

Clear Distinction Ministries

Study Notes

Night #11: “**The Mark of the Beast! (Pt. 1)**”

Beasts of Bible Prophecy:

- The prophet Daniel was told that “only the wise” would understand in these last days (***Dan. 12:4, 9 & 10***). Who are the wise according to the Bible? It is they who have “the fear of the Lord” in response to the message of the 3 angels of Revelation 14...***Pr. 9:10, Rev. 14:6-12***
- It is the 3rd angel’s message that brings our attention to what the Scriptures call the mark of the beast. Notice that this mark centers heavily in the issue of **WORSHIP in contrast to the keeping of God’s commandments!** Whatever the mark is, **WORSHIP** is at its center because it is **WORSHIP** that the Devil desires most...***Rev. 14:9-12, Rev. 13:4, 8, 12 & 15***
- ‘What is the mark of the beast?’ Often we fail of the truth because of the way we ask the question. The Bible speaks of **THE MARK of THE BEAST**. If we can first, according to the Bible, identify “the beast” then it will become very easy to identify its mark. **What then is a beast symbolic of in Bible prophecy?**
- In Daniel chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had dreamt of an image. The image according to Daniel represented the succession of universal kingdoms from the time of Babylon unto the 2nd coming of Christ. Daniel was later given a corresponding dream of

BEASTS fighting for universal dominion. These four beasts represented these same KINGDOMS in Nebuchadnezzar's dream: Babylon (the lion), which was conquered by Medo-Persia (the bear), which was conquered by Greece (the leopard), and then there was a fourth beast/kingdom symbolizing the Roman Empire...*Dan 7:1-8 & 15-17 & 23*

- Thus, we conclude, **BEASTS REPRESENT KINGDOMS** in Bible prophecy. The **MARK** of the **BEAST** therefore, is the **MARK** of a **KINGDOM**. If we identify the kingdom then we can identify its mark.

A Kingdom from the Sea:

- The beast or **KINGDOM** in question is outlined for us, listing various characteristics and components for our discovery...*Rev. 13:1-10*
- This kingdom emerges from "the sea." In Bible prophecy, waters are symbolic of "peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues," or in other words, this kingdom emerges from a densely populated area...*Rev. 17:15, Ps. 18:4*
- This kingdom is a composite of the four kingdoms, symbolized by the four beasts of *Daniel 7*. This means, it has adapted certain character traits from those kingdoms. It has the appearance or body of a leopard because it is dangerous to God's people and it cannot change, even as the leopard cannot change its spots (*Jer. 13:23 & 5:6*). It has the feet of the bear which symbolized Medo-Persia. The feet are symbolic of "*the way*" of the bear kingdom (*Pr. 4:26*). What

was the way of Medo-Persia? According to Daniel 6:6-8 the kingdom of Medo-Persia could not retract any law they issued. **In the same way, this kingdom in Rev. 13 claims infallibility.** This kingdom has also the mouth of a lion, which symbolized Babylon and that mouth is a mouth that speaks blasphemously, even as King Nebuchadnezzar once did (*Dan. 4:28-31, Rev. 13:5*).

- **A crucial identifying fact of this beast kingdom is that it receives its power from the Dragon.** Who is the Dragon? In a primary sense it is Satan (*Rev. 12:9*). in a secondary sense, **it represents THE KINGDOM through which Satan sought to kill Jesus (*Rev. 12:1-1-4*).** Which kingdom did Satan use to persecute and through which He eventually crucified Jesus? It was **THE ROMAN EMPIRE (*Matt. 2:13-18*).** **It was a Roman official who sought Christ's life as a child, a Roman governor that condemned Him as a man, Roman soldiers that crucified Him and it was a Roman guard set to guard His tomb after His burial.** The Bible says that this **BEAST/KINGDOM** which emerged from the sea would receive its power, seat and great authority **FROM THE PAGAN ROMAN EMPIRE.**

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 & Christianity into one** around 321 AD, Rome became the religious capital of the world. **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.” 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.

