

# The Revelation

## Lesson 11

As this lesson begins, we are still on a journey through the *seventh trumpet*, also referred to by the flying eagle as the third woe. This seventh trumpet unveils a list of the major participants contributing to the *time of Jacob's trouble* also called in the REVELATION *the tribulation of Israel*. This time of tribulation occurs in the seven years just prior to the Second Coming of the LORD. This section can be understood best as *history within prophecy*. The *history* within its words can be *past or present* and the *prophecy* will tell the *future*.

In introducing these participants who are being presented in the REVELATION for the first time, it was necessary for the LORD to tell a short history about each one, history found in the previous 65 books of the Bible, to accurately identify their influence in the story of the world through the ages. In most of the introductions, the LORD tells the history to the point in the tribulation when they arrive and then quickly He sums up the rest of their activities until the Second Coming. With each it is just a short summary – not the whole story. We must be careful that we do not take each introduction as the full and final word.

In the last lesson we looked at the Ark which represents the covenant of God directed to His creation, the Nation of Israel, the birth of the Messiah, and the great red dragon and his antics to persecute the Nation of Israel. This lesson will look at two more major participants and in the next lesson we will meet more. But this *seventh trumpet* does not introduce all the participants in the REVELATION, more will be revealed in the *bowls of wrath*. For now, we will be introduced to two beasts, one from the sea and one from the land.

### e) The Appearance on Earth (13:1-15:4)

#### (1) The Beast of the Sea (13:1-10)

##### (a) Its Horns and Heads (13:1)

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns *were* ten diadems, and on his heads *were* blasphemous names.

Satan - the dragon, would need help. He would need a nation that controlled a mass of people in order to gather an army to participate in his ultimate attempt to destroy the Nation of Israel and the fight against the LORD at the great battle in the valley of Megiddo. The REVELATION has not revealed that thought as of yet. John sees the dragon standing “**on the sand of the seashore**” in expectation of the arrival of this *first beast*. The LORD presents him as an animal and tells us his physical characteristics.

The passage tells us that this *beast* would be seen “**coming up out of the sea.**” He DID not come out of the ocean; rather, he came out of the sea. We have already made the case for this sea being known as *The Great Sea* in John's day but known today as *The Mediterranean Sea*. The sea is important, but how, and what does this *beast* look like?

He has 10 horns. As just mentioned in the description of the “**great red dragon,**” these “**horns**” on this *beast* are the symbols of countries established in the history of the world and recorded in the Bible. Each horn is a country. As a reminder of what we discovered in the last

lesson, with the takeover of the Western and Eastern Roman Empires, ten countries were formed. The Germanic Goths defeated the Western Empire in 476 AD and subsequently divided the land mass into the countries of *Britain, France (Gaul), Spain, Italy* and *North Africa*. The Ottoman Muslim Turks defeated the Eastern Empire in 1453 AD and subsequently divided the land mass into the countries of *Greece, Macedonia, Turkey, Syria* and *Egypt*. These are the ten countries that surround the *Great Sea*, known as the *Mediterranean Sea*, save for the horn of *Britain*. In this verse, the “**great red dragon**,” Satan, is seen standing on the seashore waiting for this *beast* to appear. He is waiting for these ten nations to form into an empire. Although Satan has done great damage in the history of humanity within the world, the simplest being his ability to deceive Eve in the garden, his greatest work has been done through his control of the great empires that have existed throughout the history of the world. Those empires were called *Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome*. With the formation of a final empire around the *Mediterranean Sea*, a *Revived Roman Empire*, for lack of a better name, will be the last empire that Satan will control and wreak havoc on the earth to rule over the Nation of Israel. These seven empires form the second characteristic of this *beast* represented by his seven heads. The ten horns represent the ten countries that will have joined together in the last days and these seven horns represent the seven empires that have controlled the Nation of Israel. By the time of the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire in 1453 AD which had controlled the Promised Land for many centuries, the victorious Muslims took over the land of Israel in earnest and it became the land of Palestine under Islamic control. It would remain under that control until World War I when Great Britain would be assigned to manage the country. Great Britain would give the land back to Israel in 1948. Israel lost control of the land in 606 BC and it was returned in 1948 AD. The Promised Land did not belong to Israel for 2,554 years even though the Jews lived on the land all along; they were visitors on land owned by other empires for two and a half thousand years.

It is imperative that we return to the Old Testament to identify this ten-nation new *Revived Roman Empire* found in Daniel Chapter 2. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the Babylonian Empire. The Assyrians had conquered the Egyptians and Nebuchadnezzar had conquered the Assyrians. The king had been having a recurring dream about a statue with different parts of the body made from different materials. Frustrated, he called for an interpretation and Daniel was able to respond. Here is Daniel’s response found in my commentary on Daniel for each part.

