

# Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages  
of Hope  
for a  
World in  
Turmoil*

**Lesson 16**



## The United States in Bible Prophecy

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 13]

Throughout the centuries, the Bible has revealed the rise and fall of nations with amazing accuracy. Their destinies were predicted in advance, but the Bible is not primarily a history book! Every world power is not mentioned.

Nations are brought into the biblical picture, not as independent political powers, but in the light of their role in God's overall plan. The Bible reveals the role of nations in the longstanding controversy between Christ and Satan. In the last days of earth's history, the final conflict will center upon the question of loyalty to God as manifested by obedience to His law.

Working through both religious and state powers, Satan will attempt to coerce God's people-with economic boycotts, fines, threats of imprisonment and death-to ignore God's law by accepting a substitute Sabbath.

Will the United States play a significant role in this final conflict? Will America continue to champion principles of religious liberty and freedom of choice, or will it one day repudiate its heritage, unite with the beast, and become a persecuting power? What is America's destiny?

In this fascinating lesson we shall discover the answers to these questions.

*READ: Revelation 13:1-18.*

**1. Fill in the blanks below showing the location from which each beast arrives according to the following verses:**

Revelation 13:1, 11.

- a. The first beast arises from the \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 1)
- b. The second beast arises from the \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 11)

NOTE: In the last chapter we clearly identified the first beast as the papacy. As Revelation 13 describes, this beast received its seat of government from

## Revelation Speaks – 2

pagan Rome, became a universal system of worship, persecuted the people of God, claimed the power to forgive sins, and reigned supreme for 1,260 years during the Middle Ages.

In Bible prophecy, the sea represents a populated area of the earth (Revelation 17:15). The beast rising out of the sea represents a power arising out of the populated areas of the world. The earth, on the other hand, represents the opposite—an unpopulated or sparsely populated area. The second beast rises out of the sparsely populated area of the new world.

**2. How does this second beast of Revelation 13 (the lamb-like beast) cooperate with the first beast (the papacy)? Revelation 13:12.**

---

**3. List four identifying characteristics of this second beast:**

**a. When does this second beast arise? Revelation 13:10, 11.**

---

NOTE: Inasmuch as the lamb-like beast was to cause people to worship the first beast "whose mortal wound was healed," we know that the prophecy about the lamb-horned beast focuses on events after the wound was inflicted, that is, after 1798." -*God Speaks*, Vol. 2, p. 340.

The papacy received its deadly wound in 1798 when the French General Berthier took the pope captive. Ultimately the pope died in captivity. The second beast was to arise after the first went into captivity.

**b. Where does the second beast arise? Revelation 13:11.**

---

NOTE: The first beast arose out of the sea, or multitudes, kindreds, or people (Revelation 17:15). Today we would say it arose out of the populated masses of Europe. The second beast arises in an unpopulated area of the world. The actual Greek word for "coming up" is *anabaino*, meaning "springing up." It arises like a silent seed growing from the quiet earth. It arises rapidly from obscurity to become a world superpower.



## Revelation Speaks - 3

**c. What animal was chosen to describe this second beast, and what does it look like? Revelation 13:11.**

---

NOTE: Throughout the Book of Revelation, Jesus is described as a Lamb. Lamb-like qualities indicate gentleness, innocence, and freedom. Jesus never coerces anyone! In His great love, He gives everyone the freedom to choose. So this lamb-like power grants its citizens the opportunity to worship freely in harmony with the dictates of their consciences.

We should also notice that a lamb is a young animal. The lion, the bear, the leopard, and the dragon described earlier in the chapter, are full-grown animals, indicating older, established nations. The youthful lamb represents a nation just born.

d. The first beast has crowns on its horns (Revelation 13:11). Does the lamb-like beast have crowns?

☐ Yes

☐ No

NOTE: Crowns indicate kingly authority. This new power has no crowns or king! Horns are symbols of power. Here the power comes from another source from the people-from a democratic, republican form of government.

