

The PLAIN TRUTH

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Who is the BEAST

of Revelation?

THE Most important question of the hour is: What, or who, is the BEAST, the IMAGE of the Beast, and the MARK of the Beast?

Whatever this weird "BEAST"---whatever the baffling "IMAGE"---whatever the mysterious "MARK"---it behooves you and me to find out!

For it is those of this very present generation who shall be worshipping this "Beast" or his "image," or shall have received his "mark", that will suffer the unspeakable tortures of the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES!

Ignorance will not excuse! "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," says the Lord, in Hosea 4:6. And the illustration of Ezekiel's watchman shows that those who are ignorant, because they are not warned, will suffer just the same. (Ezekiel 33:6; and 3:16) God expects HIS PEOPLE to be His "watchmen" and to warn the people, and unless we do, He will require their blood at our hand!

The time is at hand! The plagues of God's WRATH will soon be poured out, unmixed and undiluted---FULL STRENGTH---upon a heedless, God-defying world, and a careless, luke-warm, indifferent Christianity!

WHO Shall Suffer the PLAGUES?

Listen! John the revelator describes

IF you have his MARK, you must suffer the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES!

Is he a mysterious superman, or world dictator, yet to appear? . . . Is he the Antichrist? . . . Or is he a great power, such as a Church or a Government?

Here is the PLAIN TRUTH!

the last, final, warning message:

"If any man worship the BEAST and his IMAGE, and receive his MARK in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the WRATH OF GOD, which is poured out without mixture." (Rev. 14:9-10).

Listen again!

John's carried forward in vision into the terrible "Day of the Lord," sees these plagues beginning to fall!

"And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven last plagues . . . and the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth: and there fell A NOISOME AND PAINFUL SORE upon the men which had the MARK of the Beast, and upon them which worshipped his IMAGE." (Rev. 15:6 and 16:2).

Every sign tells us these things will happen, plunging the world into the most frenzied, frenzied state of anguish ever known, "WITHIN A MATTER OF MONTHS!"

Those who suffer the indescribable WRATH of Almighty God are described as those who worship the BEAST, or his IMAGE, or have his MARK.

It is futile to try to imagine, as so many are doing, what the "Mark of the Beast" may be. Too many are trying to fix this all up in their own imaginations. But God says "My thoughts are not your thoughts."

We cannot work this out in our minds. We are face to face with a stern reality, not an imaginary fairy-tale! There is ONLY

ONE WAY to learn the Truth. That is to study carefully, cautiously, prayerfully, with an open mind yielded to and guided by the Holy Spirit, ALL the testimony of ALL the scriptures that bear on this question.

We cannot determine what the "MARK" of the Beast may be, until we have learned what, or who, the BEAST is!

The Bible DESCRIPTION of the BEAST

The "Beast", the "Image to the Beast," and the "Mark of the Beast" are all described primarily in the 13th chapter of Revelation.

Notice carefully this BIBLE description:

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." (Rev. 13:1, 4).

Now most of those who are teaching and preaching to others on these subjects overlook entirely this DESCRIPTION. For this description will IDENTIFY the "Beast."

If the "Beast" is some mysterious super-man, or Antichrist, soon to appear as world dictator, he will be a peculiar looking individual indeed, for he will have SEVEN HEADS, and TEN HORNS. Have you ever seen a man with seven heads, and ten horns growing out of one of his heads? And did you ever see a man who was like a LEOPARD, and can you imagine a super-man coming who will have the feet of a BEAR, and the mouth of a LION? And will he appear by coming up from the SEA?

Now these, of course, are all SYMBOLS. The very word "Beast" is a symbol. And our problem is to INTERPRET the symbols, for they stand for real, literal things. And when we know what the heads and the horns are, what the feet of the bear, the mouth of the lion, and likeness to a leopard all MEAN, then we can know what, or who, the "BEAST" really is!

The Bible Interprets its Own Symbols

The point we want to stress is that the Bible INTERPRETS ITS OWN SYMBOLS! If we want the TRUTH, we must be guided solely by the BIBLE interpretation, not man's interpretations and imaginations.

To illustrate: In Rev. 1:12 seven golden candlesticks are pictured. And in verse 16 is pictured a man having in his right hand seven stars. Of course the candlesticks and the stars are symbols. What are they? We need not use our human imaginations, for verse 20 tells us in plain language: "The seven stars ARE the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest ARE the seven churches."

Again, in Ezek. 17 is a riddle, using symbols. In verse 2 we read: "A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feath-

ers, which had divers colors, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar." Now what IS this "eagle?" What is Lebanon? What is the "cedar?" The 12th verse gives the BIBLE interpretation, the many preachers and writers have given their own interpretations. "Know ye not what these things mean? Tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof." How PLAIN!

What the Symbols Represent

So while we know that the words "Beast," and "heads" and "horns" and "leopard" and the "bear" and the "lion" are only used as symbols, yet they represent things that are very REAL. And the BIBLE ITSELF tells us what they represent!

