

Tri-County Bible Prophecy Revival
Revelation of Jesus Series
Study #8: Mark of the Beast Crisis
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Little Horn = Papal Rome

- (Daniel 7 & 8) The Little Horn that emerges from Pagan Roman as the fifth empire since Babylon is Papal Rome.
- Papal Rome reigned over the old western part of the Pagan Roman empire from 538 to 1798 for 1260 years!
- The Papal Roman Empire was a monarchical government and apostate Christian religious power. They prided themselves to have ecclesiastical authority over all “Christians”. That the reason why they call themselves the “Catholic” church. Remember, Catholic means universal.
- Papal Rome “christianized” the pagan religion of the old Pagan Roman Empire.

What blasphemous authority does the Papacy think it has over God’s law?

What startling prophecy does Revelation give about this little horn that directly impacts the entire planet and the faithful people of God at the end of time?

Today’s study is going to answer these questions plus much more!

Remember the character of the Papal Roman Empire as depicted in the prophetic symbolism of the little horn

- Speak against the most High God
- Blasphemous
- Persecuted and killed the faithful people of God who refused to bow down to them and follow their false doctrines.

The Antichrist

1 John 2:18, 22

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”

22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

The Greek meaning for “antichrist” is an opponent or adversary of the Messiah, according to Strong’s & Thayer’s dictionaries.

Even though Papal Rome uses the name of Jesus Christ, their blasphemous character and false doctrines are against the true Jesus Christ of the Bible. Papal Rome is leading billions of people to a false christ. They are an adversary or enemy of Christ.

Papal Rome is an antichrist, but you will see as you study that they are the main antichrist in the last days.

Anyone who professes to be Christian but still have a hold on sin and worldliness are also an antichrist. They are an enemy of God. They reject the true Jesus of the Bible.

James 4:4

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Who are true friends to God and the true Jesus of the Bible?

John 15:14

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

James 2:23

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

John 14:15, 21

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Daniel & Revelation sister books

The book of Daniel prophesies about the rise of fall of seven earthly kingdom and the everlasting stone kingdom of Jesus Christ.

The book of Revelation prophesies last seventh earthly kingdom and the everlasting kingdom.

Who is the seventh earthly kingdom that is revealed prophetically in Revelation 13? Does it have any relation to the little horn from the book of Daniel? What does John see in vision?

Revelation 13:1-2

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a **beast rise up out of the sea**, having **seven heads and ten horns**, and **upon his horns ten crowns**, and upon his **heads the name of blasphemy**.

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

It is apparently clear that Revelation 13 is symbolic because there are no beasts in God's literal animal kingdom that look like this.

What are the features of this symbolic beast and what does it all mean? Let's look at this prophetic picture of art that Jesus paints and see what God is revealing to us in the prophetic painting!

Remember, what do **beasts** in Bible prophecy represent?

Prophetic Symbol: **BEASTS = KINGDOMS / NATIONS** (see Daniel 7:16, 17, & 23)

The leopard-like beast is a depiction of a kingdom.

Who gives the leopard-like beast its power, seat, and GREAT authority? The Dragon

Who is the Dragon?

Revelation 12:9

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the **Devil**, and **Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan is the dragon that gives the leopard-like beast its power, seat, and GREAT authority.

Definitions

Power (Greek) = Force (enforcement) with power to perform "miracles"

Seat (Greek) = Stately seat which are governmental powers over people

GREAT authority = Jurisdiction or territory of rulership with judicial powers

In other words, the beast is a governmental power that has rights to enforce their laws on a great territory of people. Since the Dragon, Satan, empowers the beast, it is obvious that he will use the beast to persecute God's people.

What name was on the heads of the beast? Blasphemy

The name of the beast reveals that its character is blasphemous against God making claims and entitlements that ONLY belong to God.

In summary, the leopard-like beast of Revelation chapter 13 is a nation and blasphemous religious power, that is empowered by Satan to control and enforce laws on a great territory of people. They also claim to have "miraculous" powers. In other words, the leopard like beast in Revelation 13 has a form of godliness. It is a false church system powered by Satan with religious and governmental power.

Based on our previous study does this leopard-like beast have the same characteristics of the little horn?

Blasphemous, form of godliness, false church system with religious and governmental power. Yes.

Based on all we studied so far, it is clear that the little horn of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13 is the same religious-political power.

