



There is only one "religio-political power" that can fit the Biblical description, and that is Papal Rome, otherwise known as the Papacy.



Is the Papacy a religious & political power? Yes! *"The Protestant denominations, moreover, never achieved the sweeping breadth of unified religio-political power that the Roman Church had at its apex."* --The Theology of Suffering and Death: An Introduction for Caregivers p.61



Did the Papal Church arise in the populated countries of Europe? Yes!



Did the Papal Church receive a deadly wound that was later healed? Yes!
"The signing of the [Lateran] treaty restored to the pope the temporal sovereignty which had been taken away by Napoleon in 1798, and again by Italy in 1870. Once more he became king of a state as well as supreme pontiff of the church."
 The Revelation p.173 *"In affixing their autographs to the memorable document, healing the wound that festered since the 1700's..."* The San Francisco Chronicle Feb.12, 1929

Is the whole world "wondering" after the Papal Church? Check the headlines!



Does the Papacy claim infallibility (that it doesn't change)? Yes!

"We teach and define that ... the Roman pontiff when he speaks ex cathedra... is possessed of that infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer willed that his Church should be endowed in defining doctrine regarding faith or morals..." Vatican Council, Sess. IV, Const. de Ecclesiâ Christi, Chapter iv



Does the Papal system speak pride & blasphemy? Yes! *"The Pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God."* "Pope," Ferraris' Ecclesiastic Dictionary *"The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ, hidden under a veil of flesh."* -- The Catholic National, July 1895



Does the Papal Church promote Greek philosophy & higher criticism?

Yes! *"Pope Pius XII gave license to the new scholarship [higher criticism] in his encyclical Divino afflante Spiritu: "[T]extual criticism ... [is] quite rightly employed in the case of the Sacred Books..."* -- Encyclical Divino afflante Spiritu, 1943. Wikipedia



Does the Roman Church display intolerance for those who obey God?

Yes! *"It is only to show to the world that the Church of Rome of to-day is absolutely the same as when she reddened Europe with the blood of millions of martyrs."* --50 Years in the Church of Rome by Charles Chiniquy pp. 594



Did the Papacy receive its power, seat, and authority from Pagan Rome?

Yes! *"If any man will consider... he will easily perceive that the Papacy is none other than the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof."* —Thomas Hobbes, of Malmesbury. {1919, Source Book for Bible Students, pg. 334}

CONCLUSION

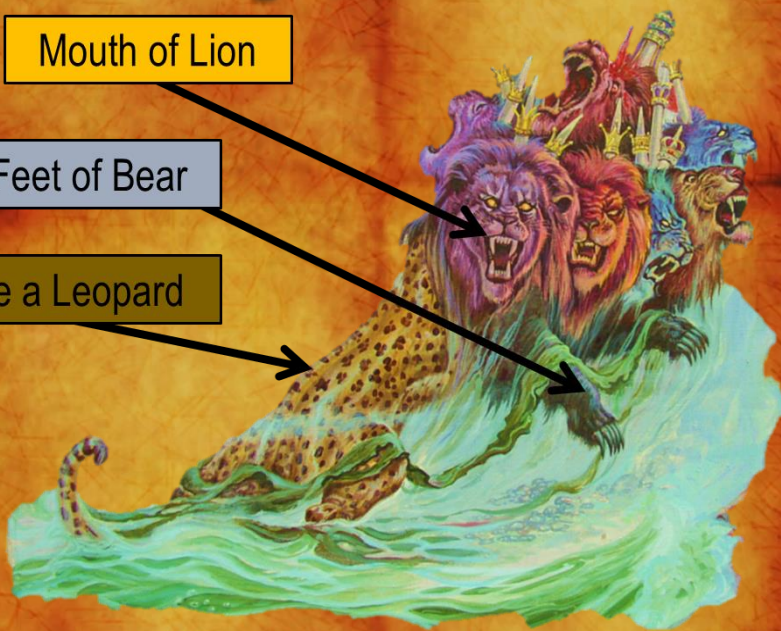
It sounds like high time to evacuate the danger zone of the multi-headed beast. Jesus is the way. (John 14:6) "Come out of her, my people." (Rev. 18:4)

John's Vision of the Amalgamated Beast

Mouth of Lion

Feet of Bear

Like a Leopard



Bible Study Pathways

Lesson 22

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A Story to Ponder...

