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Query #79 August 2021
Reading Revelation 13

Query:

When I read Revelation chapter thirteen I get very confused between the SDA stand on the Papacy being the first beast and the United States being the second when the words seem to indicate a future application. Can you help me?

Response:

One of the cardinal points of reading the book of Revelation is that its prophecies can be understood in three ways. The past, the present and the future. Written about 90AD it was designed to help God's people from the beginning to the end of the Christian era to establish their place in the great scheme of things. And the usual mistake is to mix the views as you read. These are *not* three conflicting interpretations – all three are right – in their place.

My solution is that you settle in your mind into WHICH view you want to investigate BEFORE you begin to read the chapter. Then you will find it much easier to follow the Spirit's leading as He guides you.

This vision starts in chapter 12 with the birth of Christ and continues into the time of the new world in chapters 21 AND 22, SO CHAPTER 13 is explaining events near the end of time. We need to keep in mind that time references change as we near the end. (See note 1.)

Let's look at the portion in question:

***** (Begin Quote)

Revelation 13:

¹ And I [John] stood upon *the sand* of the sea [just beside many people in his vision – it was neither soil nor water where he stood], and saw *a beast* rise up out of the sea [from prophetic mankind, Revelation 17:15], having *seven* heads and *ten* horns, and *upon his horns ten crowns*, and upon his heads the name [character] of blasphemy.

² And the beast which I saw was [in his body] like to *a leopard*, and his feet were as *the feet of a bear*, and his *mouth as the mouth of a lion* [a composite animal]:

and *the dragon* gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

The standard explanation in the church is that this is describing Satan's political kingdoms leading from Babylon up to the Papacy of 1517AD and this is based on the description of its features which are so like those of Daniel chapter seven. The problem with that is that the order of the characteristics here is different to that chapter. There the first animal comprising the beast is a lion, then a bear takes over, and then a leopard before changing to the tremendous beast. Strength is followed by wisdom, and then by speed to produce the indescribable, Pagan and Papal Rome. It originally had ten horns on its head, but an eleventh came along and disposed of three of them, leaving only 7 + 1. Daniel 7:7-8; 20.

On the other hand, THIS 13th CHAPTER IS DESCRIBING SPEED, followed by BRUTALITY in place of wisdom, PERSUASIVE SPEECHES, and then EXTRA POWER to produce the extreme beast.¹ It is true that the whole animal is showing Satan's *political* kingdom under its various "heads" but the tendency to make ONLY ONE of them into the whole beast is strong (and delusional). Which is why as we read on that it becomes confusing unless we change view. The horns have moved and so should we.

³ And I saw one of his [seven] heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

The church correctly attributes this to the 5th head (the second leg of Daniel 2), the Papacy, which received a massive blow when the reformation began, IF WE ARE LOOKING AT THE PAST INTERPRETATION! But the prophecy continues into the present tense with beast recovering by the power of the dragon which is still being worshipped by all the world.

⁴ And they [all the world] worshipped *the dragon* which gave power to the beast [the power behind the whole beast, heads and horns – the devil himself]: and they [still] worshipped the [latest manifestation of the] beast, saying, *Who is like to the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

The problem with that is although the Papacy has continued since 1517 without many problems it no longer rules the world in religion although it is greatly admired among religionists with their twisted understanding! It is generally accepted amongst Christians today as just a fellow-religion!! But today we are governed by the 6th head of materialism, soon to change into the 7th for a short time. (See note 2.) To appreciate what we are reading now we need to be in either the present mode, or the future one. If we shift to those (where we could have been since the first verse), we can see that its position is improving daily.

So let's do that.

⁵ And [in the future] there was given to him [by whom?]² a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given to him to continue forty-two

¹ The position of the crowns explains that in this scene the horns (normally minor powers) are now in charge – not the heads – so it is NOT describing the Middle Ages Papacy.

² Power in leaders ultimately comes from the people under the influence of Satan.

months [which is 3 ½ years in literal time].³ ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven [while professing to be Christian.]

⁷ And it was given to him to make war with the saints, and ***to overcome them***: and power was given him over ***all kindreds, and tongues, and nations***.

Under the 6th head there have not been the great persecutions that characterised the beast in the past, but in an entirely new way, it (Satan's state/religion combination) has certainly been and is continually, overcoming the people of God! It is in THIS way that the blasphemy proceeds! So much so that the majority will eventually want that KIND OF RELIGION as their own. That religion which rides on the back of the beast, or the *ten* crowns on the ten horns, are a picture of the religions of the world controlling their states. Revelation 17:3. It will seem like a good idea to the general population at that time.