In the 7th chapter of Daniel, we find exactly these same symbols described. Here again are the "beasts", with the "seven heads" the "ten horns," and here also is the "lion," the "bear," and the "leopard." And here the Bible tells us what these symbols represent.

God had given Daniel understanding in dreams and visions (Dan. 1:17). And Daniel had a dream and a vision (Dan. 7:1) in which he saw four great BEASTS (verse 3). And notice, as in Revelation, the "beasts" came up out of the sea.

The first was like a "LION" (verse 4), the second was like a "BEAR" (v. 5), the third like a "LEOPARD" (v. 6), and the fourth was so dreadful and terrible it could not be compared to any wild beast known to inhabit the earth!

Now there was only the one head described on the lion, one for the bear, one for the fourth beast---but the third beast, the leopard, had FOUR HEADS---thus making SEVEN HEADS in all! And out of this great and dreadful fourth beast grew TEN HORNS.

Now notice verse 16, latter part. Here comes the INTERPRETATION OF THE THINGS! The question is, will we accept this BIBLE interpretation of the seven heads, the ten horns, the lion, the bear, and the leopard?

These great beasts, which are four, are FOUR KINGS which shall arise out of the earth," is the interpretation of verse 17.

And the word "KING" is synonymous with KINGDOM, and used only in the sense that the king represents the kingdom over which he rules, for in verse 23 we read: "the fourth beast shall be the fourth KINGDOM upon the earth." Notice also the word "kingdom" is used to explain the beasts in verses 18, 22, 24, and 27.

Now what do the "HORNS" represent? Notice verse 24: "And the ten horns out of this KINGDOM are ten kings that shall arise." Notice the ten horns, or ten succeeding kingdoms or governments, come OUT OF a KINGDOM, not out of a man, or a super-man. This alone makes plain that the "BEAST" is not some mysterious personal super-man yet to come. Also that the Beast is not the Roman Catholic church, for no ten kingdoms ever did, or will, come OUT OF that church. And since king in these prophecies only stands for the KINGDOM he represents, and since the words are used interchangeably, it follows that these ten horns are ten succeeding KINGDOMS growing OUT OF the FOURTH kingdom which was to rule the earth from the time of Daniel!

Identification of the Kingdoms

These same four world-ruling Gentile kingdoms are described in the second chapter of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar of the Chaldean Empire, who had taken the Jews captive, had a dream, the meaning of which God revealed to Daniel.

The dream is described in verses 31-35. The king saw a great image. Its head was of gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of brass, its legs of iron, and its feet and toes part iron and part clay. Finally, a stone, not in men's hands (but supernaturally), smote the image upon his feet and toes. It was broken in pieces, and was blown away like chaff. Then the stone that smashed it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

"This," Daniel says, beginning verse 36, "is the dream; and we will tell the INTERPRETATION thereof to the king.

". . . Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another KINGDOM inferior to thee, and another third KINGDOM of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth KINGDOM shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise." (v. 36-40).

The interpretation of the STONE smashing the image at its toes is found in the 44th verse:

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. The Stone is Christ and His KINGDOM. The interpretation of the STONE is given many places in the Bible. "Jesus of Nazareth . . . is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the HEAD of the corner." (Acts 4:10-11).

And so we see that here are four universal world-ruling Gentile kingdoms. They begin with the Chaldean Empire, at the beginning of the "Times of the Gentiles," when the Jews were taken captive to Babylon, 604-585 B.C. They continue thru four great universal kingdoms, and out of the fourth grows ten succeeding governments. These carry to the time of the Second Coming of Christ, and the setting up of the KINGDOM OF GOD to fill the whole earth and last forever.

The Fourth Beast

Plainly, here are described the SAME four universal world-ruling Gentile powers that are described by Daniel's four beasts. And this dream image identifies WHO they are. The first was Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, the Chaldean Empire, called "Babylon" after the name of its capital city, 625-538 B.C.

The second kingdom, which followed, then, we know from history was the Persian Empire (558-330 B.C., often called Medo-Persia, composed of Medes and Persians.

All ancient history students know the

third world kingdom was Greece, or Macedonia under Alexander the Great, who conquered the great Persian Empire 333-330 B.C. But Alexander lived only a short year after his swift conquest, and his vast new empire was divided among his four generals: Macedonia and Greece; Thrace and Western Asia; Syria and territory east to the Indus; and Egypt. So these were the "four heads" of the third beast of Daniel 7.

And the FOURTH KINGDOM, which, developing from Rome, spread out and gradually absorbed one after another of these four divisions, --- "dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly," was the ROMAN EMPIRE (31 B.C.-A.D. 476). It had absorbed all the others, occupied all their territory, was greater and stronger than all. It included all the royal splendor of ancient Babylon, thus having the head---the strongest part---of the "lion." It had all the massiveness and numerically-powerful army of the Persian Empire---symbolized by the LEGS, the most powerful part, of the BEAR. It was the greatest war-making machine the world had ever seen, and it also possessed the swiftness, the cunning, the cruelty of Alexander's army, symbolized by the LEOPARD.

