

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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THE WORLD TAKEOVER

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul. Mark 8:36

This study is a description of the final works of Satan to secure total allegiance to himself. He will use either force or seduction and while this study may be a continuation of lesson 10, it will bring to focus the great controversy between Christ and Satan. God's people on one hand, unmovable from the faith of Jesus and the keeping of the commandments (Rev.14:12) and Satan's people on the other hand, following the dictates of a one world government and one world church.

You will recall in lesson 10 that the last day world power is the Roman Catholic Church aided by the civil powers or governments. This church received a deadly wound, such that, at the time (1798), the world thought that the papacy was finished. Revelation 13 reveals that that assumption was far from correct.

In this study and those to follow, we shall see that the Roman Catholic Church is to rise again to become the world dominating power and this power, aided by the civil governments, will impose a reign of control that has not yet been witnessed on this earth (Matt.24:21,22). The technology is in place; all that remains is for God to remove His restraining hand from Satan (Rev.7:1-3). Then we shall see how much Satan "loves" the human race (Note Rev.9:1-11 to see how Satan treats those who serve him. Apollyon is Satan. The "green things" [v.4] represent God's people [Ps.1:3; Isa.61:3]). Only those who follow the God of heaven will ultimately be delivered from the holocaust (Rev.3:10; Dan.12:1; Ps.46:1-3).

We open our study with an identification of the powers we shall be discussing. The use of beasts as a symbol of world powers is now well established. As this principle was used in the book of Daniel, so John (the writer of Revelation) was given his visions of last day events through the use of symbols.

1. The first beast presented in this chapter is seen to be a composition of a number of beasts. How is it described by John?

Revelation 13:1 _____

Note: In Daniel 7 the world powers are symbolised by various beasts. As each kingdom arose, conquering the nation before it, the rising power adopted much of the culture and religion of the overthrown kingdom making that culture part of its own. To illustrate this point, history records that although Rome had conquered Greece and made all the nations formerly under Grecian rule now subject to its power, the most common language of the educated people was Greek and thus was the common language throughout the Roman empire.

This same principle is repeated in the rise of the church of Rome and represented in Scripture by this hybrid animal. It is made up of all the representative animals of the nations before it. Similarly, as the Church of Rome grew out of the remains of the pagan Roman empire, so she became filled with practices, rites and symbols taken directly out of paganism. These pagan ceremonies and customs have NO connection whatsoever with the doctrines of Jesus Christ, in fact, they existed long before the Christian era. Sadly, they have now become integrated with Christian teachings and are propagated through the doctrines of the Church of Rome and her adherents.

Cardinal Newman (Cardinals are next in line to the Pope and are the priestly order from whom the popes are selected) wrote concerning the integration of pagan / satanic worship symbols and practices into the "Christian" Catholic Church...

Confiding then in the power of Christianity to resist the infection of evil and to transmute (transmute -- to change from one nature, substance, or form into another... Macquarie Dictionary) the very instruments and appendages of demon worship to an evangelical use.... All are of pagan origin and sanctified by their adoption into the church. -- Cardinal Newman, The Development of the Christian Doctrine. p.272.

2. What does God feel about the blending of the symbols and practices of paganism with the doctrines of His Holy Word?

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 _____

Deuteronomy 7:25,26 _____

2 Corinthians 6:14-17 _____

Ezekiel 22:26 _____

3. Continuing with our discussion about the first beast, from where did this beast from the sea receive its power, its seat, and its authority?

Revelation 13:2 _____

4. Who, or what, is represented as the dragon?

Revelation 12:7-9 _____

Note: The dragon is the devil, or Satan. In lesson 24 the dragon was seen to attack the Church of God and Jesus Himself. The human power engaged by Satan in this attack was pagan Rome. All through history paganism has daily oppressed and persecuted the people of God, thus we may understand that when a dragon is represented as supporting a kingdom or power, paganism is its strength and/or principle of operation. As we have described in an earlier lesson, paganism is a form of religion that denies the Creator and worships gods of man's own making; it is incredibly prolific in signs, symbols, protocol and in many cases with impressive display.

5. How is this beast from the sea identified to be the same power as described in the book of Daniel?

Daniel 7:4-6 _____

Revelation 13:2 _____

Daniel 7:25 _____

Revelation 13:5-7 _____

Daniel 8:24,25 _____

Revelation 13:2,8 _____

6. This beast power is said to continue for a certain period of time. How long is this period and how does it compare with the period of reign of the little horn power described in Daniel?

