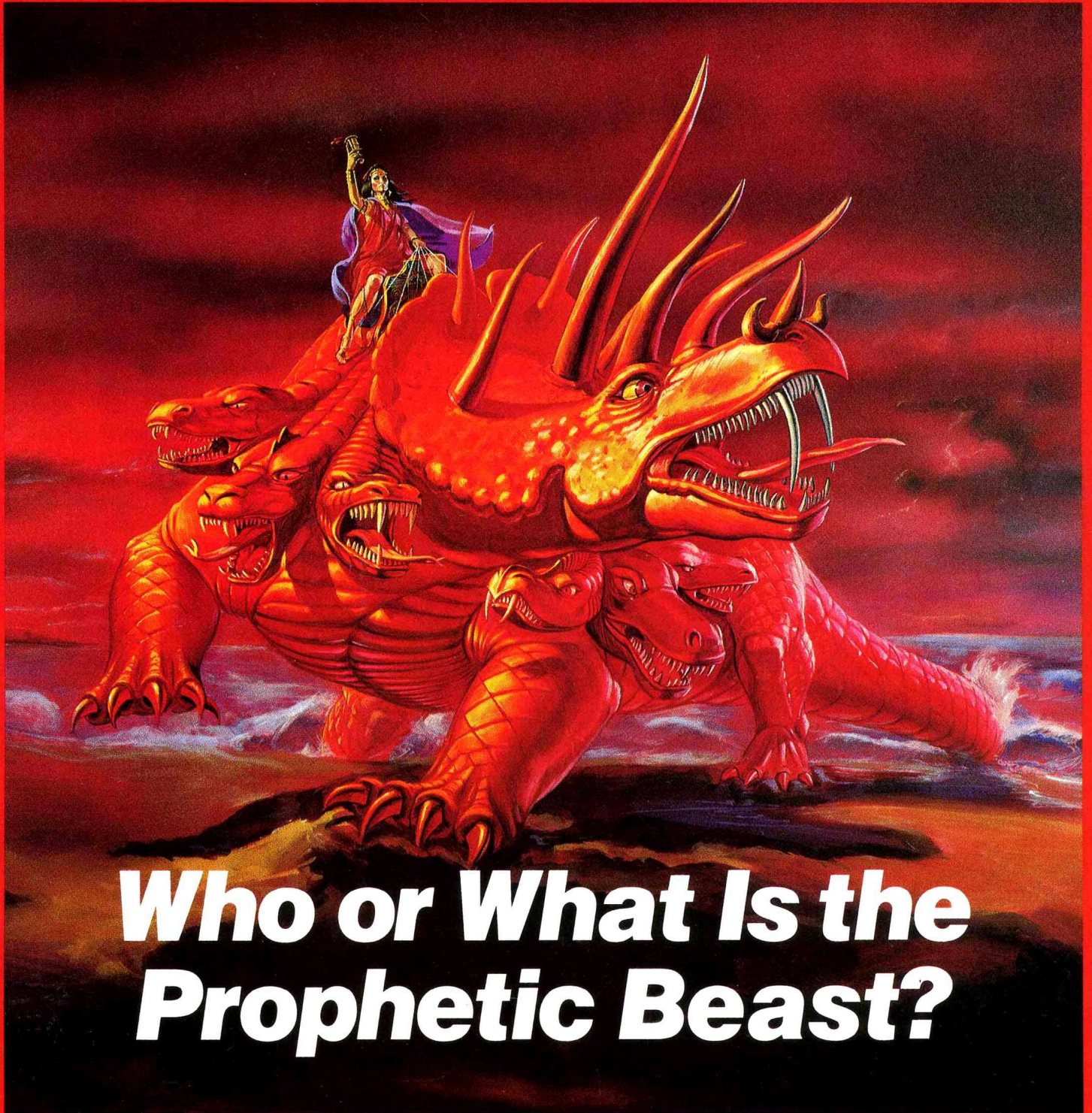


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The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW



**Who or What Is the
Prophetic Beast?**

PERSONAL FROM

Herbert W. Armstrong

The Way of Life That Causes Success

I was reminiscing with two of our executives on the high estimate I placed on myself in earlier life — in my 20s. “I was a very important individual in my own eyes then,” I mused. “You have no idea how far I’ve skidded backward since then.”