And thus, this fourth beast was unlike any wild beast of the earth. It was greater, stronger, more terrible, than any. And so John, in Rev. 13, sees, not four beasts, but ONE beast. Not a leopard, but LIKE a leopard---possessing all its cunning, cruelty, and speed. But it also possessed the dominant characteristics of the two other most powerful beasts---the FEET of a bear, and the MOUTH of a lion. Daniel's fourth Beast, the Roman Empire, had absorbed, and therefore it included, the three beasts before it. Thus it included all seven HEADS. And John's beast also has SEVEN HEADS. It was Daniel's fourth beast, ONLY, which had TEN HORNS, and John's beast has TEN HORNS.

And so, if we are willing to be guided solely by the BIBLE description of this "beast," and to let the BIBLE interpret the symbols used to describe it, we come to the inevitable conclusion that the BEAST of Rev. 13 is the ROMAN EMPIRE, of 31 B.C. to A.D. 476! Of course many man-imagined THEORIES widely taught and published, interpret this BEAST otherwise---some as the Roman Catholic church, some as a mysterious, individual, super-man yet to come. But these theories will not stand the test of applying the BIBLE interpretation to all the symbols that describe this beast.

Nebuchadnezzar's image, by the TWO legs describes the TWO DIVISIONS of the Roman Empire, after A.D. 330; West, with capital at Rome, and East, with capital at Constantinople.

John also pictures this BEAST, not as a church, or as an individual man, but as a powerful GOVERNMENT having a great ARMY. For they worshipped the Beast by saying: "WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE WAR WITH HIM?" (Rev. 13: 4).

The Toes and the Horns

Let us now notice the symbolism of the toes of the image (Dan. 2), and the horns of the fourth Beast of Daniel 7 and of the Beast of Revelation 13.

A CHART, SHOWING PROPHECIES OF TIMES OF THE GENTILES' REIGN

Dan. 2 The IMAGE	Daniel 7, The FOUR BEATS (State) (Church)	Dan. 8, The RAM, & Goat	Revelation 13, The BEAST & IMAGE (State) (Church)	Rev. 17, BABYLON & Beast	Symbols Ex- plained	The EVENTS Fulfilled in HISTORY
Head of gold, v.32,38.	1st BEAST like LION -v. 4.				1st HEAD of Pro- phetic BABYLON.	The CHALDEAN EMPIRE (Bab- ylon)-625-538 B.C.
Breast & arms of silver, v.32,39.	2nd BEAST (BEAR) -v. 5.	RAM with 2 horns v.3,4,20			2nd HEAD of pro- phetic BABYLON	The PERSIAN EMPIRE (Medo- Persia), 558- 330 B.C.
Belly, & Thighs of Brass v.32,39	3d BEAST LEOPARD, -4 HEADS v. 6.	HE-GOAT, with great horn & 4 notable ones-v. 5-8,21,22			3d, 4th, 5th, 6th HEADS of prophet- ic BABY- LON	GREECE, under Alexander the Great, and 4 divisions, 333-31 B.C.
Legs of Iron v. 33, 40-43	4th BEAST strong like IRON with 10 HORNS,v. 7,23,24		The BEAST with 7 HEADS & 10 HORNS, v.1,2.		7th HEAD of pro- phetic BABYLON, with 10 HORNS	The ROMAN EM- PIRE, 31 B.C. -476 A.D., in 2 divisions, West, & East.
	Little HORN, a- mong 10. v.8,20- 22,24-27		2-horned "LAMB" & "Image" v.11-28	HARLOT WOMAN who rode the BEAST v.1,2	Ruled the Beast, so called BABYLON the GREAT	ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & PA- PACY, "image" of Roman gov- ernment. Fall of the ROMAN EMPIRE 476 A.D.
1st of TEN TOES	1st HORN (plucked by roots)		The DEAD- LY WOUND v. 3.			The HERULI, Odoacer's govt. 476-533 A.D.
2nd of TEN TOES	2nd HORN (plucked by roots)		1st HORN		These 3 horns, destroyed at behest of pope, fill "Tr- ansition Age" (My- ers p.571)	The VANDALS, 429-553
3rd of TEN TOES	3d HORN (plucked by roots)		2nd HORN			OSTROGOTHS, 429-553
4th of TEN TOES	4th HORN		3d HORN			"IMPERIAL RES- TORATION" of Empire by Jus- tinian, 554. He recognized supremacy of pope, 538 A.D.
5th of TEN TOES	5th HORN		1st of remaining 7 horns- DEADLY WOUND HE- ALED (to con- tinue 1260 yrs)v.5.	1st HEAD of BEAST (healed) ridden by Harlot Woman.	Since the Harlot woman ne- ver rode any of the 7 heads of the 1st 4 Beasts, but did mount and ride the last 7 horns of the 4th Beast, it fol- lows that the last 7 horns of Dan. 7 and Rev. 13 are the 7 HEADS of Rev. 17, 3 fallen	FRANKISH KING- DOM. Began 774. Charlemagne crowned by pope, 800 A.D. HOLY ROMAN EM- PIRE, (German head), Otto the Great crowned by Pope, 962. HAPSBURG Dyna- sty, (Austrian head) Chas. the Great crowned by pope, 1520 NAPOLION (French head) crowned by pope, 1805
6th of TEN TOES	6th HORN		2nd of remaining 7 HORNS	2nd HEAD ridden by Woman		
7th of TEN TOES	7th HORN		3d of remaining 7 HORNS	3d HEAD ridden by "Babylon"		
8th of TEN TOES	8th HORN		4th of remaining 7 HORNS	4th HEAD ridden by Woman		
			5th of remaining 7 HORNS	5th HEAD ridden by Woman		
In 1814, just 1260 years after "deadly wound" was healed, the HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE was dissolved. "So closed a gov't. that dated from Augustus Caesar." (West p.377).						
9th of TEN TOES	9th HORN		6th of remaining 7 HORNS	6th HEAD ridden by Woman	(One is) Rev. 17 10	ITALY, united by Carabaldi, 1870, to NOW
10th TOE	10th HORN		7th and last HORN (Rev 17:8) to east to ascend out of bottom less pit	7th HEAD ridden by Woman, & 10 HORNS	(One is yet to come) v. 10	Revived ROMAN EMPIRE, by alliance of 10 Nations

