



# The United States in Prophecy

## Information Booklet H

Supplement to Lesson 23

### **America in Prophecy**

This booklet provides additional information on the second beast of Revelation 13 as described in Lesson 23. Please complete Lesson 23 before reading this material.

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

This Bible passage introduces a beast which has been identified as the United States of America. Notice that it lists seven identifying details:

#### **#1 – It is a “beast”**

Daniel 7:17 tells us that a beast in symbolic Bible prophecy represents a king or political nation.

#### **#2 – It is “another” beast**

It is not identical to the first beast of chapter 13.

#### **#3 – It is “Coming up”**

Coming up indicates that it was at that time rising to power as John watched in vision. The context of verse 10 is talking about the period of time when the first beast was taken into captivity, which was in 1798. So this nation would be gaining its power right at that time.

#### **#4 – “Out of the earth”**

This is in contrast with the beasts of Daniel 7 and the first beast of Revelation 13 – which all came up out of the sea. Sea is the gathering together of the waters, and waters in Bible prophecy represent “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” Revelation 17:15. So this nation coming up out of the earth would arise in an area which was not crowded with many peoples and nations. In Revelation 10:2 the terms “sea” and “earth” refer to the eastern and western hemispheres, respectively.

John Wesley, in his note on Revelation 13:11, written in 1754, says of this beast:

“He is not yet come: tho’ he cannot be far off. For he is to appear at the end of the forty-two months of the first beast.” Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament, vol 3, p 299 (1791 ed.).

In 1798, when the papal power received its deadly wound, the United States, located in the western hemisphere, was the only great world power then coming into prominence in territory not previously occupied by peoples, multitudes, and nations. Only nine years preceding this, in 1789, the U.S. adopted its national Constitution.

“Is it reasonable to suppose that God would leave out from the prophecies of his Book this whole Western Hemisphere? No, No!” Selected Sermons, vol 2, p 9, by De Witt Talmage, 1900.

## #5 – “He had two horns”

Horns symbolize the ruling power of a nation, and this is a striking depiction of the two main foundational principles of the ruling power of the United States – being the principles of Republicanism and Protestantism. Republicanism represents freedom from the despotic and arbitrary rule of kings and emperors, by allowing all its citizens to control their own government. Protestantism represents freedom to follow what you believe to be true, by eliminating forced obedience in religious matters.

## #6 – “Like a lamb”

The nations depicted in Daniel 7, which were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, were pictured as ferocious beasts of prey. They were characterized by intolerance, persecution, and oppression. The United States, on the other hand, is pictured as a docile, domestic lamb, characterized by liberty, equality, and tolerance.

## #7 – And “spake as a dragon”

It is clear from the text that the United States would sadly not always remain as innocent as it began, but would eventually speak as a dragon.

A nation “speaks” through its decrees and legislative enactments. This verse indicates that the U.S. government would act on the principles of the dragon which, according to Revelation 12:9, is Satan.

## The Voice of a Dragon

“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” Revelation 13:12.

“**Exerciseth all the power** of the first beast before him” tells us that the United States will enforce the power of the papacy. It will cause the whole world “**to worship the first beast**, whose deadly wound was healed.” This nation will sadly repudiate its principles of religious liberty.

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” Revelation 13:13-14.

“**Great wonders**” indicate that there will be supernatural signs which work to deceive the world, and usher in the forming of “**an image to the beast**”. An image of something is a likeness to it, or a duplicate of it. So the characteristics of the papacy will be duplicated in the United States.

The papacy has been distinguished historically as a combination of religious and civil power. So when the United States begins to employ its civil power to enforce the decrees of religious leaders who are clamoring even now for such enforcement, the United States will have formed an image of the Roman Catholic religio-political structure.

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.” Revelation 13:15.

“**Give life unto the image**” so that it “should **both speak and cause...many...(who) would not worship the image...(to) be killed.**” This image of Roman Catholicism – this combination of church and state – religious and civil power, will become a reality in America. Any religious decrees that this image enacts will become legally enforceable as a religious duty to obey. Those who do not obey these religious commands, thus refusing to worship this image, will be given the death penalty. Forced religion, practiced by the papacy during its supremacy, will be given life once again in America. But it is totally contrary to the principles of God founded in His word. Thus you can see that the real issue here centers around who are you going to “worship”!

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads.” Revelation 13:16.

This tells us that it will be the United States which instigates the enforcement of the mark of the beast – or Roman Catholicism – and “**causes all...to receive a mark**”. Lesson 23 documents the fact that the beast plainly states that Sunday observance is the mark of its authority. This is in stark contrast with the seventh-day Sabbath, which God the Creator has established as the sign of His authority. Since this mark is received by knowingly following the day that the papacy has made holy, then the mark is not something tangible, such as a computer chip implant, or a credit card, etc. That is why the real issue here centers around whom you are going to “worship”!

This mark is either received “**in their right hand, or in their foreheads**”. Your “right hand” signifies your labor and strength, whereas your “forehead” signifies your beliefs and decisions. So to receive this mark in your right hand would signify that even though you may not agree that all people should be forced to worship on Sunday under penalty of death, yet you will not fight against the command, but will work right along it. And to receive this mark in your forehead would signify that you actually believe that Sunday worship is pleasing to God, and that all who refuse this mark of the beast should be killed.

“And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:17.

It is very clear that those who obey God and refuse to give their allegiance to the beast and his image, will be prohibited by law from carrying on any business dealings. Their dependence will then be totally upon God. Although every earthly support will be cut off, they will still trust God for all their sustenance. And the promise is given to only these faithful ones:

“His place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.” Isaiah 33:16.

Notice what is to be enforced: the mark of the beast – Sunday observance. This will be the deciding issue regarding one’s loyalty and whom they worship. Are you going to worship the beast or its image by obeying their commandments? Or are you going to worship God by obeying His commandments?

Satan hates the Sabbath because it is the sign of Christ’s authority as Creator and King. And in all ages Satan has tried to work through the governments of nations in his attacks against Christ and His people.

Just as in Bible times, so today, the major movements of nations and kings are actually the battleground of an even greater war – the same war which began in heaven between Christ and Satan. In this war every person of the world, whether small or great, rich or poor, free or bond, will be involved. These final events of earth’s history will be the final climax of the great controversy which has been raging now for some 6,000 years.

The outcome of that battle is described in Revelation chapter 19. Verses 7 and 8 describe the purification of God’s people which will take place during this trying time. Although outwardly it may appear difficult, “yet the inward man is renewed day by day” 2 Corinthians 4:16. Texts such as James 1:3-4 and 1 Peter 4:1 describe the blessings which come to those who stand for the truth and honor of God.

Revelation 19 also describes the glorification of Christ’s church, the victorious return of our Lord, and the destruction of the earthly powers which attempted to enforce upon all the world the disobedience of God’s Law.

Then the promise is given that those “which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands;...lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4.

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

It’s time to do a study such as never done before;  
The end of time’s upon us, even at the very door.  
A test will come to everyone who dwells upon the land;  
And only by the word of God will anybody stand.

It’s what the Bible says that really matters now;  
Only to what the Bible says should my knee bow.  
It doesn’t matter what popes, councils, or governments may decree,  
If they try to take the place of what THE BIBLE says to me.

It may be different from what I’ve always thought;  
It may not go along with what my parents taught.  
But if the Bible says it, who am I to be one who disagreed?  
The word of God is the standard and the test for every creed.

It’s what the Bible says that really matters now;  
Only to what the Bible says should my knee bow.  
It doesn’t matter what popes, councils, or governments may decree,  
If they try to take the place of what THE BIBLE says to me.