

PROPHETIC STUDY SERIES

FOUR BEASTS OF REVELATION



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On occasion, I have inserted italics and brackets in Scripture quotations to enhance understanding, not to change the meaning.

There are seven questions in this booklet which I hope you will answer. The author's answers are listed at the end. May God bless you as you study this fascinating topic!

Larry Wilson

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P.O. Box 273
Bellbrook, OH 45305

Four Beasts of Revelation

The book of Revelation often uses descriptions allowing a Bible student to develop a mental picture of events and participants in the final days of Earth's history. John uses descriptions of four beasts which help us understand what God is about to do.

1. A slain Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes.¹
2. A great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns.²
3. A leopard-like composite beast with ten horns and seven heads.³
4. A beast coming up out of the Earth with two horns like a lamb, but speaks like the dragon.⁴

What Do the Four Beasts Represent?

The Lamb represents Jesus. He is the Lamb of God who was slain for our sins. The great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns represents the fallen angel, Lucifer. The leopard-like beast with seven heads and ten horns represents a crisis government called Babylon. The beast with two horns like the Lamb represents Lucifer in human form masquerading as God.

1 Revelation 5

2 Revelation 12

3 Revelation 13

4 Revelation 13

Bible students should be concerned with the identity of these beasts because they are about to fulfill a prophetic destiny involving everyone on planet Earth. For the sake of clarity and discussion in this booklet, I have given the beasts four short names:

1. The slain Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes—*The Lamb*.
2. The red dragon with seven heads and ten horns—*The Dragon*.
3. The leopard-like composite beast with seven heads and ten horns—*The Dragon-like beast*.
4. The beast with two horns like a lamb—*The Lamb-like beast*.

Faulty Presuppositions

Prophecy students have many differing views about the identity of the four beasts because of presuppositions. A presupposition is an idea believed to be true before examining new data. The problem with presuppositions surfaces when we force the weight of evidence found in Scripture to conform to a preexisting concept. If a presupposition leads away from a plain and simple “thus saith the Lord,” then the presupposition is faulty.

Do not misunderstand; nothing is wrong with presuppositions if they can be demonstrated to be true. Everyone studies the Bible with various presuppositions, but caution is needed because logic alone is not sufficient to properly understand God's Word. As Bible students, it is necessary for us to bring all relevant data to the table before we can resolve the meaning of difficult passages.

Even after doing this, we are still at God's mercy to discover and know truth. If God does not want certain things revealed, no amount of study or logic will unveil them. On the other hand, if God wants something known, each sincere heart will be enabled to draw the correct conclusions! To show the power and influence of presuppositions, four examples from the Bible are described in the following paragraphs:

Faulty Presupposition #1:

All events described after Revelation 4:1 occur after the saints are taken to heaven in a pre-tribulation rapture.

Faulty Presupposition #2:

In Bible prophecy, beasts always represent kingdoms or nations.

Faulty Presupposition #3:

In Bible prophecy, a day always represents a year.

Faulty Presupposition #4:

A person's position on prophetic truth may be determined by (a) a prophet, (b) founding church fathers, or (c) a doctrine committee, since God confirms truth through (a) prophets, (b) religious leaders, or (c) scholars.

Now that we have identified the four beasts and four faulty presuppositions, let us reconsider the four beasts more closely.

.....
 Question #1: The leopard-like beast has ____
 heads and ____ horns.

1. The Lamb

Ever since the day Adam and Eve sinned, a flawless lamb has been used to represent the sinless life of Jesus Christ. Although the Bible does not explicitly say the first burnt offering was a lamb, it does say **“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”**¹

When Jesus began His ministry on Earth, John the Baptist announced the mission of Jesus with a single

¹ Genesis 3:21

sentence: **“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”**¹

I am sure God chose a lamb to represent Jesus for several reasons. First, what creatures are more adorable than baby lambs? They are loving, gentle, and bond easily with human beings. Second, in terms of survival, sheep were valuable animals in Bible times providing a source of food and clothing. They are hearty creatures that reproduce often. Sheep often have multiple lambs, and since gestation is only five months, a herd of sheep can quickly double in size. Symbolically, Jesus is to eternal life what a lamb was to earthly life in Bible times. Last, sheep are social creatures. They are typically meek and gentle. Consider Isaiah’s words concerning Jesus: **“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter [i.e., without resistance], and as a sheep before its shearers is silent [submissive], so he did not open his mouth.”**² When we put these features together, a lamb symbolizes the life of Christ very well.

Notice John’s description of Jesus in Revelation 5: **“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain,**

¹ John 1:29

² Isaiah 53:7, insertions mine

standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the [24] elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits [the seven angels] of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.”¹

2. The Dragon

“Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars² out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth [to Jesus], so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.”³

The great red dragon symbolizes Lucifer. We know this is true because the Bible interprets the symbol with a relevant text: **“Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to**

1 Revelation 5:6-7, insertions mine

2 Before Jesus created Earth, Lucifer caused one third of heaven’s angels (the stars) to join him in open rebellion against God. They were thrown out of heaven. See Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:12-17.