(Continued from page 3)

The ten toes and the ten horns both symbolize the same thing---the ten stages of government continuing out of the Roman Empire after its fall, 476 A. D. "The ten horns out of this kingdom" (the fourth---the Roman Empire, 31 B.C. to 476 A.D.) "ARE TEN KINGS that shall arise . . . and the KINGDOM and the dominion, and the greatness of the KINGDOM under the whole heaven" (not IN heaven) "shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High." (Dan. 7:24,27).

The ten horns, then, are ten KINGDOMS to arise out of the Fourth Kingdom, the Roman Empire. These kings, also called KINGDOMS, continue from 476 A.D. until the time when the Stone, Christ and His Kingdom, smashes the image on its toes, and the KINGDOM is given to the SAINTS. Therefore, since in actual history there have never been ten contemporaneous kingdoms that have continued out of the Roman Empire, side by side, down to the present---and since there HAVE BEEN NINE successive kingdoms ruling that territory from 476 to the present, with the tenth one now being formed by Mussolini---therefore we know that the kingdoms represented by the toes and the horns are SUCCESSIVE, not contemporaneous.

The Deadly Wound

Now let us return to our description of the "Beast" in Revelation 13.

"And I saw one of his heads as it were WOUNDED TO DEATH; and his deadly wound was HEALED; and all the world wondered after the beast.

"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?

"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." (Rev. 13:3-5).

The "Beast" here symbolized is the one which included the royal splendor and kingly power symbolized by the MOUTH of the lion (Babylon); the ponderous strength symbolized by the FEET of the bear (Medo-Persia), and the speed, cunning, and cruelty of the leopard (Greece). And since the INTERPRETATION of these symbols is found in Daniel 7, and since the fourth beast alone INCLUDED all these characteristics, and since the fourth beast alone included all SEVEN of the heads, and had the TEN HORNS, the Bible interpretation of the BEAST of Revelation 13 is the FOURTH BEAST of Daniel 7, ---the Roman Empire, of 31 B.C. to 476 A.D. The Beast described FORTY AND TWO MONTHS." The TEN HORNS rep-

by John in Revelation 13 also included 7 heads, but the only head existing at the time of this non-descript beast which included the most powerful characteristics of all the beasts symbolizing its predecessors was the fourth beast, containing the SEVENTH HEAD, and also the TEN HORNS. So the specific "one of its heads" that was wounded to death was the seventh head of the Roman Empire---the head out of which TEN HORNS grow. The ten horns, then, as Daniel interprets, represent ten successive governments OUT OF the Roman Empire, which were to continue until the setting up of the KINGDOM OF GOD at the second coming of Christ.

The DEADLY WOUND, then, was the one administered to the Roman Empire when, in its last decaying stages, the barbarians overran it, ending its government in 476 A.D.

Notice the DRAGON gave his power to the Beast. Who is the DRAGON? Some say "pagan Rome." But will we be guided solely by the BIBLE INTERPRETATION of its own symbols? Then, if we will, the Dragon is a symbol which means SATAN, THE DEVIL. Notice Rev. 12. "The great DRAGON . . . that old serpent, called the DEVIL and SATAN." (verse 9). "He was cast out into the earth . . . the DEVIL is come down unto

you, having great wrath . . . and when the DRAGON saw that he was cast unto the earth." (v.9,12,13). "And he laid hold on the DRAGON, that old serpent, WHICH IS THE DEVIL, and SATAN." (Rev. 20:2).

