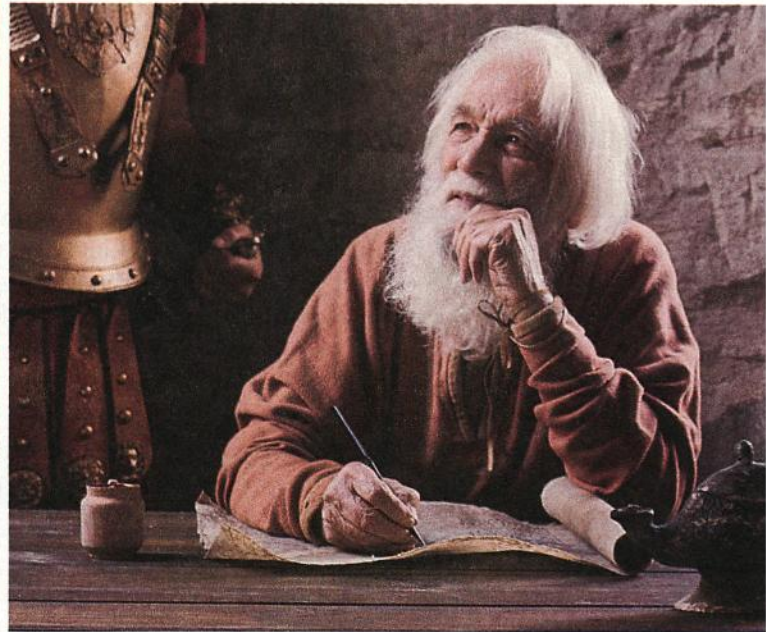
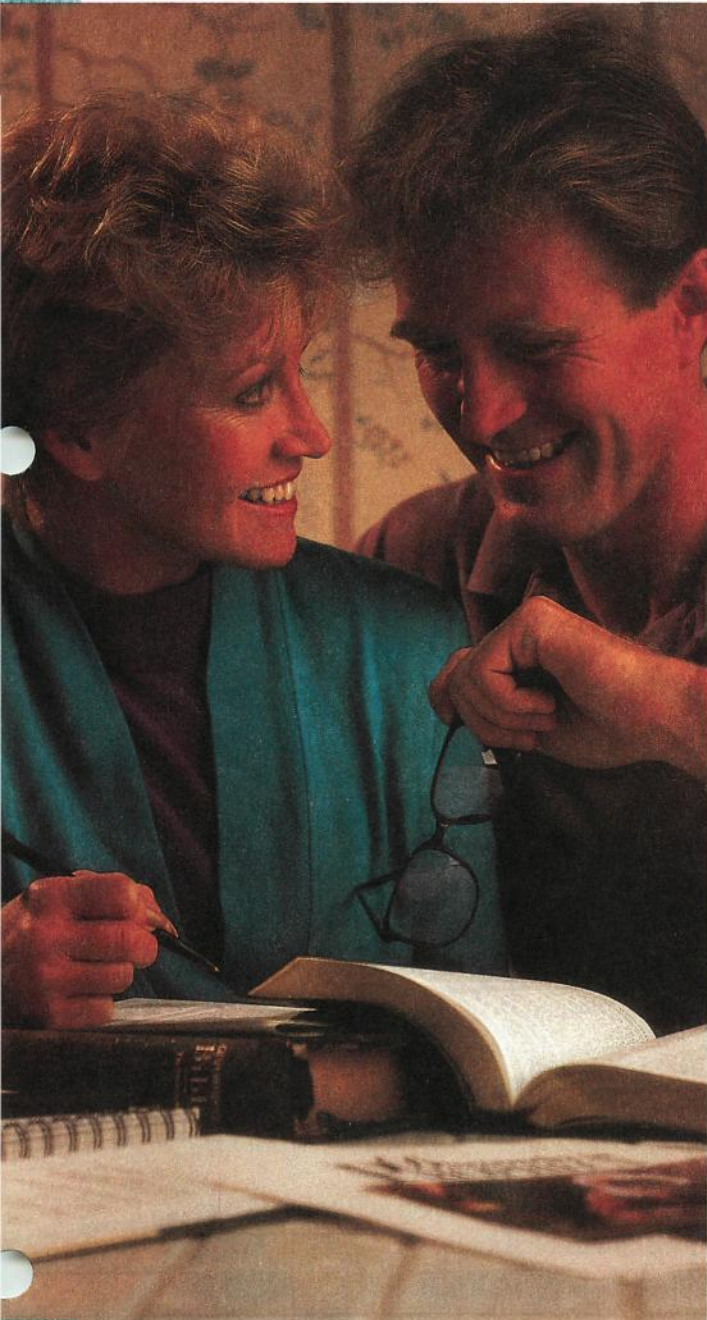


# Discoveries in PROPHECY

WITH  
MARK  
FINLEY



The United States in Bible Prophecy

# Discoveries in Prophecy

by Mark A. Finley  
Speaker-Director, *The It Is Written* Telecast

*Discoveries in Prophecy* is a series of 26 evangelistic presentations in magazine format by Evangelist and *It Is Written* Speaker-Director Mark A. Finley. These presentations have been reproduced here just as delivered; therefore, the reader will encounter occasional references to slides shown during the actual delivery of the topic as originally preached, and other references characteristic of a live presentation.

See the inside back cover for a complete list of the *Discoveries in Prophecy* evangelistic magazines—keyed to chapter in Mark Finley's book entitled *Beyond Orion's Gates*—and information on how to order additional evangelistic magazines and other Hart Research Center outreach materials.

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# Discoveries in Prophecy

## The United States in Bible Prophecy

What does the Bible say about the United States? Does it describe its rise as a nation? As Bible students, we should realize at the outset that the Bible is *not* primarily a history book. The Bible certainly doesn't describe the rise of every nation, so it's no use to ask, "Does the Bible describe China or India? What does it say about Russia? Or Brazil? Or Poland?" But since the Bible is the Book describing how the great God of all the universe deals with this planet, one may wonder, "Why *doesn't* it say something about every nation?" The answer is that the Bible discusses only those nations that have a direct impact upon God's people and a direct relationship to the plan of salvation.

It would be surprising, though, if the United States were not mentioned in prophecy. Not because it's a nation, not because it's a political entity, but because for one of the first times in human history, a nation was founded on democratic principles and religious liberty. Therefore, we'd expect the Bible to say something about this land we love, this "sweet land of liberty" that has nurtured us. In our hearts, we sense it's a special country.

As I travel to other countries in the world, some of them former Communist countries, I always appreciate coming back to the United States. There's a wonderful feeling of freedom here. For all the problems and difficulties the United States has, it's still a country where we can worship God in harmony with the dictates of our conscience. This country has been miraculously raised up by God and blessed with fields of waving grain, teeming city streets, green forests and babbling brooks, and "liberty and justice for all."

What does the Bible say about the *future* of this country? Will this religious liberty the United States has championed through the years continue throughout the centuries? When you come into New York Harbor, you see

the Statue of Liberty and recall those famous words: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

You see the lovely lady lifting her torch of freedom above New York Harbor, where thousands of refugees have arrived. Once again, you're impressed that the door of freedom in the United States is indeed open. Once again, you're impressed with the lady who holds the torch of freedom high, that this land is a land especially raised up by God.

