believe that in a period as storming as this, there is no safety for them but through us. We must give them to understand that the cause of evil, the bad leaven, will remain as long as Protestantism shall exist, that Protestantism must therefore be utterly abolished...Heretics are the enemies that we are bound to exterminate.^{iv}

During this Congress [of Verona, Italy in 1822], it was decided that America would be the target of Jesuit emissaries and that America was to be destroyed at all costs. Every principle of the [US] Constitution was to be dissolved and new Jesuitical principles were to be put into place in order to exalt the Papacy to dominion in America.^v

[American Secretary of the Navy R.W.] Thompson pinpointed exactly who would be the agents used by the monarchs of Europe to destroy the republic of America, namely, the Jesuits of Rome! Since 1815 there has been a continual assault on America by the Jesuits to try to destroy the constitutional rights of this great nation. The famous inventor of the Morse code, Samuel B. Morse, also wrote of this sinister plot [of the Jesuits] against the United States.^{vi}

If indeed Protestantism was so hated, an attempt to vanquish Protestant America must have involved a spiritual infiltration as well. And indeed we see a massive change in the beliefs of Protestant America; in fact, Protestants no longer believe what the reformers taught about the identity of the Antichrist. Through dispensationalism and the Roman Catholic doctrines of futurism and preterism, the reformers' beliefs and doctrines have been nullified. Here is what Jewish-Christian Steve Wohlberg states in his book *End Time Delusions: The Rapture, Antichrist, Israel, and the End of the World*:

At the Council of Trent, papal leaders and Jesuits brainstormed about how to counteract Protestantism and bring defectors back to the mother church. Behind closed doors, they decided this was to be done, not only through the Inquisition and torture, but also through theology. What kind of theology? Here's the answer: By reinterpreting the prophecies about 'the man of sin', 'the little horn', and 'the beast'!

Two very intelligent Spanish Jesuits rose to the challenge: Luis de Alcasar (1554-1613) of Seville and Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) of Salamanca. Their strategy was, in a nutshell, one of reapplication and diversion, yet they went in opposite directions. After reading the Bible by candlelight like Martin Luther did, Alcasar decided to apply the Bible's antichrist prophecies to the ancient past while Ribera applied them to the distant future. 'Smart move!' was the response from Rome. By reapplying these prophecies to the past and to the future instead of to the present, these two tricky Jesuit scholars sought to divert the prophetic finger light years away from the Vatican. Their views quickly became official positions within the Roman Church—even though these two views contradicted each other!^{vii}

Today, Protestant America has fully accepted these Roman doctrines and is spreading revival movements and a Pentecostal form of religion across the world. In some modern Christian circles, the Holy Spirit is regarded as feminine, just as in the ancient religions and Catholicism, where the miracle working power of the gods manifested itself largely in the female deities, such as Rhea, Ishtar, Astarte, Isis, and now Mary in Catholicism. "Manifestations of the Spirit" are also very common in the Protestant world, but this spirit only leads to unity with Rome.

We know that the dragon in Revelation 13 represents Satan, who persecuted God's people by means of the Church in the Middle Ages. In like fashion, the second beast will also persecute God's people who do not accept the teachings of the first beast, even to the point of issuing a death decree against them. Sadly, in the future, America will be the unwitting arm of force fulfilling Rome's plans of extermination of all "heretics."

When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image to the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result (Great Controversy: 445).

The lamb-like beast will have become like the dragon, just as predicted in Revelation 13, and those that wish to cling to the Word of God and choose to reject papal tradition and Rome's authority will feel the ire of the transformed second beast. The noble country has been vanquished by the City of the Seven Hills.

i. Paul Blanshard, American Freedom and Catholic Power (Boston: The Beacon Press, 1949): 4.

ii. Father Isaac Thomas Hecker, Catholic World (July 1870), as quoted in Charles Chiniquy, Fifty Years in the Church of Rome (Chicago: Adam Craig, 1889): 675-676.

iii. Lafayette, as quoted in Charles Chiniquy, Fifty Years in the Church of Rome (Chicago: Adam Craig, 1889): 471.

v. Bill Hughes, The Secret Terrorists (Truth Triumphant Ministries): 14.

vi. Ibid: 7.

vii. Steve Wolhberg, End Time Delusions: The Rapture, Antichrist, Israel, and the End of the World (Destiny Image Publishers, 2005): 114.

The Second Beast is a Lamb and a Dragon

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed (Revelation 13:11-12).

As we saw in the Identifying the Second Beast, France (the nation that terminated the first beast's power and influence) made a dominant and significant gesture in recognizing America (the new nation that had avowed to keep church and state apart). The Constitution of the new States gave complete freedom of worship to its citizens:

Congress shall make no laws respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States...ⁱ

The USA aptly fits the description given to the lamblike, two-horned beast of Revelation 13:11. It starts off like a lamb and later speaks like a dragon.