Wildfires in California are sweeping through neighborhoods as “a multi-headed beast” (as one news reporter put it) destroying whatever is in their pathway. At the same time, first responders are ordered to go knock on doors and warn the people to evacuate to safety. In like manner, today, through prophecy, God is knocking on hearts warning of a multi-headed beast. Wouldn't it be well to heed the warning?



Rev. 13:1-2 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. (Is. 17:13, Rev. 17:15)



Like the 4 beasts in Daniel 7, this beast rises out of the sea, signifying a populated area. What other characteristics are similar to those in Daniel 7? Feet like a _____, mouth like a _____, body like a _____.



Who gives this beast his power, seat, and great authority? _____

The ultimate “dragon” is Satan.



Rev. 12:9 “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”



The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found, begins with Revelation 12, ... The dragon is said to be Satan... he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death (Rev. 12:4,5). But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and his people during the first centuries of the Christian era, was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.



This Rev. 13 “beast” (kingdom/political power) is a composite (amalgamated) beast – it is incorporating the different characteristics of the kingdoms before it – it is blending them together into one power. Feet in the Bible represent actions. (Psalm 119:101,105) They would also be the foundational “footprint”. What would feet like a bear (Medo-Persia) signify? _____



(Daniel 6:8,12,15, Esther 8:8) Daniel 6:15 “... the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.”



A mouth is connected to speech. (Ex. 4:12,15,16) What would a mouth like a lion (Babylon) signify? _____



(Dan. 4:30) Daniel 3:15 “...who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?”



Like Babylon and the "little horn" in the last lesson, this beast is also known for speaking prideful and blasphemous words. It also has horns and is connected with a 1260 time period. (42 months x 30 days in a month = 1260 day/years) The 1260 is mentioned in Rev. 11:2; 12:6; 12:14; 11:3; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 12:7.



Rev 13:5,6 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.



What does the Bible say constitutes blasphemy? (John 10:33, Rev. 2:9, Matt. 9:2,3; Mark 2:5-7) _____



The Bible says the beast was "like unto a leopard" which suggests that the main portion of the beast was similar to a leopard. What would the body of a leopard (Grecia) signify? _____



1 Cor. 1:22,23 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; (1 Tim. 6:3-5, 20)



"The Greeks ...regarded the study of philosophy and science as the only means of attaining to true elevation and honor... The Greeks ... were keen traders... they had come to believe that gain was godliness, and that to make money, whether by fair means or foul, was commendable." AA 244,349
"Higher criticism had its birth in Alexandria. It was the result of a mingling of the truths taught by Christ and the false philosophy of the Greeks."--

The Story of Daniel the Prophet, p.229



Rev. 13:4 "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"



Notice that this beast (political power) is also a religious power that claims w _____ - in other words, it mixes religion with politics - it is a combination of Church & State.



The beast/kingdom/political power of Rev. 13 has these characteristics:
It is a religious-political power. (13:4) It arises from a populated area. (13:1)
It receives a deadly wound, is healed, and the whole world wonders after it. (13:3)
It claims that it doesn't change. (feet--Rev. 13:2)
It speaks pride and blasphemy. (mouth--Rev. 13:2,5,6)
It teaches Christ-less false wisdom--higher criticism & Greek philosophy.
(leopard--Rev. 13:2)
It displays intolerance for those who follow and obey the true God (Rev. 13:7).
And it received its power and authority and its seat (headquarters/capital) from Pagan Rome. (Rev. 13:2)