### THE PILGRIMS FOUND A HAVEN FROM PERSECUTION

Those early framers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were guided not by their *own* thoughts but were *providentially guided by God*. When

the Pilgrims courageously left Europe on the little *Mayflower* and crossed the Atlantic to the unknown wilderness of the United States, they came to escape the totalitarian religious oppression of the past. They longed to be free from persecution, free from the fires of tyranny. They wanted to found a country that had "a State without a King, a Church without a Pope." They founded a country that had both civil and religious liberty. Their hearts yearned for a republican, democratic form of govern-

ment—and a nation without a state church, for they knew all too well the abuses of the *union* of church and state in Europe!

And when the boat pulled into the harbor off Plymouth, Massachusetts, and the first band of Pilgrims set foot on these hallowed shores, they knelt thanking God for their safe journey, dedicating this land to principles of religious and political freedom. The first colony they built, the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts, enabled them to give honor, praise, and glory to God. The

The United States was built on the principle of individuals worshipping in harmony with the dictates of their consciences—and the principle of tolerance for people of different religious beliefs.

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Pilgrims were men and women of faith, men and women of stalwart devotion to God. At their first Thanksgiving feast, they praised God for an abundant harvest.

The flag of the United States stands tall. The breeze unfurls this flag of freedom. Those early Americans made clear statements about the separation of church and state. They had seen the abuses of the system in Europe, and as a result were concerned that it *not* happen here. George Washington said in 1789, “Every man conducting himself as a good citizen and being *accountable to God alone for his religious opinions* ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience.” The early framers of the Constitution took pains to write in guarantees—guarantees of religious freedom and of liberty. They were concerned that church and state never unite.

Benjamin Franklin was quite witty. Franklin said this: “When religion is *good*, I conceive that it will support itself; and, when it *cannot* support itself, and *God* does not take care to support it, so that its professors are obliged to call for the help of the Civil Power, it is a sign, I apprehend, of its being a *bad* one.” Ben Franklin was a pretty astute reasoner, wasn’t he? He said that if God couldn’t take care of your church, and you have to appeal to the government, the cause must not be a good one. Sorrowfully, those early Americans had seen that when church and state united in Europe, *persecution followed* for those who couldn’t and wouldn’t go along with the “established” church.

Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War general and President in the 1800s, said this: “Leave the matter of religious teaching to the family altar, the church and private schools, supported entirely by private contributions. Keep the church and state forever separate.” So the United States was built on the principle of individuals worshipping in harmony with the dictates of their consciences—and the principle of *tolerance* for people of different religious beliefs. It was built on the principle of the separation of church and state.

### FREEDOM IS FRAGILE

Does the Bible predict that one day our freedoms will be eroded? Does the Bible teach that one day even in the United States, *church and state will unite* under the Beast power? Does the Bible teach that one day the constitutional amendments that guarantee religious freedom will be repudiated? Notice, our early framers of the Constitution wrote those religious guarantees into the Bill of Rights in these words, “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Would to God that these freedoms *always* remained in the United States! The Book of Revelation clearly reveals the future of the United States.

Earlier, we studied the first part of Revelation 13. We

examined the clear identifying marks of the Beast power revealed in Revelation 13 as we studied the first ten verses in detail. Now we’ll study the *last* part of Revelation 13. But first, let’s recall that John the Revelator describes the Beast power in Revelation 13:1, 2 in these words: “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.” The Beast is a composite—part lion, part bear, part leopard, part dragon. Remember that the lion represented Babylon in Bible prophecy. The bear represented Medo-Persia, the leopard represented Greece, and the dragon represented pagan Rome.

### GOD HELPS US IDENTIFY THE BEAST POWER

Notice that the Beast of Revelation 13 gets “his power, his seat, and great authority” from “the dragon.” We know from history that pagan Rome gave the seat of its government to Papal Rome. In fact, we concluded from *seven clear identifying marks* that the Beast of Revelation 13 is the Papal power.

1. It would get its *seat* of government—or “throne,” Greek *thronos*—from pagan Rome. Professor LaBlanca, Professor of History at the University of Rome stated, “When [Emperor] Constantine left Rome, he gave his seat to the pontiff [the Pope].”

2. It would be a *worldwide* system of *worship*, exactly as the Papacy is a universal religious power.

3. It would speak *blasphemy*. We’ve defined blasphemy from the Bible: Blasphemy is a man presuming the powers or prerogatives of God or claiming the power to forgive sins, and the Papal power does that.

4. It would be a *persecuting* power, and through the Middle Ages, the Papal power persecuted the people of God and anyone else who refused to worship it.

5. This power would reign for *1,260 years* and then “*go into captivity*.” We learned that the Papacy reigned supreme from A.D. 538 to 1798.

6. The Beast’s “*deadly wound*” would be “*healed*.” And we’ve seen a slow but sure resurgence of the power and influence of the Papacy.

7. Revelation 13:17, 18 says *the number of the Beast’s name is 666*. The Pope’s most exalted title, *Vicar of the Son of God*, totals exactly 666—no more, no less.

These seven points of prophecy, *all* of which have been *so remarkably fulfilled* in the history of the Roman Papacy, point a damning finger at the Papal power. But God’s Word provides still other identifying facts fatal to that institution. For instance, the Bible says in Daniel 7:25 that the enemy of God called “the Little Horn”

power—the Old Testament counterpart of the Beast—would “think to change times and laws.” The Revised Standard Version says “*the law*”—the Law of God. We know *divine* laws are meant, for man-made laws are continually being changed day by day around the world and thus would not be a fit subject for prophecy.

The Papacy did attempt to change the very Law of God—it removed the second commandment, relating to images, from its teaching catechisms. As the Dark Ages ensued, truth was obscured by error. The Papacy attempted to change the Bible Sabbath—the fourth commandment about the seventh-day Sabbath is the only one of the ten relating to “times.” *God’s Law was changed by the Papacy* back in those Dark Ages when few people could read—and fewer still owned Bibles.

In his book *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, Roman Catholic author Louis Segur attempted to prove why Protestants should become Catholics. He wrote: “The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church.” You Protestants worshipping on Sunday are really worshipping Catholicism, acknowledging the power and authority of Rome—or, if you please, worshipping the Beast power. And in the *Catholic Record*, September 1, 1923, the Roman Church boasted, “Sunday is our mark of authority. The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.” So the Roman Church in the early centuries *changed* the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, and the church says this is *the mark of our authority* that we can exalt tradition above Scripture. When *Protestants* worship on Sunday, they’re accepting the authority of the Catholic Church for that change.

Note what the Bible says about this power that would “think” to change the Sabbath: Revelation 13:3 and 5 tell us the Beast would have power for 42 months (1,260 prophetic days = 1,260 literal years)—and the Papacy did, from 538 to 1798—then it would have a deadly wound inflicted—“I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death.” In 1798 Napoleon sent French armies under General Berthier into the city of Rome. They took the Pope of Rome captive, brought him back to France, and the Pope died in captivity in France. There was, indeed, a deadly wound inflicted.

## A SECOND BEAST EMERGES

So far this has been a *brief review* of our lessons on “The Greatest Religious Cover-up in History” and “The Mark of the Beast.” But there’s *another* beast, a second one, brought to view in the last half of Revelation 13. This second symbolic creature represents the United States. We’ll discover that the United States—and the United States alone—fits every detail of the prophecy.

## CLUE #1—IT AROSE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Note carefully that Revelation 13:10 positions us precisely in the stream of time, for it says, “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity,” which history tells us happened in 1798. Now at the same time the Bible describes the Papal power—the first Beast—going into captivity, the Bible then says in the very next verse, Revelation 13:11, “And I beheld *another* beast coming up. . . .” Is this the first Beast? No, because it’s called “*another*” beast. *It comes up at the time when the Papacy goes into captivity.* So this second power comes up around 1798 when the first Beast is going into captivity.