Revelation 13:5 _____

Daniel 7:25 _____

Note: Refer to lesson 10, pages 10 and 11, for an explanation on the correlation between these two expressions of time. Here again is evidence that the little horn power of Daniel 7, is the same power described in Revelation 13 as the beast from the sea.

7. What affliction strikes this beast from the sea?

Revelation 13:3 _____

8. What happens to this affliction?Revelation 13:3

Note: The wound that would cause the death of this beast becomes healed. We learned from lesson 10, page 11, that the wound was afflicted upon the Roman Church when the French army dethroned the Pope and cast him into exile. Notice verse 10, she will go into captivity and be overthrown by military force (sword). The world believed that this was the end of the Papacy, but the wound is healing and when did that wound begin to heal? -- Benito Mussolini, ruler in Italy during the time of Adolf Hitler in Germany, in 1929 signed a concordat with Cardinal Gaspari. The concordat was a political and official agreement to recognise and reinstated the Church of Rome and re-establish the Vatican state, giving full power back to the Pope.

9. How will the nations of the world regard this restored, or resurrected power and authority of the Roman Catholic Church?Revelation 13:4,8

Note: As in the days of pagan Rome when the Church of Rome received her power from the civil governments, so again, she will, by the governments of the earth, in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, have the power to administer and enforce her dogmas. All the world (except God's people) will wonder after this influential power and give obedience to her dictates. The second half of Revelation 13 will describe how this world control is implemented.

10. If we accept the authority and power of this world force, what authority and power are we, in affect, actually accepting?Revelation 13:2,4

Note: Satan will demand allegiance. He will have it either by force or consent. Either the people will comply unwillingly (hand service), or with their full approval (agreeing in the mind). The Church will use the power of the state to implement her demands. These demands require that all the people of the world accept her worship system, a system that blasphemes the Creator God.

HOW THE WORLD TAKEOVER WILL BE DONE

The first beast of Revelation 13 has been identified as the restored Church of Rome, the earthly power that held world control between 538 and 1798 AD. This chapter now sets the scene for the rise of a second earthly power that will work to copy and repeat the world control once held by the Church of Rome. There is now a massive drive for a one world government and one world religion, known as the "New World Order".

11. From where does this second beast emerge?

Revelation 13:11 _____

Note: In contrast to the first beast in this chapter, which came up out of the sea, the second beast came up out of the earth. If "water" is a symbol of people, or populated areas, then dry land, or earth, will, conversely, represent an area where the number of people is so very much smaller by comparison.

12. When did this beast arise?

Revelation 13:10-12 _____

Note: The second beast is said to exercise all the power of the first beast *before it*. This may suggest that the emergence of the second beast occurs about the time of, or shortly after, the afflicting of the deadly wound upon the first beast, or late in the 1700's.

The next question to ask is --- what power, or nation, was beginning to emerge at the stated time in history and in a sparsely populated area? There is only one nation that meets this description and that is the United States of America. The USA became an independent nation in 1776 and was still not fully grown by 1798, when it had only thirteen states. Notice also that this nation is now contemporary with the resurrected phase of the first beast, the restored Roman Catholic Church (v.14).

13. What description is given about the horns on the second beast?
Revelation 13:11

Note: Throughout Revelation and in many other parts of the new Testament a "lamb" is used to represent Jesus (Rev. 13:8; 14:1,4; 21:14,22; John 1:29). Given this interpretation of the symbol, the beast pictured as having lamb-like horns would suggest that the nation it represents would have lamb-like characteristics and thus appear inoffensive, non-threatening, innocent, or Christian and would allow freedom of conscience. Quite the opposite in character to the first beast.

As there were two horns, so the United States of America had two great principles upon which she established her national identity. The constitution of the USA was based firstly on religious liberty and secondly on a governmental system freely elected by the people. These two principles were to operate separately and independent of the other.

God saw that these features would be distinctive and included them in the prophecy, because prior to the establishment of the republican system of the United States of America, the control of the nations of the earth was in the hands of a monarchy, or of the strongest military power and totally out of the hands of the common people.

14. Given that the USA (the second beast) becomes a strong world power with noble Christian characteristics, she is later portrayed as taking on quite a different appearance. With what force does she begin to speak and exert herself?

Revelation 13:11

Note: As the lamb-like representation gave a picture of the gentleness of Jesus, now we see the same power represented by a dragon and a dragon is the symbol of Satan. The United States of America, at the time described in the prophecy, will dictate with the ferocity of the demons. She will demonstrate that her force is at least equal in power and strength to that of the Papacy (v.12).