## Daniel’s Interpretation

### Head of Gold

**Daniel** <sup>2:37</sup> "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the glory; <sup>2:38</sup> and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given *them* into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.

Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold and the kingdom was a gift to him from God, prepared and erected for him by God. Everything in the kingdom, both man and beast, was under Nebuchadnezzar’s rule because God had given him the entire Babylonian Empire. This empire lasted from 606 BC until 536 BC.

### **Kingdoms of Silver and Bronze**

**Daniel** <sup>2:39</sup> "And after you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

Daniel did not say that the second kingdom was made of silver in his response, but that information was in verse 2:32 in the original description of the dream. Just as silver is inferior to gold, the second kingdom was to be inferior to Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. In the dream, Daniel also stated that the second kingdom would have two arms. History has proven Daniel's interpretation to be correct. Cyrus' kingdom of silver had two arms, the country of the Medes and the country of the Persians and the two joined together to swallow up the Babylonian Empire in 536 BC. It lasted until 333 BC.

A third kingdom comprising the belly was of bronze. Alexander the Great conquered the Medo-Persian Empire and created the Greek Empire beginning in 333 BC. It lasted until 63 BC.

### **Kingdom of Iron**

**Daniel** <sup>2:40</sup> "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

A fourth kingdom was made of strong iron, the Roman Empire. It engulfed the Greek Empire in 63 BC, and later it was divided into two empires.

### **Kingdom Divided**

**Daniel** <sup>2:41</sup> "And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

Diocletian divided the Roman Empire into two parts in 286 AD because of the threats from the Germanic tribes to the north and the Persians to the east. Diocletian ruled the west and Maximian ruled the east. In 324 AD, Constantine, the western emperor, reunited the two parts. When Theodosius became the emperor, he divided the empire again in 395 AD. Theodosius acted as the ruler over both parts; however, Honorius was the Caesar in the west and his brother Arcadius was the Caesar in the east. The Roman Empire, which encompassed the previous Babylonian, Persian and Greek Empires, was divided into the two legs of iron in 395 AD. The west leg fell to the Germanic tribes in 476 AD. The east leg, called the Byzantine Empire, fell to the Muslim Ottoman Turks in 1453 AD.

### **Ten Toes Combined**

**Daniel** <sup>2:42</sup> "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. <sup>2:43</sup> "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

In 476 AD, when the Germanic tribes conquered the Western Empire, they divided the land into five states or countries. Those countries are now Britain, France (Gaul), Spain, Italy and North Africa. With the toes of the Western Empire formed, this prophecy was fulfilled in 476 AD.

In 1453 AD, when the Muslim Ottoman Turks conquered the Eastern Empire, they divided the land into five states or countries. Those countries were Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Syria and Egypt. With the toes of the Eastern Empire formed, this prophecy was fulfilled in 1453 AD.

The text says, **"they will combine with one another."** As of 2018, since the days of 1453 AD, these ten toes have yet to combine with one another to form this new kingdom which we will call the *Revived Roman Empire* because they are the ten remnant countries of the fallen Roman Empire.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream has yet to be fulfilled. In this passage, the **"great red dragon"** will be waiting on the sands of the shore for this *Revived Roman Empire* to emerge. It will be the last empire that he will control that will afflict the Nation of Israel.

When these ten countries finally join together, the ten will be considered the ten horns and each horn will have a **"diadem."** The Hebrew word for **"diadem"** means *to bind around*. In other words, it means that each horn would have its own government and leader who controlled each country. However, because this *beast* was presented as a single animal it can be inferred that the ten individual governments had given up their authority to be part of this new empire.

In the last detail, we see that this beast had seven heads with a **"blasphemous name"** written on each. The **"great red dragon"** had seven heads and we discovered that they represented the seven empires that had ruled with a heavy hand over Israel. The ten children or the ten toes of the last empire were the ten countries that would unite to form this last empire. However, the seven heads of the **"great red dragon"** and the seven heads of this **"beast"** represent the same family relationship, the seven empires ruled by Satan which mistreated the Nation of Israel. We will cover that shortly in the lesson. Here we must focus on the **"blasphemous names."** It is a direct reference to the heart of the seven leaders and their governments which would be in total rebellion against the LORD. They would hate Him and everything He stood for. Daniel says the following about the leader of this *beast*.

Da 11:36 "Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

Daniel has introduced a fact that is not addressed in the REVELATION. The king in this verse is portrayed in Daniel as the *little horn* that grew up among the other mature horns and ended up as the ruler of the *Revived Roman Empire*. We need to hold conversation about this leader until later in the story of the REVELATION.