They laughed. “Well,” exclaimed one, “I wish you’d give us the formula of how to go backward like that!”

Reflecting on this bit of banter later, I decided seriously it *would* be profitable to write that formula for all our readers. For it is the formula for the only kind of success that is real and satisfying and lasting.

For as long as I was important in my own eyes, I was actually of no more importance than a paper bag filled with air. True, I was ambitious. I worked hard, studied hard, drove myself on relentlessly to achieve what I then viewed as SUCCESS. But actually, as I know now, it was a striving after wind — pure vanity — a swelled-up self-exaltation that was like a toy balloon that will burst when pricked with a pin.

The skidding backward began with the flash depression of 1920, which sent numerous big corporations, including my main customers, to the wall. It was a national flash catastrophe over which I

had no control. It left me, by 1922, a deflated, frustrated young man of 30. But not for long. I said: “I’ll bound back. You can’t keep a good man down.” Self-confidence returned. I began developing another business.

But by 1926, just when my new advertising business was beginning to accelerate, another nationwide occurrence, not of my making — or even my knowledge, at the time — wiped out that business.

Once again the SELF was deflated. The ego was punctured. I took a new look at myself. And what I now saw was pretty humiliating. I called myself a burned-out “hunk of junk.” At this point a soul-jarring experience and a new self-appraisal changed the direction of my life.

Events and experiences of earlier years now played their part in shaping a new life from this point on. The inflated ego and self-assured ambition had been aroused at age 16. But as far back as memory extends I had a passion for UNDERSTANDING.

I have written elsewhere of the experience, when 22, as the “idea man” for the editorial department of the country’s largest trade journal. In continual travel throughout the United States, I

was assigned not only to search out successful sales ideas and business management techniques, but also seek out the reasons for the success of the few, and the failure of the many.

On this assignment I pioneered in making surveys, based on the law-of-average principle, sampling public opinion, attitudes, consumer buying habits, facts about life — about failure and success — about mental states of



Ongoing achievement: Herbert W. Armstrong opens new mall area on Pasadena, Calif., campus of Ambassador College.

happiness or depression, about life itself as people lived it.

Now as I reflected back, I realized that the most “successful” people I had interviewed were the least happy. Bank accounts were full but lives were empty.

Now, having taken the count twice as a result of nationwide occurrences not of my making — now reduced to actual economic

Photo by Warren Watson

poverty — it became clear at last that, truly, it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This whole world, it became painfully clear, was operating on the “GET” philosophy. The philosophy of “I love *ME*, and I care nothing about *you*.” The way of competition, strife, taking, acquiring, amassing — of *being served* rather than serving. Actually, in economic poverty I found rest from the nerve-shattering *driving, striving* after that which NEVER SATISFIED when acquired!

I began to see that LOVE is not spelled “l-u-s-t” but rather is pointed in the opposite direction — LOVE is an *outgoing concern* for the one loved.

It became crystal clear that there are two overall philosophies or WAYS of life. One is the SELF-centered way. It is simply VANITY. It loves self only (which, as I had learned from a text on advertising psychology, *includes* that which you call YOURS — your wife and family, your club, your political party, your football team, your country in time of war). It includes not only love and greed toward SELF, but envy, jealousy and even hatred toward others.

I could see why so many marriages break up — or, at least, are unhappy. One confuses “falling in love” with the sex attraction that stimulates DESIRE — toward SELF. And when one does not GET what is wanted *from* the mate, resentment sets in. The mate is no longer part of one’s extended SELF. Resentment turns to bitterness, and bitterness to HATE.

Happiness is a funny thing — or *is it?* The more you GIVE, the more you HAVE. But the more you try to TAKE, the more miserable you become.

It became clear. One WAY of life is the SELF way — the INCOMING way — the GETTING way. The OPPOSITE WAY is the *selfless* way — the way of humility, getting rid of the SELF (which is your biggest enemy), the way of GIVING, serving, sharing.

