

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS

IDENTIFYING THE BEAST OF REVELATION 13:1-8, 18

The beast has eight points of identification.

Let's review them:

- 1. It would receive its _____: seat
And _____, (vs. 2).**

NOTE: The dragon, Revelation 12:3, 4, 9, though primarily representing Satan, also represents Pagan Rome, whom Satan used to try to destroy Jesus when Herod, a Roman ruler, killed the babies of Bethlehem, Matthew 2:16-18. History is clear that the Papacy received its power, authority and capital city from old Pagan Rome. This quote from history is typical:

"The Roman church ... pushed itself into the place of the Roman world empire, of which it is the actual continuation. The Pope ... is Caesar's successor." ¹ Obviously the Papacy fits point number one.

- 2. Would become a _____—wide power, (vs. 3,7).**

NOTE: None would dispute that during the middle ages the Papacy was indeed a world-wide power so, once again, the Papacy fits the identification.

- 3. Would rule for 42 _____ (vs. 5).**

NOTE: Remember that, in prophecy, one prophetic day equals one literal year, Ezekiel 4:6. The time of the Papacy's rule is repeatedly referred to in prophecy as 1260 days, 42 months or 3½ years. All equal the same thing: 1260 prophetic days or 1260 literal years. The power of the Papacy became supreme in Christendom in 538 A.D. due to the letter of Roman Emperor Justinian, which acknowledged the bishop of Rome as the head of all churches. This letter became part of Justinian's code, the fundamental law of the empire. The power and status of the Papacy reached its lowest ebb in 1798 A.D. when Napoleon's general,

[illegible]

Revelation 13:17, 18 says to count the number of the beast's name and that it is the number of a man. The man we think of when the Papacy is mentioned is the Pope. What is his name? One of the Pope's official titles is "VICAR OF THE SON OF GOD" ⁶ which in Latin is "VICARIUS FILII DEI". Often newspaper articles, when referring to

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THE PAPACY ASKS A QUESTION

Here is the famous question which the Papacy has repeatedly asked Protestants. And Protestants have remained strangely silent:

"You will tell me that Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, but that the Christian Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed! But by whom? Who has authority to change an express commandment of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, 'Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day' who shall dare to say, nay, thou mayest work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day, but thou shalt keep holy the first day in its stead? This is a most important question which I know not how you can answer. You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet, in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that which He has commanded. The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the ten commandments; you believe the other nine are still binding; who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principle, if you really follow the Bible and the Bible only, you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered", **Library of Christian Doctrine**; Burns and Oates, pp. 3-4, London.

BUT AS WE STUDIED BEFORE, VIRTUALLY ALL CHURCHES ADMIT IN THEIR OFFICIAL WRITINGS THAT THERE IS NO SCRIPTURE FOR SUNDAY SACREDNESS. PROTESTANTISM STANDS GUILTY BEFORE THE JUDGMENT BAR OF GOD OF THROWING OUT THE BIBLE SABBATH! GOD, HIMSELF, GAVE THE SABBATH AS A SIGN OR MARK OF HIS POWER TO CREATE AND HIS POWER TO SANCTIFY OR SAVE, Exodus 31:17 (141); Ezekiel 20:12 (1238). DARE ANY MAN TAMPER WITH THIS SACRED SIGN WHICH REPRESENTS THE GREAT GOD OF HEAVEN AND ALL THAT HE STANDS FOR?

Please review again Exhibit #3 from Lesson 11, if you have time. It is a brief report of what other churches say on this subject.

the Pope as "Vicar of Christ", will enclose the words in quotation marks because they are a translation of his title or name. The book of Revelation is saying that the Roman numeral value of the letters of his name will equal 666.

Let's see if it does:

V - 5	F - 0	D - 500	112
I - 1	I - 1	E - 0	53
C - 100	L - 50	I - 1	501
A - 0	I - 1		
R - 0	I - 1	501	666
I - 1			
U - 5	53		
S - 0			
			112

So the Papacy fits the sixth point.

7. Would be a religious power — it is involved in _____ (vs. 5, 8).

NOTE: This power is not a secular government but is involved in spiritual matters. The word "worship" is used four times in Revelation 13. The chapter is about false worship. Again, the Papacy fits the identification point.

8. Would war with and persecute the _____, (vs. 7).

It is common knowledge that the Papacy did persecute and destroy conscientious Christians, especially during the peak of its period of control, during the middle ages. Many historians say that more than fifty million people died for their faith during this period of great tribulation. The church felt it was doing God a favour in stamping out "heresy", but the fact remains that it did persecute and destroy. Many modern Catholics disapprove of these persecutions. The Papacy fits this point, also.

There may be two sides to some questions, but there is only one side here: the beast of Revelation 13:1-8,18 represents the Papacy. And this power has a mark that I dare not receive.

NOTE: There are many beautiful, sweet, loving Roman Catholic Christians who serve Jesus gladly and whom Jesus counts as His children. Pope John Paul II, himself, seems to be a warm, gracious,

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congenial, courageous person who loves God. This lesson is not an attack upon our Christian Catholic friends. It is an attack upon the devil who is responsible for the entire miserable affair. It is true, however, that God, Himself, has told us that this system has a mark which we dare not receive. Sincere Protestants, Catholics, Jews and the unchurched will all be anxious to discover what this mark is so they can avoid receiving it. Thank God that He has, in the book of Revelation, uncovered Satan's ugly plans to destroy us all.

- 1 Adolf Harnack **What is Christianity**; New York; Putnam, 1901, pp. 269,270
- 2 Joseph DeHarbe, **Catechism of the Catholic Religion**; New York; W. H. Sadler, Inc. 1924, P. 279
- 3 Christopher Marcellus, **Oration in the Fifth Lateran Council**, Session IV (1512) in Mans, S.C., Vol. 32, Col. 761 (Latin)
- 4 **Catholic National**, July, 1895
- 5 Joseph Rickaby, **The Modern Papacy**, in Lectures on the History of Religion, Vol. 3, Lecture 24, p. 1. (London: Catholic Truth Society, 1910)
- 6 **Our Sunday Visitor**, April 18, 1915, in answers to readers questions.
- 7 W.E.H. Lecky, **History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe**; New York; Braziller, 1955, Vol. 2, pp. 40-45

THE PAPACY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

One day a man picked up Peter Geiermann's Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine and read the following on p. 50:

Q. Which is the Sabbath day?

A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday".

The man was dumbfounded and supposed there must be some mistake so he wrote a letter to the then famous James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, and asked if the Catholic church did, indeed, change the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday. The Cardinal replied, "Of course, the Catholic church claims that the change was her act. And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters".

Notice, also, the following words from **The Catholic Record** of London, Ontario, Canada, September 1, 1923: "Sunday is our MARK of authority ... the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact".

Notice this from A Doctrinal Catechism by Stephen Keenan:

Q. Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

A. 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".

The Papacy claims that it changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday and that Sunday or Sunday-keeping is its mark of authority and power. God's mark or sign of power, is Sabbath and Sabbath-keeping and the beast's sign or mark of power, is Sunday and Sunday-keeping.