

## Who Is The Beast Of Revelation? (#3)

Ezra 7:11-12

Revelation 19:19-20

Revelation 17:12-18

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That which seems perplexing and confusing becomes clear and unmistakable in the light of God's Holy Scripture and by the illumination of God's Holy Spirit. Case in point: The Beast of Revelation that has seven heads and ten horns may after a first read seem so mysterious and so unlike anything that we know from our own personal experience, that we may be tempted to discontinue reading the Book of Revelation (or to quickly pass over such symbols in the Book of Revelation) simply because it is like trying to read a foreign language that we have not studied or learned. However, my earnest prayer is that such a series of sermons might make clear the Scriptural interpretive keys to unlocking the identity of the Beast of Revelation, this great enemy of Christ. To that end, let me briefly summarize what we have learned from this series of sermons about this Beast of Revelation (whom Christ, as King of kings, will destroy in Revelation 19:19-20 before the initiation of the millennium in Revelation 20). In the brief summary that follows, I am only giving the conclusions that have been so far formed about the Beast of Revelation without the Biblical references (you will need to go back to the previous sermons to find more detailed explanations for these conclusions).

1. The Beast of Revelation is not a single individual, but is rather a wicked civil/political institution (or government) that wars against Christ and His faithful witnesses for 1,260 years.
2. The Beast of Revelation is identified with the fourth beastly empire/kingdom revealed in Daniel's prophecy: namely, the Roman Empire.

3. The Beast of Revelation has seven heads which are seven successive forms of government that ruled over the kingdom of Rome from its beginning: The first head of the Beast—the Kings of Rome; The second head of the Beast—the Consuls of Rome; The third head of the Beast—the Council of Ten of Rome; The fourth head of the Beast—the Military Tribunes of Rome; The fifth head of the Beast—the Dictators of Rome; The sixth head of the Beast—the Emperors of Rome; And the seventh head of the Beast—the Patricians of Rome.

4. The Beast of Revelation (at the time of John’s penning the Book of Revelation) was manifested in the sixth head, i.e. the Emperors of Rome. This sixth head (i.e. the Emperors of Rome) continued until 476 a.d., when at that time the sixth head (i.e. the Emperors of Rome) received a mortal wound as Romulus Augustus was forced to abdicate the throne of the Western Roman Empire, leaving no Roman Emperor in the Western Roman Empire.

5. The Beast of Revelation then was manifested in its seventh head (or form of government) in 753 a.d., when Pope Stephen II conferred upon Pepin (and then his son, Charlemagne) the title of “Patrician of the Romans” (i.e. Father or Defender of the Romans). This seventh head of Rome continued for “a short space”, about 47 years (from 753-800).

6. Then the Beast of Revelation was manifested in a revived or healed eighth head (namely, the Emperors of Rome), which eighth head was one of the seven heads (namely, the sixth head), when in 800 a.d. Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne Emperor of the Roman Empire (December 25, 800) in St. Peters at Rome. Charlemagne’s official title was “most serene Augustus, crowned by God, great and pacific [peaceful—GLP] emperor, governing the Roman Empire.” There began the list of emperors of the revived Roman Empire, Charlemagne being the first emperor. At that time the sixth head was healed and revived in the eighth head. Thus, according to Revelation 17:11, this mysterious eighth head (or form of civil government over Rome) “**was**”, in that it was one of the previous

seven (namely, the sixth head of rule by Emperors); **“is not”**, in that the sixth head ceased with Augustus Romulus abdicating the throne in 476 over the Western Roman Empire; but that sixth head (Emperors) is the healed and revived eighth head when Charlemagne becomes emperor of the revived Roman Empire in 800.

7. I also submit that this reviving of the Roman Empire under Emperors is most likely the date from which we should begin the 1,260 year period, in which the civil Beast of Revelation is united with the Whore of Babylon in warring against Christ and the faithful witnesses of Christ. If this date is accurate at which to begin the 1,260 years, that would mean that the date in which the Beast of Revelation would be destroyed by Christ (per Revelation 19:19-20) is in 2060, with the millennium to follow. For as indicated in the previous sermon, it is the revived eighth head of the Beast that is the Beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit to make war against the faithful Church of Christ (Revelation 11:7) for 42 months or 1,260 years (Revelation 13:5).