15. What does the USA cause the inhabitants of the world to do concerning the restored Roman Catholic Church (wound healed v.3)?

Revelation 13:12b _____

Note: Why would a government want to become involved in religious matters, even to the point of compelling the people of the earth to worship under the guidelines of the Church of Rome?

Most people would concede that this world is in crisis; ecologically, financially, politically, spiritually, socially and in many other respects. And no-one wants to spend the money to fix it.

For some years there has been a movement among the various churches throughout America that has been pressing for a "back to God policy". It is claimed that the reason why the world, and in particular the United States, is in such moral declension is because we have forsaken the ways of God. If we can get the people of this country to return to the worship of God, it will solve all of our problems. -- And they are right! -- Except for one thing. The principles to which they wish to return are not the commandments of God -- they are the doctrines of men. And which man made doctrines are presented as the code we should follow? -- That of the Roman Catholic Church, or Paganism, under a pretence of Christianity. It was paganism that persecuted God's saints before the Roman Church began and then again, through that church, during the 1260 years of papal supremacy. Today it is communism, with the same spirit of intolerance and persecution, that is in control of America and by this power the USA will be the policing arm of the Papacy.

WHO IS THE IMAGE TO THE BEAST?

16. With a demonstration of power, the USA will require the people of the earth to make something that resembles the beast. What is it?

Revelation 13:14b _____

Note: An image is something that looks like the original. To understand what is meant by the "image to the beast" we need to look at the first beast and examine its characteristics, then we will have a picture of what the image to that beast will be like.

Three notable characteristics of the Papacy during her former time of world domination were --- blasphemy against God, persecution of anyone who defied her authority (Daniel 7:21,25; Rev.13:4-7) and the strength of the civil government to enforce her demands.

The image to the beast is NOT the Roman Catholic Church, but as the RC Church is a religious power, so will be the image to the beast and it will display the same characteristics of force and the employment of the strength of the state power.

17. To verify the dictatorial methods used by the government and the image to the beast, notice how the prophecy describes the way this power brings the people of the world to worship the image of the beast. Give a brief summary...

Revelation 13:15 _____

Note: The United States had power to give life to the image of the beast. Without the power of the state, the religious body, which is the image to the beast, would have no authority to impose any demands; yet with the backing of the United States government, the image of the beast will demand worship.

18. With the strength and influence of the United States to give life to the image of the beast, what does this copy of the RC Church impose upon the people of the earth?

Revelation 13:16,17 _____

Note: The mark that is spoken of here is some means of identifying those who are giving allegiance to the "beast" and his "image". The mark of the beast identifies the people who DO NOT serve the living God, while the absence of the mark identifies those people who DO

serve the living God (Rev.13:17; 14:9,10; 20:4). Those who do not bear the mark of the beast will have the seal of God, a seal that is a sign, or token of their faithfulness to God.

The worship demanded by the image to the beast is to be directed toward the first beast, the Church of Rome (Rev.13:12). Such worship, or acknowledgement of authority, will be demonstrated by acknowledging the Pope as the supreme religious leader on earth, that is, over all religions, faiths and sects. The token, sign, or mark of this acknowledgement is the observance of the day of worship set up by the Roman Catholic Church. By introducing a law contrary to God's Law, she attempts to show her "authority" that she has power to change the law of God.

The day set up for this purpose is the Pagan day of sun worship, the day we call "Sunday" and was to replace and make of no effect the day of worship that the Creator had given in His Commandments. To accept and observe the law as changed by man, over the command of God, is to give allegiance to that man and to say NO to God (Romans 6:16; re the man of sin see 2Thess.2:3-9). How Sunday observance forms the mark of the beast and Sabbath observance, the seal of God, will be discussed in the next lesson.

The foregoing shows that the image to the beast uses the same methods of coercion as employed by the papacy. Another point of focus that will help us recognise the image to the beast will be to identify the common ground upon which they both agree. This, we shall see to be Sunday observance.

It has already been stated that Sunday observance is the mark of the beast. Let us now look at some statements from official Catholic sources that clearly indicate the importance placed upon the first day observance by the Catholic Church itself, firstly as a mark of her supremacy and secondly as an indication of the allegiance of the "protestant" churches.

We shall precursor these statements with a few quotes that show the blasphemous and ridiculous claims of the Papacy, that her authority exceeds the authority of God!!