3 Revelation 12:3-4, insertion mine

the earth, and his angels with him.”¹ The great red dragon is the devil. He is Jesus’ adversary and man’s accuser.²

Consider two points that will prove useful later: The great red dragon and the Lamb are not governments or nations. I emphasize this distinction because some people insist that beasts in Bible prophecy always represent nations or governments.

This assertion is not valid. While the four beasts in Daniel 7 do represent four world empires because Daniel 7:17 says they are world empires, Daniel 7:17 does not force the four beasts in Revelation to be four world empires. The Bible is not internally conflicted. If we allow the Bible to define symbols with texts pointing to the symbol, we will find that the Lamb in Revelation 5 represents Jesus, and the great red dragon in Revelation 12 represents His adversary, the devil. These two beasts are caricatures of two supernatural beings – Jesus and Satan.

The great red dragon is introduced in Revelation 12:3 as having seven heads and ten horns. Later, we will learn these same seventeen features represent future extensions of Satan’s authority over mankind. In other

1 Revelation 12:7-9

2 Revelation 12:10

words, when the story begins in Revelation 12 (at Jesus' birth), the seven heads and ten horns on the great red dragon are not functioning, but they will come alive at their appointed time. This technique is not unusual in apocalyptic prophecy.

When the fourth beast (Rome) rises out of the sea in Daniel 7:7, it has ten horns. History says that Rome began to function as a world empire in 168 B.C., but the ten horns did not begin functioning until 600 years later. The beasts in Daniel and Revelation may have various parts when they are introduced in a story, but these parts may not have any function when the beast is first introduced.

.....
 Question #2: The great red dragon also has
 _____ heads and _____ horns.

3. The Dragon-like Beast

“The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The [great red] dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of

the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.”¹

Ever since the book of Revelation was written, there has been a great deal of conjecture about the identity of the leopard-like beast. This beast has numerous specifications and resolving each one takes more than time and effort. Valid results require a valid set of rules.² If a person just wants to accept any interpretation that seems reasonable, there are many from which to choose. However, there is only one solution to the challenge of identifying this beast, and to get to the truth, we need to address and correctly resolve *each* specification.

To make this presentation as simple as possible, I have decided to identify the leopard-like beast so you can see how each specification contributes to the conclusion. The leopard-like beast will be a religious authority, a crisis government that religious and political leaders of the world will create shortly after the Great Tribulation begins. The leaders will create this beast of a government to mediate between God and man.

¹ Revelation 13:1-3, insertion mine

² For an explanation of the four rules of interpretation see wake-up.org/studies

The first four trumpet judgments described in Revelation 8:2-13 will produce death and destruction on a scale that exceeds human measurement and calculation. These judgments will occur during the first 30 to 60 days of the Great Tribulation. Because these judgments will be global, most survivors will seriously question whether survival on planet Earth will continue. These judgments will destroy thousands of cities. Earth's infrastructures will be in ruins and 25% of Earth's eight billion people will die.

During the first four trumpets, the inhabitants of Earth will be traumatized by two painful observations: First, they will tremble at the reality of almighty God and the power and scope of His wrath. Second, they will observe that God's wrath fell on cities and places that were well known for their wickedness. Since very few people understand the book of Revelation now, most survivors will logically think that more judgments from God are imminently forthcoming. This anticipation will induce urgency which will move the leaders of the world to rapidly and radically transform the world's governance. Desperate situations require extreme solutions. During the fourth trumpet, darkness will cover the middle third of our planet and during this darkness, world leaders will quickly agree on the forma-

tion of a crisis government whose mission will be to reduce sinful behavior and appease God's wrath. This crisis government is Babylon, the leopard-like beast of Revelation 13.

The need for a crisis government will be compelling. Everyone will be afraid of God and no one will argue against appeasing God's anger. Almost everyone will assume that more destruction is forthcoming unless something is done quickly! The religious and political justification to form Babylon will be simple: "Mankind must immediately appease God through repentance and worship or all mankind will perish." This justification and the mayhem of the moment will require martial law. Constitutions will be set aside and religious freedom will become a faint memory.

Jesus will turn the world upside down with the first four trumpet judgments. He will put the religious leaders of the world in positions of power. God's greatest frustration is not with political leaders, but with religious leaders who claim to know Him. Religious leaders will be given positions of higher authority than political leaders because religious leaders will claim (and billions of people will believe) they know the will and ways of almighty God! (Of

course, their actions will prove otherwise, but their ignorance will take a few months to unfold.)

This “fruit-basket upset” will enable religious leaders to get what they want. They will insist on the creation of many “sin-less” laws and bewildered politicians will have no choice but to enact and enforce them. As political leaders survey the extent of death and global destruction caused by the first four trumpets, they too will realize God has targeted places that were well known for wickedness. This fact will motivate them to do whatever the religious leaders think best. Sinful behaviors of all kinds will be declared “illegal.” Morality will be legislated and offenders will be severely punished—all this to avert more of God’s wrath.

