



Rev. 13:13,14 “And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 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.”



How does the beast with lamb-like horns deceive the people into forming an image to the beast? _____ or miracles AND _____ from heaven



Upon what instances in the Bible do we see fire coming down from heaven? Consider how “the false prophet” might counterfeit some of them in order to deceive. (Gen. 19:24/ Luke 17:29; Ex. 9:23; /Job 1:16; 2 Kings 1:10/ Luke 9:54; 1 Chr. 21:26/2 Chr. 7:1; 1 King 18:36-39) _____



Rev. 13:15 “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.”



The “image to the beast” represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.



What does the beast with lamb-like horns have power to give to the image of the beast? _____



2Thess. 2:8-12 “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

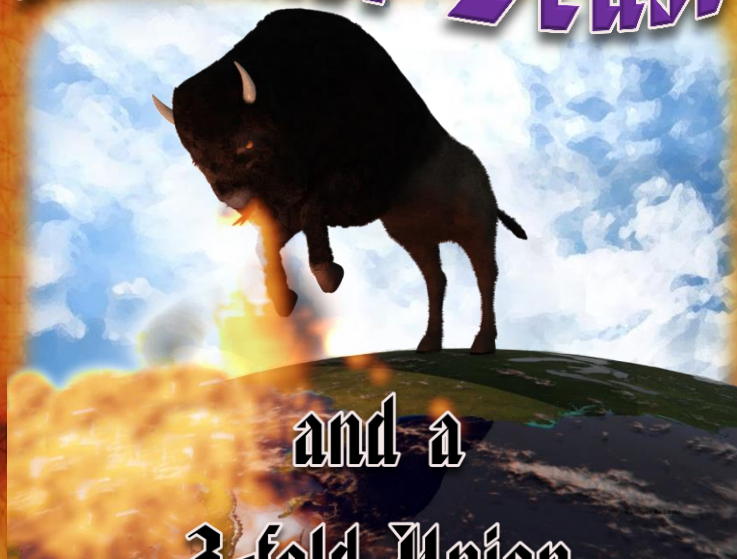


What causes people to be fooled by counterfeit miracles? _____

CONCLUSION

The Bible predicts a union between the dragon (spiritualism), the beast (the papacy), and the false prophet (apostate Protestantism of the USA). Our only protection against this delusion is to accept the truth as it is in Jesus. (Eph. 4:21)

Another Beast



and a
3-fold Union



Bible Study Pathways

Lesson 23

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A Story to Ponder...

While on a trip to Yellowstone National Park, we got a close up view of an apparently gentle beast, with horns like a lamb, which spoke "as a dragon". Two American bison chose to fight directly across our path while we were touring an area of hot springs. They pawed the ground, stirring up the dust, and as they snorted at each other they did indeed bellow "like a dragon". This created fear and panic among the bystanders, especially after one bison crossed the path within a few feet of an unsuspecting female tourist. Bible prophecy warns us of a similar beast that also will endanger those not heeding its demands.



Notice that as Papal Rome is being "taken into captivity" (Rev. 13:10) -- which took place in 1798 when the French general Berthier captured the pope and put him into exile -- another beast/political power was rising into power.



Rev. 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.



What is different about this beast than all the other beasts (kingdoms -- Dan. 7:17a) that we have studied? He is coming up out of the _____ instead of the sea.

This power instead of coming from a populated place, arises from the earth (which would be opposite of the sea).



Gen. 1:10 "And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good."



What world power does history tell us was rising into power sometime around the later 1700's in an "unpopulated" place? _____



"Until about 300 years ago, what is now the United States was largely a wilderness...The colonies became states after the Declaration of Independence in 1776...The document [the U.S. Constitution] was ratified by the first nine states by June, 1788, and went into effect in 1789." Source: World

Book Encyclopedia, Volume 19 "U-V", 1966, United States entry, pg. 42, 83



What 2 contrasting characteristics does the Bible (Rev. 13:11) use to describe this power? _____



1Samuel 2:10 "The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; ... and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed." Psalm 18:2 "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." (John 1:29; Rev. 5:6,12; 13:8; Isaiah 53:7; Acts 8:32)



What do horns represent? And what characteristics might cause them to be considered to be "like a lamb"?



Lamb-like horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness... So this country, the United States of America grew having 2 horns, 2 things that are its power and strength, and these 2 things are characteristics of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. *"The two horns mentioned in this symbol represent the two great characteristic features of the nation; Protestantism, and Republicanism... Yet, .. the words are immediately added that "he spake as a dragon." This shows a complete change in character,—an entire apostasy from right principle. {July 4, 1899 The Signs of the Times, pg. 436.8}* So this nation, the U.S.A., which was founded on Christ-like principles of Civil and Religious liberty, is going to "speak" like a dragon, or- display characteristics of the devil. (Rev. 12:9;20:2)



Rev. 13:12-15 "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 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. 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."



How much power does the beast with lamb-like horns exercise?
_____ (Rev. 13:7)



What 2 things does the beast with lamb-like horns cause and tell the people to do? _____, _____



The "speaking" of a nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action the beast with lamb-like horns will forsake those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak "as a dragon," and exercise "all the power of the first beast," plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopard-like beast.



Rev. 16:13 "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet."



What other term does the Bible use to describe this apostate Protestant nation? _____ What comes out of its mouth? _____