#### (b) Its Look, Feet and Mouth (13:2)

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

We see the face, feet and mouth of the beast. These identification marks force us to return to Daniel chapter 7.

**Daniel 7:** <sup>2</sup> Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. <sup>3</sup> "And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. <sup>4</sup> "The first *was* like a lion and had *the* wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. <sup>5</sup> "And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs *were* in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!' <sup>6</sup> "After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four

heads, and dominion was given to it. <sup>7</sup> "After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

When Daniel wrote this passage, none of this had occurred, it was all still in Daniel's future. The same four winds, controlled by the four angels, which we have already studied in the REVELATION were also mentioned in the Daniel passage. Furthermore, these winds were stirring the winds up in the **"great sea,"** known today as the *Mediterranean Sea*. Daniel saw four beasts coming up out of the sea **"different from one another."** Do not identify these four beasts in Daniel as the same *two beasts* in the REVELATION. These four beasts when combined represent this *single first beast* we are studying in REVELATION. The first three beasts that Daniel saw were the same - a lion, a bear and a leopard. The lion with eagle's wings symbolizes the *Babylonian Empire*. The bear with three ribs in its mouth symbolizes the *Medo-Persian Empire*. The leopard with wings like a bird and four heads symbolizes the *Greek Empire and Alexander the Great's four generals who ultimately divided his kingdom into four parts*. The four parts became known during that time as Babylon, Syria, Egypt and Rome. After many years of negotiations and fighting, Rome absorbed the other three parts and the *Roman Empire* emerged – not by a final battle or war, but by marriages. Then Daniel saw a fourth beast come out of the sea, a **"dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns."** This *beast* was different from the other three, yet, the three were in this *beast's* lineage. They were the forerunners of this last *beast* still to come, dreadful as he would be and identified by his ten horns, the ten countries that would make up the corpus of his empire's body.

In John's description, the heads of this *beast* looked like the heads of a leopard. When the leopard known as Alexander made his move, he did so quickly. He had his whole empire under his control by the end of his campaign in just 12 years. This *beast* would be like Alexander, he would move quickly. This *beast's* feet looked like those of a bear. A bear is a different animal from a leopard. It cannot be swift, rather, it ponders its moves and then attacks with brute force to crush its victim. So, too, the feet of the *beast* in John's REVELATION will seek to crush Israel with physical might. Its mouth will be like a lion. The lion rushes to make the kill then lies around for days, leisurely taking his time until he is hungry again when his food is gone. It was that way for Nebuchadnezzar who quickly made war and within just a short while had no need for war. He leisurely rested with all he had and needed. He looked at all he had conquered and gave himself total credit for it all. For that, the LORD plucked his wings and sent him like an animal to live in the thickets. Then he finally came to his senses. So, too, the *beast* in the REVELATION will quickly make his move until he arrives in the valley of Megiddo where the LORD will pluck his wings.

Finally, this *Revived Roman Empire*, represented by this *beast* with seven heads and ten horns could do nothing in this world had it not been for the **"great red dragon."** This empire would be the last one controlled by Satan and he would throw all his temporal power into this *beast*.

### (c) Its Wound (13:3a)

Rev 13:3a *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed.

Of the seven leopard's heads on this beast, John saw one head that had a "**fatal wound**" which had healed. It was no longer a dead head. The seven heads represent the empires that Satan had controlled. As we have mentioned, in order they are the *Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, Roman and the Revived Roman Empires*. Only one of them had died and that was the *Roman Empire*. It died in 1453 AD at the hands of *Muslim* attackers. But in John's record, the head was healed. Symbolically, the *Roman* head will be healed and its offspring will be the *Revived Roman Empire with its ten horn*.

### (d) The Amazement (13:3b)

Rev 13:3b And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast;

Why are the people of the whole earth amazed at the formation of this beast? The word "**earth**" means *land*. Why are the people of the whole *land* amazed at this beast? What *land*? The people of the *land* surrounding the *Mediterranean Sea* which came together to form this new beast were amazed. John had the ability to say, "**And the whole world**" but he did not use the word *world*. John used the words *earth* and *world* in very different ways. He used the word *world* only six times in the Revelation.<sup>2</sup> All the other references were addressed to the *earth*, 64 times.<sup>3</sup> The word *world* means every square inch of the planet; the word *earth* means a specific plot of land. Therefore, this is a reference to the plot of *land* directly involved in the formation of the new *Revived Roman Empire*. This understanding will guide us in determining future passages where John uses the words *earth* and *world*.