⁸ And ***all that dwell upon the earth*** shall worship him [Satan, by wanting to use force in religion], whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

⁹ If any man [or woman] have an [a spiritual] ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He that leads into captivity shall [also] go into captivity [clergy and laity]: he that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword [violence begets violence.]

Here is the patience and the faith of the saints [for they will wait without responding.]

If what I have written is correct,
then who and what is the SECOND beast which is mentioned next?

¹¹ And I beheld ***another beast*** coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb [ineffective for defence or attack], and ***he spoke as a dragon*** [showing his true nature. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing, or this case, Satan's authority pretending to be Christian!! At present he is exercising his muscles including the WW1 and WW2. See note 3.]

And this is where the future (and the present) views make a big difference. This beast (which is as far from lamb-like as you can get), is a masterpiece of deception. The historical (past) interpreters rightly see it as the United States of America in 1776, but then wrongly consider it to be a beast ***of God's calling***. They have been completely fooled by the disguise. In no way has the land of the Americas been the home of the free or Christianity. A candid look at the history of the US soon shows that it has been a persecuting religious power from the beginning, as well as a physical one. [See the book "Sunday Laws in America" by](#)

³ With the change of view comes a change in time – prophetic (a day for a year) is now in the past, literal time is in present and future. Revelation 10:6-7. See note 2.

[Warren Johns](#). And in the 20th century it has been an active “policeman” of the nations.

¹² And he [the so-called *Protesting religion*] exercises all the power of the first beast before [in front of] him, and causes the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. [So then we have TWO religious states with the same agenda! Partners in crime, if you like! But wait, there’s more!!]

¹³ And he [the *second* beast] does great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,¹⁴ and *deceives them* that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles *which he had power to do* in the sight of the [first] beast [he has Satan behind him]; saying to them that dwell on the earth, *that they should make an image [a copy]* to the beast, which had the wound by a sword [the Papacy], and did live.⁴

So now the Spirit introduces a THIRD beast, a composite of Protestantism and Papacy which soon unites with Spiritualism, with all three of them using the power of their individual states and companies to gain their end, which is religious laws in civil areas. [Revelation 16:13-14 and Revelation 19:21.]

¹⁵ And he had *power to give life [but only God can do that, so this is a counterfeit like the sorcerers in Egypt. Exodus 7:10-12]* to *the image* of the beast, that *the image* of the beast should both speak [through laws – five of them in total (See [article](#))], and cause that as many as would not worship *the image of the beast* should be killed. [This is the 8th head, wielding the ultimate in religious persecution.]

¹⁶ And he [the *image* beast] causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand [in practise], or in their foreheads [in their minds]:¹⁷ and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name [character] of the [image] beast, or the number of his name [character].

¹⁸ Here is wisdom.

Let him that has understanding count the number of *the [image] beast*: for it is the number of [a] [this word is not in the original transcripts] man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. [6 6 6]

This has been known since the beginning of Adventism as this letter from E G White mentions..

⁴ Contrary to many commentators’ opinions, it will not be imposed by a president or other authority, but is asked for by the general population.

Topsham, Me.,
April 7, 1847

{A Word to the Little Flock 18.1 to 20.2} [1847]

Dear Brother Bates,

Last Sabbath we met with the dear brethren and sisters here, who meet at Bro. Howland's. {WLF 18.1}

We felt an unusual spirit of prayer. And as we prayed, the Holy Ghost fell upon us . . .

I saw all that "would not receive the mark of the Beast, and of his Image, in their foreheads or in their hands," could not buy or sell. [Revelation 13:15-17.] I saw that the number (666 [this is in the original]) *of the Image Beast* was made up; [Revelation 13:18.] and that it was the Beast that changed the Sabbath, and the *Image* Beast had followed on after, and kept the Pope's, and not God's Sabbath. And *all* we were required to do, *was to give up God's Sabbath*,⁵ and keep the Pope's, and then we should have the mark of the Beast, and of his image. {WLF 19.1} . . .

From your sister in the blessed hope, {WLF 20.2}

E. G. White.

Who wants to add (or subtract!) from these thoughts? I won't argue as I have stated, but I will publish your Scriptures so that we may review all the words of God on the subject. Some of the comments on this page are adapted from books in my library. Recognition is not always given because they are not intended as authorities, but are used because they express my understanding clearly.

[Next query](#). To be discussed from 1st September 2021

Query: ??????????????????

For contact:

mail to: nonconformist@mail.com or ron_pars@hotmail.com

To see past queries and my responses, [click here](#).

⁵ That is the final Sunday law!

