

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
 Study #58: Image of the Beast & 666
 Revelation 13:15 - 18
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Brief review

In our previous study, the Bible in Revelation 13:11 identifies the United States of America as the lamb-like beast with two horns that speaks as a dragon. The horns represent its power, true religious freedom, the separation of church and state. **The USA begins to speak as a dragon because it yields to the many agents of the beast, Papal Rome, who has established itself in key positions to greatly influence all three branches of the United States government: Executive, Legislative (Congress), and the judicial branches.** For example, remember, six out of the nine Supreme court justices are Catholic. Many of the president's inner circle, cabinet members, and advisers are Catholic. A large percentage of Catholics are in the House and Senate of U.S. congress. There has been a Catholic as the Speaker of the House for the past several years regardless of party. The historical record shows the hatred that the papacy has against the separation of church and state.

Revelation 13:12 reveals that the U.S. exercises all the power of the beast to cause the world to worship the beast.

Revelation 13:13 reveals that the U.S. government will do "great wonders" even to make fire come down from heaven. Verse 14 reveals that these wonders are used to deceive the world to worship the beast.

The end of verse 14 reveals that the United States "should make an image to the beast," Papal Rome

Revelation 13:14

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Who represents "an image to the beast"?

"Image" (Greek) = "eikōn": means a "likeness, statue, profile, or (figuratively) representation, resemblance." - Strong's Greek Dictionary.

It is clear from the definition that the image of the beast is one who is in the likeness or resembles Papal Rome. In other words, the image of the beast mirrors the beast with some of the same characteristics of the beast, but it is not the original.

Let's take a look at the characteristics of the image to the beast.

Apostate

Like Papal Rome, the image to the beast is a religious group of people who profess to be Christians but have apostatized from God's truth. Like Papal Rome, they are religious-hypocrites who have apostatized from God's truth.

When many in the New Testament church apostatized or fell away from the truth of God's word and followed the ways of the world and the commandments of men, the Holy Spirit left them up to their own devising. The formation of the papacy was soon established. They were able to get the aid of the government. Overtime they would gain governmental power over the people and all that protested against them were persecuted as heretics and many killed.

Remember the apostasy of the early church that eventually formed the papacy was prophesied by Paul.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

The image to the beast are last day apostate Christians who also fall away from the truth of God's word that is also prophesied by Paul. Here is the character revealed...

2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 This know also, that in the **last days** perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1 Timothy 4:1

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the **latter times some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

As a result, the image to the beast, apostate churches, will become a depository of lies and an agent of the Devil that will be used to deceive millions of people!

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with **all deceivableness of unrighteousness** in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned **who believed not the truth**, but had **pleasure in unrighteousness**.

When there is NO distinction between the church and the world, the end time churches regardless of denomination will eventually become an image of the papacy, the beast.

Government Influence and political power

Like Papal Rome, the image of the beast uses its "religious authority" or church beliefs to influence multitudes of people and governments. They gain significant political power as they convince the government to politically and financially support their church institutions.

"When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of "heresy." In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends." Ellen White, Great Controversy, p. 444

Unified Alliance

Not only does the image of the beast look like Papal Rome, but they have made an alliance to unify with the pope and Papal Rome's agenda.

Regardless of denomination anyone who unites with the world will eventually unite with the doctrines and spirit of the beast, the papacy!

Image to the Beast = All Apostate Christian Churches

Simply, the image of the beast is any Christian religious church or organization that unites with the doctrine of the mark of the beast. This includes Protestant Christian churches or denominations who at one time in their history protested against the apostasy of Papal Rome, but have compromised God's truth and joined her in her apostasy!

Based on prophecy and the current state of the apostate churches, the image to the beast is almost completely formed!

Apostasy and no distinction from worldliness

The modern last day churches has unified themselves to the sinful lusts of worldliness and tried to cover it with a form of godliness. **Most major denominations have left the simplicity and holiness of the true gospel and now teach a false gospel that embraces the commandments of men, but rejects the commandments of God.** They teach a false Christ that is a reflection of their sinful human flesh that has no power to overcome sin. This is a sentimental humanistic Jesus that has swept throughout last day Christian churches!

Jesus told us to beware of false christ! This false christ is a rock n' roll, hip hop loving Jesus that loves what sinful apostate Christians love. The false christ are into their games, sports, and movies. This false christ also accepts homosexuality among those in these apostate churches!

Jesus of Humanism = FALSE CHRIST!

What are some details of this false Jesus of Humanism that is taught in all apostate churches today?

What is Humanism?

"A system of values and beliefs that is based on the idea that people are basically good and that problems can be solved using **reason** instead of religion." <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/humanism>

"Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism and other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity." <http://thehumanistsociety.org/about/humanism/>

Humanism is based on human reason not God's Word. It's based on "I" not God.

Christian humanism can be seen as a **philosophical** union of **Christian ethics** and humanist principles.^[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_humanism

Modern Christian "humanism" is based on human reasoning and philosophy, self, not truth! The Humanistic Jesus brings the standards of truth, the true spirit of prophecy down to human reasoning. The Humanistic Jesus says, "It's okay to have some sin in your life as long as you are doing some good things for the good of humanity."