They worshipped the Beast (Rev. 13:4). Therefore some conclude, from this one statement alone, that the "Beast" must be the Papacy, not knowing that the people worshipped the Roman Empire and its emperors! Notice HOW they worshipped the Beast ---"saying WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE WAR WITH HIM?" The Roman Empire was the greatest WAR MAKING POWER the world had ever known, but the Catholic church never had an army. This beast killed WITH THE SWORD (v. 10) but the Catholic church

never did. History is full of accounts of the worship of the Roman emperors, for paganism was a STATE RELIGION. The following is from Robinson's "Medieval and Modern Times," a college text book, page 7, chapter 1:

"The worship of the emperor: In a word, the Roman government was not only wonderfully organized . . . everyone was required to join in the worship of the emperor because he stood for the majesty and glory of the dominion. . . all were obliged, as good citizens, to join in the official sacrifices to the head of the state, as if he were a god."

But, when the seventh HEAD of this great beast received its DEADLY WOUND in 476 A.D., was that the end? No, the prophecy says "HIS DEADLY WOUND WAS HEALED . . . AND POWER WAS GIVEN UNTO HIM TO CONTINUE

HOW TO STUDY THE CHART

Only by taking ALL the Scriptures describing the world reign of the Gentiles (Dan. 2, 7,8, Rev. 13, 17), and putting them all properly together in a CHART, can a right understanding be gained.

It is because Bible students have tried to solve these different chapters SEPARATELY, that so many erroneous and confusing theories have come.

In this chart, read across, and read down. All symbols listed in a horizontal column represent the same thing. The golden head of the image represents the same thing as the first beast, the lion, or the Chaldean Empire.

resent ten successive kingdoms OUT OF this kingdom to follow. So, thru the ten horns growing OUT OF this head (The Roman Empire of 31 B.C.-476 A.D.), the BEAST (for the ten horns are PART OF the Beast) continues on until the second coming of Christ.

The text does not say the whole BEAST died---but one of his HEADS was wounded to death. The BEAST included the seven heads and the ten horns. John sees the Beast living in the days of its seventh head, the Roman Empire. And when that HEAD of the beast had its deadly wound, HIS---the Beast's---deadly wound was healed. The HEAD was dead. But the BEAST continued. The horns now reign, one by one,

In 476 the Empire was over-run by barbarians, under Odoacer. His government, set up at Rome, called the HERULI, was the first horn. But it did not heal the deadly wound, for this was a government IN Rome, but not a ROMAN government, but one of foreign barbarians.

Then followed the Vandals, of Northern Africa, who sacked Rome in 455 and ruled it for a brief space. Then was the kingdom of the Ostrogoths, 493-554, another outside foreign people who rule in the territory. But they were driven out of Italy and disappeared.

These three kingdoms, sweeping into the Roman territory, filled the period known in history as the "transition age." (See Myers Ancient History, page 571). That is, a TRANSITION between the wound and the healing.

Now Daniel saw a "little horn" coming up AMONG these ten, before whom these first three were "plucked up by the roots." This "little horn" is identified as the Roman Catholic church, or the papacy, and it was at the behest of the pope that all three of these were "plucked up by the roots." That leaves 7 horns to come. And of the little horn, Daniel 7 says "his look was more stout than his fellows." The papacy dominated completely all the "horns" to follow!

The Deadly Wound HEALED!

It was the fourth kingdom (horn, or toe), succeeding the fall of the Empire in 476, which really HEALED the deadly wound, and restored the EMPIRE. In 554 A.D., Justinian, emperor of the East, from Constantinople, moved to Rome and brought about what is known in history as the "IMPERIAL RESTORATION" of the Empire.

Now notice verse 5, of Revelation 13. Power was given to this "Beast", once healed, to "CONTINUE FORTY AND TWO MONTHS." In the prophecies pertaining to the Times of Israel's punishment, each day represents a year in actual fulfilment (Ezek. 4:4-6, Num. 14:34). Thus, the "healed" beast is to continue 1260 YEARS!

Following the healing, in 554, came the Frankish Kingdom (French), the "Holy Roman Empire" (German), the Hapsburg dynasty, (Austrian), and Napoleon's kingdom (French). But, when Napoleon met his "Waterloo" in 1814, the healed beast continued no longer. "SO CLOSED," says West's Modern History, page 377, "A GOVERNMENT THAT DATED FROM AUGUSTUS CAESAR." (From 31

B.C.). It went into the abyss!

And from 554 to 1814, the duration of the "healed beast", was EXACTLY 1260 YEARS!