Note 1

In chapter 10 when Christ appears in the visions to encourage His people, He refers us to the book of Daniel as the basis for our understanding of prophecy and its promulgation amongst the people of the world. This thought is picked up by Ellen White.

(Manuscript 59, 1900)

19MR – MANUSCRIPT RELEASES Volume 19 (Nos. 1360-1419 (1990)

MR No. 1409 – Jots and tittles

{Vol 7 Bible Commentary 971.4} [1957 Based on 1MR Nos. 19-961.]

After these seven thunders uttered their voices, the injunction comes to John as to Daniel in regard to the little book: “Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered.” *These relate to future events which will be disclosed in their order.*

Daniel shall stand in his lot at the end of the days. John sees the little book unsealed. Then Daniel’s prophecies have their proper place in the first, second, and third angels’ messages to be given to the world. *The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time.* {7BC 971.4}

The books of Daniel and the Revelation are one. One is a prophecy, the other a revelation; one a book sealed, the other a book opened. John heard the mysteries which the thunders uttered, but he was commanded not to write them. {7BC 971.5}

The special light given to John which was expressed in the seven thunders was a delineation [a step by 7 step explanation] of events which would transpire under the first and second angels’ messages [1833-43]. It was not best for the people to know these things, for their faith must necessarily be tested. In the order of God most wonderful and advanced truths would be proclaimed [the sanctuary etc.]. The first and second angels’ messages were to be proclaimed, *but no further light was to be revealed before these messages had done their specific work.* This is represented by the angel standing with one foot on the sea, proclaiming with a most solemn oath *that time should be no longer.* {7BC 971.6}

This time, which the angel declares with a solemn oath, is not the end of this world’s history, neither of probationary time, but of prophetic time, which should precede the advent of our Lord. That is, the people will not have another message upon definite time. After this period of time, reaching from 1842 to 1844, there can be no definite tracing of the prophetic time. The longest reckoning reaches to the autumn of 1844. [After that point the time is to be read literally with no definite beginning or ending.] {7BC 971.7}

The angel’s position, with one foot on the sea, the other on the land, signifies the wide extent of the proclamation of the message. It will cross the broad waters and be proclaimed in other countries, even to all the world. The comprehension of truth, the glad reception of the message, is represented in the eating of the little book. The truth in regard to the time of the advent of our Lord was a precious message to our souls (Manuscript 59, 1900). {7BC 971.8}

Note 2:

Revelation 17:

⁹ And here is the mind which has wisdom.

The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits. [Rome is described as a city set on seven hills.]

¹⁰ And there are [and have been] seven kings: five are fallen [Babylon, Media & Persia, Greece, Pagan Rome, Papal Rome], **and one is** [right now – materialism, the love of the dollar], and the other [the 7th, apostate Protestantism] is not yet come; and **when he comes, he must continue a short space** [before he gives way to the next head.]

¹¹ And the beast that was [once in control through religion], and is not [right now], even he is the eighth, and is [a companion] of the seven, and goes into perdition [the Lake of Fire, with them.]

¹² And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings [hence the crowns], which have received no kingdom as yet; **but [will] receive power as kings one hour with the beast.**

Note 3:

Try this site

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_involving_the_United_States

According to it there have 93 wars carried on by this peaceful(?) giant!

Note 4:

6 is the number used in the Bible to signify sin

6 6 shows sin in action

6 6 6 indicates the totality of the character of sin

Thus the chapter shows that in the very last days, the absolute of sinning against God's way will take place. And it will be begun by the SECOND beast (the Protestants of the United States of America) but will soon be joined by the Roman hierarchy and Spiritualism which will have risen to unusual heights as the perils increase.

In plain English:

The Protestant (so-called) religious systems of the United States will agitate for the formation of a religious approach similar to that of the old Roman Catholic structure where the leaders of the church control the actions of the state (they will no longer "protest" that this is wrong!) To do this the three-fold combination [Revelation 16:13-14 and Revelation 19:21] will need the blessing of the laity so they will produce the miracles and wonders which will be performed amongst the great plagues (such as Covid 19) and "natural" disasters which will be occurring with greater and greater frequency at that time. In desperation the people at large will ask for a system that pleases God and saves their lives, for they will be told that God is angry at them for allowing some dissidents to exist among them.

This will call for “buy and sell” restrictions, eventually ending in a death decree for those who refuse to conform.

If we read the chapter in the past version (historical) then all these things have happened at various times among all the main characters in the three-way union, but when we switch to a future view the emphasis is now on a world-wide all-encompassing situation - 6 6 6.

Do you know where you stand in the stream of time?

Do you know what is the next major activity in Satan’s attack?

Do you know who is going to spearhead that attack?