"The pope has authority and has often exercised it to dispense with the commands of Christ... The pope's will stands for reason. He can dispense above the law and of wrong make right, by correcting and changing laws." -- from Pope Nicholas' time.

"The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ Himself hidden under veil of flesh." -- The Catholic National, July, 1895.

"It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest (from the Bible Sabbath) to the Sunday... Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is a homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) Church." -- Monsignor Louis Segur, Plain Talk About The Protestantism of Today, 1868, p.213. L.G. Segur (1820-1881) was a French Catholic prelate and apologist. He later became a diplomatic and judicial official at Rome.

In the book "A Doctrinal Catechism" the question was asked -- Have you (the RC. Church) any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept (i.e. command holy days)? The answer was returned...

"Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her. -- She could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." -- Stephen Keenan, A Doctrinal Catechism. 1846 ed. p.176. Keenan was a Scottish priest, whose catechism has been widely used in Roman Catholic schools and academies.

By these statements from the Roman Catholic Church, it is evident that this Church regards those who observe the worship day of the church's own making as giving homage to her and acknowledging her authority as being over that of Jesus Christ. It is equally evident that the image to the beast sees it the same way, as the image to the beast causes the people of the earth to receive the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name (Rev.13:15-17). It is the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, over the Bible Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, that will establish our allegiance to the beast.

The religious power that compels such compliance to the dictates of the Church of Rome is the image to the beast. The "mark of the beast" will come into effect when the civil powers, under pressure from the image to the beast, begin to force the people of the earth to keep Sunday as a holy sacred rest day (Rev.13:15-17). *Observing Sunday before such laws are enforced does NOT constitute receiving the mark of the beast.*

However, this does not absolve us of the need to observe every command of God, including the Sabbath. Once we have learned about and been convicted of the Sabbath, we SIN by continuing to neglect it and observe another day. The result is the same as if we had received the mark of the beast -- destruction, along with all of the other violators of the law of God.

There is a clear confederacy between the beast and the image to the beast. It should also be noticed that the beast is in confederacy with the dragon (Rev.13:2). This threefold union is very distinctive and helps us to identify the image to the beast.

19. What threefold union now casts its influence over the governments, authorities and people of the earth?

Revelation 16:13,14 _____

Note: The next question and the note may help answer this question.

20. State the objective of this confederacy and state the methods used.

Revelation 13:14; 19:20; 16:14 _____

Note: This triple alliance of the beast, the dragon and the false prophet will secure the worship and obedience of the people of earth through deception, miracles and force wrought by the power of Satan and his demonic host (2Thess.2:8-10).

From Revelation 16:13 there is a parallel between the image to the beast and the false prophet, they are the same power forming one third of the threefold confederacy. But who is the false prophet?

21. What connection does God have with the false prophet?

Jeremiah 14:14-16 _____

22. What is the work of the false prophet?

Jeremiah 14:14 _____

Compare Deuteronomy 13:1-4 _____

Note: The false prophet delivers a false doctrine, one that is not from God and with it will lead people away from God. In order for a deception to be convincing it must be mixed with truth, thus the error is not perceived, except by the very elect (elect -- the obedient, who study the Bible and live by it, Dan.12:10; Ps.19:7,8; Titus 1:1). Those who love the lies and are Christians in name only will believe the false prophet (2Thess.2:9-12; 2Tim.4:3,4; Review lesson 23).

So who is the false prophet? -- It is a body that professes to be Christian. For they prophecy in God's name (Matt.7:21-23); they claim to teach the undistorted truth of God's Word; they acknowledge the exalted position of the pope and support the Catholic doctrine of the false Sabbath, Sunday; they have influence with the governments of the world and in particular the United States of America. The protestant churches, once known for their protesting against the principles and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, have now become supporters of the very system they once opposed. They have apostatised from their faith, teaching many of the false doctrines

of the RC Church. The protestant churches are rightfully called *Apostate Protestantism, or the False Prophet.*

The evangelical movement which is a body of churches having a policy of unification of churches, finds strength in the World Council of Churches and its subsidiary, the National Council of Churches. The main direction of these religious bodies is to unite all faiths -- Christian and non-Christian.

Notice God's instruction to His people regarding a compromising interest in the religion of those who do not follow the teachings of the Truth -- see Deuteronomy 12:29-31; 2Cor.6:14-18 and 1Tim.5:22. Those who wish to challenge this statement will question -- what is truth? God answers them -- we are sanctified (made holy), made God's special people by the *Word of God, the Bible* (and not the modern versions) (John 17:11,14,17; Eph.5:25-27; 1Peter 2:7-9; 2Cor.4:1-3).

