

Chapter 1

The Origin and Identity of the Beast

When studying the Book of Daniel it is important to realize that the years between 626-539 BC were a dark time in Israel's history. Israel had been disobeying God for years and it resulted in Israel being carried off into captivity by the Babylonians. Even though it was a dark time for the soul of Israel there was still much light that was shed on their future by the prophet Daniel. We learn from the Bible that Daniel was captured as a young boy and taken to Babylon where he was raised, taught, and highly respected in the king's household because of the wisdom he displayed and the ability God gave him to understand visions and dreams. This can be read about in Daniel 1:17-20.

It was during Daniel's exile in Babylon that King Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream and Nebuchadnezzar wanted to know the meaning of it. He asked his wise men to not only tell him the dream he had, but also to interpret it for him, a request that the Chaldean magicians and sorcerers told him could not be done. Because of this, Nebuchadnezzar became furious and declared that all the wise men in Babylon must die — an order that included Daniel despite his innocence. As one reads the record, it says that with the help of prayer by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Daniel received the answer from God that he needed; he got the vision of the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had had, along with the interpretation. The entire record is found in Daniel 2:16-28. We begin at Daniel 2:31 where Daniel starts to give King Nebuchadnezzar the news:

Daniel 2:31 You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. **32** The head of that statue [was made] of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly

REVELATION UNRAVELED

and its thighs of bronze, **33** its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. **34** You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. **35** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel then gives the king the interpretation...

Daniel 2:36 This [was] the dream; now we shall tell its interpretation before the king. **37** You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the glory; **38** and wherever the sons of men dwell, [or] the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given [them] into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. **39** And after you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. **40** Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. **41** And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. **42** And [as] the toes of the feet [were] partly of iron and partly of pottery, [so] some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. **43** And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. **44** And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and [that] kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. **45** Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the

The Origin and Identity of the Beast

gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy.

What was Daniel talking about and how does it pertain to us today? First of all, in verses 37-38, it shows us that as egotistical and as pagan a king Nebuchadnezzar was, he was still put there by God. This is an important truth to remember especially when we begin to consider the rise of the "little horn" that precedes the final beast kingdom, the kingdom which will usher in the greatest conflict ever witnessed by man — the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord.

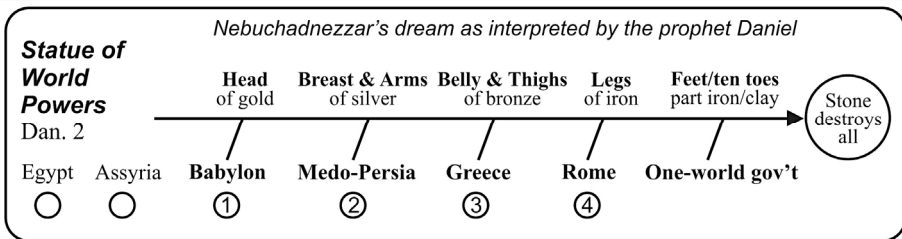
Daniel tells us that God made Nebuchadnezzar ruler over the world around him and that he was the statue's head of gold. After this kingdom of Babylon, another kingdom would arise, represented by the statue's breasts and two arms of silver — which we know historically and biblically to be the Medo-Persian Empire. We can see this fact verified from Daniel 5:28 where it describes a party that Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar, was hosting. During the party Belshazzar sinned by using special goblets from God's temple during the festivities. Because of this sin, God wrote a message on the wall telling Belshazzar that he would no longer be king, and the message reads in verse 28, "*PERES, Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*" Thus we see from Scripture itself that the next kingdom after Babylon was Medo-Persia.

Verse 32 of chapter 2 speaks of a third kingdom that has "*his belly and thighs of brass*" and according to verse 39 "*shall bear rule over all the earth.*" When you study the chronology of world history, this part of the statue accurately represents Greece — specifically the rule of Alexander the Great, who before the age of thirty-three conquered the entire known world.

The fourth kingdom is categorized as "legs of iron" and is believed by virtually every Bible scholar to signify the Roman Empire. It is correctly shown as two legs or two kingdoms — the Western division being centered in Rome, and then the Eastern division, whose capital was Constantinople. In Daniel 2, verse 40 it says, "*Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; in as much as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.*" This verse makes the point that Rome had tremendous strength and power toward everybody within its grasp.