Little Horn (Daniel 7 & 8) = The Beast (Revelation 13) they both depict Papal Rome who ruled in the past from 538 to 1798 as the fifth empire since Babylon. This will be confirmed as we continue our study.

The beast of Revelation chapter 13 is a summarized combination of all four beasts of Daniel chapter 7 in character: the lion, bear, leopard, and dreadful beast with 10 horns. The beast of Revelation chapter 13 is similar. It has a lion's mouth, bear's feet, a leopard's body, and 10 horns. The leopard-like beast of Revelation 13 is a composite of all the four beasts of Daniel 7. It has elements and characteristics of all the beasts of Daniel 7.

Come up out of the sea: The four beast in Daniel 7 and the beast in Revelation both come out of the sea. Remember, sea or a body of water in Bible prophecy represent peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

The four beasts in Daniel chapter 7 and the beast in Revelation chapter 13 are all kingdoms that rose to power among a body of nations with multitudes of people that speak different languages.

Papal Rome rose to power as the fifth empire from Pagan Rome among a multitude and languages of people with is mainly the territory of modern Europe and northern Africa.

Seven heads: The seven heads on the beast in Revelation 13 represents all the earthly kingdoms since Babylon.

What startling prophecy does Revelation 13 say about Papal Rome at the end of time?

Revelation 13:3-4, 8

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Remember, from 538 to 1798 Papal Rome was the fifth empire since Babylon. Papal Rome as the fifth empire ruled mainly the European world and parts of northern Africa. At that time they did not rule the "whole world".

Revelation 13:3, 4 predicts that Papal Rome, whose head was wounded to death as the fifth empire, will be healed and have power over the entire world as the seventh kingdom!

Verse 4 also predicts that the world is so mesmerized by Papal Rome, that they proclaim “who is like unto the beast.” In other words, they are saying that there is no one or system that is as great as the beast.

They also proclaim that “Who is able to make war with him.” In other words, they are saying that Papal Rome, the beast, is about “peace” and not war and that no one should protest or make war against it.

Does Papal Rome exist today in our modern times? What kind of power and influence does it have?

Let's look at the facts. **In 1798 it appeared that Papal Rome was dead. It appeared that it would never have its monarchical power back. Another blow happened when its capital of Rome was overtaken by Italian forces in 1870 including Papal Rome's beloved Vatican City, except the Apostolic Palace, the home of the papacy.** Over the next 59 years the papacy refused to leave the Apostolic Palace in Vatican and declared itself “a prisoner in Vatican.”

As the prophecy says Papal Rome was “wounded to death.” From all appearances they would be like other empires who lost their dominance like Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, never to come back. How could Papal Rome come back into world dominance after being “a prisoner in Vatican” living under the shadows of Italy? Is this even possible? Remember again, Bible prophecy is extremely accurate. Let's continue to study.

What happened in 1929 that began “healing” the wound of Papal Rome?

As you can imagine since 1870 Papal Rome worked with persistence to get its governmental sovereignty back. In 1929, the papacy negotiated a treaty with the government of Italy and its dictator Benito Mussolini known as the Lateran Treaty, also called the Lateran Pact. This treaty gave Papal Rome its monarchical governmental sovereignty back within the territory of Vatican, approximately 109 acres. The treaty also recognizes that the Catholic religion is the only official religion within the government of Papal Rome.

It is interesting to note that after the Lateran Treaty was signed the San Francisco Chronicle, February 12, 1929, wrote an article entitled “MUSSOLINI AND GASPARRI SIGN HISTORIC ROMAN PACT.” In part of the article it speaks about “healing the wound” of Papal Rome:

“The Roman question tonight was a thing of the past and the Vatican was at peace with Italy. The formal accomplishment of this today was the exchange of signatures in the historic Palace of St. John Lateran by two noteworthy plenipotentiaries, Cardinal Gasparri for Pope Pius XI and Premier Mussolini for King Victor Emmanuel III.

In affixing the autographs to the memorable document, healing the wound which has festered since 1870, extreme cordiality was displayed on both sides.” - The San Francisco Chronicle, February 12, 1929, p. 1

Even though Papal Rome's “wound” was not completely healed in 1929 it surely started the healing process.

What is the status of Papal Rome since 1929?