Hordes of persecuted Christians fled from the terrors and trials of the European oppression, seeking freedom and a better life in North America. However, the USA has become more militant over recent years. Revelation 13:12 warns us that this beast would exercise all the power of the first beast before him.

The two horns represent church and state, which will unite in the last days to persecute God's people. Verse 12 continues by warning us that the USA will cause all who dwell on the earth to worship the Papacy (the first beast), which can only be achieved by enforcing papal doctrines.

This means that papal doctrines will be legislated. For this to happen, the US Constitution will have to be ignored or further amended, since it presently forbids the legislation of religious laws. Unless the Constitution is suspended, popular feeling must be swayed in order to permit such laws.

America is rapidly becoming a global policeman, getting involved in all parts of the world in the name of freedom and justice. With the fall of the Soviet Union there is no other power that has the resources to fill this role, and by its own admission, the United States is the only superpower left on Earth.

i. US Constitution Amendment 1 and Article 6.

The Final Confederacy of End-Time Babylon

According to Revelation 16, end-time Babylon will be a three-part confederacy, under the leadership of the Pope. The three components are the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty (Revelation 16:13-14 emphasis added).

Ancient Babylon served as a symbol of end-time Babylon. Just like the warning to separate from ancient Babylon, so the warning will be repeated about end-time Babylon:

Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence. Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad (Jeremiah 51:6-7).

End-time Babylon cannot find its fulfillment in the ancient ruins of literal Babylon, even if the city were restored. Rather, Babylon represents the greater worldwide contempt for God that exists at the end of time. The components of Babylon will bind together in one final attempt at total world control and war against God's Kingdom. The three components of Babylon represent Satan's counterfeit system of worship and counterfeit trinity.

Revelation 16:13-14 discusses end-time Babylon's three-part cohort that will fight against God and His people. This article will explain each of the three components, and what they symbolize.

Dragon

The Dragon is identified as Satan, and represents a hidden god, a counterfeit of God the Father. Satan has always wanted to usurp God's power and position—to take the place of God. As the counterfeit God the Father, Satan now hopes to gain the allegiance of the world to overcome God's kingdom.

His workings are disguised, and his power is made manifest through spiritualism in all its forms. In addition to the obvious manifestations of Satan through demons, spirits, and witchcraft, Satan also pulls people away from God to himself through the modern New Age movement, another form of spiritualism. This movement is one of the manifestations of the Dragon component.

Beast

The Beast represents the false son or counterfeit of Jesus Christ. It is Roman Catholicism, claiming to be the representative of Christ on Earth.

- Just as Christ received a mortal wound at the cross, so the Beast received a mortal wound but lived.
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead, so the mortal wound of the Beast was healed.
- Just as Christ is to receive all homage, so the whole world will wonder after the Beast (the Papacy), and pay it homage.
- Just as at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, so the Papacy today demands acknowledgement of its supremacy.

False Prophet

The final component of Babylon is the False Prophet, which counterfeits the Holy Spirit. The best-known experience of the Holy Spirit in the Bible was Pentecost, when tongues of fire came down upon the disciples, filling them with the Holy Spirit, and empowering them to speak in tongues so they could spread the Gospel. The counterfeit holy spirit has a similar manifestation.

We have learned from previous articles that the second beast of Revelation 13, America, will compel the world to worship the first beast, papal Rome, whose deadly wound was healed. America will play an important role in establishing the Papacy 's status as spiritual leader, and will comprise a part of the end-time Babylonian confederacy.

In Protestant America, we see manifestations of tongues and healings that aren't being used for spreading the Gospel but are a counterfeit. These experiences are full of emotionalism and euphoria, but don't actually glorify God.

Also known as Pentecostalism, these great miracles, signs, and wonders are the False Prophet 's way of unifying denominations under false doctrine.

When Christ prayed for unity within His Church, He never meant unity through compromise, but always unity in truth. The Protestant churches who join themselves to Rome by accepting papal supremacy become part of Babylon and thus form this third component of end- time Babylon , the False Prophet .

Fire From Heaven?

Now that we have established the participants in the prophecy of Revelation 13, we must answer the question of how church and state will get together to fulfill the prophecy. Verses 13 and 14 provide a possible solution to this dilemma:

And [the second beast] doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast , which had the wound by a sword, and did live (Revelation 13:13-14).

The United States certainly has the capacity to make fire come down from heaven in a military capacity, but these words have a spiritual connotation as well.