The United States of America arose at the right time to meet this specification: In 1776 our founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, breaking all ties with England. Then it fought the Revolutionary War, which ended in a peace treaty in 1783. Then in 1787 the Constitution was framed, and in March of 1789, it went into effect. George Washington served as our first President until 1797. Thus we come to the year 1798, when this nation is introduced into prophecy—“coming up” at the right time! The phrase “coming up” must signify that this power was *newly organized* and just then *arising*. In fact, as we scan the horizon of history we discover only ONE world power “coming up” in 1798—the United States of America.

In 1754 John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, wrote about this text Revelation 13:11 in his *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament* and said of this prophetic beast: “He has *not yet* come, though *he cannot be far off*. For he is to appear at the end of the forty-two months of the first Beast [which ended in 1798].” In looking for a nation to arise in a very short time, Wesley was correct!

## CLUE #2—IT AROSE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

John the Revelator describes the *first* Beast thus in Revelation 13:1, “I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a Beast *rise out of the SEA*.” What does the *sea* represent? The Bible explains itself, if we let it. Revelation 17:15 says that an angel told John that in symbolic prophecy “The *waters* which thou sawest . . . are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” So the first Beast, the one which was wounded and went into captivity, arose in a *populated* area, among the organized *nations* of the world—which we know was in Rome. But the *second* beast, the one which arose around 1798, is described thus in Revelation 13:11, “I beheld another beast *coming up out of the EARTH*,” not the sea. The Amplified Bible makes it plain by saying, “I saw another beast rising up *out of the LAND [itself]*.” Absence of water denotes scar-

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city of people. So it could not arise among the crowded nationalities of the Old World—that turbulent sea of humanity, of “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” And the United States *did* arise out of new, previously UNOCCUPIED territory.

The wilderness of this vast American continent—unpopulated but for a few scattered Indian tribes—marvelously fits the Bible description of unpopulated, “dry” ground and fulfills this prophecy in a remarkable way. This great continent, kept hidden by God in a small world, became the cradle for our newborn nation.

We may note in passing that the first Beast was a *persecuting* power, which Daniel 7:21 and Revelation 13:7 say “*made war with the saints*” of God’s true church symbolized by the pure “woman.” But toward the end of the 1,260 years of Papal supremacy, Revelation 12:16 says, “the *earth HELPED the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood*” of pilgrims who fled to the New World to escape the peril and persecution of Papal-dominated Europe. This land of liberty became a haven of refuge, a sanctuary for saints oppressed for their faith, and they recognized it as such. Truly, the earth did help the woman. How remarkable is fulfilled prophecy!

### CLUE #3—IT IS DEPICTED AS A POLITICAL POWER

The term *beast* is the Bible symbol of a kingdom or nation. Daniel 7:23 equates *beast* with “kingdom.” The Living Bible renders *kingdom* in that passage a “world power.” All of the four “beasts” in Daniel 7—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—were empires that were world-class powers, just as the Beast power has universal influence as a *worldwide system of religion*. Revelation 13:3, 4 says, “*All the world wondered after the Beast. And . . . they worshipped the Beast.*”

John gives more description of this second beast, this new political power: “He had two horns *like a lamb*.” The government symbolized by this second beast is introduced in the *early* part of its career, that is, while still a youthful power. Why doesn’t John simply say, “He had two horns”? Why does he add “like a lamb”? Obviously, he wants to emphasize not only the nation’s innocent and harmless character but also its *youthful* nature. For a lamb’s horns are horns that have barely begun to grow.

Now don’t miss this: a *lion* is a fully mature animal. A *bear* is a fully mature animal. A *leopard* is a fully mature animal. A *dragon* is fully mature. The Old World powers described in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13:2—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—were established nations when they came into power. But a lamb is a new, *baby* animal. So here’s a *baby nation* that has lamb-like qualities of innocence starting out *around 1798* in a *sparsely populated* area of the earth—developing on a

new continent. The United States *fits* the prophetic blueprint as closely as a key fits a lock.

### CLUE #4—IT IS A DEMOCRACY

The first Beast, who arises from the sea, is described as having “ten horns, and upon his horns ten CROWNS.” The ten horns of this Beast—like the ten horns of the fourth beast in Daniel 7 and the ten toes of the image in Daniel 2—represent the ten divisions of the fallen Roman Empire. And those multiple crowns represent “the crowned heads” of the world over which the Papal power reigned (England, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, etc.). The Papacy ruled in the densely populated, peopled area of Europe, an area that has kingly authority. The Pope himself, on ceremonial occasions, wears a huge *triple* tiara adorned with *three crowns* to designate, officially, his rulership over heaven, earth, and the lower regions (*infernum*). So the Papal power, the Beast that got its authority and seat of government from pagan Rome, has *crowns* on it indicating kingly authority.

But the second beast, which arises in *unpopulated* territory, “had two horns like a lamb.” *What’s missing on his horns* that the first Beast had? Crowns. By way of strong contrast, the second beast had NO crowns on his lamb-like horns, for this baby beast had no kingly power. Since a crown is the fitting symbol of a monarchy, the notable *absence* of crowns in this case clearly indicates a democratic government vesting its power in the hands of the people—*not* in any ruling king.

Revelation reveals the form of government the United States has always had, and this constitutes another strong link in the chain of evidence that this prophecy denotes our own country of the United States of America. Had the second beast in John’s vision been depicted wearing a crown, we couldn’t maintain that the prophecy represented the U.S.A., for we’ve never had a king. In fact, early American patriots, applauding our “experiment in democracy,” were proud to point out that on *this* side of the Atlantic we have “a State without a King, a Church without a Pope!”

But this is not the most conclusive proof that the new nation symbolized here is *democratic* in government. A democracy—from the Greek *demos*, meaning “people”—by definition, is “government of the people, by the people, for the people.” Revelation 13:14 makes plain that this power says to the *people* “that THEY should make an image to the Beast, which had the wound by the sword, and did live.” Thus it has a democratic form of government rather than an absolute monarchy or dictatorship. A dictator or powerful king can say “Off with his head!” or pass laws without asking anyone’s permission. Saddam Hussein rules that way in Iraq. But the President of the United States—facing “checks and balances” of governmental power—cannot act unilaterally

and autocratically. He must ask *the people in Congress* to make and pass a law.

So when God's Word depicts the second beast as "saying to *them* that dwell on the earth, that *they* should make an image to the Beast," it clearly foretells a form of government in which the *legislative power* rests with the PEOPLE.

### CLUE #5—IT IS A POWER OF WORLDWIDE INFLUENCE

When Revelation 13:12 states that this second, lamb-like beast "*causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first Beast, whose deadly wound was healed,*" we begin to understand the vast leadership role played by this prophetic power. A century ago scoffers could well doubt how the United States could possibly be said to wield such influence. But America's become *more* than a mere footnote in history. In recent decades, especially since World War II, the United States has enjoyed prestige and power on a worldwide scale, both economically and politically. Despite our detractors, despite momentary fluctuations in our fortunes, the United States is unquestionably in a position of great influence and leadership.

And the Revelator tells us that this influential world power—the United States—shall take the lead in worshipping the Beast, and that the whole world will follow that lead.

It may be that moves toward the regimented religion described will be made in a time of trouble—multitudes are easily led in times of economic emergency or military crisis. When panic sets in, principles are easily lost or compromised. We needn't doubt that *what the Bible says will happen*—will happen.