As such, the people of the land of the ten countries who united to form this empire are the ones intended here. John then says, "**and followed after the beast.**" Why? As of today, in 2018, it would be an absolute miracle for these specific ten countries to agree to unite as a country. Britain, Spain, France, Italy and Greece might join based on their heritage as Christian nations. Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Macedonia and North Africa might join based on their heritage as Islamic nations. For the two to come together at this time is highly unlikely. However, Islam is making great advances in all five of the traditionally Christian nations. When these ten nations join, the people of those lands will be ardent followers of the government formed in the union.

### (e) The Worship (13:4)

Rev 13:4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

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<sup>2</sup> Revelation 3:10, 11:15, 12:9, 13:8, 16:14 and 17:8.

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 1:5, 1:7, 3:10, 5:3, 5:6, 5:10, 5:13, 6:4, 6:8, 6:10, 6:13, 6:15, 7:1, 7:2, 7:3, 8:5, 8:7, 8:13, 9:1, 9:3, 9:4, 10:6, 11:4, 11:6, 11:10, 11:18, 12:4, 12:9, 12:12, 12:13, 12:16, 13:3, 12:16, 13:3, 13:8, 13:11, 13:12, 13:13, 13:14, 14:3, 14:6, 14:7, 14:15, 14:16, 14:18, 14:19, 16:1, 16:2, 16:18, 17:2, 17:5, 17:8, 17:18, 18:1, 18:3, 18:9, 18:11, 18:23, 18:24, 19:2, 19:19, 20:8, 20:9, 20:11, 21:1, and 21:24.

The people of this new *Revived Roman Empire* will worship Satan and he will empower the leaders of this new government. John heard their words when they said, “**Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?**” In other words, “*what nation of the world has ever been as great as this new union? Because it is such a strong and powerful nation, no other nation can ever win a battle against it!*”

(f) The Words (13:5)

Rev 13:5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

This *beast*, this new ten-nation government, will proclaim blasphemous words for 42 months. With this, we must draw the net once again to understand that these *blasphemous and arrogant words* have a specific meaning in God’s mind which may not mean the same to the everyday human. Frankly, from an American point of view, *blasphemous and arrogant words* can mean anything from how you talk to employers, employees, teachers, to friends acquaintances and family. None of that matters to God! John tells us what matters to God next.

(g) The Blasphemies (13:6)

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven.

Simply put from this verse, it matters to God what a person says about God. This new *Revived Roman Empire* will hate God and everything He expects. This nation will put its faith and trust in Satan instead of God. That is blasphemy; that is idolatry; that is sin in God’s mind; that is what is important to God. This *beast of an empire* would detest even the thought of the everlasting, eternal God. The people would worship Satan, the dragon, and his *beast*.

(h) The War with Saints (13:7)

Rev 13:7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

Once this *beast of a Revived Roman Empire government* is established, it will begin to make war with the saints. What saints? *Saints* in the Scripture refers to believers in God. We usually think that refers to members of the Church, but the Church is no longer on the earth. It has been gone since *seal six*. Then “*who are the saints*” referred to in this verse? In *trumpet six* we saw the salvation of Israel; they believe in the true God: therefore, the converted Israelites will be the new saints of the earth. However, even though we know about the salvation of the Nation of Israel, their conversion has not happened as of yet. But by the end of the first three and a half years of tribulation, they will be saved. In this trumpet we are getting to know all the participants that would be involved before the tribulation starts and through the tribulation to the great day of the LORD in the valley of Megiddo. When this *beast* arrives, he will hate the Israelites and will seek to kill them. That will not be anything new. However, in other *End Times* Scriptures, this *beast* will hide its thoughts about Israel and act as if it is a friend to her. We will cover the rest of this story line later.



Not to get too far ahead in this story, in the REVELATION we are going to discover that a certain religion will be controlling this *beast* and it will not be the religion of *faith in the living God*, the faith that rang through the doors of the Church while it was still here on earth. The Jews will shortly be Christians because they will believe in Christ but this new empire will believe in Satan and put its faith and trust in him.

But also notice that John says, “**and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.**” This new *beastly empire* will be the most powerful nation in the world when it rises to power. It may not directly control all the nations of the world, but it will have great indirect power over all the nations. Today, in our world, the United States indirectly controls the world; it does not directly control any country except its own 52 states and its associated unincorporated territories. Somehow, the shift of the influence of world power will have occurred and the United States will be on the back shelf. It does not mean that life in the U.S. will be much different. All that must happen for the U.S. to lose its power as the leading nation of the world is for its dollar to lose its place as the standard for which all other currencies are measured. It is frightening to think that it is that simple, but it could happen fairly quickly if the debt of the U.S. continues to grow at a rapid and out of control pace. The new *Revived Roman Empire* will not control the world, but it will greatly affect the commerce in the world.

