

THE TWO HORNED BEAST

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The Church of God, in line with most commentaries and students of prophecy of any note, believes the two-horned beast to symbolize the papacy, because supported by historical facts. ...the papacy (lamblike) sprung up out of the Roman earth or territory. Seas in symbolical prophecy denote commotion and war. The earth in this prophecy would seem to denote the opposite. It is a fact that the Papacy peaceably and silently trust itself up out of the Roman earth or territory among the ten civil kingdoms of Rome. Its lamb-like influence was working as early as Paul's day. He denounced its "mystery of iniquity" in 2 Thess. 2:7. Rotherham's version reads, "mystery of lawlessness is already inwardly working." Diaglott, "Secret of lawlessness is already working."

Here is the secret-leavening influence of the papacy gradually gaining strength and influence. In its incipient stage innocent and harmless, apparently as a lamb, lamb-like in its profession, but in its progressive development its beastly nature became manifest, hence John christens it a beast. The image of the beast appears in two forms;

(1) in her idolatrous mode of worship. This will appear plain to anyone who will read up on the history of heathen religions in connection with the literature of the Roman church. Numa Pompilioius adopted for Rome the religion of Babylon, and it is a well-known fact that the Church of Rome copied her religious creed largely after ancient Babylon; hence her name "Mystery Babylon" (Rev. 17:5). Babylon had her deities which have been brought over into the Roman Church under the new name of saints. Babylon had her man-worship in Baal, the Church of Rome in the pope. Thus, we might go on numerating item after item, showing a striking similarity between the two systems. The image is so drawn by the Roman Church as to look Christian-like, but it is nevertheless idolatry.

The pope is an object of worship. This is evident from such expressions as these from the lips of her different popes: "What can you make of me but God?" "I am the sole last supreme judge of what is right and wrong." "free from all law." "king and ruler of the world." "whom they create pope they adore." Here is the pope

created by the people and set up as an idol or image of worship. Rev. 13:14 shows the image is to be made by the people; that pope has assumed to be God; exalted himself above God; required of his subject's divine honors that belong exclusively to God, one has only to read the Scriptures, especially 2 Thess. 2:4, in connection with the religious history of the Church of Rome.

(2) In the organization and administration of her church government which is managed closely after the civil government of Rome. For instance: Rome has her emperors; the church has her popes. Rome has her governors of provinces; the church has her cardinals, etc. The popes exercise the function of emperors and the cardinals are regarded both as political and ecclesiastical princes. Her church government, patterned as it is after the civil government of Rome gives her, if possible, a more striking likeness to the beast than her Christianized image worship.

The seventh head which received the wound, and whose deadly wound was healed cannot represent the papacy for it continues only a short space (Rev. 17:10). Whereas the papacy continued twelve hundred and sixty years. The seven heads were the seven heads that supported the papacy, and hence no one of the seven heads could be the papacy itself. We cannot give the history of those heads in this tract. We have not the space necessary. The mark of the beast is the mark of Rome. This is evident from the fact that the church at Rome took the name of the Roman kingdom as a distinguishing mark from all other churches.

Rome was founded by Romulus, who was its first king. The mark is the number of his name. This number is 666 (Rev. 13: 17,18). Mark the expression "mark of his name" (Rev. 14:11). According to Bishop Newton, Nelson and other Hebrew scholars – prophetic students, the numerical value of the Hebrew letters required to spell "Romiith" in Hebrew is just six hundred and sixty-six. This number is the mark of the beast. The revelator says so. The church took it and became the Roman church. John further states that it is the name of a man. This is easily solved when we consider that Roman comes from Romulus and Romulus was a man – the first king of Rome. In addition to this we may also state the fact that the Roman kingdom was also called the Latin kingdom from the name of a man and of her kings named Lateinos. The church also took this name, the numerals of which are 666. The number is the number of a man, and this man is doubtless the Pope of Rome, who copied the number from the beast, and standing at the head of the image, assumes to exercise the attributes of Almighty God. He requires all, rich and poor, small and great, free and bond to come within his fold and receive his mark, cross their foreheads and hands as evidence that he is their most holy father

and that they belong to the Church of Rome, of which he is supreme head, and out of which he declares there is no salvation. Those who receive the mark are to drink the wine of the wrath of God. The mark is a sign of worship to the image. The image is idolatry. Idolatry is treason. God has in all ages punished its worshippers with death. We close this part with the statement, we believe this mark of the beast to be mostly in the past.