In the summer of 1933 we were living in Oregon. I planned a

series of lectures in and near Eugene, Ore., to share this BASIC KNOWLEDGE of this right WAY OF LIFE with others. I was without money. But a man with whom I had come in contact, believing in this WAY, happened to be a member of a country school board. He offered me the use of a one-room country schoolhouse eight miles west of Eugene. There was no rent.

I *walked* out over the countryside, inviting neighbors to come to the series of lectures. There were only 35 seats, but attendance averaged 36 — an average of one standing.

That was a very small group of people, but the response was electric. Some of those lives became happier!

A little later an invitation came to lecture over radio. The response was entirely unexpected. There was then only one station in Eugene, KORE, owned by Frank Hill. He called me into his office, handed me a handful of letters. He suggested I plan a regular half-hour program — offering to contribute substantially by reducing the cost below cost of operation. The price was \$3 per half hour.

That was the start of the *World Tomorrow* program. It could not have started smaller. The station then broadcast on only 100 watts. But it was a NEW KIND OF EDUCATION.

Education as organized in this world is restricted primarily to the physical sciences, technologies and the professions — teaching how to earn a living, but not HOW TO LIVE. I saw the need of this broader kind of education in THE HOME. Without any request from me, radio listeners volunteered to become contributors.

That was the start. As new co-workers volunteered to join with me, other radio stations were added. Growth was small. But I never would *solicit* contributions over the air. The radio program started on the air the first week in 1934. I managed to put together a homemade “magazine” called *The Plain Truth*, printed on a borrowed mimeograph, ready by

Feb. 1. This was offered, free, to radio listeners.

Little by little it grew. In 1947 Ambassador College was opened in Pasadena — with four students and a faculty of eight. It was a new type of campus education. We not only began teaching students how to earn a living — but also HOW TO LIVE.

And now, after another 38 years, I look back on a life that has been filled with happiness — because it has been devoted to SHARING this WAY to REAL SUCCESS with, first, about three dozen, then hundreds, then thousands and today into the HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS of people.

From that high estimate I placed on myself during my late teens and 20s, seeking STATUS and a recognition of IMPORTANCE, I skidded backward — all the way DOWN to self-abasement in economic poverty. In financial poverty I found THE WAY to true SUCCESS. I learned that setting one’s heart on money, material possessions or status only brings a CURSE. Financial success is seldom *true* success, because it is sought for its own sake.

There is a CAUSE for every effect. TRUE success may, and perhaps usually should, include financial success. Money is power, but usually it is used to CAUSE curses, not blessings and happiness. Money is good or evil depending on how it is used. If money is the end you seek, it will wreck you in the end. Self-centeredness, self-seeking — the GETTING, grasping way of vanity, jealousy, envy and greed — is a CAUSE that always produces a most UNHAPPY effect.

To HUMBLE the self, to be little in your own eyes, to be honestly and sincerely concerned for others — to get on the GIVING, helping, serving, sharing way — that is the WAY OF LIFE that CAUSES real success!

To have the SELF brought down to that junk pile was a painful experience. But not for long. Yes, I’m glad I skidded *backward* from self-esteem, ego and vanity and self-seeking. □

Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?

Bible prophecy reveals events of our time and world-shaking events soon to change your life. A major world-shaking event is foretold in the symbolic language of a mysterious, world-dominating, wild beast.

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Who or what is the wild "beast" of the Apocalypse, or book of Revelation, chapters 13 and 17? What does Bible prophecy reveal about world events now leading to Armageddon and the end of this age?

This series of articles deals with governments and wars that will bring this world to its final end.

The Bible is God's book of history, prophecy and revealed knowledge of God's purpose and master plan for humanity from its beginning on into eternity.

But the Bible is primarily a book about the chosen nation of Israel, and other nations that have come into direct contact with Israel.