When Elijah told the children of Israel to choose between the God of heaven and Baal, the contest was to be decided by which god would rain fire from heaven (1 Kings 18). We know that the God of Israel displayed His power to prove that He was the true God. Satan would have loved to rain fire on that occasion, but God curtailed his power.

At the end of time, there will once again be a decision to make. Perhaps fire will come down from heaven, but the verse says it will be a deceiving fire, which means it will not be from God.

When this fire comes, the truth of God's Word will be the only thing keeping God's people from being deceived. When Satan tried to deceive Christ by misapplying Scripture, Jesus answered him with more Scripture (Matthew 4:1-11). Christ has already made all things plain in His Word. He has given His Holy Spirit to us to lead us into truth, and there will be no need for Him to prove anything through manifestations. If people do not want to believe the plain statements of the Word, Christ will not force them.

The False Holy Spirit

One of the three components of the end-time Babylonian confederacy is the False Prophet representing the false holy spirit. In Scripture, fire can signify the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is a prime example of this Holy Spirit fire. As the disciples were praying together, flames of fire settled on them, signifying the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that would empower them to preach the Gospel in the power of God.

It is very possible that the fire from heaven will be an outpouring of the false Holy Spirit that will deceive people into accepting Satan's lies. When religious and political leaders witness the miracles of the false Holy Spirit, they will be convinced that they are dealing with the power of God.

This has already happened with the Toronto Blessing and charismatic movement in both Catholic and Protestant Churches. In fact, speaking in tongues or laughing in the Lord is considered a sign of one's spirituality. Weeping statues and apparitions are also seen as a sign of the presence of God.

Through these many signs, wonders, and ecstatic experiences, the world is being set up to receive the false Christ, or Maitreya, and the one world religion known in the Bible as "Babylon."

A foreshadowing of these events is already taking place around the world. There have been a great number of signs and wonders taking place within Catholicism, the New Age movement, and some even in Islamic locales.

Maitreya

Appearances of someone who calls himself Maitreya, and claims to be Jesus, have also taken place, accompanied by miracles of healing and other wonders.

Many of these events have also taken place in Catholic circles. The false holy spirit can easily manifest itself anywhere, as the belief in Maitreya, or the Christ, is found in many religions.

The Maitreya concept, originally Buddhist, is a central part of the New Age movement. Benjamin Creme, a long-time student of esoteric philosophy through the teachings of Helena Blavatsky and Alice A. Bailey, has become the principal spokesperson on the emergence of Maitreya the so-called World Teacher.

Creme claims that he is the channel for Maitreya—that he is "overshadowed" by Maitreya whenever he lectures. Read more about Maitreya and Benjamin Creme

Virginia Essene also claims to be one of Maitreya's channels. Here are some of her statements from Maitreya:

The time has come to begin the process of change, to transform the life of men in such a way that the God in man shines forth. This, My friend, is not difficult of accomplishment for within you all sits such a Divine Being. My Task will be to evoke from you that Shining Light...

Theology is usually useless and argument over scriptures is wasteful energy. Simply take the theme of loving and live it.ⁱ

As we have seen, the False Prophet is already doing its work. Whether it is appearances by the Maitreya around the world, or simply ecstatics in the form of tongues or laughing in the Lord, the same deceptive spirit is moving in all of these occurrences.

i. Virginia Essene, New Teachings for an Awakening Humanity (Share Foundation/SEE Publishing, 1995): 22.

Unity of Church and State

In order for religious doctrine to be enforced in America and for the Papacy to once more obtain national and global dominion, church and state must be unified as it was in the Middle Ages.

...it is not lawful for the State, any more than for the individual, either to disregard all religious duties or to hold in equal favor different kinds of religion; that the unrestrained freedom of thinking and of openly making known one's thoughts is not inherent in the rights of citizens, and is by no means to be reckoned worthy of favor and support (Pope Leo XVI, 1885).ⁱ

In the United States, the Christian Coalition was formed in 1989 with this very objective in mind.

The separation of church and state is one of the most important criteria for the preservation of liberty and equality. Today, however, the same ideals of unifying the church with the state still hold priority in the minds of many politicians—if not publicly, then certainly in intention. This is exhibited through the push for national Sunday laws and the way the Pope is viewed as the spiritual leader and authority on world and UN issues.

Forced Submission

Christ never forced anyone to believe in Him, but demonstrated His love for humanity by His willingness to die for us. In fact, He even calls us to reason with Him so we can fully understand the forgiveness He offers us (see Isaiah 1:18). Satan is just the opposite. He has always forced people into submission.