#### (i) The Followers (13:8)

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

The Lord makes an extremely important distinction in this verse. “... **Everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb ...**” would fall in line with this *beastly government* and look to it with awe and amazement and for all practical purposes, worship. We must not forget that the *seven seals* on the book have all been broken. The names written in that book are no longer secret; they are open to viewing in the heavens. Satan might have looked at the document before he was cast out of heaven in the beginning of this *seventh trumpet*, but we are not told anything about that in the Bible. Yet, those whose names are not in the “**book of life**” will literally drool over this *beastly government*.

#### (j) The Warning (13:9)

Rev 13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

We must not forget the following. Even though the Church had been removed from the world, the Bible would still be here. By this time in the story, the Nation of Israel would be the new saints of the world and they would surely pick up the written Word of God and devour the messages found in the pages of the New Testament. No doubt, they would get to this part of the REVELATION and realize it is speaking directly to them. It is a warning to them. It is also a warning to all those whose names are written in the *book of life*, even those who have not trusted the LORD as of yet, but will. Perhaps this would be the warning that changes their minds. “**If anyone has an ear, let him hear.**” In other words, “*if you have not ever thought about God before, you surely need to now!*”



### (k) The Perseverance (13:10)

Rev 13:10 If anyone ~~is destined~~ for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

Why will it be important that the Israelite saints think about God? Why will it be important and necessary that everyone whose name is in the *book of life* will perk up their ears and listen to this prophecy? The answer is simple; God has a plan for each person in the final seven years before His Second Coming. However, the restraining work of the Holy Spirit was stopped when the Church was removed, and evil would then be free to run untethered. It is for that reason that not all of those whose names are written in the *book of life* will survive earthly life in the last seven years. Some will be killed. Others will be jailed, and some will take up the sword to defend themselves. Yet, those who are still alive on earth and whose names are in the *book of life* will persevere and enter into the eternal presence of the LORD whether by surviving the tribulation to enter into the kingdom of the LORD on earth after the *Battle of Armageddon*. Saints will overcome and be with the LORD regardless of how they get there, through death as a martyr or natural death or the LORD's intervention in world events at that time.

### (2) Beast of the Earth (13:11 – 18)

#### (a) The Horns (13:11)

Rev 13:11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.

And now John describes a *second beast*. He did not come from the *sea* as did the *first beastly empire*. This *beast* came from the earth. In other words, his origin was not the *Great Sea* area as that of the *first beast*. If it did not come from the same area as the *first beast*, where did it come from? John says this creature **“had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.”** Obviously, the *second beast* had **“two horns.”** Throughout the *End Times* passages, *horns* represent countries. Then we must ask, *“From what two countries will this beast come?”* Frankly, western commentators of the past have quickly pointed the finger at the Roman Empire and the Catholic Church. This thought is widely spread and widely accepted. However, both resided by the *Great Sea* and were recognized in the development of the *first beast*. Furthermore, the Roman Empire encompassed ten countries not two and at the end of that empire's existence, it was still Christian to the core. It is just hard to wrap an identity for the *horns* of this *beast* around the Roman Empire and the Catholic Church; the similarities are far too few.

Perhaps for understanding we should leave the identity of the *horns* alone for now and look at John's explanation of those *horns*. They were **“like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.”** We think of a *lamb* as a peaceful, gentle, harmless, innocent and ceremonially clean animal. We get that from the context of the word pictures found in the Bible. On the other hand, John says that this *lamb* **“spoke as a dragon.”** We think of a *dragon* as a forceful, ruthless, dangerous, shrewd, deceitful and filthy animal. We have already discovered that *Satan* presented himself as a *great red dragon*; therefore, John must be indicating that when this *second beast* speaks, he speaks like *Satan*. From that, we should be

able to extrapolate that this *second beast* will be as gentle as a lamb with all the evil intent of the devil. The first was formed and based on the territory from which he came and would rule. The second *beast* was formed and based on the testimony he would provide, his words, softly spoken but deadly. Where can we find two such countries of the past that have this characteristic? Before we answer that question, it would be wise to see the rest of what John has to say about this *beast* and return to the *horns* in Revelation 13:18.

#### (b) The Authority (13:12a)

Rev 13:12a He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence.

What do we know about the authority of the first *beast*? He was to be worshiped (13:4). He spoke blasphemous words (13:6). He could make war and kill the saints (13:7). Furthermore, all of that authority was given the *first beast* by the *great red dragon, Satan*.