Babylon Gets Organized

In a vacuum of darkness, fear, foreboding, and global uncertainty, I anticipate religious and political leaders from all over the world will attend a worldwide summit. At a minimum, several amazing decisions will come from this summit that would otherwise be unthinkable. Here is a sample:

The council will agree that God is angry because the world’s behavior is degenerate and decadent, and all nations must unite as one family, improve their be-

havior, and appease almighty God. They will see the problem and agree on the solution. In concrete terms, the solution will consist of legislation producing repentance, reformation, and worship. Everyone at the council will realize that God's anger was directed at notably wicked places.

Therefore, the political leaders of the world will agree to submit to the directives of Babylon because God's wrath could break out against any nation or even the whole world again. The leaders of the world will create an executive committee of religious leaders from the seven religions of the world. This committee will be something like the Security Council in the United Nations, except it will be religious in nature and far more dictatorial.

The pope will be selected as the leader of this council because the Roman Catholic Church is uniquely prepared to lead Babylon. It is both a spiritual and political organization having diplomatic relations with more than 180 nations. Also, the pope's selection will be the moment the deadly wound is completely healed. Keep in mind the pope will not be elected for the purpose of promoting or imposing Catholic doctrine on the nations of Earth; the diversity of the world's religions will not permit this. Rather, the

mandate the pope and his council will have is to oversee and direct a global effort to appease God.

Actually, for all the good the leopard-like beast intends to do, it will quickly become the hand puppet of the devil. **“The dragon [the devil] gave the [leopard-like] beast his power and his throne and great authority.”**¹ Babylon will be a “human glove” which mankind will create to appease God, but the devil will use it to persecute the woman.² Consider this illustration: If you put your hand inside a glove and then hit someone, what is responsible for the pain you caused, the glove or your hand? When the world exalts the rule of religion over politics and creates Babylon, the devil will quickly enter through the back door to take control of the world.

The devil is waiting for Babylon to be formed because he has been preparing to make war on the saints for a long time.³ Soon, his chance to destroy them will come. Jesus closes this portion of the story by saying, **“Whoever has ears, let them hear [what the Spirit says]. ‘If anyone is to go into captivity [for his faith in me], into captivity they will go [don’t worry because I will give you strength to endure]. If anyone**

1 Revelation 13:2, insertions mine

2 Revelation 12:17

3 Revelation 12:17

is to be killed with the sword [because of his faith in me], **with the sword they will be killed** [but, don't worry because I will set you free from your fear].’ **This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.”**¹

The Dragon-like beast of Revelation 13 and the beast of Daniel 7 are *not* the same. The leopard-like beast did not exist prior to 1798. When the leopard-like beast arose from the sea, John saw **“One of the heads seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed.”**²

I understand this head represents the Roman Catholic Church. History records that the Catholic Church lost its authority over the kings of Europe during the French Revolution (1789-1799). The pope was exiled to France in 1798 and the authority of the church was badly wounded. Now, notice when the leopard-like beast rises from the sea, the deadly wound *is* healed. This *past perfect* specification forces the time frame when the leopard-like beast appears, to be after 1798 because the fatal wound cannot be healed before the deadly wound is inflicted!

Some people read Revelation 13:3 and conclude the leopard-like beast must have existed prior to 1798,

1 Revelation 13:9-10

2 Revelation 13:3

because one of the heads on the beast was wounded in 1798. This is not the case. Read the specifications again carefully! When the leopard-like beast rises from the sea, it comes up from the sea with a head that seems to have *had* a fatal wound, but the fatal wound *had* been healed. This past perfect tense means the action was completed in the past. The past perfect tense determines the timing.

For example, suppose I saw a new automobile roll off the assembly line and I said to you, “The car had a bad tire, but the tire had been repaired by the time it rolled off the assembly line.” Does my statement require the auto to be complete and functioning before the bad tire was discovered or does my statement mean the bad tire was discovered and repaired before the auto rolled off the assembly line? The latter meaning is the intent of my statement.

The papacy existed before 1798, but the leopard-like beast is not the papacy. The papacy is only one part of the leopard-like beast. The leopard-like beast has seven heads – seven religious systems – not one! One head is described with precise language which eliminates any wiggle room on its identity. Daniel 7 indicates that the little horn power was empowered for 1,260 years (A.D. 538-

1798). Daniel 7:11 states that the little horn power would recover from its wound and, again, speak boastfully after 1798.

History confirms this prediction and recent history affirms the papacy is recovering. Today, the Roman Catholic Church is again a respected world power. God used precise language in Revelation 13 because He wants everyone to know that the wounded/healed head represents the Roman Catholic Church. If we can identify that one head is a religious system, then the remaining six heads must be religious systems, as well. Additionally, God wants everyone to know that the rise of the leopard-like beast must occur after 1798, because the language specifically states that the wounded head is healed when the beast rises from the sea.