We know little concerning na-



tions, or whether there were nations on earth, prior to the great Flood. But soon after the Flood, Nimrod founded the city-states

Beginning this issue, The Good News is publishing, serially, Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong's newest booklet Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?

of Babylon, Nineveh and others. In due time such nations as Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, the Aramean states, Israel, Phoenicia and others developed in the Middle East. By the end of the seventh century B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar had founded the first world empire or union of nations.

The Bible does reveal the history, and prophecy from now of the system of gentile world empires starting with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon on to the Second Coming of Christ, as well as the history and yet future prophecy

concerning Israel. This series of articles will cover the true significance of these two systems of nations, and what it means to us today, as well as what is prophesied for the imminent future.

First, then, who or what is the mysterious wild beast of Revelation 13 and 17? If you have his mark, you must suffer the seven

Illustrations by C. Winston Taylor

last PLAGUES! Is he a mysterious superman world dictator yet to appear? Is he the antichrist — or a government — or a church?

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 spoken of in the Apocalypse, or book of Revelation? Whatever this weird beast — whatever the baffling image — whatever the mysterious mark — it behooves you to find out!

For it is those of this very present generation who shall be worshiping this beast or his image, or shall have received his mark, who will suffer the unspeakable torture of the seven last plagues!

Ignorance will not excuse! “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,” says the Eternal, in Hosea 4:6. And the illustration of Ezekiel’s watchman shows that those who are unaware because they are not warned will suffer just the same (Ezekiel 33:6, 3:18). God expects the spiritual leader of His people to be His “watchman” (Ezekiel 33:7) and to warn the people.

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, lukewarm, indifferent Christianity!

Who shall suffer the PLAGUES?

Listen! John in the Apocalypse, or book of Revelation, describes the last 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” (Revelation 14:9-10).

This amazing prophecy is most significant, because it is revealing in advance events immediately ahead of us at this present time.

Listen again! John, 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 grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image” (Revelation 15:6, 16:2)!

Every sign tells us these things will happen, plunging the world into the most frantic, frenzied state of anguish ever known, almost certainly within a matter of the next several years!

Those who suffer the 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.

These prophecies are real. They are imminent. Because these and other prophecies have never been understood until now, even churches, theologians, evangelists have been ignoring prophecies in general and these imminent prophecies in particular. Too many are trying to speculate in their imaginations. But God says, “My thoughts are not your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8).

We can’t 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!

For, of course, the mark is the beast’s mark. Who, what then, is the beast?

The Bible DESCRIPTION of the BEAST

The beast, the image of the beast and the mark of the beast are all described primarily in the 13th chapter of Revelation.

Notice carefully this Bible description. The apostle John was

being given this message for you and me of this day. In the vision he 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” (Revelation 13:1-2).

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 superman, 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 10 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 superman coming who will have the feet of a bear, and the mouth of a lion? And will he appear by coming up out of some ocean?

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. But man cannot interpret biblical symbols. 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 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.

And the Bible itself tells us what they represent!

In the seventh chapter of Daniel, we find exactly these same symbols described. Here again are the beasts, the seven heads, the 10 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 (Daniel 1:17). And Daniel had a dream and a vision (Daniel 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" (verse 5), the third like a "leopard" (verse 6) and the fourth was so



dreadful and terrible it could not be compared to any wild beast known to inhabit the earth (verse 7)!

Now there was only 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 10 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 10 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 earth." Notice also the word *kingdom* is

used to explain the beasts in verses 18, 22, 24 and 27.

Now what do the 10 "horns" represent?

Notice verse 24: "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise."

Notice the 10 horns, or 10 succeeding kingdoms or governments, come OUT OF A KINGDOM,



not out of a man, or a superman. This alone makes plain that the beast is not some mysterious personal superman yet to come. Also that the beast is not a church as some claim, for no 10 kingdoms ever did, or will, come out of a 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 10 horns are 10 succeeding kingdoms growing out of the fourth kingdom, which was to rule the earth!

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 were 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 earth.

"This," Daniel says, beginning verse 36, "is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before 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" (verses 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 world-ruling Kingdom. The inter-

pretation of the stone is given many places in the Bible. "Jesus Christ 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 portrayed, symbolically, four universal world-ruling gentile kingdoms. They begin with the Chaldean Empire, which took the Jews captive to Babylon.