Today, Papal Rome's headquarters of the Catholic Church is still in Vatican. It is a religious governmental monarch on 109 acres surrounded by Rome, Italy. The Pope is both the leader of the church and sovereign leader of the Papal government also known as the Holy See. In other words, he is the “king”. He is both priest and absolute king. It is still the smallest nation on earth, but as the prophecy predicts it has worldwide power and influence.

Quick Facts:

1. Vatican is Papal Rome's Headquarters

2. 109 Acres (surrounded by Rome, Italy)
3. Vatican's population is approximately 1,000 citizens
4. Pope is sovereign leader or king
5. Pope is religious head of an estimate 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide

The papacy's power and influence to "shape men's minds" worldwide has grown very much since 1929 into the modern 21st tech century. Remember, according to Revelation's prophecy the beast, Papal Rome, will once again have an empire, but this time it will cover the entire globe. It will be the head of the seventh empire, the last earthly kingdom.

How can a small nation rise to world power as prophesied?

The answer is found in its organizational system.

"The Roman Catholic Church, with all its ramifications throughout the world, forms one vast organization under the control, and designed to serve the interests, of the papal see. Its millions of communicants, in every country of the globe, are instructed to hold themselves as bound in allegiance to the pope. Whatever their nationality or their government, they are to regard the authority of the church as above all other. Though they may take the oath pledging their loyalty to the state, yet back of this lies the vow of obedience to Rome, absolving them from every pledge inimical to her interests. History testifies of her artful and persistent efforts to insinuate herself into the affairs of the nations; and having gained a foothold, to further her own aims, even at the ruin of princes and people." - Ellen White, Great Controversy, p. 580

How much has Papal Rome healed since 1929? Is Papal Rome fulfilling prophecy of being the last worldly empire on this Earth with the pope as king?

Since 1929 until the present time, the papacy has been very intentional in creating formal governmental relationships and diplomacy worldwide. Over the years the papacy has been a key negotiator and diplomat at United Nations. Its most prized diplomatic relationship and direct political influence has been the United States of America, a world superpower after War World II.

To date Papal Rome has gained world wide political influence with all the nations of the earth. They are revered as a peace negotiator and advocate for the poor and environmental. The papacy has played a leading role in bringing together all the major religions of the world into a bond of "brotherhood."

What the papacy has done in the past as the fifth empire and they will do again? They have not changed. What does Revelation 13 predict?

Revelation 13:7

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

They will persecute and kill God's faithful like they did in the past.

In Revelation 14 God gives his people an urgent message by three angels, he give us a picture of true worship and His church and exposes the false church system that is lead by the papacy.

True Worship & True church

Revelation 14:6-7, 12

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

False Worship and False Church

What urgent warning does Jesus give about the beast, Papal Rome?

Revelation 14:8-11

8 And there followed another angel, saying, **Babylon is fallen, is fallen**, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Symbolic Babylon

Babylon = confusion by mixing truth and error. Truth + Lie = Lie

Modern Babylon rebels against God like the literal tower of Babel (Babylon) and empire of Babylon.

Babylon includes all who reject the truth of the Bible which includes Papal Rome, all apostate churches, false religions.

The wine of Babylon is the false doctrines they make those who drink it spiritually drunk and confused.

Who is the mother of Babylon?

Revelation 17 reveals that the beast of Revelation 13 with a woman sitting is the mother of Babylon with apostate followers.

Revelation 17:3-5

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

God warns us in Revelation 18 Babylon has become a habitation of the devil and his demons.

Revelation 18:2

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

What does Jesus urgently instruct His people who are in Babylon to do at the end of time?

Revelation 18:4

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Going back to Revelation 13:9, 10 If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...

The image of the beast is a twin of the beast with the same political and religious power. They have a form of godliness. They are all apostate "Christian" churches who will gain more political power to influence the government (US).

All who receive the mark of the beast will receive the wrath of God and be destroyed! This is confirmed in **Revelation 19:20:**

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

What is the mark of the beast?

Mark [Greek] charagma a scratch or etching, that is, stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (statue): - graven.

Character = engraved mark

The mark of the beast is not a chip on the forehead or hand.

The mark of the beast is a counterfeit of the mark of God.

This mark of God is known as the seal of the living God that will place ONLY on the foreheads of God's people.

Revelation 7:2-3

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

This is not a literal mark or seal but reveals that they have the character of God. They keep all the Commandments of God including the seventh-day Sabbath.

What do the faithful saints do as proof or sign of their loyalty to God?