Notice that the leopard-like beast has body parts that belong to a lion, a bear, and a leopard, and it just so happens that the first three beasts in Daniel 7 are a lion, a bear, and a leopard. Furthermore, the fourth beast in Daniel 7 has ten horns when it rises from the sea, and so does the leopard-like beast! Many people have noticed these similarities and then make a big mistake. They leap to a conclusion that the fourth beast in Daniel 7 and the leopard-

like beast in Revelation 13 are the same beast even though the “head count” is different – one in Daniel and seven in Revelation. This leap in logic is not supported by the facts or the specifications. The fourth beast in Daniel 7 and the leopard-like beast in Revelation 13 are two very different beasts that live at two different times.

.....
 Question #3: The _____ will be selected as
 the leader of Babylon.

Babylon – The Hand Puppet of the Devil

The great red dragon (the devil) has an anatomy that is similar to the leopard-like beast (Babylon). A good reason for this similarity is when the time comes, the great red dragon will, like the human glove illustration presented earlier, enter the leopard-like beast. The Bible says “**The dragon gave the [leopard-like] beast his power and his throne and great authority.**”¹ Babylon will become the devil’s hand puppet. Remember, Babylon’s mandate will simply be to appease God so His judgments cease. People will think the solution will be to eliminate decadent and degenerate behavior. Therefore, Babylon will create many “sin-less” laws which civil authorities

¹ Revelation 13:2, insertion mine

will enforce. If a person obeys the laws of Babylon, he actually worships the leopard-like beast because the biblical meaning of the word “worship” is submission.

When Abel worshiped God, he killed the sacrificial lamb as God demanded. On the other hand, Cain did not worship God, but instead presumed to worship God by putting fruit on the altar. Obeying Babylon’s laws means worshipping the devil. The Bible cannot make it any clearer: **“People worshiped [obeyed] the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped [obeyed] the [leopard-like] beast and asked, ‘Who is like the [leopard-like] beast? Who can wage war [resist his authority and argue] against it [without being punished]?’”**¹

Babylon will be a “monster-sized” church-state empowered by the devil. Given the global diversity today, it seems foolish to predict a time is coming when the entire world will voluntarily submit to one religious authority. A global church-state is unthinkable and impossible right now, but the Bible predicts it will surely occur. The Bible says, **“The whole world was filled with wonder [by the first four trumpets and recognizing their need to appease the wrath of almighty God, the political leaders of the world laid**

¹ Revelation 13:4, insertions mine

aside their objections] **and followed the** [demands of the leopard-like] **beast.**”¹

The leopard-like beast will be man’s solution to God’s wrath. Babylon will use the simple logic of appeasing God by outlawing decadent behavior. Religious leaders will trample on the inalienable rights of human beings and political structures of all nations. If anyone speaks against Babylon, he will be accused of blasphemy and punished accordingly. This is why we need to spread the word now before freedom of speech is lost. To make matters worse the political leaders of the world will yield to Babylon’s authority, and what choice will they have? They believe if they refuse to comply with Babylon’s demands, more wrath from God will surely fall!

The nations of Earth will be caught in a no-win situation, and the political leaders of Earth will allow Babylon to rule over them. A horrible world order will be established without firing a single bullet. The devil will rejoice! Satan will energize false religion and paralyze politicians with fear so he can persecute the saints.

The first four trumpets will remove the political leaders of the world from their exalted posts of duty and

¹ Revelation 13:3, insertions mine

the religious leaders of the world will replace them for 890 days.¹ During this time frame, God intends to confront the seven false religions of Earth head on and expose them for what they are. You may recall that God did the same thing with the religious leaders in ancient Babylon.²

The Seven Heads of Revelation 13:1

“And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head [was written] a blasphemous name.”³

.....
Question #4: The dragon will enter the leopard-like beast like a _____.
.....

The seven heads are religious in nature, because each head has a “blasphemous” name written on it. The presence of a blasphemous name means that each head is defiantly opposed to God’s will, which is blasphemy. Of course, the seven heads are currently unaware of their blasphemy because each religious system believes it is in perfect conformity with God’s will and truth. During the Great Tribulation, the two witnesses will empower the 144,000

1 Reference timeline on web at wake-up.org/studies.

2 Daniel 2

3 Revelation 13:1, insertion mine

to speak for God. Once Jesus' gospel is presented, it will reveal man's ignorance, arrogance, and blasphemy. As we investigate the identity of the seven heads, it is important to keep in mind that whatever one head represents, the other six must also represent. To identify the seven heads, consider these specifications:

Specification 1: "Each head [has] a blasphemous name [written on it]."¹

Specification 2: "One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed."²

Specification 3: "The seven heads are seven hills [or mountains] on which the woman sits."³

The only religious system on Earth that can meet the wounded/healed head specification is the Roman Catholic Church. Daniel 7 indicates that the power of the little horn power (the papacy) would be terminated at the end of 1,260 years (1798). Daniel 7:11 reveals that the little horn would once again speak boastfully against the most high God after **"the court was seated, and the books were opened."**⁴

1 Revelation 13:1

2 Revelation 13:3

3 Revelation 17:9

4 Daniel 7:10

Following the logic of these three texts, we can understand that the wounded/healed head will speak boastfully against God during the Great Tribulation because the deadly wound will be healed early on in the Great Tribulation. Even though the papacy is only one of the seven heads on the leopard-like beast, it will prove to be the leader of the remaining six heads until the fifth trumpet occurs.