- This kingdom is both civil and religious, receiving worship. **This is true of the Papacy, headed by the Pope of Rome.** In Bible prophecy a pure woman represents God’s church (*Jer. 6:2*). The Bible describes another woman, an impure church, riding this same beast kingdom in *Rev. 17:1-3*. **This symbol, representing the same Papacy, is accurately portrayed with the woman (church) in the dominant position since the Papacy is a union of church and state in which the church, headed by the Pope of Rome, is in control.**
- This kingdom is guilty of blasphemy. This too is true of the Papacy, which claim to forgive sins and are led by a man that claims to be God on earth...*Rev. 13:5-6, John 10:33, Mark 2:7*
- This kingdom would make war (persecute) against God’s true people for a period of “42 months.” This same time period is referred to 7 times in the Bible by different names but the calculation is precisely **the same 1260 years starting in 538 AD and ending in the year 1798 with the capture of Pope VI...Rev. 13:6-8 & 11:3, 12:6, Dan. 7:25 & 12:7, Rev. 12:14**
- **In the year 1798, on February 10th the Papacy suffered what the Bible calls a deadly wound by the sword of France.** Napoleon’s general, Berthier marched into Rome unopposed and demanded that

Pope Pius VI surrender his civil power. When the Pope refused he was taken captive, the Papacy lost its civil power and the pope died in captivity. The deadly wound therefore was **A LOSS OF UNIVERSAL CIVIL INFLUENCE...Rev. 13:10**

- The Bible foretells a healing of that wound, **A RESTORATION OF UNIVERSAL CIVIL POWER GIVEN TO THE PAPACY...Rev. 13:11-12, Rev. 13:3-7**
- The Bible refers to the Beast kingdom as sitting upon seven hills. History acknowledges the Papacy by that title today...**Rev. 17:9**
- According to the Bible and history, **THE BEAST POWER IS THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—THE PAPACY**. It is important to note that we are dealing with an apostate **SYSTEM** and not the people.

Did this View of the Papacy Originate With Adventists?

MARTIN LUTHER SAID:

**“The Pope is (and I cannot believe otherwise)
the veritable antichrist!”**

-Luther’s Works [Concordia] Vol. 40 pg. 232

“The Papacy is truly the kingdom of Babylon and of the very Antichrist. For who is ‘the man of sin’ and ‘the son of perdition’ [2 Thess. 2:3] but **he who with his doctrines and laws increases the sins and perdition of souls in the church, while sitting in the church as if**

he were God? [2:4]. All this the papal tyranny hath fulfilled, and more than fulfilled, these many centuries.”

-Works Vol. 36 pg. 72

JOHN CALVIN SAID:

“To some we may seem slanderers and railers when we call the Roman pontiff ‘Antichrist’. But those who think so do not realize they are accusing Paul of intemperate language, after whom we speak, indeed so speak from his very lips. And lest anyone object that we wickedly twist Paul’s words (which apply to another) against the Roman pontiff, I shall briefly show that these cannot be understood otherwise than of the Papacy...”

-Institutes, Book 4, Ch. 7, sect. 25

“Paul does not speak of one individual, but of a kingdom, that was to be taken possession of by Satan, that he might set up a seat of abomination in the midst of God’s temple—which we see accomplished in popery.”

-Calvin’s Commentaries, Vol. 21, on 2 Thess. 2:3

JOHN KNOX SAID:

[To Dean John Annand] “As for your **Roman Church, as it is now corrupted, and the authority thereof**, wherein stands the hope of your victory, I no more doubt that is the **synagogue of Satan, and the head thereof, called the Pope**, to be that ‘man of sin’, of whom the apostle speaks...”

-Knox’s Works, Vol. 1, pg. 189

WILLIAM TYNDALE SAID:

“Kings...were not ordained to fight one against another, or to rise against the emperor to defend **the false authority of the pope, that very antichrist...they (the Romanists)...have set up that great idol, the whore of Babylon, antichrist of Rome, whom they call pope; and have conspired against all commonwealths** and have made them a several kingdom, wherein it is lawful, unpunished, to work all abomination.”

-Tyndale’s Works, Vol. 1, The Obedience of A Christian Man, pg. 185,

191

THOMAS CARTWRIGHT SAID:

“**Whatsoever cometh from the pope, which is antichrist, cometh first from the devil.**”

*-A Reply to An Answer Made of Dr. Whitgift, quoted in Works of
Archbishop Whitgift, Vol. 3 pg. 399*

CHARLES SPURGEON SAID:

**“It is the bounden duty of every Christian to pray against Antichrist,
and as to what Antichrist is no sane person out to raise a question. If**

it be not **the Popery in the Church of Rome** and in the Church of
England, there is nothing in the world that can be called by that
name...**Popery anywhere**, whether it be Anglican or Romish, **is contrary
to Christ’s gospel, and is the Antichrist, and we ought to pray against
it!** It should be the daily prayer of every believer that Antichrist might
be hurled like a millstone into the flood and sink to rise no more.”

-Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol. 12, Sermon 717 pg. 592

The Protestants have spoken. The only remaining question is

WHAT DOES THE PAPACY SAY OF ITSELF?