Ezekiel 20:12, 20

12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

The sabbath is a sign or mark of your loyalty to God.

Sign (Hebrew) = Mark

The fourth commandment, the seventh day Sabbath reveals that it is Jesus the Creator who authenticates the Ten Commandments, the official document of the everlasting covenant.

The Sabbath of God is the authenticating mark of God that is a test of your loyalty to God

The mark of the beast is a counterfeit "sabbath" that reveals that those who follow it reject the commandments of God and follow the tradition and commandments of men.

Remember the beast and little horn is Papal Rome.

What does Papal Rome claim they have power to do? GO back to Daniel 7:25

Daniel 7:25

25 (Papal Rome) think to change times and laws..."

Remember, Jesus says in

Matthew 5:17

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Papal Rome "think" to change God's Ten Commandments:

They deleted the second commandment about image worship. Deleted the majority of the sabbath commandment in which they don't mention the seventh day and they split the thou shalt covet commandment into two to mandate seven.

The only commandment that has to do with time is the seventh day Sabbath.

Papal Rome "think" to change the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week Sunday.

What does the beast, Papal Rome, say is its distinctive "mark" of authority?

"Sunday is our Mark of authority....The church is ABOVE the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." - Catholic Record, September 1, 1923

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change [of the Sabbath to Sunday] was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical and religious without her. And THE ACT IS A MARK of ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." - James Cardinal Gibbons, in a letter to J .F. Snyder of Bloomington, Illinois, dated November 11, 1895, and signed by H.F. Thomas, Chancellor for the Cardinal

Sunday false sabbath is the mark of the beast. Unlike the keeping of the true seventh day Sabbath, Sunday shows loyalty to the beast and the commandments of man instead of God.

Sunday false sabbath and worship unites all apostate churches to the beast, Papal Rome.

Papal Rome believes that this change of the Sabbath from the seventh day of the week, Saturday, to the first day of the week, Sunday, is their "mark" of authority. This "change" is their distinctive mark that distinguishes them from all other Christian religions. Here are some more quotes from Papal Rome concerning his "mark":

"If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath day. In keeping the Sunday, they are following a law of the Catholic Church." - Chancellor Albert Smith for Cardinal of Baltimore Archdiocese, letter dated February 10, 1920

'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' The Catholic Church says: 'No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.' And lo! The entire civilized world bows down in a reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church" - Priest Thomas Enright, CSSR, President of Redemptorist College, Kansas City, Missouri, in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas, and printed in the American Sentinel, June 1883, a New York Roman Catholic Journal

"The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church." - Louis Segur, 'Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today', 1868, p. 213

What will happen to who refuse the mark of the beast and worship of the beast?

Revelation 13:17

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

This is reveals the Sunday worship, mark of the beast, by force through the enforcement of laws.

Revelation 13:15

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Mark of the Beast is enforcement by law of Sunday worship. Not yet, but soon to be.

Sunday laws have been enforced in the past known as blue laws, closed stores and businesses on Sunday etc.. so people can go to church.

In 1888 a National Sunday Law was almost passed in this the USA. Sunday blues have been repelled in many states, but it is still a major part of or culture.

Did you know that the Supreme Court has already set a legal precedence that Sunday-rest laws are not a violation of the establishment of religion clause of the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution? This was established in four land mark Sunday-law U.S. Supreme Court decisions in 1961 lead by Chief Justice Earl Warren. - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_Warren

According to www.congress.gov, "*The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation* (popularly known as the Constitution Annotated) contains legal analysis and interpretation of the United States Constitution, based primarily on Supreme Court case law."

This annotation of the first amendment of the Sunday Closing laws concludes that "the choice of Sunday as the day of rest, while originally religious, now reflected simple legislative inertia or recognition that Sunday was a traditional day for the choice. Valid secular reasons existed for not simply requiring one day of rest and leaving to each individual to choose the day, reasons of ease of enforcement and of assuring a common day in the community for rest and leisure. More recently, a state statute mandating that employers honor the Sabbath day of the employee's choice was held invalid as having the primary effect of promoting religion by weighing the employee's Sabbath choice over all other interests."

Currently there is a major push around the world for Sunday laws to bring family together, combat "climate change" and church attendance...

What is your choice?

Mark of God or mark of the beast

God's Law or man's traditions

Kingdom of God or Babylon.

Appeal: Come out of her my people follow God's truth all the way!