Specification 4: “There are also seven kings.”¹

A king has subjects and a religious system has subjects. Those who submit to the tenants of a particular religion become subjects to its teachings, laws, and regulations. This explains how seven mountains and seven heads on the beast can also be seven kings. The seven religious systems of the world have authority over their subjects.

If you do not believe this statement true, consider that no member can defy church doctrine without being punished for it. When a person is no longer willing to submit to the tenants of his religion, he will be eliminated from that religious body for heresy. In some countries, elimination means death. In other countries, it means excommunication or expulsion. All seven religious systems are kings. They condemn those who defy their authority and teachings.

¹ Revelation 17:10

Specification 5: “Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while.”¹

This specification is very important because the timing of this statement forces the identity of the seven heads to be seven religious systems. When Jesus came to Earth, five religious systems fell. In other words, Jesus declared five religious systems false. These five systems are: Atheism, Heathenism, Judaism, Eastern Mysticism, and Islam. Atheism says there is no God. Jesus demonstrates this is not true. Heathenism says there are many Gods, but Jesus declares this is not true. Judaism and Islam teach that salvation comes through obedience to specific rules, but Jesus proclaims that salvation comes through faith in Him. Eastern Mysticism teaches that the soul is immortal – it lives forever – and after enough generations, man can become a divine being; but Jesus insists none of this is true. Rather, a divine being became a man to save mankind from the penalty for sin.

The sixth head (Christianity) was just beginning in John’s day. Eventually, this head was called the Roman Catholic Church. The seventh head appeared on Earth around 1500 A.D. and it is called Protestantism. When we consider that six of the seven religious

¹ Revelation 17:10

systems have endured for 2,000 years or more, the life span of Protestantism is short.

Specification 6: “The beast who once was [in heaven], and now is not [in heaven], is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven [heads] and is going to his destruction.”¹

Notice the relationship between the great red dragon and the seven heads: Remember, Daniel 7 predicted a little horn power would uproot three of the original ten horns. Recorded history reveals that with the help of the Roman Catholic Church, the Ostrogoths, Heruli, and Vandals were uprooted and destroyed by A.D. 538. Just as the Bible predicted, after three of the ten horns were uprooted, the Catholic Church became an eighth horn that ruled over the remaining seven horns for 1,260 years.²

Revelation 17:11 uses parallel language to describe a similar situation. Lucifer, the great red dragon who was cast out of heaven, will come up from the Abyss at the fifth trumpet. He will masquerade as almighty God and reign as an eighth king over the seven heads for a short time. Then, during the sixth trumpet, the devil will suddenly abolish the seven religious systems of Earth because there is no

1 Revelation 17:11, insertions mine

2 Daniel 7:25

room for religious diversity when “god lives among men.” The devil will divide the people of Earth into groups of one thousand and put them to work, building up the “kingdom of God” for a thousand years of peace. Lucifer will appoint ten kings as task masters. **“They [the ten kings] have one purpose [loyalty] and will give their power and authority to the [lamb-like] beast.”**¹

Specification 7: “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the [leopard-like] beast.”²

There is one final specification that concerns the seven heads and the ten horns. When the leopard-like beast rises to power at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, the seven religious systems of the world (the seven heads) will become more powerful than the world’s political leadership. Because the reality of God will be overwhelming and the evidence of His wrath overpowering, the world’s political leaders will meekly defer to the direction of the world’s religious leaders. What else can they do?

These religious leaders will create laws as a result of the first four trumpets and world governments

¹ Revelation 17:13, insertions mine

² Revelation 17:12, insertion mine

will execute Babylon's demands. When the fifth trumpet occurs, Lucifer will physically appear, and over the course of 150 days, he will convince many of the wicked that he is "almighty God." At the sixth trumpet, Lucifer will suddenly modify Babylon by establishing a theocracy falsely identifying himself as Lord of lords and King of kings. To do this, he will claim that he must abolish the seven religious systems because there is no room for religious diversity when "God" lives and reigns among men. The devil will then appoint ten kings to oversee his newly created theocracy.

The seven heads and ten horns do not share power simultaneously. The (ten) toes of Daniel 2 symbolize Lucifer's ten kings. The Bible does not name or identify the ten kings. In fact, the Bible says very little about them, but we do know this much: **"In the time of those [ten] kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."** (Daniel 2:44, insertion mine) **"They [the ten kings] have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the [lamb-like] beast. They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them be-**

cause he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”¹

When all the specifications concerning the leopard-like beast are assembled, Babylon is not too hard to identify. Babylon will be a monster-sized church-state and will rule over the nations with deadly power. It will persecute and devour those who oppose it. At first, the seven heads (seven religious systems) will control the leopard-like beast. I understand the pope will be selected as the leader of Babylon and he will lead the world in appeasing God (actually blaspheming God) until the devil appears at the fifth trumpet. At the sixth trumpet, the devil will suddenly abolish the seven religions of the world and put ten kings in their place. Lucifer will assign these ten kings the task of rebuilding the infrastructures of Earth. The devil will demand the reconstruction of the world for the pseudo-purpose of establishing the kingdom of God and bringing in 1,000 years of peace. Of course, this demand is a big lie. The devil will establish ten kings because he wants these kings to try to destroy Jesus at the Second Coming (perhaps by nuclear arms). It is reasonable to assume that labor camps will be set up and everyone will be forced into hard labor. Slavery will be imposed as a

1 Revelation 17:13-14, insertions mine

form of punishment. Civil authorities will punish those who refuse to work and obey.