**4. What new nation was arising in 1798 in an unpopulated area of the earth with the features of youthfulness and liberty *for* all the people? Let's review a little American history.**

a. The pilgrims landed in the early 1600s. The colonies grew rapidly. In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was drawn up. In 1787 the Constitution was ratified, and in 1789 the Bill of Rights was formulated. In 1791 the Bill of Rights was adopted.

In 1798 the pope was taken prisoner by General Berthier. The United States was recognized as a nation by France, the same power which inflicted the deadly exactly as prophecy had indicated, at the time prophecy indicated.

b. The United States was established by courageous Europeans filled with an adventurous spirit, attempting to flee the religious and political tyranny of the old world. It was not established by conquering another nation, but by the establishment of a new one!

## Revelation Speaks - 4

Years ago a prominent writer described the rise of the United States as "the mystery of her coming forth from vacancy." And, "Like a silent seed we grew into an empire." - *The New World Compared With the Old*, p. 462.

"The oppressed and downtrodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. Millions have sought its shores, and the United States has arisen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth." - *The Great Controversy*, p. 441.

c. The United States established two separate authorities-political and religious. The principle of complete separation between church and state was represented by the "two horns like a lamb."

The United States has a republican form of government. People sought "a country without a king, and a church without a pope." This is why the horns of the lamb-like beast have no crowns.

The Declaration of Independence says: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal: that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights: that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The Constitution of the United States reads: "The United States shall guarantee to every state in the Union a republican form of government." -Article 4, Section 4.

**ONLY ONE NATION, *THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* could fit the Bible's list of characteristics.**

**5. What surprising change does the prophecy indicate? Revelation 13:11, 12.**

---

**6. What will the lamb-like beast try to do to coerce everyone to worship the image of the beast and receive the mark of the beast? Revelation 13:17.**

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: When the early church was corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepted pagan rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God. In order to control the consciences of the people, the church sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy-and a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of heresy.



## Revelation Speaks – 5

In order for the United States to *form* an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.

An image is a "likeness to" something that greatly resembles it. Today we say, "He is an image of his father." So it is with this likeness.

Truth and error lie close beside one another. Satan's ultimate goal is to counterfeit the truth. The papacy claims, as the sign of its authority, a substitute day of worship. Sunday is a "likeness" to the Sabbath, but it is not the Sabbath. It is a substitute or counterfeit day of worship. Although thousands of well-meaning Christians accept it, they are misled.

In this astounding prophecy, the United States of America establishes a likeness to the papacy by using the power of government to enforce a religious day of worship.

**7. How does Satan deceive thousands to put pressure on their legislator to form an image to the beast? Revelation 13:13, 14.**

---

NOTE: In a period of social upheaval, economic difficulty, natural disasters, and international tension, church and state will unite in an attempt to establish peace. Satan will use false miracles through fallen Protestantism and Catholicism to establish his claims.

The issue will reach a climax when a coalition is made between spiritism, Catholicism, and apostate Protestantism when the false manifestation of the Spirit's power will lead to the establishment of the Mark of the Beast.

"Here we see the issue to which the whole world is being brought. According to Bible prophecy, the United States will be the primary moving *force*, the agent, for enacting legislation that will cause everyone to worship against those who refuse to comply with their repressive religious regulations. Civil penalties will be enforced, and finally those refusing to worship the beast will be declared deserving of death." -*Open Secrets*, p.337.

**8. Upon whom does God pour out the genuine Holy Spirit? Acts 5:32, John 14:15, 16.**

---

**9. How does Revelation describe those who have gained the victory over the beast and are ready for the coming of Christ and eternity?**

a. Revelation 12:17 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Revelation 14:12 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Revelation 22:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The conflict will soon intensify beyond our imagination. Through the power of Jesus Christ you can remain loyal through these last days. John saw in vision the triumphal celebration given in heaven for those who had been victorious over the beast and his image: 'I saw. . . them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image. . . stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses. . . and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. I Revelation 15:2, 3.

Friend, don't you want to be a part of that great celebration?

*My Response*

\_\_\_\_ Because I love Jesus, I will not follow the beast or his image. I choose to be with those who keep God's commandments.

\_\_\_\_ I choose to be a part of that great celebration in heaven!