God had promised ancient Israel that if they would keep His commandments, be His obedient nation, they would grow into a multitude of nations — or an empire — that would dominate the entire earth. But for disobedience they were to be taken captive by gentile nations (Leviticus 26 and other prophecies).

Ancient Israel had been tried through the generations and centuries. They had disobeyed. Now they had been taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, who had raised up the world's first empire.

But as God revealed through Daniel in chapter 2, it was God who had turned this world empire over to this succession of gentile empires. They continue through four great universal kingdoms, and out of the fourth grow 10 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 in Daniel 2 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, 625-539 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 four generals divided his vast empire into four regions: Macedonia and Greece, Thrace and Western Asia, Syria and territory east to the Indus river, 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. to 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 stronger, greater, more terrible, than any.

And so John, in Revelation 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 10 horns and John's beast has 10 horns.

And so, if we are willing to be guided solely by the Bible de-

scription 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 Revelation 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 a church, some as a mysterious, individual superman 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 worshiped the beast by saying, "Who is able to make war with him?" (Revelation 13:4).

The symbolism of the horns

Let us now notice the symbolism of the horns of the fourth beast of Daniel 7 and of the beast of Revelation 13.

The 10 horns symbolize the same thing — the 10 stages of government continuing out of the Roman Empire after its fall, A.D. 476. The ten horns "out of this kingdom [the fourth — the Roman empire, 31 B.C. to A.D. 476] are ten kings that shall arise . . . and the kingdom and 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" (Daniel 7:24, 27).

The 10 horns, then, are 10 kingdoms to arise out of the fourth kingdom, the Roman Empire. These kings, also called kingdoms, continue from A.D. 476 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 his-
(Continued on page 21)

Beast

(Continued from page 6)

tory there have never been 10 contemporaneous kingdoms that have continued out of the Roman Empire, side by side, down to the present time — and since there have been nine successive kingdoms ruling that territory, which we shall explain, from 476 to the present, therefore we know that the kingdoms represented by 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” (Revelation 13:3-5).

The beast here symbolized is the one that 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).

Since the interpretation of these symbols is found in Daniel 7, and since the fourth beast had 10 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 A.D. 476.

The beast described by John in Revelation 13 included seven heads, but the only head existing at the time John saw this nondescript beast (which included the most powerful characteristics of all the beasts symbolizing its predecessors) was that of the fourth beast of Daniel, containing the

seventh head, and also the 10 horns. So the specific “one of its heads” that was wounded to death (Revelation 13:3) was the seventh head of the Roman Empire — the head out of which 10 horns grew.

The 10 horns, as Daniel interprets, represent 10 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 A.D. 476.

Notice, the dragon gave his power to the beast. Who is the dragon? Some have said “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 that means Satan the devil.

Notice Revelation 12: “The great dragon . . . that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan . . . 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 . . .” (verses 9, 12-13).

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan” (Revelation 20:2).

They worshiped the beast (Revelation 13:4). Therefore some conclude, from this one statement alone, that the beast must be the papacy, not knowing that the people worshiped the Roman Empire and its emperors!

Notice how they worshiped 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. This beast killed by the sword (verse 10).

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*, an older college textbook, page 7:

“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 a god.”

But when the seventh head of this great beast received its deadly wound in A.D. 476, was that the end?

No, the prophecy says “his deadly wound was healed . . . and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months” (verses 3, 5).

The 10 horns represent 10 successive kingdoms to follow out of this kingdom. So, through the 10 horns growing out of this head (the Roman Empire of 31 B.C.-A.D. 476), the beast (for the 10 horns are part of the beast) continues until the Second Coming of Christ.

The text says one of his heads was wounded to death. The beast included the seven heads and the 10 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 horns now reign, one by one.