The devil will kill most of his opposition (one-third of mankind) and rule over the world as “almighty God” without significant opposition for almost a year. It is easy to see how the leopard-like beast mirrors its ancient namesake, the great city of Babylon, whose temporary splendor was created through years of forced labor which God destroyed in a single night.

.....
Question #5: The leopard-like beast rises to power at the beginning of the _____

.....

4. The Lamb-like Beast

Thus far, we have examined the identity of three beasts: The Lamb is Jesus, the great red dragon is Lucifer, and the leopard-like beast is Babylon. John does not give a physical description of the fourth beast in Revelation other than this: **“Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a [the] lamb, but it spoke like a [the] dragon.”**¹ A literal reading of the Greek text says: “It [the beast coming up out of the earth] had horns two like lamb and spoke as dragon.”

¹ Revelation 13:11, insertions mine

Sometimes, in the Greek language, when a noun does not have an article, the noun is said to be *anarthrous*. This grammatical technique is used to refer to a specific element or character that has been previously introduced. Since the Lamb and the Dragon were previously introduced in Revelation's story, and since they do not have articles in Revelation 13:11, their presence in Revelation 13 is emphasized through the use of anarthrous nouns. Well-meaning English translators supplied the *indefinite* article "a" in both cases to make the sentence read better, but they should have used the *definite* article "the" since both nouns were supplied. John does not describe the lamb-like beast in Revelation 13:11. The only thing we know about its appearance is that it has two horns and speaks like the dragon.

Two Horns on the Lamb-like Beast

The two horns on this beast indicate the devil will be two kings in one! He will rule over church and state. The seven heads represent the seven religious systems of the world; the ten horns represent the ten kings whom the devil appoints during the sixth trumpet. The devil will pretend to be King of kings and Lord of lords, but we have to remember that Jesus has seven horns!¹ Jesus is omnipotent. Even though Lucifer will seem to be invincible, the Bible assures

¹ Revelation 5:6

us Jesus will destroy Lucifer, his demonic angels, and his government at the proper time.¹

Lamb-likeness

I call the nondescript beast in Revelation 13:11 the “lamb-like beast” for two reasons: First, this beast speaks like the dragon. This is a strange specification because there is no record of the dragon speaking in the book of Revelation. However, we do know that the devil is deceitful. He is a liar and I think this was John’s reason for saying the lamb-like beast speaks like the dragon. Jesus said of Lucifer, **“When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”**²

The devil will masquerade as God, but his words and actions will be lies carefully calculated to deceive billions of people. Just as Michael/Jesus, the archangel, put aside his angelic body to become a man, so Lucifer will be permitted to put aside his angelic body to become a man. Michael/Jesus came to save the world.³ Lucifer will come to destroy the world.⁴

The second and most obvious reason for calling this beast the “lamb-like beast” is that he will be an imposter of the Lamb. A real wolf in sheep’s clothing.

1 Daniel 8:25, Revelation 19:19-21

2 John 8:44

3 John 3:16

4 Revelation 9:11

The lamb-like beast will deceive the whole world through his mighty miracles.¹ In other words, this beast will deceive people of all religions into thinking that he is “God.” He will declare himself to be “God” and he will prove his assumed deity by calling fire down out of heaven at will.² Since his success depends on clever deception, the title, “lamb-like” is a perfect fit.

The fifth trumpet only lasts five months (150 days). During this time, the devil has to quickly deceive the whole world into thinking that he is almighty God.³ To win the confidence of world leaders, the devil will support the laws of Babylon and the efforts of Babylon’s leaders to reduce immoral behavior. The devil will heal the sick, speak wonderful words of hope and comfort, and perform amazing signs and wonders. Working around the clock and constantly traveling around the world with his angels, Lucifer will conduct a glorious campaign that has no equal in Earth’s history. Billions of people who refused to accept the gospel of Christ will embrace the devil on the basis of his counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders. The old adage, “seeing is believing,” will work very well for the devil.⁴

1 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; Revelation 13:14

2 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Revelation 13:13

3 Revelation 9:5

4 Matthew 24:23

When the five months are completed, a large majority of the wicked will believe that Lucifer is “God.” At this point, Lucifer will suddenly change character. His charade as a benevolent and loving god will disappear overnight. He will turn into a stern-faced king much worse than Pharaoh, and the leaders of Babylon will be dethroned overnight. Lucifer will appoint ten kings to impose and enforce his harsh laws. Loving every minute of his despotic plot, the devil will torture the wicked with outrageous religious laws, and he will kill anyone who quibbles against his authority. In fact, four of his angels will kill one-third of mankind¹ and his ten puppet kings will use military force to ensure that rebellion is not tolerated.