How thrilling that the Bible clearly describes the rise of the United States in prophecy! We've seen that the second beast John saw is identified not just by one or two clues but by several specific points:

- It would be seen "coming up," or arising as a nation, *around the year 1798.*
- It would arise in an *unpopulated* area, *not* among the people in the Old World.
- It would be a *nation*, a political entity—but a *baby* one, not a mature, established power. It would be a *democracy*, a nation *without* the crowned heads of kingly authority.
- It would rise to a position of great *worldwide power and influence.*

No one could reasonably apply ALL John's prophetic clues to any nation other than the United States. Yes, historically, geographically, and politically, this country

perfectly fits the prophetic blueprint of Revelation 13.

### A CHANGE OF CHARACTER— LAMB TO DRAGON!

Those of us who love the United States sense that this nation was raised up and designed by God. The Christian exiles who fled to America sought refuge from both royal oppression and priestly intolerance. America did not disappoint them. Many Bible scholars have interpreted the two horns of the second beast as the *twin principles* of civil and religious liberty championed by this country.

Would to God that this nation might always preserve its precious heritage of religious freedom! But the Bible goes on in Revelation 13:11 and describes what will happen: The second beast—our beloved United States—ends up ultimately *speaking "as a dragon"*! How ironic that the country that's been the world's foremost fortress of religious liberty becomes the devil's instrument to implement the Mark of the Beast! Verse 12 adds: "And he [the United States] exerciseth all the power of the first Beast [Papal Rome] before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein *to worship the first Beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*"

The Bible predicts that Protestant America will reach across the ocean and join hands with the Papacy. Protestant America and old Catholic Europe will join forces in a coalition—a power bloc—the like of which we've never seen before. Out of Rome, the Pope will rise to incredible prominence, and America will be an ally to his part of that coalition. In a time of great crisis, the Religious Right—political arm of conservative Protestants in the United States—will lend its support to Catholicism, and *the Pope will become the leading spiritual leader* of both Protestants and Catholics. The result will be an unholy alliance which compromises truth right here in the United States of America.

### THE BEAST'S IMAGE IS FORMED

Revelation 13:14, 15 speaks about this second beast—the United States—making "an image to the Beast" or "image of the Beast." Let's try to understand the meaning of that Bible phrase, "to make an image of the Beast."

An *image* of anything is something that *looks like* or *resembles* it. If a little boy looks just like his dad, we say, "He's the spittin' image of his father." Revelation 13:12 and 14 tell us that *this Image would be just like the Papal power*—that is, just like "the first Beast, whose deadly wound was healed . . . the Beast, which had the wound by the sword [of French General Berthier], and did live."

The Image of the Beast won't be a *literal* image like a stature or idol. It will be a replica—a REPEAT PERFORMANCE of what the world suffered centuries ago during the Dark Ages. To learn what the Image will be like,

we must first recall what the Papal Beast was like, especially during the heyday of its power.

The Papacy was a church clothed with civil power—an ecclesiastical body having authority to threaten and punish all dissenters with confiscation of goods, imprisonment, torture, and death. It was a **UNION of Church and State**. So what will be an “image” of the Papacy? It will be *another* ecclesiastical establishment clothed with civil power—in other words, *a modern-day union of church and state*.

How could such an image be formed in the United States? Consider this: God warns in Daniel 12:1 that just before Christ returns “There shall be a time of *trouble, such as never was*”—a sobering thought! We all know that the political pendulum has swung back in favor of the Republicans, thus strengthening the Religious Right. The “Christian lobby” in Washington has already grown strong. Let a crisis come—“a time of trouble” like worldwide economic depression, international terrorism, nuclear war, widespread famine or other natural disasters—and hear the voices cry: “This is a judgment from God because we’ve wandered from His ways! We’ve got to get back to God! Let’s make this a *Christian* nation. This is our *last chance!*”

### **THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW!**

And well-meaning Americans—whether laymen, ministers, or legislators—will band together to pass **LAWS** forcing people to do by *civil* power what the church has failed to do by persuasive preaching and teaching—to change men’s hearts under the influence of God’s Holy Spirit. Those who believe “The *end* justifies the *means*” will see no problem in this, for Christianizing our nation and improving society’s moral and spiritual health is the same goal God’s church has always had. The tragedy is, our nation—“the cradle of Liberty”—will “speak like a *dragon*” and adopt tactics of *force* and *coercion* used by the Beast, tactics resurrected from the Dark Ages and condemned by the God who never uses force.

In order for the United States to form an “image” of the Beast, the religious power must once again so control the civil government that *the strong arm of the STATE will be employed by the CHURCH to accomplish her own ends*. History shows that whenever the church obtains civil power, she employs it to punish dissent and restrict liberty of conscience. A sample of Papal philosophy is seen in this 1903 quotation on “Human Liberty” from Pope Leo XIII: “It is quite **UNLAWFUL** to demand, to defend, or to grant unconditional **freedom** of *thought*, of *speech*, of *writing*, or of *worship*, as if these were so many rights given by nature to man.”

In Revelation 13:12 God says that the United States will exercise the *same power* as “the first Beast before him.” The first Beast was Papal Rome, and during the

centuries of its supremacy, the Papacy was dictatorial and very intolerant—condemning and denying not only freedom of religion but even freedom of thought, as the above quotation shows. It persecuted any and all who disagreed with its dogmatic teachings, and used the civil arm—*the police power of the state*—to carry out its commands and enforce its edicts.

The Bible says the United States will do the same thing, but those understandably reluctant to accept this fact, who say, “It *can’t* happen here!” need to remember Thomas Jefferson’s wisely prophetic words: “The spirit of the times may alter, *will* alter. Our rulers will become corrupt, our people careless. A single zealot may commence persecution, and better men be his victims.”

### **A NATION’S LAWS ELOQUENTLY SPEAK**

Revelation 13:11 says that, when the forces of church and state unite in this country, the power that started out as harmless and innocent as “a lamb” will in the end **SPEAK** “as a dragon.” A nation or a nation’s government “speaks” through its laws—the only *official* “speaking” of a nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. Since the United States is unquestionably the nation denoted by the symbol that will speak “as a dragon,” it follows that *it will enact oppressive laws* and become a persecuting power.

True, our country’s strong federal Constitution expressly guarantees freedom of religion. But those who put blind trust in the Constitution or any other man-made laws will be surprised how quickly things can change in an hour of crisis. Who knows what extremes we’d be driven to in an emergency? (Ask the American citizens of Japanese descent rounded up during World War II and placed in concentration camps for years. Ask them how much *their* “Constitutional rights” were respected.) Fear and tragedy trigger a willingness in man to justify measures he’d not normally take.

The Bible predicts the growing power of the Papacy, and we see its old wound has certainly been “healed.” The Bible predicts that Protestant America will pay homage to Rome in order to find religious unity. The Bible predicts *persecution* in Revelation 13:15-17, “He had power to give life unto the Image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak, and cause as many as would not worship the Image of the Beast, should be killed”—the threat of the *death penalty!* In addition, there’s the equally coercive threat of *economic boycott*: “And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a Mark in their right hand or their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the Mark.”

We learned in our lesson on “The Mark of the Beast” that the Papacy calls her act of changing the day of worship from the seventh-day Sabbath to the first day of the



week the “*mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.*” The Papal Sunday will be enforced by law in the United States. Sunday, as a common day of worship, will be the vehicle to unite Protestant and Catholic Christians in a time of crisis, under the auspices of the Pope of Rome.