8. Just as the faithful Church of Christ has not always been as visible at certain times as at other times (and yet it has continued), so likewise this Beast of Revelation (that was revived in the Western Roman Empire under Charlemagne) has not in more recent history always been as visible as in times past; nevertheless, it has manifested itself more visibly in the empires under Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, and Adolph Hitler, and will yet manifest itself in a powerful European civil/political entity.

This brings us to one more identifying characteristic of this Beast of Revelation that we now consider this Lord's Day: The ten horns of the Beast. What are these ten horns of the Beast of Revelation? The main points of the sermon this Lord's Day are the following: (1) The Identification of the Ten Horns (Revelation 17:12-14); (2) The Salvation of the Ten Horns (Revelation 17:15-18).

## I. The Identification of the Ten Horns (Revelation 17:12-14).

A. Just as the seven heads (and particularly the revived eighth head) of the Beast give us further clarification about the identity of the Beast of Revelation; so likewise as we proceed to interpret the ten horns, we arrive at the final piece of information which fills out our description of the identity of the Beast of Revelation. Not only is the Beast of Revelation a continuation of the Roman Empire that has been revived since the time of Charlemagne (in 800 a.d.), but now we will see the location of this Beast of Revelation (in the form of a revived Roman Empire) that wars against Christ and against His faithful witnesses. For the ten horns give us that location, as we shall see.

B. The ten horns are interpreted for us in Revelation 17:12 as being “ten kings”, or ten kingdoms (as we have noted in past sermons “kings” do in fact stand for “kingdoms” or “governments” by comparing Daniel 7:17 with Daniel 7:23).

1. But carefully note that these kings or kingdoms have not yet received a dominion or sovereignty to rule in the first century at the time that John pens the Book of Revelation (“which have received no kingdom as yet”). Thus, at the time that John receives these visions, the ten horns (or ten kingdoms) have not yet come to power; they are yet to receive dominion to rule in the future (from John’s perspective).

2. And when these ten horns or ten kingdoms do receive power and sovereignty to rule, they will rule “one hour” or at one period of time together with the Beast of Revelation (in the revived eighth head of the Roman Empire that began in 800 a.d.). For contextually, the description and interpretation of the ten horns (in Revelation 17:12) immediately follows the revived eighth head (in Revelation 17:11). Note that when the Beast of Revelation is warring against the faithful witnesses of Christ (in Revelation 13), there are ten crowns upon the ten

horns of the Beast (Revelation 13:1), thus indicating that the Beast and the ten kingdoms are joined together in their war against Christ and His faithful witnesses.

3. This means that the Beast of Revelation cannot be Nero (as alleged by Preterists), because the ten kingdoms had not yet received power to rule at the time John penned the Revelation (which Preterists claim was at the time of Nero, not long before Nero's death in 68 a.d). If the Beast is Nero, and if the ten kingdoms do not yet exist as dominions within the Roman Empire (as John says in Revelation 17:12), how is it that ten nonexistent kingdoms can form an alliance with Nero? Thus, I submit that both the Beast (in its eighth head, the revived Roman Empire under Emperors) and the ten kingdoms must come into existence after the first century (long after Nero's death), which was precisely the case.

4. Thus, according to Revelation 17:12, we are looking for ten kingdoms in history after the first century that are associated with the Roman Empire (particularly associated with its revived eighth head of Emperors).

C. Before proceeding to identify these ten kingdoms, let us also turn to Daniel, where we find additional information about these ten kingdoms.

1. Daniel 2:40-43. The toes (of which there are ten) are associated with the Roman Empire (iron), and yet they divide the Roman Empire and are diverse from one another (as iron mixed with clay).

2. Daniel 7:23-24. Three of the ten kingdoms are subdued before the presence of this "little horn".

D. Now having considered various aspects of the ten horns or ten kingdoms, I ask the following questions: (1) Where in history (after the first century) do we find ten such kingdoms that conquered and divided the Roman Empire? (2) Where in history do we find three of these ten

kingdoms being subdued before a “little horn”? And (3) Where in history do we find an alliance between these ten divided kingdoms that united to form the revived Roman Empire and the “little horn” in persecuting the faithful witnesses of Christ?