The Roman Empire in northern Africa was overrun by the Vandals, who sacked Rome in 455. Then in 476 Odoacer set up his government at Rome, called the Heruli. But it did not heal the deadly wound, for this was only a government *in* Rome. It was not a Roman government, but one of foreign barbarians. Then there was the kingdom of the Ostrogoths, 493-554, another foreign people who ruled 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 10, before whom these first three were “plucked up by the roots” (Daniel 7:8). That leaves 7 horns to come.

And of the little horn, Daniel 7 says his “look was more stout than his fellows” (verse 20). The papacy dominated completely all the horns to follow.

It was the fourth kingdom (symbolized by the fourth horn), succeeding the fall of the Empire in 476, which really HEALED the deadly wound, and restored the empire.

The deadly wound healed

In A.D. 554, Justinian, emperor of the East, from Constantinople, set up his government through an Imperial Legate at Ravenna, Italy, 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 the fulfillment (Ezekiel 4:4-6, Numbers 14:34). Thus, the healed beast is to continue 1,260 years.

Following the healing, in 554, came the Frankish kingdom (French), the Holy Roman Empire (German, then the Austrian Habsburgs) and Napoleon’s kingdom (French). But when Napoleon was crushed in 1814, the healed beast continued no longer. “So closed,” says West’s *Modern History*, page 337, “a government that dated from Augustus Caesar [from 31 B.C.]” It went into abyss!

And from 554 to 1814, the duration of the “healed beast,” was exactly 1,260 years!

At that time, eight of the horns having appeared and gone, the beast itself went into the nonexistent condition symbolized in Revelation 17:8 as the “bottomless pit.”

But by the year 1870, Garibaldi had united the many little divisions in the peninsula of

Italy into one nation, and the kingdom thus established began the ninth horn, which culminated in the Fascist rule of Mussolini.

The “heads” the woman rode

We shall deal later more specifically with the 17th chapter of Revelation in this connection. But let us note in passing that the woman mentioned in this chapter never rode on any part of this beast of Revelation 13 except 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.

And since, in the 17th chapter of Revelation, 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 beast of Revelation 13, 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 time John saw the beast, five are fallen, one is and one is yet to come (Revelation 17:10).

The five that are fallen are the five during the 1,260 years in which power was given, by religious authority, for the healed beast to continue.

The one that “is,” is the kingdom that extended from Garibaldi to the downfall of Mussolini. It was not in any sense the power-wielding old Roman Empire, so during the stage of this ninth horn (Revelation 13) or sixth head (Revelation 17) John speaks of it as the beast that was, and is not, and shall arise once more out of the bottomless pit.

The seventh head with its 10 horns, in the 17th chapter of Revelation, 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 10 European nations centered within the bounds of the old Roman Empire (Revelation 17:12-18).

This is beginning today!

(To be continued)

Halloween

(Continued from page 12)

27, 34) fall in the seventh month of the sacred calendar, at a period that varies slightly from year to year but centers on early October. Ancient Israel was ordered to observe these God-ordained days. But instead of keeping the feasts of God in the seventh month, King Jeroboam ordained his own feast one month later (I Kings 12:27-33).

This counterfeit festival, in the middle of the eighth month, was approximately equivalent time-wise to Halloween today!

A provable connection? No. But the point is, God rejected the inferior substitute that was made for something He had instituted — and rejected the whole people because they had rejected Him.

There is a lesson in that for us.

What could be better — for children and adults, too — than restoring the observance of God’s Holy Days according to His instructions? Better than Halloween, Christmas, Easter or any of the other humanly devised false substitutes.

During the early part of October, while commercial advertisements begin to prepare people for yet another Halloween, the members of the Worldwide Church of God observe the Feast of Tabernacles, one of God’s festivals. They enjoy themselves in good, clean fun at some of the most beautiful locations on earth, while rejoicing in light and truth, learning how to give and share — the exact opposite of the “get” mentality of death-oriented Halloween observance — and preparing themselves for the soon-coming world tomorrow.

Once a person properly keeps the days God has commanded, he realizes what cheap, inferior, meaningless substitutes are the religious holidays of the world. If you haven’t yet experienced them, you’re really shortchanging yourself and your children. You’re missing something inestimably good! □