### THE IMAGE IMPLEMENTS THE MARK OF THE BEAST

What does it mean that the Mark would be received “in their right hand, or their foreheads”? Some take the Mark in their hand not because they care anything about Sunday or any other religious observance, for they’re not religious people. They follow the Beast not because they believe in their heart he’s right, but they’re willing to go along with the crowd, willing to conform and obey the edict for the sake of convenience, not conviction. The hand symbolizes power and force. So—when the Beast power says, “You either comply or go to jail. You can’t buy or sell. We’ll kill you if we have to!”—people reach out their hand and receive the Mark as we take a traffic ticket we don’t believe we deserve. Receiving the Mark in the hand means succumbing to pressure and coercion that force you to go along with the Beast.

Receiving the Mark in the forehead is *not* getting some literal stamp branded on your forehead! Like much of Revelation, this is also symbolic language. It doesn’t say *on* the forehead, it says *in* the forehead—in the mind. Psychologists who “map” the human brain know that the *frontal* lobe of the cerebrum—the “forehead”—is associated with the mind’s power to CHOOSE: we must make a decision in this matter. Some choose the Mark of the Beast because they sincerely but mistakenly *believe* Sunday to be the true Sabbath despite what the Bible teaches. They receive the Mark “in their foreheads” because they really believe it in their minds.

Advocates for the Beast and his Mark will try to convince us intellectually with the most powerful arguments in the world. They’ll reason, “What difference does a *day* make? With war and bloodshed and crime and famine? With a society where drugs are flowing in the streets and crime is running rampant? Abortions are constantly performed. We have illegitimate births taking place. And look, you Christians, why don’t we set Sunday aside? Why don’t we all get together in an ecumenical movement? If there’s a crisis in the world—if bombs are dropping and cities are being destroyed, why don’t we all get together? Why don’t we just drop our denominational differences? Why don’t we just hold hands and sing “*We Are One in the Spirit*”? That’s love and unity! What difference does it make? You believe one thing about death, and someone else believes differently. You believe one thing about

the Sabbath, and others believe another thing. So what? All those things are minor incidentals—they’re not important. Why don’t we all pray and worship God on the same day? And since the Pope is the leading spiritual leader in the world, for heaven’s sake let’s do what he says. . . .”

This is all part of Satan’s mindset, to get men and women to accept the Antichrist, to get them to accept the Beast power. It’s all part of a delusion, a grand delusion, to get people united under the auspices of the Pope of Rome, to get this nation to repudiate all its principles of religious liberty, and to get Constitutional amendments passed that will trample on the rights of the minority who cannot conscientiously go along with the majority.

Revelation 13 clearly outlined this scenario of events. It said the Papal power would suffer a deadly wound. History tells us that was inflicted in 1798. But the deadly wound would be healed, and the lamb-like beast—the United States—would take the initiative to unite the world under the Papal banner. Revelation 13:3, 4 says, “All the world wondered after the Beast . . . and they worshipped the Beast.”

### ALL THE WORLD LOOKS WITH WONDER

It’s interesting to notice the headlines in the leading newspapers of America. “President Welcomes the Pope’s Historic Visit to the White House.” This didn’t happen to any Lutheran leader or Baptist leader or Pentecostal leader. No. If you have any doubt about the authority of the Pope of Rome, just look at the world’s news. Notice what *U. S. News and World Report* said after Pope John Paul II visited America. It said, “Only a year in office, the Pontiff is emerging as *the kind of incandescent leader that the world hungers for*, one who can make people feel that they’ve been lifted above the drabness of their own lives and show them they’re capable of better emotions and better deeds than they’ve thought. He was *a man for all seasons, all situations, all faiths*, an appallingly modest superstar of the church.”

Notice what’s taking place in the world. All around the world there is the *coming together* of people, the unifying of religions. In fact, the “Religious News Service” of September 27, 1979 said this: “John Paul II is perhaps the most charismatic Pope in modern times. In one short year, he has captured the imagination of millions and catapulted himself center stage as *the single most important religious leader* in the Western world.” Where is all this leading? What ultimately will take place? The October 1, 1979, *News Journal* said, regarding the Pope’s visit to America: “Politicians vied [competed] to be seen bowing to the Pope.” What’s taking place, ladies and gentlemen, is no more than *an exact fulfillment of prophecies* in Revelation 13. Protestants—and politicians—in America will yield to the aus-

pices of the Pope of Rome and accept the *traditions of men* rather than the *Commandments of God*.

There's a great move today for uniting Christianity and dropping denominational differences. The Pope has emerged as the one who's reaching out to Protestants. The October 8, 1979, *News Journal* reports on the Pope's trip to America and his attempt to unite all Christians: "At the Pontiff's request, more than 200 leaders of other Christian bodies gathered here in Trinity College Chapel to pray with him for continued progress in *lowering the barriers* that separate Christians of differing traditions. Still to be closed is the most important rift of all between the world's 350 million Protestant and about 800 million Catholics. Today, however, *hatchets are being buried* at such a pace that many theologians say that Lutherans and Anglicans and some other denominations may reconcile with Rome long before Protestantism's next centennial."

### **POLITICAL PRESSURE—IN THE NAME OF RELIGION**

*U. S. News and World Report*, November 14, 1983: "The Pope is emerging as the *unifier* of religions, is emerging as a *dominant political player on the world scene*." The Bible predicts that Protestants in America, uniting with the Pope, will put pressure on legislators in America to pass religious legislation. Prophecy is being fulfilled, friends. Notice this slide showing the *U. S. News and World Report* cover article: "Preachers in Politics." In fact, notice the subheading of the article, which says, "Conservative ministers and lobbyists are out to *arouse the sleeping giant* of American politics. Millions of evangelical Christians who say they have enough votes to *change the course of United States' history* in the 80s."

In the 80s, you remember, it was Jerry Falwell, prominent Protestant pastor, who formed the "Moral Majority." Some may argue that the objectives of the "Moral Majority" were correct—wanting laws against abortion, etc. Certainly, we can agree with some of the issues. But notice the goal: The goal was to put Christians in legislative positions and to put pressure on Congress to pass *religious* laws and enactments! It's interesting when you look at the philosophy of the movement. *Liberty* magazine, in its March-April 1983 issue, said, "The moment religious forces seek to *control* government rather than to *influence* it, they threaten the very society they seek to protect." It's one thing for religious leaders to *influence* government to be more spiritual, more godly, more devout, but it's quite another thing to try to *control* that government. History teaches that whenever religious leaders control government, great persecution of minorities occurs.

Notice what the Moral Majority advertised: "Did you know that the Moral Majority is now the largest minority voting bloc in America? Did you know that the Moral

Majority now represents more voters than labor, than any ethnic or racial minority, or feminist group?" This is a fact, the newsletter said. Furthermore, "Louis Harris, the famous pollster, recently declared that the Moral Majority now represents 20 percent of the electorate. Any political expert will tell you that this 20 percent can virtually determine who is elected and who is not elected to office in the years to come." Do you see the scenario that's developing? We see Protestants uniting, and those Protestants becoming more aggressive in political affairs by putting political leaders in key positions, and then America uniting in a time of crisis with Europe under the auspices of the Pope—America uniting with the Pope of Rome in a day of famine, bloodshed, war, economic turmoil, or other conflict.

The goal is to have everyone unite—to have us all get back to God. Worshiping on Sunday is the unifying vehicle to do that. *Time Magazine* called it: "The New Empire of Faith." One Christian legislator said this, "If Christians unite, we can do *anything* we want. We can pass *any* law or *any* amendment, and that's exactly what we intend to do." I wonder what will happen when that occurs?