.....
Question #6: The _____ will masquerade
as God.
.....

Lucifer Will Appear in Physical Form

Isaiah knew the devil would be permitted to physically appear before the human race.² Ezekiel knew God would permit the devil to physically appear before the human race.³ Paul knew the devil would

1 Revelation 9:15

2 Isaiah 14

3 Ezekiel 28

be permitted to physically appear before the human race. He also knew the devil would proclaim himself to be God. This is why Paul calls the devil “the man of lawlessness” (not subject to human laws).¹

The appearing of the devil will come as an overwhelming surprise to the wicked. Because the devil will be permitted to inhabit the form of a man (as Michael/Jesus assumed the form of a man); Isaiah, Ezekiel, Paul, and John each call Lucifer a man. The devil will come with an army of demons who will look like human beings as well: **“On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. . . The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.”**²

Thus, the devil and his demons will physically appear as a huge army of extraterrestrial beings, superior to mankind in every way. They will rise silently from the Abyss and descend to the earth, literally, out the air.³

Lucifer is the angel king from the Abyss. Lucifer is the lamb-like beast who will rise out of the earth. His title in Hebrew and Greek (for Jews and Gentiles

1 2 Thessalonians 2

2 Revelation 9:7, 16

3 Revelation 9:3

alike) means destroyer. God will release the devil on mankind to deceive and destroy the world. He will rise to a position of absolute power, but his power will not come from nations or people. The release of the devil on the wicked is consistent with the full cup principle. When a majority of people in a group reach a point where extended mercy has no redeeming effect, God always sends a destroyer. **“They [the wicked] perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”**¹

The King of Modern Babylon Appears

We have already seen that the enormous red dragon is Lucifer and the lamb-like beast is Lucifer in human form. Lucifer, the coming Antichrist, will not be a mere man. He is an extraterrestrial being who has been alive for thousands of years. Lucifer’s miracles will dwarf anything that human beings can do. We know from Revelation 9:16 that 200 million angels will accompany the devil – John heard the number! We know from Revelation 9:11, Daniel 8:19, 23, Revelation 17:11, and 2 Thessalonians 2:6, that the

¹ 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, insertion mine

devil is an evil king who will be released from the invisible realm at the appointed time.

We have learned from Revelation 13:2 that Lucifer will be the power within Babylon. We also know that Lucifer's main objective will be the destruction of the remnant of the woman.¹ Seven specifications are presented in Revelation 13:11-18 on the lamb-like beast.

1. He has two horns. (These horns represent his authority over church and state)
2. He will speak. (He will declare law.)
3. He will deceive the world with great miracles and signs, even causing fire to fall from heaven. (He will "prove" his assumed divinity.)
5. He will eventually demand that an image of Babylon be set up. The image will be a theocracy, a one-world church-state.
6. He will demand death for anyone refusing to worship the image.
7. He will impose his mark on the right hand or the forehead of all people so that no one can buy or sell unless they wear his tattoo. The only being who can rise from out of the

¹ Revelation 12:17; 13:7

Abyss (that is, having no political or military support) and meet all these conditions during the last 445 days of the Great Tribulation is Lucifer.¹

“Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people.”²

John’s use of language confuses a lot of people. Consider this sentence: **“It [Lucifer] exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf** [that is, Lucifer, masquerading as God, commends the leaders of Babylon for their efforts to appease God with “sin-less” laws. He will tell the world that the leaders of Babylon have acted appropriately], **and [Lucifer] made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast** [obey the “sin-less” laws of Babylon], **whose [sixth head had received a] fatal wound had been healed.”³**

1 Reference timeline on web.

2 Revelation 13:11-13

3 Revelation 13:12

When Lucifer first appears, he will flatter the leaders of Babylon with much praise. Masquerading as almighty God, he will want them to think that he is very pleased with their harsh laws and the persecution they have imposed on God’s saints – ostensibly to reduce immoral behavior. To further gain their confidence, the devil will demand that everyone obey the laws of Babylon. Religious leaders will be very pleased.

.....

Question # 7: Lucifer will be the power within _____.

.....

The Image of the Beast

“Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.”¹

Jesus will release Lucifer and his angels from the Abyss at the fifth trumpet and He will permit Lucifer to use miracle working powers so that people

¹ Revelation 13:14-15

will believe his lies. Jesus will send this powerful delusion because the world will have rejected truth. **“They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”**¹ Lucifer and his angels will descend from the sky in various places and he will speak favorably of Babylon’s leaders and of their efforts to reduce rebellious and sinful behavior. The devil will want the world to believe that Babylon’s leaders have been on the right track. The devil will use this tactic for two reasons. First, through flattery and miracles, he will want the leaders of Babylon to believe that he really is almighty God and in turn, their endorsement will convince their respective followers to believe the same. This age-old game is called “Follow the experts, believe your religious leaders.” Second, Lucifer will want the whole world to quickly conclude that he truly is almighty God. Once the devil has convinced a majority of the world that he really is God, the devil will suddenly betray Babylon’s leaders. He will change course by abolishing the religions of the world. This is the argument he will use: There is one God, one faith, and one baptism.