1. Where in history (after the first century) do we find ten such kingdoms that conquered and divided the Roman Empire?

a. I submit that we find ten kingdoms that conquered and divided the Roman Empire (after the first century) in the ten barbarian kingdoms that conquered and divided the Western Roman Empire. These ten barbarian kingdoms spread throughout and encompassed what we now know as the greater part of Europe.

b. This division within the Roman Empire included the following ten kingdoms: the **Heruli**, **Ostrogoths**, and **Lombards** occupied various parts of present Italy; the **Visigoths** occupied what is presently parts of Hungary, Austria, Croatia, and Serbia; the **Sueves** occupied what is presently Spain and Portugal; the **Franks** occupied what is presently France, the **Burgundians** occupied various parts of Europe at different times, including Scandinavia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and northern France; the **Anglo-Saxons** occupied what is presently Britain; the **Vandals** occupied what is presently part of Italy, and the **Alemanni** occupied what is presently Germany.

c. When we read concerning the same ten kingdoms in Daniel 2:41 that there shall be a division within the fourth kingdom (namely Rome) into ten toes and a mixture of iron and clay in the feet and ten toes of the image in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, I submit that we find such a division within the Roman Empire as fulfilled by these ten barbarian kingdoms.

2. Where in history do we find three of these ten kingdoms being subdued before a “little horn” (per Daniel 7:24)?

a. I submit that we find the fulfillment of this prophecy realized by the papal kingdom of the Roman Catholic Church (which is the

“little horn” that is diverse from the ten kingdoms in as much as the ten horns are civil/political kingdoms and the “little horn” is an ecclesiastical/political kingdom).

(1) Note that this “little horn” arises out of the Roman Empire (for it is a “little horn” on Daniel’s fourth Beast, which is Rome—The **Roman** Catholic Church).

(2) This “little horn” grows in power and authority to such an extent that it is prophesied to make “war with the saints” and to “prevail against them” (Daniel 7:21) and to “wear out the saints” (Daniel 7:25). Just as the Jews conspired with the Romans to crucify the Lord Jesus (and therefore were responsible for the blood of Christ, according to Matthew 27:25; Acts 3:15), so likewise the Papal Church of Rome has conspired with the Roman Beast (especially since the time of Charlemagne) to destroy millions of faithful witnesses of Christ.

(3) Furthermore, this little horn is prophesied to blaspheme the Lord God by speaking “great words against the most High” (Daniel 7:25). The Papacy and his Harlot Church have taken the titles and attributes of God, have usurped the headship of Jesus Christ over the Church, have introduced idolatry, heresies, and abominations of the most heinous kind, and have trampled upon the consciences of people with new laws that only God as Lord has the prerogative to do, forbidding marriage and certain foods and enacting special holy days (like Christmas and a host of others as well). We’ll go into greater detail in regard to these abominations in a subsequent sermon when we identify the False Prophet of Revelation and the Image of the Beast of Revelation.

(4) Finally, note that the period of time in which the saints are to “be given into his hand” is (according to Daniel 7:25) for “a time, and times, and the dividing of time” (i.e. for 3 ½ prophetic years which equals 42 prophetic months or 1,260 prophetic days, and using the Scriptural Day-Year Principle is 1,260 years, which is the same period of time that the civil Beast of Revelation wars against the saints, Revelation

13:5). I submit that the “little horn” before whom the three kingdoms are subdued is unmistakably the papal kingdom of the Roman Catholic Church.

b. In fact, three of the ten kingdoms were humbled and subdued before the papal “little horn” in history. For indeed by 538 a.d. three of the ten barbarian kingdoms had been subdued as political kingdoms before the throne of the Roman papacy. These three barbarian kingdoms had at different times conquered and sacked Rome, but were each defeated within a few short years of one another while the papal kingdom of Rome withstood all of these attacks, grew in power despite these attacks, and witnessed the subduing of the following three kingdoms (by either fellow barbarian kingdoms or by the Emperor of Constantinople): namely, the Heruli in 533 a.d., the Vandals in 536 a.d., and the Ostrogoths in 538 a.d. As these three kingdoms were subdued before the papal kingdom of Rome, the papacy only increased in power and prestige as the Eastern Emperor Justinian (in 538 a.d.) decreed that the Pope of Rome should thenceforth be given the title of Universal Bishop.