At that time, eight of the "horns" having appeared and gone, the "Beast" itself went into the non-existent condition symbolized in Rev. 17:8 as the "bottomless pit." But in the year 1870, Garibaldi united the many little divisions in the peninsula of Italy into one nation, and the kingdom thus established (the 9th horn), continues today. King Emanuel is its titular head, tho he is a "rubber stamp" with Mussolini in actual power and control.

The "Heads" the "Woman" rode

We shall deal later more specifically with the 17th chapter of Revelation in this connection. Then we shall prove beyond doubt that the "harlot woman," BABYLON THE GREAT, is the Roman Catholic church. But let us note in passing that the "woman," the Catholic church, with the papacy, never "rode" on any part of this Beast excepting its last seven "horns!" She is the "little horn" of Daniel 7, whose "look was more stout than his fellows," and who caused the first three to be plucked up by the roots. Justinian was the first ruler who ever acknowledged the supremacy of the pope, and bowed to his dictates! And since in the 17th chapter, the "woman" rode on all seven of the heads of the "beast" there pictured, and since she rode none of the "heads," but only the last seven of the "horns" of the 13th chapter "beast," it follows that the seven "horns" of the "healed beast" of the 13th chapter FORM the seven HEADS of the Beast of the 17th chapter!

Notice, at the present time, five are fallen, one is, and one is yet to come (Rev. 17:10). The five that are fallen are the 5 during the 1260 years in which power WAS GIVEN, by the Papacy, for the "healed beast" to CONTINUE. The one that is, is the present kingdom from Garibaldi to the present. Yet it is not in any sense the old Roman Empire, so during the stage of this 9th horn or 6th head (Rev. 17) John speaks of it as the Beast that was, and is not, and yet IS, and shall arise once again OUT OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT.

The 10th "horn", symbolized by the 7th head with its ten horns in the 17th chapter, yet to come, will be, as the 17th chapter explains, the revival of the BEAST, the Roman Empire, "out of the bottomless pit" by a "United States of Europe," or federation of ten European nations within the bounds of the old Roman Empire. (Rev. 17:12-18). This, Mussolini is bringing about today! Five of these nations already are in his control!

When Jesus comes, in the near future, the Roman armies (the BEAST) will be marshalled before Jerusalem for the BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON. (Rev. 16:16; 19:19). Those who have the MARK of the "BEAST" will suffer the horrible tortures of the seven last PLAGUES! Now WHAT IS THE IMAGE? WHAT IS THE MARK? These things will be revealed beginning with the September-number!

The PLAIN TRUTH

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EDITORIAL

Frequently people come to us freely acknowledging they are not saved. They believe there is a God. They fully understand their lost condition. But they say quite frankly they feel helpless, unconcerned, unable to do anything about it.

The tragedy of it! And one reason is because YOU who claim to be Christians are indifferent and unconcerned!

The answer is found in Isaiah 59:16. Looking down the stream of time in this prophecy, God sees into our day and the condition of lukewarm Christianity. "And he saw there was no man, and wondered that there was NO INTERCESSOR."

No intercessors praying for God to strive with lost sinners by His Spirit! And no man CAN come to the Son except the Father, thru His Spirit, draw him! God works thru human agencies. In James 5:16 we are commanded to PRAY one for another. And in I Sam. 12:23 the prophet says to sinners: "God forbid that I should SIN against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." Jesus told us to ASK for the Holy Spirit, assuring us God is more willing to give His Holy Spirit, WHEN ASKED, than we are to give bread to our hungry children. (Luke 11:9-13).

Is it not because YOU are not ASKING ---because you are ceasing to pray for lost sinners---that they are so indifferent, so utterly helpless and unable to do anything about their lost condition, even tho they realize it?

This class forms a vast portion of the unsaved. They have no conception of the enormity of sin. They are not under conviction. They feel no real sorrow, no pangs of remorse, no sense of true repentance at all. No desire to turn from it. They are wedded to the ways and pleasures of the world, and helpless to turn from it. They realize they are out of contact with God, yet they are helpless to do anything about it.

The minister is just as helpless when he tries to talk to such a person. No minister can talk, persuade, or preach anyone into a real BORN-AGAIN experience. Conversion is a miracle---the receiving of a new life---the very nature and life of God. It is mortal flesh receiving God's Spirit.

True, the Scriptures point the way, and with them the minister can point the way. Yet none can come EXCEPT THE SPIRIT OF THE FATHER DRAW HIM. And so unless YOU are back of our evangelistic efforts with real, earnest, intercessory prayer---unless YOU can come to have some real compassion for these lost, helpless, dying souls, and will pray earnestly until God convicts them of sin, all evangelistic effort is in vain.

In other words, the vast majority of unconverted sinners are indifferent today because YOU are so indifferent about their plight!

The wages of sin is DEATH. If you should see a helpless woman about to fall off a high precipice, and plunge to certain destruction below, would you sit by indifferent and unconcerned, or would you spring into action? MILLIONS are plunging into eternal death, yet you sit by careless and unconcerned! Are you not sinning in ceasing to pray for them?