The Bible tells us in Revelation 13:17, "No man might buy or sell, save he that had the Mark . . . of the Beast." The Bible teaches that at a time of unusual crisis in the world, Church and State will unite. Sunday, the common day of rest and worship, will be honored and enforced by legislative decree. Those who don't go along will be persecuted. The second beast started out like a lamb, but it will speak as a dragon. The lamb-like qualities of freedom and innocence will change. What was once "the land of the free and the home of the brave" will become a regimented land of religious intolerance.

Lobbyists have urged Congress to pass a Sunday law. Some may scoff, "Oh, sure, those things have been tried for the last hundred years." But Sunday advocates reason, "We may not be able to control the *weather*, but we *are* going to control Congress to secure a Sunday Law." You see, the Sabbath/Sunday issue is more than merely a day of worship. The issue is the commandments of God *versus* a man-made union of church and state. The issue is Protestants and Catholics uniting under the day they have in common—under the auspices of the Pope of Rome—and then using threats to force others' compliance. The issue is one of loyalty and obedience and allegiance to God.

### **A CRUEL CHOICE!**

W. S. Ireland, who was the Archbishop of Los Angeles, said this—you can see the thinking: "We purpose to organize a Sunday Rest League and to erect a guillotine in the United States in view of which every politician will recognize the fact that he's destined to political beheading if he does not give us the legislation we demand."

Do you see what the argument is? It's so subtle, so crafty, so seemingly reasonable, ladies and gentlemen. The argument is this: America is morally bankrupt, and it is. There are drugs in our streets, immorality, rising crime and violence. The nation has drifted away from God. So the argument is: We *have* to get the nation back to God! How can we do that? The only way to do that is if all religions unite on at least one thing. The Baptists won't change their denominational doctrines. The Lutherans won't either. Nor will the Methodists or the Catholics. But we won't worry about denominational differences—we'll unite in great ecumenical meetings on those things we *do* have in common. We'll establish common ground and ignore "minor" differences, uniting in the face of worldwide crisis.

God says "Babylon is fallen, is fallen," Revelation 14:8 and 18:2. And the fallen Christian world will recognize the Pope as its leading spiritual leader. It will unite also in recognizing a common day of worship, and that common day will be Sunday. All churches will open on the first day of the week to praise God and worship Him, and "to bring the nation together." Those who don't go along will be accused of keeping God's blessing away from America. They're like "the fly in the ointment." They become the reason for the crime, the reason for the bloodshed, the reason for the violence. Because the fallen Christian world reasons: Only if we all meet together and worship the same God on the same day, can God come and heal our land. So Sunday becomes the universal day of apparent spiritual renewal. Ironically, obeying God by following His commandments isn't even considered by those who want to "get the nation back to God"!

But there are Sabbath-keeping Christians who could never go along with Sunday sacredness, for they believe loyalty to God is most important. They see the masquerade. They see through the issues. They recognize you can never have "religious revival" while being *disobedient* to the expressed Law of God! Certainly they see the need of revival and religious renewal in America. But they see it coming not from government legislation in Congress but from moral revolution in our hearts, as we're led to obey God's Law.

Down through the ages, God has always had men and women loyal to Him, faithful to Him, those who have loved Him at any cost. I think of Oswald Glate. Oswald Glate lived in the 1500s in a society that had a state church. That state church put pressure on everyone in Germany to worship on the first day of the week, Sunday. But Oswald Glate studied his Bible and read God's fourth commandment in Exodus 20:8, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Oswald Glate said in his heart, "I must be faithful to the God I love." He was arrested for his faith.

After he was arrested, authorities decided to make an example of him, so they tied his hands behind his back and paraded him through the city. Glate was ridiculed and mocked, he was spat upon and slapped in the face, he was beaten and bruised. They imprisoned him in the tower. Oswald Glate lived in that cold tower for years because he would not recant his faith. Then one night he heard the soldiers coming. He saw their angry faces in the flickering candlelight and knew they wanted to kill him. But he remembered the Saviour's words in Matthew 16:26 and asked himself, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" They burst into the tower chamber, took him to the Danube River, where they tied his hands behind his back, tied his feet to his hands, and cast him into the dark water. Oswald Glate drowned, a martyr for Jesus.

I think of John James, a Sabbath-keeping preacher in 1661, preaching on the seventh day of the week. John James lived in England, where there was a state church system in force that observed Sunday as a holy day. In 1661 Charles II decreed that John James must die. Charles II's soldiers burst into John James' church as he was conducting the Sabbath worship service. When the soldiers burst in, he said, "I cannot give up loyalty to Christ." They took him from his church and dragged him through the streets. He was ridiculed and mocked. This was his sentence: He would be publicly hung. Then his arms and legs would be chopped off. His heart would be carved out and thrown into the burning fire. Each of his limbs would be burned separately, one by one. And his severed head would be taken and put on a pole in front of his church door so that any who came there the next Sabbath would know what would happen to them if they continued to violate the law by worshiping on the Sabbath. When John James was arrested, his wife went twice to Charles II and appealed earnestly that this faithful man of God be set free. But her pleas went unheeded. John James was beheaded, his body was quartered and consumed by fire, and his head was placed on a pole in front of his church.

### ONE—ON GOD'S SIDE—IS A MAJORITY

There have been men and women throughout history, my brother and sister, to whom living for Christ and His truth *mattered*. They were willing to step out from the majority. They were willing to be part of the minority on this earth, because the minority is never truly a minority if Jesus is on its side. No matter who else is with me or against me, if Jesus is on my side, the minority becomes the majority. John James would not yield his conscientious convictions—even in the face of death. He was another martyr for Jesus.

I want to take you with me on a little journey. This slide shows something you can't see anymore: Check-

point Charlie. It's the gateway between West Germany and East Germany. In 1982 the Communists gave us permission to run an international Bible conference behind the Iron Curtain. I went through Checkpoint Charlie to a small Christian training school and met with the largest group of Protestant Bible-believing ministers in the history of Christianity since the Stalin years. And we attended a Bible conference here.

I met Milton Schustek, a very dear friend, here in this village. He's a man who really knows what it means to stand for Jesus Christ, a man who really knows what it means to be loyal and faithful to God. I'll never forget him or his daughter. Milton came from Czechoslovakia. One day this old, gray-haired man put his arm around me and in his broken English said, "Mark, let me tell you my story. I want to tell you about what it means to be faithful to God. I want to tell you what it means to be loyal to God." So we sat under the trees for an hour and a half, and he told me stories.

He said, "When the Communists took over my country, I wanted to be free to worship on the Sabbath. I wanted to be free to praise and honor my God. I wanted to be free to read my Bible. I was a minister, but the Communists came. They said there were to be *no more ministers*—everyone was to be a worker. I knew that they wanted to send me way down into the coal mines, but there was one job that no one would do. Nobody would climb down those very narrow, filthy culverts, into the sewers to clean them, hundreds of feet under the city of Prague. There were rats down there.