3. Where in history do we find an alliance between these ten divided kingdoms of Europe that united to form the revived Roman Empire and between the “little horn” in persecuting the faithful witnesses of Christ?

a. I submit that we see such an alliance formed when Pope Leo III joined in alliance with Charlemagne and crowned Charlemagne Augustus Emperor of the Roman Empire in 800 a.d. For Charlemagne’s revived Roman Empire included the territory of the ten barbarian kingdoms and that alliance with papal kingdom of Rome (over the next several centuries) became the greatest persecuting machine against the faithful witnesses of Christ in all of history.

b. It was clearly after the alliance formed between the papal kingdom of Rome and the revived Roman Empire (in the Europe of



the ten barbarian kingdoms) that the persecution of Christ's faithful witnesses was accelerated to the extent of millions of Christians being slain, tortured, imprisoned, and chased from one nation to another by this confederacy between the Harlot Church of Rome and the revived Roman Empire (located in the Europe of the ten kingdoms).

E. Dear ones, here we see the description of the Beast of Revelation, completed and filled out for all who have eyes to see. Christ (as King of kings and Lord of lords) has wondrously confirmed the accuracy of this description of the Beast of Revelation by the fulfillment He has brought to pass in the course of history for all to behold. This Beast of Revelation proceeds from the Roman Empire, is revived under the Emperor Charlemagne (in 800), rules in Europe (where the ten horns or kingdoms settled), and joins hands with the papal Church of Rome in warring against Christ and His faithful witnesses for 1,260 years, at the end of which time Jesus Christ (as King of kings and Lord of lords) rides forth in battle against the Beast and the Papal False Prophet to finally destroy them and cast them into perdition (Revelation 19:19-20).

## **II. The Salvation of the Ten Horns (Revelation 17:15-18).**

A. What I want you to observe very briefly is the amazing transition that occurs between Revelation 17:15 and Revelation 17:16. In Revelation 17:15, the Harlot Church of Rome sits and is enthroned upon "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" (which is or at least includes the ten kingdoms comprising Europe), but in Revelation 17:16, the ten kingdoms will no longer submit to the heresies and the authority of the Harlot Church of Rome, but will turn to hating the Harlot Church of Rome, and "shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire." Whereas the ten kingdoms (which comprise Europe) had previously submitted to the papal kingdom of Rome, we see

there is coming a time when these ten kingdoms that settled in Europe will break away from their confederacy with the Beast and from the Harlot Church of Rome, and will reject, abominate, suppress, and destroy this Harlot Church that has corrupted and perverted the doctrine, worship, and government of Christ and that has persecuted Christ's faithful witnesses. Whereas the ten kingdoms (comprising Europe) had previously warred against the Lamb, they will then turn in faith to Jesus Christ and will submit (by covenant and constitution) to Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

B. When will this occur?

1. I submit the conversion of these ten kingdoms (and of all the kingdoms of the world) will begin when the Lord brings His ancient people Israel to Christ through the gospel and power of the Holy Spirit in Zechariah 12-14 (which we have considered in an earlier sermon).

2. As a result of Israel's conversion to Christ and miraculous deliverance from the nations that have invaded and overcome Jerusalem, the gospel and mighty acts of Christ will be used to draw the nations to Christ, so that the European nations (and all of the nations of the world) will suppress, eradicate, and destroy the Harlot Church of Rome from their nations. For their eyes will be opened by the true gospel and by the illumination of the Holy Spirit to see and hate the abominations of the Harlot that had seduced the nations for so long.

C. This conversion of the European nations (and all the nations of the world) to Christ will not be due to their natural power in changing their own hearts and turning to Christ by some inherent goodness in them, but will be due to the power of God in turning their hearts to freely receive the gospel of salvation. For that is the only possible explanation for entire kingdoms turning from a love of the Harlot Church to a hatred of the Harlot Church and to a love of Jesus Christ. This, dear ones, is what

we anticipate Christ will accomplish at the end of the 1,260 year period and before the millennium begins.

D. Dear ones, is there anything too hard for the Lord? If Christ will turn the nations from loving the Harlot Church of Rome to hating her, and if Christ will turn the nations from hating the pure gospel of justification by faith alone, to embracing by faith alone that pure gospel of Christ's righteousness as our only ground for justification, then is there any lack of power on the part of Christ to save you, your loved ones, children who have fallen away, or even your enemies? Our salvation is not in what we can do or even in the graces God has given to us, our salvation (now and for all eternity) is in Jesus Christ and His glorious righteousness which is freely offered to us in the gospel. All of the kingdoms of this world, all of the false religions of this world, the Beast and the False Prophet of Revelation, all will fall before the power of Christ (as King of kings and Lord of lords) and before His glorious gospel of salvation.

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