Looking at this verse, we can assume that this *second beast* has that same authority. When the text says, “**of the first beast in his presence,**” we should not interpret this to mean that the *second beast* had power only when he was in the presence of the *first beast*. The *first beast* is an empire, the *Revived Roman Empire*; therefore, this *second beast* will never be out of the presence of the *first beast* because he will be operating within his realm. This wording must mean that John saw the *second beast*’s arrival after that of the *first beast*. These two will work as a team in the next months.

#### (c) The Requirement (13:12b)

Rev 13:12b And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.

We have already discussed the “**fatal wound**” of the *first beast* that was *healed*. That, of course, was the death of the *Roman Empire* in 1453 AD and its emergence in the last days as the *Revived Roman Empire*. But in this passage, this *second beast* will cause all the people in the empire to “**worship the first beast.**” Therefore, we can say that this *second beast* will act like a minister or prophet within the realm of the *first beast*. He will not be a prophet for good, but rather for evil. And then, that causes us to realize that this *second beast* will cause the people to look to the *first beast* as their all-in-all savior of the empire, one to be adored, one to be believed, one to be trusted, one to be respected and one to be worshiped. Notice that John says, “**he makes the earth...worship.**” He does not suggest, he does not advise, he does not recommend, “**he makes!**” The people of the *beastly Revived Roman Empire* will have no choice! They will be required to worship the *first beast*.

#### (d) The Signs (13:13)

Rev 13:13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.

We have already reviewed the authority given to this *second beast* because his authority matched that of the *first beast* (13:12a). But here, we see that this *second beast* has the ability to perform “**great signs.**” We can rightly call these signs *miracles*. The passage states that they could make “**fire come down out of heaven to the earth.**” We are not told how this *second beast* accomplished this task. It may be a real *miracle*; it may be *slight of hand*.

In the days of the plagues in Egypt, Pharaoh's magicians were able to mimic the first few miracles, but that finally came to an end. Until the last 500 years, making fire come down from heaven was limited to flaming arrows and ordinances from catapults. Since the 1300s, cannons and other arms have been used to throw fire, but none of that would have been considered a miracle. But today, with wireless electronics, arms can be positioned and stored for years and can be fired at will and seem to appear *miraculously* out of nowhere. To John, that would have looked like a *great sign* or *miracle*. All of this is to say that this *second beast* may have the power to rain down fire: however, it may be nothing more than hocus pocus at its apex. Nevertheless, the people of the *beastly Revived Roman Empire* will admire the signs as miraculous.

#### (e) The Deception (13:14a)

Rev 13:14a And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast,

The admiration of the signs or miracles performed by this *second beast* will be nothing but deception in two ways. First, the signs will cause the people to think these *two beasts* are godlike. Second, the signs will cause the people to worship the wrong god.

#### (f) The Image (13:14b)

Rev 13:14b telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

What better way to deceive people? Cast some sort of metal into the image of a *first beast*, set it up in the courtyard of the capital, and create its entrails with hinges, motors and electronics.

#### (g) The Breath (13:15)

Rev 13:15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

What better way to deceive people? Cause the **“image of the beast”** to come to life, or, at least, seem to come to life. Place a speaker in the mouth of the image so it can seem to speak at its own will. Attach the eyes of a camera that will cause the image to appear to see those who worship him or those who do not. Snap a picture, send it to officials who immediately take to the streets, find the rebel and kill him.

#### (h) The Mark (13:6)

Rev 13:16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

With the threat of death aimed at everyone within the empire of these *two beasts*, it is no wonder that when a **“mark”** is required **“on the right hand or on their forehead,”** it will be accepted.

(i) The Restriction (13:17)

Rev 13:17 and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name.

The lack of the “**mark**” will cause great turmoil for the people living in the *Revived Roman Empire*. We buy and sell things every day. We use money. Money is the only thing actually required. But in that day, money will not be enough. If anyone wishes to buy or sell within the beast’s empire as well as any other county in the world, the *mark of the beast* will be required. No mark, no purchase! No mark, no transaction! No mark, no market! No black market will dare exist in that day. No one will dare defy the system. This *second beast* will bind the people of the *first beastly Revived Roman Empire* completely to Satan’s desires. It will be a total economic enforcement upon the people to make them slaves in the worst way, slaves in living, slaves in believing and slaves in eternity, slaves to the *great red dragon, Satan*.

It is interesting that the verse states that the person must have “**either the name of the beast or the number of his name**,” engraved on the right hand or the forehead. What is this beast’s name? We do not know. However, we do know his number.