"I knew they needed someone to do that dirty job. So I went to the Communist leaders. But before I went, I knelt under the trees, and I said, 'Oh, Jesus, I want to worship You every Sabbath. Jesus, whatever You do for me, please help me to keep Your Law and to be honest and faithful to You.'" Milton said, "Mark, I went in to see the Communist leader. I sat before her, and I said to her, 'I understand that you want to ship me into the mines to work. Let me tell you something: my *grandfather* worked in the mines, and my *father* worked in the mines, and I'm *willing* to work in whatever mine you send me. But I have something to suggest. You need to give someone the worst job you have. I know about it. It's climbing down those narrow, filthy sewer pipes to clean them. And I'm willing to do it. Why don't you assign me to clean the sewer pipes of Prague? Why don't you assign me to go down with the rats? I'll be happy to do it. But Ma'am, I'll do it because I want to worship my God. Would you give me the privilege of worshiping my God, and I'll clean the sewer pipes?' The Holy Spirit touched that woman's heart. She said, 'Pastor, I'm not a godly woman. I'm in charge of the work assignment, but I'll let you worship your God. Go and clean the sewer pipes.'" This humble man of God said to me, "You can't know

the torture, the agony, the darkness—but every day it was worth it, because I could worship my God in loyalty, in truth."

Some people say to me, "Pastor, it's a little difficult to give up Sabbath work. It's a little difficult, Pastor, because of my husband or my wife. I've never done this before." I point you, my brother, my sister, to Milton Schustek, who was loyal and faithful to God at any cost. Church and state are going to *unite* in America. Scores of men and women are going to go the easy, cross-less way. The majority will conform—but there'll be those who are loyal, those who are faithful, those who would rather die than yield their conscientious convictions. God is calling you, my brother and sister. Whatever God calls us to do, He gives us the power to do it. Whatever God calls us to do, He gives us the strength to do. When church and state unite, when man-made compromise is forced upon Christianity, when faithful men and women cannot buy or sell, when the death penalty hangs over our heads, Jesus Christ speaks with a still, small voice, and says, "Do not yield. I'll be *with* you!"

Suppose you took your two hands, and in *one* hand you put heaven, and fellowship with Christ, and living forever with the Father. And you put all the riches of this world, and all its glory, and all the praise and approval of man in the *other* hand. Which is worth more? Jesus asks with loving concern: "What shall it profit you, if you gain the whole world, but lose your soul? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Right now, as we bow our heads to pray; have you forever settled it in your heart that Christ means more to you than anything else? Have you settled it in your heart once and for all that Jesus and His Law and His way mean more than anything else in life? What shall it profit a man, what shall it profit a woman, if they gain the whole world, but lose their souls? To lose your soul is to be lost—lost through all eternity. Won't you please bow your head quietly for a moment just now and pray—and lift your hand to heaven as you say, "Jesus, I want to follow You *all the way*. I want to be loyal to God forever!" ▲

# Discoveries in Prophecy

Complete list of evangelistic magazines, cross-referenced  
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Magazine Title

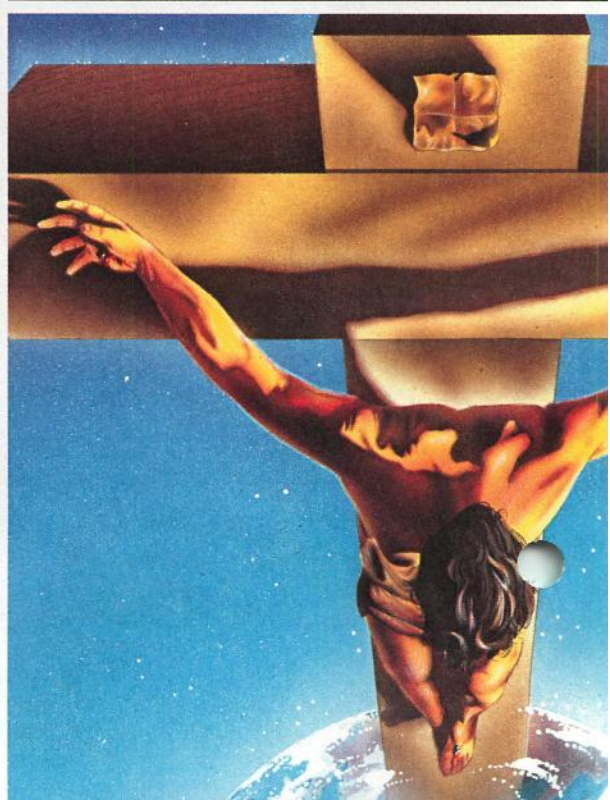
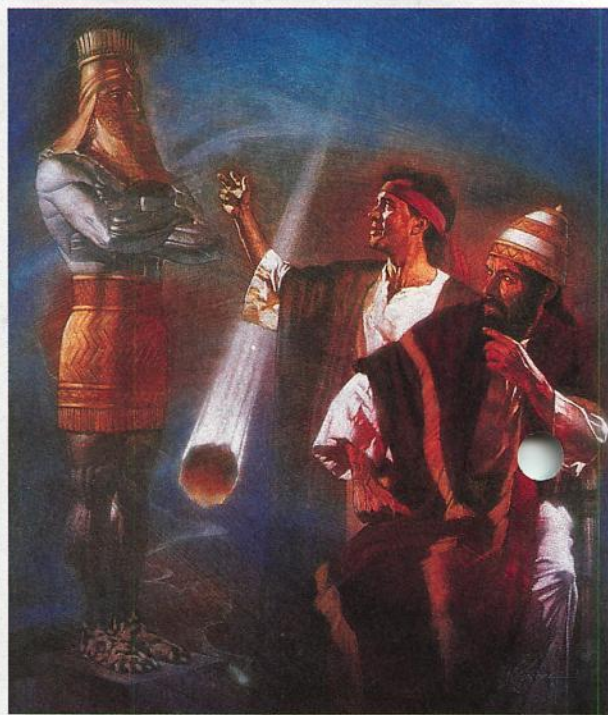
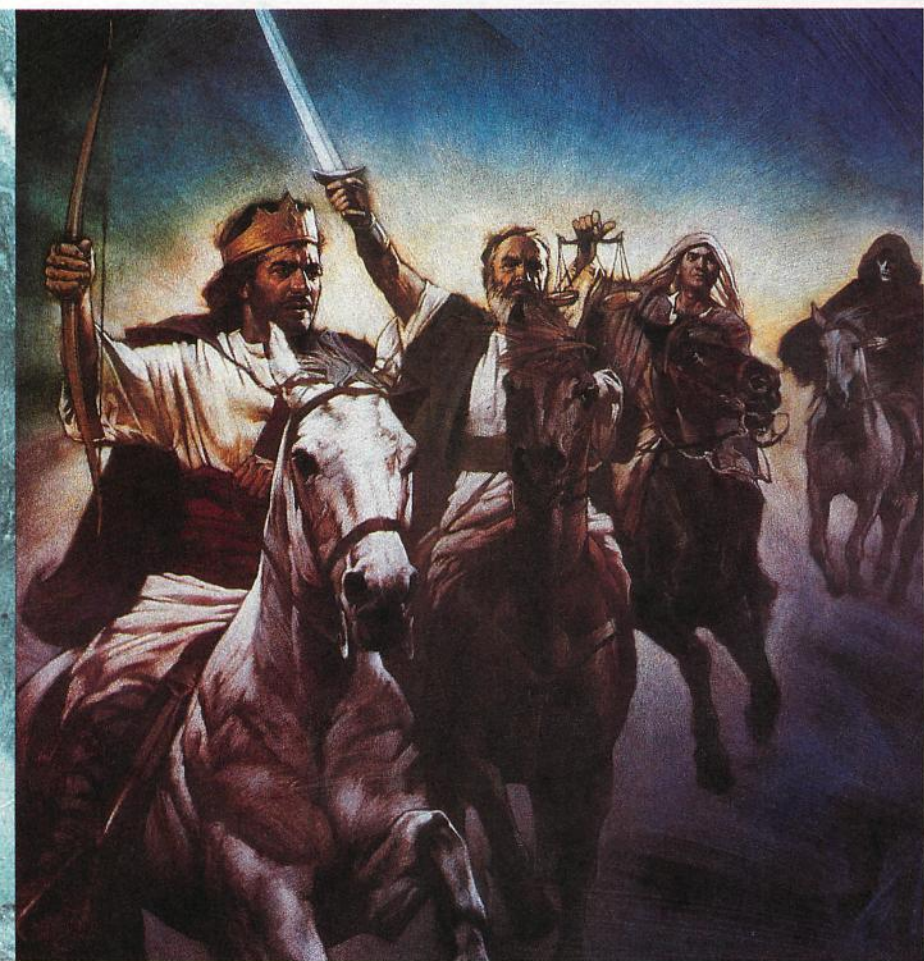
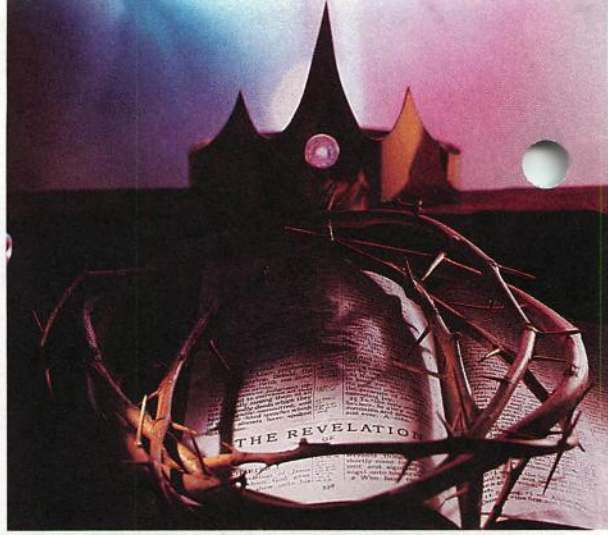
Beyond Orion's Gates