Here is a scenario to consider: Lucifer will announce to the world that Babylon needs restructuring be-

1 2 Thessalonians 2:10

cause there is no place for religious diversity when God lives among men. Therefore, Babylon has to be transformed so that Babylon's highest and purest purpose can be achieved, namely, the establishment of a global church-state. Lucifer will demand the formation of a theocracy – a government where he rules over church and state. John calls Lucifer's theocracy the “image of the first beast” in Revelation 13:15 and the “great prostitute” in Revelation 17:1-4.

Lucifer's theocracy is called the “image of the first beast” because it will be a replica, an updated and improved version of Babylon which was also a global church-state – albeit a conflicted one. Remember, the leopard-like beast is a composite beast that represents an amalgamation of seven opposing religions (the seven heads) under the leadership of the pope. In contrast, Lucifer's theocracy will not suffer from religious diversity. People will not be allowed to have diverse views about God because “God” reigns on Earth! Internal opposition and diverse views will not be tolerated because there will be one lord of lords and one king of kings. Do not forget, the devil will have miracle working powers to back up his blasphemous claims. This will be a very impressive delusion!

Lucifer's "image to the beast" is also called "the great prostitute" in Revelation 17 because the wicked who participate in his theocracy will have to abandon their religion – the very thing they refused to abandon in order to embrace the gospel of Christ, and violate their conscience in order to survive, that is, to buy and sell. Millions of people, including people who had once claimed to be Christian, will join a demonic organization to avoid obeying Jesus Christ. How ironic! Moreover, Lucifer will dissolve the imaginary boundaries that currently separate nations and cultures. He will divide Earth into ten geographical sectors and his ten kings will see that no rebellion exists throughout his great empire of Babylon. Everyone refusing to obey Lucifer's laws will be put to death.¹ Indeed, the Bible reveals that a third of mankind will die.²

Problems with Identifying the Dragon

Many prophetic expositors violate valid rules of interpretation³ in Revelation 12 because they want to make the enormous red dragon into something other than the devil. History does affirm that the devil worked through the little horn in Daniel 7 (the Roman Catholic Church) to persecute the saints for

1 Revelation 13:15

2 Revelation 9:15

3 For an explanation of the four rules of interpretation see wake-up.org/studies.

1,260 years, but the enormous red dragon in Revelation 12 is not the papacy. If, in our rush to understand apocalyptic prophecy, we ignore or manipulate the specifications which God has given, we will never be able to arrive at the intended meaning of prophecy.

The enormous red dragon tried to kill Jesus at birth through Herod.¹ Then, the great red dragon used the Roman Catholic Church to chase the woman into the wilderness for 1,260 years.² The devil is a determined demon. He is not Herod nor is he the Roman Catholic Church. This brings me to the second point, which is also very important.

The leopard-like beast is not the devil even though the devil will control the beast!³ When studying the behavior of people or organizations, it is sometimes difficult to determine the extent of control the devil has because, generally speaking, adults have the ability to exercise their power of choice. We know demon possession is possible because Jesus cast demons out of many people.⁴ The Bible indicates that the devil and his demons can and must be resisted or they may take control of us.

1 Revelation 12:13

2 Revelation 12:14

3 Revelation 13:2

4 Matthew 8:28-33

An Invitation to Join the Winning Team!

Anyone who reads this booklet can join the winning team right now, this very minute, by giving your life to Jesus Christ. Here is the process:

First, tell the Lord Jesus you realize that you are a sinner and that you cannot save yourself from the penalty of sin. Then, tell the Lord “thank you” for dying on the cross in your place. Tell Him that you accept His offer: A life for a life. You are giving Him your sinful life and you believe that He will give you His perfect life which brings the assurance of eternal life to you. Tell Him that you love Him for what He has done for you and that you are willing to do whatever He commands.

Tell Him you are willing to become all that He wants you to be. Ask Him to show you where He wants you to go so that you may best serve His interests today. Tell Him that you want to bring honor to His holy name through humble behavior, and Jesus will warmly embrace you through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It does not matter how messed up your present situation may be or how disgusting your past might have been. He will joyfully become your God and you will become His child.

Because we have the privilege of owning a Bible, we have the opportunity to see into the future. We know who the winners and the losers are going to be during the Great Tribulation. Many of the winners will be tortured and killed, but Jesus will not reward the winners until the dead in Christ are resurrected! Jesus does not see the first death as the end of life.

Jesus was willing to give up His eternal life in order to save us from eternal death. Surely we can give up our temporal lives (prompted by our love for Christ and the indwelling strength of the Holy Spirit) as a testimony of our love for Him.



Answers to Questions:

1. seven / ten
2. seven / ten
3. pope
4. glove
5. great tribulation
6. devil
7. babylon

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