Sadly, Revelation 13 predicts that, as in the Middle Ages and even the 19th century, religious intolerance will once again raise its ugly head. This persecution of those who follow the Bible as their only guide is already occuring. Ted Turner of the Better World Society claims that fundamentalist Christians are "bozos" and "losers."ⁱⁱ Pope John Paul II seems to have agreed with him, when he issued a bold statement in 1998 that anyone who opposes the Catholic faith is worthy of punishment:

Whoever denies or places in doubt any truth that must be believed with divine and catholic faith, or repudiates the Christian faith as a whole, and does not come to his senses after having been legitimately warned, is to be punished as a heretic...whoever obstinately rejects a teaching that the Roman Pontiff or the College of Bishops, exercising the authentic Magisterium, have set forth to be held definitively, or who affirms what they have condemned as erroneous, and does not retract after having been legitimately warned, is to be punished with an appropriate penalty (emphasis added).ⁱⁱⁱ

What is an appropriate penalty? How have heretics been punished in the past? In 2007 the Vatican's newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* sparked concern by saying this:

Attacking the Church is terrorism. Fuelling blind and irrational fury against someone who always speaks in the name of love is terrorism. It is vile and terrorist to throw stones at the Pope (emphasis added).^{iv}

Along with intolerance, religious fervor will grow, legislating moral issues in the name of peace. We see this in the words of former UN employee Robert Muller, who said in 1997, "Peace will be impossible without the taming of fundamentalism through a United Religion that professes faithfulness only to the global spirituality and to the health of this planet."

The Papacy believes it is the head of "global spirituality," and has used the ecumenical movement to combine all religions under its rule. The Papacy has also subtly used the condition of the environment as an excuse for fear-based unity, and has watered down Christian teachings, Scripture, and the understanding of the God of the Bible to allow for unity across religions. With these three elements, the plans of Robert Muller and the UN are becoming reality, leading the Pope's position as a great moral leader.

Among the moral issues legislated will be doctrines originating from the authority of Rome. This will specifically include the legislation of Sunday as the day of worship, as Sunday is the mark of Rome's authority by their own admission:

Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of One or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible.^{vi}

US-Vatican Relations

Already the United States and the Vatican are working towards common goals. In 1982, there was a private meeting between the Pope and President Ronald Reagan, and soon after an American Envoy was posted to the Vatican. Previous presidents had tried to do this but their actions were considered unconstitutional. President Reagan accomplished this, however, by not referring to Senate or Congress

Since Reagan, the successive presidents of the US have initiated repeated papal visits and meetings, inviting the Pope to America, and receiving him as a dignitary and world leader or meeting with the Pope in the Vatican itself. President Obama is no exception. Take note that "a whopping 52 members of the 111th Congress...are alumni of [Catholic]...institutions."vii

It is natural for those in power to make decisions based on their religious allegiances. The problem arises when the doctrines their decisions are based on include unBiblical stances and intense punishments for those who disagree.

Catholicism is spreading throughout the United States, which now has the fourth largest population of Catholic adherents worldwide. As of 2009, two-thirds of US supreme court judges are Catholics. Twenty years ago, the Supreme Court had only one Catholic judge.

Priest-turned-Protestant Charles Chiniquy (1809–1899) tells us that "Rome is in constant conspiracy against the rights and liberties of man all over the world; but she is particularly so in the United States." He learned in college that "the principles and laws of the Church of Rome were absolutely antagonistic to the laws and principles which are the foundation-stones of the Constitution of the United States."^{viii} And according to Bishop O'Connor of

Pittsburgh, "Religious Liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic Church." $_{ix}$

The Papacy now has the political power to achieve their objectives in the US and the world. Charles Chiniquy writes, "I could cite many other facts, proving the Church of Rome to be an irreconcilable enemy of the United States; but it would be too long. Rome is a viper, sooner or later that viper will bite and kill this republic."^x The final events described on Revelation 13 are on the horizon.

v. "A New Inquisition," The Omega-Letter Volume 5 (December 1989): 7-8.

ix. Reverend O'Connor, Bishop of Pittsburgh, as quoted in Charles Chiniquy, *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome* (Chicago: Adam Craig, 1889): 675.

i. Pope Leo XIII, Immortale Dei (November 1, 1885).

ii. Wanda Marrs, New Age Lies to Women (Austin, TX: Living Truth Publishers, 1989): 40.

iii. Pope John Paul II, Ad Tuendam Fidem (May 18, 1998).

iv. Ruth Glen, "Pope canonises Brazil's first saint," *Times Online* (May 11, 2007).

vi. The Catholic Mirror (December 23, 1893).

vii. Chaz Muth, Some 10% U.S. Congresspeople Openly Jesuit Educated, Catholic News Service (January 23, 2009).

viii. Charles Chiniquy, Fifty Years in the Church of Rome (Chicago: Adam Craig, 1889): 672.

x. Charles Chiniquy, Fifty Years in the Church of Rome (Chicago: Adam Craig, 1889): 673.