God has set you a watchman. YOU see the conditions in the world, and you know by the prophecies foretelling them that we are in the very last days. YOU are not blinded. YOU see the sudden destruction coming upon the world. And God says to you: "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand." (Ezek. 33:17,18).

Perhaps God has not called you to go out and preach or publish a magazine. He does not give to all the same work. But God has a work for every Christian, and certainly you ARE called to stand back of those whom God is sending out to preach and publish the warning Gospel message. There are at least three ways you can do this. By the first tenth of HIS money which He permits to come into your hands (for your ALL belongs to HIM and He demands the first tenth of it, with free-will offerings, leaving you all the balance). In passing out literature and speaking to people when there is opportunity. And above all, by INTERCEDING for lost sinners in EARNEST SUPPLICATION AND PRAYER before God!

If you are just a lukewarm, indifferent Christian God says He is going to spue you out of His mouth! (Rev. 3:16).

The trouble is, too many of us are overcharged with the CARES OF THIS LIFE, with our work, our business, our house-work, so that we never have much time for God, or to be concerned over other millions about to perish! Read Luke 21:34 and 8:14.

The time is too serious for pretty platitudes, or the soft and smooth things so men are demanding of their ministers. "All Scripture is profitable for . . . CORRECTION, for REPROOF, for instruction in righteousness." (II Tim. 3:16). Unless you are willing to let it correct and reprove, and arouse from this spiritual slumber, the Scripture is NOT PROFITABLE to you.

The Church is asleep, and it is now high time to AWAKE, for now is our salvation much nearer than we supposed! (Rom. 13:11).

The remedy is MORE PRAYER! NOW!

God Prospers the TITHER

WHY Did the Lord ordain tithing? Was it to place increased burden and taxation upon us? O, let us not misunderstand God's love and wisdom!

It isn't that God really NEEDS your first tenth. He could have established some different system for carrying on His work.

But to have done so would have robbed US of the blessing that flows back to us if we are faithful in tithes and offerings!

The tither is invariably a prosperous man. Not necessarily wealthy---but one whose actual needs are always supplied. Tithers, if faithful and obedient to the Lord, are not often found in want---no, not even in these unprecedented times of stress and depression. "Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to YOUR account." (Phil. 4:17).

God promises His children shall always have something to give (Deut. 16:16, 17). It is only when they withhold and misappropriate the tithe and offerings that He fails to prosper them. For thru John He tells us "I wish above all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in health." (III John 2).

"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." (Prov. 3:9,10).

Try it! "Prove me now herewith," challenges the Lord to us, in a prophecy for our day (Mal. 3:10), "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Are you behind financially? In debt? Your unfaithfulness in tithing and offerings may be the reason!

Concrete Experiences

John D. Rockefeller, it is said, accepted the Lord's challenge to prosper the tither at eight years of age, when he began tithing. Has he prospered?

Mr. Colgate, the great soap manufacturer, left home when a very small boy. He met an old sea captain who was a Christian. He asked the boy what he could do, and the boy replied he knew only how to make soap and candles.

"Give your heart to God," advised the old sea captain, "and tithe your income. Some day there is going to be a man at the head of the great soap industries in New York, and there is no reason why you

How to figure the tithe---especially for the farmer or business man.

Here are God's PROMISES to prosper the tither, and concrete modern examples of how He has done it! Here's HELP for the man in debt or out of a job!

should not be the man." The boy took the advice, got a job, earned a dollar and gave a dime to the Lord cause. He earned two dollars and gave twenty cents. Soon he got a job in a soap factory and he continued to tithe and to prosper. He rose from common laborer to foreman. Later to manager, and then to president of

the company, and finally he owned the entire establishment. As he continued to prosper Colgate gave two tithes. He prospered still more and gave three tithes. Still he prospered, and he gave four. His prosperity kept increasing and he decided to give HALF of all his income. And still he prospered!

I know a man who started a small grocery business in a small Oregon city. He had practically no capital, had the poorest location in town, and refused to sell tobacco, and others said he could not succeed. Thus handicapped, starting in the beginning of the worst depression the world ever knew, not many would have dared give a whole tenth.

This man decided he would be a faithful steward, take the Lord into partnership, and trust the Lord with His business. He prospered from the start and is the only grocer in his town who is weathering the storm of depression successfully.

I know another man who drills wells. But thru the depression there have not been many wells to drill, and few of those were able to pay. Last winter he began to tithe and give offerings, and thus the Lord became a partner in his business. That same week a customer paid a bill he never expected to collect. In a few days a new well-drilling job came to him, and he has been busy most of the time since and collections have improved marvelously.

When God gets HIS portion of all your income, God becomes your partner, sharing in your profits. He causes HIS partners to prosper, and if you are in debt take God into partnership FIRST, and watch Him prosper you until finally you are out of debt! Remember the debt you owe God comes FIRST.