It should be emphasised that the condemnation of a system is not the end of an individual. We are all judged on what we know and whether or not we are living up to it. Once we find that we cannot worship God with all of the knowledge that we have, while within a certain establishment, we then need to consider where our loyalty and worship lies. Refer to Revelation 18:1-8 and note verse 4. Also see 2Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1; Galatians 1:10; John 12:42,43.

The protestant movement, the Lord's Day Alliance, in America, has pressured the government to enforce *current* laws relating to Sunday sacredness, they say it is an endeavour to stem the wave of decadence that has overtaken that nation, but there is an undercurrent of deception. The Roman Catholic Church is supporting the movement and has infiltrated the government of the USA to gain full power and control of the most influential nation on earth.

The systems are in place to implement the prophecy of Revelation 13. The United States has established a formal diplomatic alliance with the Vatican, recognising the authority of the pope and the Church of Rome. *Laws now exist in USA., Australia and other countries* that prohibit work on Sunday and will ultimately be used to enforce Sunday sacredness. All such legislation, no matter how good the stated reasons, has the underlying motive to use the power of the state to enforce the dogmas of the religious powers. As this is applied we shall see the religious intolerance and persecution of the past repeated with even greater fury (Matt.24:21; Dan.12:1).

23. Concerning the enforcement of a satanic system of worship by the Papacy, the False Prophet and the USA, what people *will yield* to this "antichrist" and what people *will NOT yield* to it?

Revelation 13:8; 21:27; Exodus 32:32,33; Daniel 12:1....

Will yield: _____

Will NOT yield: _____

24. What will be the final end of those who join in this worldwide apostasy?

Revelation 14:9-11; 19:20 _____

Daniel 7:25,26 _____

25. Who will be the victor in this war between Christ and Satan and who will ultimately possess the kingdoms of this world?

Revelation 17:14 _____

Revelation 11:15 _____

Daniel 7:21,22,27 _____

Daniel 2:44,45 _____

26. Those who do NOT yield to the apostate religion are shown to be, at some future time, in a certain place and with a specific purpose. Where are they and what are they doing?

Revelation 15:2,3 _____

Note: The saints are standing before the throne of God (Rev.14:3), Those who have had the experience of living through this last trial to the end of this world will have an experience that no other servant of God will have had. The song they sing is a victory song that no-one else has realised, hence no-one else can know it. The other saints will be singing their own victory song before the throne of God, for all the redeemed will sing praises and thanks to their blessed God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through Whom all victories were won. Notice the victory song of Moses -- praise to God for deliverance from the enemy, see Exodus 14:23 - 15:13.



Further reading:

- *William Jasper -- *Global Tyranny - Step by Step*, Pub: Appleton. Wis. USA.
- *James Perloff -- *The Shadows of Power*, Pub: Appleton. Wisconsin, USA.
- *Gary H. Kah -- *En Route to Global Occupation*. Pub: Huntington House Pub. P.O. Box 53788 Lafayette, Louisiana USA 70505.
- *Dr. Coleman -- *Conspirator's Hierarchy: The Story of the Committee of Three Hundred*, America West Publishers, Carson City, NV. 1992 (very informative)
- *World Watch (an independent publication), P.O. Box 363 Picton NSW 2571 Australia. (up to date).
- *G. Edward Griffin -- *The Fearful Master, A Second Look At the United Nations*. Pub: Western Islands, Los Angeles USA.
- *Avro Manhattan -- *The Vatican Moscow Washington Alliance* I.S.B.N. 0-937958-12-3, Chick Publications, California USA.
- *Des Griffin -- *Fourth Reich of the Rich*, Emissary Publications USA.
- *W. Cleon Skousen -- *The Naked Capitalist*, Pub: W.C. Skousen 2197 Berkeley Street Salt Lake City, Utah USA. 84109.
- *Gary Allen -- *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, Pub: Concord Press California.

Please note that the above books are NOT available from IBS.

One possible source in Australia for some of these books is "The Conservative Book Shop" 460 Ann Street, Brisbane Queensland 4000. Phone: 07,3831,5481.

References:

- Christian Edwardson, Facts of Faith* - Southern Publishing Assn. 1943, 1993.
- Vance Farrell, Beyond Pitcairn* - Pilgrim's Books. 1984
- Ellen White, The Great Controversy* - Pacific Press. 1884