MODERN churches including the apostate corporate SDA church are teaching a humanistic world loving Jesus.

For example, look at the official humanist logos compared to the new logo of the modern churches today including the SDA church! (Show Logo of humanism of various organizations Humanist logo...)

Humanism is sun worship (see pictures including remonstrance eucharist crest moon)

Humanism = Reason

After France rejected God in the late 1700s, who did it parade and praise around the streets of France? The goddess of REASON. This is the same goddess and idol worship that is being taught in many churches today.

Not only have many SDA corporate churches used the humanist logo that reveals their true allegiance, but they also have the goddess of reason displayed in the General Conference office!

SDA corp church is a New humanistic organization that is pushing a humanistic Jesus – goddess of reason!

No longer protesting – Unified!

As a result of their apostasies and promotion of a humanistic Jesus, these modern churches that use to protest against Papal Rome as “Protestants” have unified with the Beast! Many of these churches no longer refer to themselves as “Protestants” but “Evangelicals.”

Through the deceitful ecumenical efforts of the Papacy they have successfully gotten every mainline denomination who were historically Protestant to unite with them on various issues such as climate change, world poverty, and peace.

Lutherans, Methodist, Evangelicals, and sadly the corporate SDA church has made their “peace” with Papal Rome and unified with the beast on various issues. As a result, they no longer see the beast identified in Revelation as Papal Rome. They are saying that the protest is over!

On the 500th year anniversary of Martin Luther’s revealing of the 95 theses against the Papacy in Wittenburg, Germany on October 31, 1517 all these apostate churches including the corporate SDA churches joined the Papacy at various “religious freedom” conferences to celebrate!

As the apostate churches behold the beast at various forms and ecumenical meetings they will eventually become like the beast.

Has the United States given these apostate Christian churches political power and influence?

After the election of Donald Trump, the evangelical churches has gained much political power.

- Based on election statistics around 80% of white evangelical men voted for Donald Trump during the 2016 election.
- Not long after President Trump’s inauguration as the 45th president of the United States in 2016 he opened up the White House to a score of evangelical apostate protestants as counselors and advisers to him and his administration such as popular TV evangelist Paula White, Kenneth Copeland, Franklin Graham, Pat Robertson, and many others. Trump zealously says that he will give the church its voice back in Washington.
- **Exclusive: Donald Trump Tells Brody File: "I want to give power back to the church", CBN News, Feb 18, 2016 - <http://www1.cbn.com/thebrodyfile/archive/2016/02/18/exclusive-donald-trump-tells-brody-file-i-want-to-give>**

“In an exclusive interview with The Brody File, Donald Trump wants to see Christian pastors speak more boldly from the pulpit because as he sees it, “the church has to have more power.”

- Trump has given the church ability to endorse and support political candidates by striking down the Johnson Amendment in May 2017 by an Executive order without penalties or loss of their non-profit status.

- In May 2018 Trump established a faith based office within administration through an Executive order known as the “Establishment of a White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative” which gives church and faith based organizations access to government grant and contract money for various church sponsored community projects.
- In February 2018 Sam Brownback was appointed by Trump and confirmed as U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom. Brownback converted from an evangelical Protestant to Catholicism in 2002. On July 28, 2018, Crux reported that while speaking at a religious freedom meeting in D.C., Brownback insisted that he sees an “Iron Curtain moment” right around the corner. “It’s like we busted through the gate, we’ve busted the barrier down, but now you’ve got to keep running,” Brownback said. “We just have to keep the pressure up.” The “iron curtain” that Brownback is talking about is the separation between church and state. - Allen Jr, John L., *“Brownback sees ‘Iron Curtain moment’ looming on religious freedom,”* July 28, 2018, Crux
- On July 30, 2018 U.S. Attorney General, Jeff Session and the Department of Justice established a “religious liberty task force.” One of their “expert” advisers on “religious liberty” was Archbishop Joseph Kurtz. He was one of the main speakers during the task force’s media public announcement. He says, “At the heart of all the Church’s [Catholic] efforts is a vision that we uphold that serves the common good. We propose this vision with passion for the good of individuals and of the nation, and religious freedom means that we are free to propose this vision.” - Larkin, Steve, *“Religious liberty ‘rooted in dignity of human person,’ says archbishop,”* July 31, 2018, Crux
- The iron curtain that separated church and state in America has been totally dismantled. To celebrate, on August 27, 2018, Trump had a “State-like” dinner for 100 evangelical pastors that is usually preserved for heads of state. The event was compared to a prayer filled camp meeting. In Trump’s speech he told them “ We are here today to celebrate America's heritage of faith, family and freedom,” Trump told the crowd. "As you know in recent years, the government tried to undermine religious freedom but the attacks on communities of faith are over. We've ended it."
- Trump’s Attorney General Pick William Barr Rejects Separation Of Church And State, Patheos, December 7, 2018

Who gives the evangelicals political power? The United States, the lamb like beast. Can you see how much the image to the beast is forming and almost complete.