Tithing While in Debt

Yet so many say: "I don't think it would be right for me to tithe while I'm in debt." Yes, brother, it IS right, and the other way is WRONG. "There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." God's Word tells us what is RIGHT, and God tells us to give to His work the FIRST fruits of all our income. Regarding our material and financial needs, even debts, God says "Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God and

all these things shall be added unto you." (Mat. 6:33).

The tithe is the debt that you owe
This debt is FIRST in time and principle. Pay your debts to God, make Him your PARTNER in your finances, and receive His blessing in temporal affairs. This will enable you to pay your debts, or to get a job, or to have your needs supplied more quickly than if you evade His debt.

Remember your ALL belongs to HIM, not to you. (Psalm 24:1; I Cor. 10:26,28; Deut. 10:14; Haggai 2:8). You are in the position of steward handling that which belongs to another. He is your silent partner, and the first tenth, in addition to offerings, is His share. The rest He gives freely to you. But if you appropriate for yourself HIS share, you are stealing, and ROBBING GOD (Mat. 3:8). Would you pay your debts with money another man had left in your trust? If a man working in a bank does that, we call it embezzlement.

How to Figure the Tithe

Some say they do not understand how to figure the tithe.

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is HOLY unto the Lord. . . And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be HOLY unto the Lord. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it." (Lev. 27:30, 32-33). And since, in the New Testament, Paul points to the Old Testament teachings respecting tithing and says "EVEN SO hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the Gospel," (I Cor. 9:14), this same METHOD of figuring the tithe is in force under the New Testament. The farmer, therefore, should tithe not money alone, but of his stock, his grain, his fruit.

"Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. . . and if the place be too far from thee . . . then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose." (Deut. 14:22,24,25).

Jacob said, long before the Old Covenant or the Law of Moses, "of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee." (Gen. 28:22).

We tithe, then, our INCREASE---our INCOME---whether it be money, stock, vegetables, fruit, or grain. And it is the FIRST tenth, not the second or the last, that is God's. If we start spending, expecting to pay God's tenth later, we will often be unable to meet the tithe. Give God the FIRSTfruits, or the FIRST tenth, and we can regulate our needs according to what is ours to spend on them. This plan of God is a wholesome check upon extravagance and carelessness. And that in itself is one reason the tither succeeds better. The condition to having our "barns filled with plenty" is to "Honor the lord with . . . the FIRSTfruits of all thine increase." (Prov. 3:9,10).

The man who receives a salary or wages should give to the Lord's cause the first tenth of his entire salary or wage, and offerings in addition. This represents his personal income or increase.

If we receive money from investments, stocks, bonds, etc., or from a pension, or insurance, or by inheritance, this is all personal income or increase, and the WHOLE of it should be honestly tithed, for the first tenth of all of it belongs to God.

The man who owns a business usually draws a salary, and whatever net profits remain at the end of the year, or dividends declared. The first tenth of all this he should tithe. But the expenses of conducting the business, (salaries, wages paid others, purchase of supplies, stock, and materials, rent, light, heat, interest, insurance, advertising, etc.) are no part of his personal increase. So the business man cannot give a tenth of all the sales or gross income of the business---but the first tenth of all his PERSONAL salary, profits, dividends, or income.

The farmer conducts a business, and should figure his tithe accordingly. Money received that goes for the purchase of stock, feed, seed, implements, rent, wages, etc., are not his personal INCREASE, but expenses of the business, and should be subtracted before figuring the tithe. But he should give honestly a full tenth of all that is personal INCREASE, which is for personal use or needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, or investments, whether of money, or of "the seed of the land, or the fruit of the tree, or the herd, or the flock."

Reverse the order, and we would all know readily enough how to figure our tithe. Let Congress pass a new Act authorizing that for one year every citizen who will make application be given a sum equal to 10% of his personal income or increase. Everyone would then know how to figure this tithe, and would be down at the postoffice or bank bright and early in the morning to receive it! Let us be as honest with God as we would be with ourselves!

Your Glorious Opportunity

Some will say, "I never tithed, and I know God never frowned on me, for I have the witness in my heart that I am His child."

God has blessed you according as you have YIELDED to Him according to the light He has revealed to you, from His Word! While you have the light, WALK it in, lest darkness come upon you! (John 12:35,36). GROW in grace and the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord." (II Pet. 3:18). See also Rom. 11:22, and Acts 17:30, and John 14:15.

If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from the Lord, honoring HIM instead of themselves with their substance, the work of the Lord would go forth with such mighty power that the world would be shaken to its foundations!

Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom, and material needs shall be ADDED. Try it. Take God at His Word! PROVE HIM! (Mal. 3:10). See how you begin to prosper! Be a faithful steward, make God your PARTNER! Receive His BLESSING! God's work is waiting upon YOU!