(j) The Number (13:18)

Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

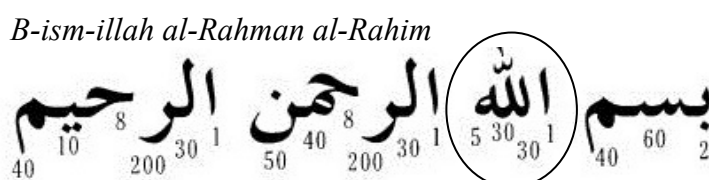
“**Here is wisdom.**” What does that mean? “**Wisdom**” is the ability to take bits and pieces of information and apply them appropriately for their greatest use. “**Let him who has understanding.**” What does that mean? “**Understanding**” is the ability to gather the bits and pieces of information that can be used so that “**wisdom**” can prevail. There are two things that can be said about John in this passage. First, this is a prophecy within the prophecy directed clearly far into the future when these *beasts* actually appear. Second, John probably had absolutely no idea what this number meant save that it was “**the number is that of a man.**” It was for wisdom and understanding of those at the time when these *beasts* arrive. When they arrive, the number will be “**six hundred and sixty-six.**”

Untold amounts of ink have been wasted trying to discover the meaning of this number. It is still a mystery to this day. Much has been made by commentators about how numerals in Greek or Hebrew are expressed in letters, not numbers. Past commentators have taken the Greek letters that spell out “**six hundred and sixty-six**” and found that in English they read – *LATIN KINGDOM*. It just so happened that in John’s day the language of the *Roman Empire* was Latin. But that justification is cumbersome and requires too many hurdles to be jumped to come to that conclusion.

Others take another possible position on this passage. The number is “**six hundred and sixty-six.**” That is the way John wrote it in Greek. Change the Greek letters to English letters and it says the following: *hex-akosioi hex-ekonta hex*. That means nothing to most of us. But, that is the way John wrote the number. It does not mean that John saw them written like that. Rather, he heard the number instead and wrote it down. This, too, is awkward and requires extensive mental gymnastics to reach a conclusion.

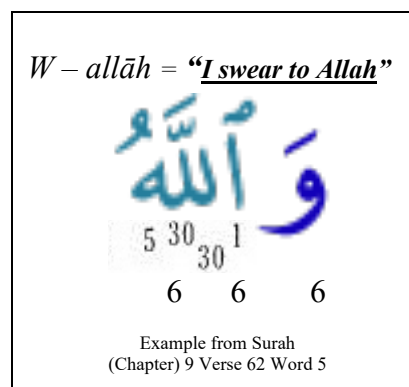
Why are we splitting hairs? The LORD does not cause such a difficult conclusion. The revelation of the “**six hundred and sixty-six**” must be simple. Perhaps the *beast* will speak

Arabic and his name will be *Bismillah*, بِسْمِ اللَّهِ. The whole phrase that we often hear spoken but do not understand is *B-ism-illah al-Rahman al-Rahim* which means *In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*. This wording is found at the beginning of each chapter of the Quran except one. With that, *B-ism-illah* is also the first word in Islam's Quran and it is translated there as the phrase, "*In the name of Allah.*" When we break the Arabic phrase *B-ism-illah* down we find that بِسْمِ = *b-ism* and اللَّهُ = *Allah*. Arabic does not use numbers. Rather, letters in its alphabet are assigned numeric values. After much search and many inquiries for help with determining the number value of the letters in *B-ism-illah* بِسْمِ اللَّهِ, an Islamic website was found that provides the numerical value of the words in this Arabic phrase.<sup>4</sup> The Alajadi website presents the following for the whole passage *In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*.



The word in the circle above (added) is the word *Allah* in Arabic. The numeric number for Islam's god is  $5 + 30 + 30 + 1 = 66$ . Several commentators incorrectly state that the numeric sum of the word *Allah* equals 666; it is absolutely false.

But that is not the end of the search. When looking into the text of the chapters of the Quran we find the word *W-allāh*. The "w" in this word is the twenty-seventh letter of the Arabic alphabet but, it has a sequential value of 6 and gematrinal value of 6. It is called a "*Wāw*" and in Arabic it is the symbol و. It serves several functions in the language. It is the primary conjunction in Arabic, equivalent to our "and"; it is usually prefixed to other conjunctions, such as *وَلَكِنْ* *wa-lākin* where it means "but." However, it has another most important function as the indicator of a "pledge" or an "oath" when it precedes a noun of great significance. It is literally translated "*I swear to...*" or "*I swear by ...*." In the Quran it often precedes the word *Allah* as seen in the example to the right and it means, "*I swear to Allah.*"<sup>5</sup>



Therefore, we might safely say with "**wisdom**" and "**understanding**" that when this *beast* arrives, whatever his language may be at the time, he will undoubtedly have a name that will clearly equal numerically in a human language "**six hundred and sixty-six.**" If Arabic is the language, it will be the word *W-allāh* meaning *I swear to Allah*. It is already found in the Quran at least nine times.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.alajadi.com/muslim-religion-respect-number-786/>

<sup>5</sup> Surah 4:62; 5:107; 6:109; 9:42; 9:56; 9:62; 9:74; 16:38; 24:53

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 5.