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| 1. Living Beyond 2000 .....  | Ch. 2: Lonely No Longer                         |
| 2. Countdown to Eternity: Why Communism Failed .....                   | Ch. 5: A Man of Mud and Metal                   |
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| 8. The Beginning of the End .....                                      | Ch. 10: Adding Up Daniel's Numbers              |
| 9. Facing Revelation's Judgment .....                                  | Ch. 9: When Your Case Comes to Court            |
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| 15. The Real Truth About Near-Death Experiences .....                  | Ch. 14: Where Do We Go When We Die?             |
| 16. How to Successfully Bury the Past .....                            | Ch. 22: How to Start Life Over Again            |
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| 20. The Mystery of Revelation's Babylon Revealed .....                 | Ch. 20: A City Called Confusion                 |
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| 24. The United States in Bible Prophecy .....                          | Ch. 18: The Clock Runs Out on America's Freedom |
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# Discoveries in Prophecy

## Quick Quiz

Our heavenly Father has *so much* He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward—a series of “lessons from heaven.” May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God’s Word, the Bible—our Textbook for this seminar—offers **Learning Unlimited!**

### *The United States in Bible Prophecy*

Numbers in parentheses below refer to page numbers in special-edition Seminar Bibles—the first number for the King James Version, the second for the New King James Version. For example: (709 / 681).

- John saw the *first* Beast, which made war with the saints and blasphemed God, “rise up out of the \_\_\_\_\_.” The angel explained this means *a densely populated area*, that *waters* symbolize “\_\_\_\_\_”, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” And it arose in *Rome*.  
To check your answer, see Revelation 13:1 (1227 / 1223) and 17:15 (1231 / 1227).
- In stark contrast, John saw the *second* beast “coming up out of the \_\_\_\_\_,” which means *an unpopulated area*—such as was afforded by the New World of *America*.  
To check your answer, see Revelation 13:11 (1227 / 1223).
- Through Columbus, *God opened up a whole new continent* as a haven of refuge for His persecuted, faithful people. The Bible predicted this in saying: “The \_\_\_\_\_ helped the *woman* [God’s church], and the \_\_\_\_\_ opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood” of pilgrims escaping the Beast’s religious oppression.  
To check your answer, see Revelation 12:16 (1227 / 1223).
- T The Bible positions us precisely in the Stream of Time, for the *second* beast was seen  
 F *arising* around the time that the *first* Beast was going into “captivity,” which History tells us occurred in 1798.  
To check your answer, see Revelation 13:10-11 (1227 / 1223).
- We know from Daniel 7:23 that a “beast” is the Bible symbol for a “kingdom” or nation, but the *second* beast emerged as a *young* or *youthful* one—not a mature, established power—for John says, “he had two horns like a \_\_\_\_\_.”  
To check your answer, see Revelation 13:11 (1227 / 1223).
- The *first* Beast ruled with *kingly* authority, for it had “ten horns, and [wore] upon his horns ten \_\_\_\_\_,” but the *second* beast is more likely a *democracy* without a king, for its two horns had *no* crown. Also, rather than acting autocratically like a dictatorial monarch, it says to the *people*, “them that dwell on the earth, that \_\_\_\_\_ should make an image to the Beast,” calling on legislators in a democracy to do it.  
To check your answer, see Revelation 13:1, 11, & 14 (1227 / 1223).

### Quick Quiz

7. The second beast obviously grew to become *a power of worldwide influence and leadership*, for the Bible says, "He exerciseth \_\_\_\_\_ the power of the first Beast before him, and causeth the \_\_\_\_\_ and them that \_\_\_\_\_ therein to worship the first Beast, whose deadly wound was healed." **To check your answer, see Revelation 13:12 (1227 / 1223).**
  
8.  **T** The Bible predicts *a frightening change of character* in the second beast, for although it  **F** *begins* with the harmless innocence of a *lamb*, it *ends* by speaking as a *dragon!*  
**To check your answer, see Revelation 13:11 (1227 / 1223).**
  
9. The "Image of the Beast"—a "carbon copy" or *repeat performance* of the first Beast during its days of power and persecution—*enforces* the Mark of the Beast by threatening the *death penalty*: "that as many as would not worship the Image of the Beast should be \_\_\_\_\_," and *economic boycott*: "that no man might \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, save he that had the Mark."  
**To check your answer, see Revelation 13:15-17 (1227 / 1224)**
  
10. Those who receive the Mark of the Beast "in their \_\_\_\_\_" *take* it as simply a matter of *convenience* or means of *survival*, whereas those who receive the Mark of the Beast "in their \_\_\_\_\_" *accept* it because they really *believe* in their *minds*.  
**To check your answer, see Revelation 13:16 (1228 / 1224).**
  
11. The catalyst which could bring about these uncharacteristic, un-Constitutional actions by the United States may be the fear caused by a worldwide emergency and crisis. The Bible warns that just before Jesus returns "There shall be a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, such as never was!"  
**To check your answer, see Daniel 12:1 (895 / 871).**
  
12. On the lines below, explain briefly in your own words how, when this *hour of crisis* comes upon the whole world, a faithful believer's *only anchor and refuge* can be the loving arms and precious promises of the Lord. **To check your answer, see Matthew 16:26 (966 / 962), Psalm 91 (627 / 588).**

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**Words to the Wise:**

**"Fear thou NOT; for *I am with thee*: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will *strengthen* thee; yea, I will *help* thee; yea, I will *uphold* thee with the right hand of My righteousness." — Isaiah 41:10.**