What is the image of the beast saying about the papacy? Let’s look at an example.

Evangelical Advisor to Trump Calls for Solidarity with the Vatican, CBNNews.com, August 8, 2017, <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2017/august/evangelical-advisor-to-trump-calls-for-solidarity-with-the-vatican>

“Political tensions have maligned relationships between the evangelical and Catholic communities. Now evangelical leaders are pushing for unity with the Vatican.

Johnnie Moore, evangelical advisor to President Donald Trump, has penned a letter to Pope Francis calling for a resolution of this conflict. Moore is an active advocate for the persecuted Church and hopes to resolve tensions so that the two Church sects can work harmoniously.

An excerpt from Moore’s letter to the Pope reads: "As you know more than most, all of this has also come at a time of historic Christian persecution in more places than perhaps at any time in Christian history. Together,

Catholics, Orthodox, Protestant, and evangelical Christians throughout the entire world have shared - as you've said – 'an ecumenism of blood.'"

U.S.A.'s Death Penalty?

Not only will the U.S. make an image of the beast through deceptive signs and wonders, but it will eventually legislate and enforce a death penalty for those who refuse to worship the image of the beast.

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.

Remember, America "speaks" through its laws and "causes" through the enforcement of those laws using the police, military, and other law enforcement. In the last days a great number of people will worship the image of the beast because they don't want to be killed. On the other hand, many of God's faithful who refuse to bow down to the image of the beast will be.

What else will the United States cause after it makes an image of the beast?

Revelation 13:16-17

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

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.

The United States will enforce laws that will cause others to receive "a mark" in their right hand or foreheads. Economic sanctions will be place on all people without this "mark." Without the "mark" they will no be able to buy or sell! This can be easily done because our entire money system is linked electronically. Most of our transactions are electronic.

As Trump's poster says that he had on the table during one of his recent cabinet meeting... (show poster) "Sanctions are coming" What message is he really trying to convey?

Is this "mark" a barcode or literal electronic chip in the forehead or hand? No!

Whose "mark" is it that the USA is forcing all people to get? The following verse make it clear.

Revelation 14:9

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.

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.

The "mark" that Revelation 13:16, 17 is referring to is the "mark of the beast." This is a "mark" that is created and established by the beast, Papal Rome.

We will study the mark of the beast in detail at a later study.

Going back to Revelation 13:17.

"Name of beast": Name (Greek) = character. Those who have the "name of the beast will have the character of the beast. Those who have the character of the beast will have the mark of the beast!

At the end of Revelation 13:17, what is “the number of his name?”

Revelation 13:18

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding **count the number of the beast**: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six (666).

Presidents of the U.S. may have met with the pope, but presidents cannot fit this description. The same for famous people or other controversial figures, they do not fit. “The number of a man” points to a specific position within Papal Rome. The main character of the beast is extremely blasphemous. The papacy takes on the roles, right, titles, and worship that only belong to God.

The Papacy believes that the pope is infallible and is God on earth, the “Vicar of Christ.” One of the ancient titles of the popes that was used for centuries is “Vicarius Filii Dei” which is Latin for “Representative of the Son of God.” Verse 18 says, “count the number of the beast.” When you count and add the Latin numerals to “Vicarius Filii Dei” it equals, 666. (See table below)

“Vicarius Filii Dei” = 666

V	= 5	F	=0	D	=500
I	= 1	I	=1	E	=0
C	=100	L	=50	I	=1
A	= 0	I	=1		
R	= 0	I	=1		
I	= 1				
U(V)	= 5				
S	=0				
Total	= 112		= 53		=501

Add together: 112+53+501 = 666

Papal Rome has tried to refute this claim, but there is no doubt that 666 applies to the “man” who is head of that system, the pope. 666 cannot be applied to any other system. Again, the Bible says that 666 is “the number of the beast” - period.

After John’s sees the world forced to worship the image of the beast and receive the mark of the beast, who does he see next in vision? To be continued...

Appeal...

Whose image do you reflect? Is it the image of Jesus or the image of the beast?

Is your “image” original or self made?

This may surprise you, but your “image” is not really your own. It’s NOT original. In other words, your “image” is actually a reflection of a collection of ideas, beliefs, and experiences gathered from your family and your past

and present environment. This may be a concept that is hard for our “self” driven society to accept. We were not created to be “self” driven. We CANNOT self make an original image. It is literally impossible for us to create our own original image. We learn from those teaching and training us and reflect that image to others. We are learning all the time from our environment and what we choose to watch and listen to will determine whose image we reflect.

Whose image do you reflect, Christ's or Satan's?

You were made in the image of God to reflect the character of God. Sin and disobedience has marred and corrupted that image. Sin has made us into the image of Satan, but Jesus came to this world to restore us back to His original image. If you partake in the worldly things of Satan you will reflect the image of Satan. But if you partake, turn your eyes upon the Word of God, and have faith in the Truth of God you will reflect the image of Jesus. In other words, what you “behold” you are.