I am so thankful to Issa Dadoush, a faithful member of Sagemont Church whose native language is Arabic. What I have just presented is a new section of thought added for the first time in this particular study of the REVELATION. I needed a truth and I needed an Arabic expert to confirm or correct my work. Issa did just that and I am eternally grateful. Once I had placed this new section in the lesson I realized that the Arabic word for *I swear to Allah* contained extra marking above the word. Here is Issa's wonderful explanation for those marks just as he wrote them to me.

The characters on top of the "W-Allah" word are Vowels. Vowel marks are very important in Arabic. The word's meaning may differ completely if a vowel mark applied to one letter is changed. As I explain, start from the right of the word "W-Allah" as follows:

1. The diagonal stroke written above the Waaw is called Fatha and it represents a short vowel "a" (a short "ah" sound).
2. The character that looks like the small chopped w, with the Fatha on top of it, is called Shadda. Shadda represent doubling or gemination, which is the articulation of a consonant for a longer period of time.
3. The last character (far left) is called Damma. Damma is an apostrophe-like shape written above the consonant which precedes it in pronunciation. It represents a short vowel u (like the English letter "u" in "but").

The word "W-Allah" as written below is pronounced "W-Allah-u" and is followed by an adjective like All-Knowing and/or All-Wise.

Blessings of Jesus Christ be with you and the Sagemont family.

Issa

Contrary to Islamic claims, the word *Allah* is never found in the Holy Bible in the Hebrew or Greek. Two words can be found in the Hebrew that look similar. The first is *alah* (Stongs 423) and it means to *curse with an oath*. The second is *Elah* (Strong's 425) which means *terebinth* or an oak or turpentine tree. Neither word has anything to do with the name of God.

### ***A Return to the Question of the Two Horns from Revelation 13:11***

***The Horns:*** At this point in the story we need to return to the topic of the *horns* of this *beast* as promised. His *horns* come from the earth, not from the *sea* as with the *first beast*. We have established that *horns* represent countries. For the *first beast* they are the ten nations that will represent the *Revived Roman Empire*. But what countries could the *horns* of this *beast* come from? Surely not from around the *Great Sea*! Surely not from the barbarian and generally disorganized countries north of the *Roman Empire* in Europe. Surely not from the tribal countries before the *Roman Empire* in Africa. That means that we must look to the east of the *Roman Empire*, to the heart of the original powerhouse empires. We would need to look to Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. However, at the end of the *Roman Empire*, in 1453 AD, only two countries existed among these five – *Confederate of Arabia* and *Confederate of Aq Qoyunlu*. Arabia had virtually the same boundaries that it has today and operated with Yemen as its center of trade and authority in the Islamic culture. *Aq Qoyunlu* encompassed all of Iraq and Iran consisting of two groups called the *White and*



*Black Sheep Turks*, both were *Sunni Muslims*. These *Turks* did not hold to all the same principles as the *Ottoman Turks* mentioned before in these lessons which controlled Bulgaria, Macedonia and Asia Minor in 1453 AD. There is little doubt that the *Black Sheep Turks* essentially controlled the whole of *Aq Qoyunlu* and with the *Confederate of Arabia*, these countries were and are still today, Islamic. Unless some religious movement sweeps away these two countries, the land mass of this part of the world will continue to be Islamic through the *End Times*. Furthermore, these two countries from 1453 AD have done nothing but move westward with their *religion* and demanded all people of all countries they have invaded to pledge loyalty to their god – Allah. The penalty for failing to accept their god was and still is death.

The birth of Islam occurred after the fall of the *Western Roman Empire* in 476 AD but before the fall of the *Eastern Roman Empire* in 1453 AD. It began in a small area of Arabia in 621 AD and grew rapidly over the next 12 years through war and coercion to become the religion of all the land mass we know as the *Confederate of Arabia* (Arabia) and the *Confederate of Aq Qoyunlu* (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey and a small section of Russia).

With all that has been said in this discovery, the *horns* of this *second beast* must come from the origins of his religion, the two countries of *Arabia* and *Aq Qoyunlu* as they were called in 1453 AD at the fall of the *Eastern Roman Empire*. With that as the case, this *second beast* is not a person but a religion that requires total loyalty by taking *the name of its god*. Take the name and a peaceful life will be available; refuse the name and death will come quickly. Current events in that part of the world today confirm this conclusion in the news almost every day.