REVELATION UNRAVELED

The accuracy of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation by Daniel is remarkable because these kingdoms did come to pass and they came to pass in the exact order they were given. This being so, we need to remember that this dream and the interpretation were given to Nebuchadnezzar to explain what would happen *in the future*. Previous to Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, there were two other great world powers that played a part in human history. The first kingdom was Egypt that we remember for its splendor and for the intelligence of its people. The second kingdom was that of Assyria which conquered the northern kingdom, comprised of ten of the twelve tribes of Israel. The Assyrians exiled the ten tribes into both Assyria and into the cities of the Medes, which one can read about in 2 Kings 17:6. When you take these two kingdoms, Egypt and Assyria, and couple them with the information given in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, you get a look at the history of the world that looks something like the chart below:



The chart categorizes Nebuchadnezzar's dream as it was interpreted by the prophet Daniel. The nations of Egypt and Assyria on the left will be discussed further in our study. As accurate as Daniel's description of the future is, we need to study in detail the last part of the statue, the feet and toes, so as to learn what implications lie ahead for *our* future. Daniel 2, verse 41:

Daniel 2:41 And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. **42** And [as] the toes of the feet [were] partly of iron and partly of pottery, [so] some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. **43** And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

The Origin and Identity of the Beast

From what we have just read and as we look at the chronology of world empires, God says that after the Roman Empire will come another kingdom, partly made of *iron* (people made up of Roman descent or attributes) and partly made of *clay* (people of different nationalities and lesser strength). This final kingdom (singular — a very important point) will have the same awesome strength that the Roman Empire exhibited in past history, yet being "part clay" it will also be made up of other weaker nations. The phrase, "combined with one another in the seed of men" is saying, and it is confirmed throughout the Scriptures, that there will be an eventual creation of a one-world government. This is made perfectly clear in Revelation 17:12-13.

Revelation 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. **13** These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. (KJV) (emphasis added)

From these verses we see that these ten kings are of one mind, and give their power and strength, all their resources, unto the beast — which is the book of Revelation's term for the coming one-world government. These kings will oversee ten "regions" yet serve and give their allegiance to the headquarters of the one-world government. The ten horns, or kings, had not received a kingdom as yet because the Apostle John was living during the time of the Roman Empire and this final kingdom of man, the feet with ten toes, had not yet come to pass.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream showed that a stone "cut out without hands," (i.e. wrought by God not by man) will shatter into pieces the feet made of iron and clay and then the nations that thrive under the banner of world government will be destroyed and become like chaff that is swept away by the wind. This "stone," which shatters all the kingdoms to pieces, then becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth. Daniel explains this "stone" in verse 44...

Daniel 2:44 And in the day of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and [that] kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

REVELATION UNRAVELED

Here we see God's plan. This "one-world" kingdom of man that is yet to appear, will in fact be the *last* kingdom before God sets up *His* kingdom, a kingdom that is going to supersede and consume all others because it will be a kingdom that shall never be destroyed but stand forever.

DANIEL SEVEN

We have seen from Daniel 2 that God was at work giving Daniel tremendous insight. Not only did God give Nebuchadnezzar a dream that unfolded the future of the world and its power structure in a succinct way, but He also revealed that prior to Christ's kingdom coming to pass, a world government would be formed and that it would have its roots in the Roman Empire. God did not stop there however, because in the visions that Daniel and the Apostle John received, God revealed even more details about these kingdoms, their ultimate destruction, and the ushering in of His everlasting kingdom.

In chapter seven of the book of Daniel we see that during the reign of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, Daniel himself had a dream.

Daniel 7:3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. **4** The first [was] like a lion and had [the] wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. **5** And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs [were] in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'

This vision is reminiscent to that of Nebuchadnezzar's back in Daniel 2, which spoke of future kingdoms on the horizon. However, here in Daniel's vision, Daniel refers to these world powers as "beasts" not kingdoms. God will use the term "beast" again in the book of Revelation to give us insight into the methods and devices that the final beast kingdom is going to use to attempt to defeat Jesus Christ's people and His approaching rule.

The first beast in Daniel's vision corresponds with the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which we know to be Babylon. The image of the lion connotes pride and strength, and also speaks accurately of how

God humbled Nebuchadnezzar during his reign on earth by causing him to lose his sanity and live with the beasts of the field for seven years (Dan. 4:25). When Nebuchadnezzar came back to his senses he realized that the God in heaven is also the God who controls and determines who sits on the thrones in the earth.

The second beast, a bear, is looked on as the next strongest beast compared to a lion, and is known for its voracity but it lacks the speed and agility of the lion, all these being characteristics of the Medo-Persian Empire. The way the Medes conquered their enemies was by overwhelming them with the sheer mass of their armies which at times would run into the millions. The "three ribs" that are in the bear's mouth stand for the three kingdoms of Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt, which formed a "Triple Alliance" in order to protect themselves and hold the Medo-Persian power in check. Their efforts ultimately failed thus leading to their eventual demise.

Daniel 7:6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

This description of a third beast that was "like as a leopard" is an accurate reference to Alexander the Great in that the leopard symbolizes the quickness and military genius that Alexander used in conquering his enemies. This analogy of a leopard is also used in Revelation 13:2 when describing the quickness and military skill of the final beast empire. The four heads of this third beast are used to further define what happened to Alexander's kingdom after his early death; his empire was divided among his four generals which became the regions of Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt and Macedonia.

Daniel 7:7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

It is here in the vision of Daniel that we again see the characteristics of the fourth beast power. It says the Roman Empire would rule with an iron-fist and it would have dominion over the world. We know from

REVELATION UNRAVELED

history that this was certainly the case. It is also important to see that God, by way of Daniel's vision, gives us new information; that out of the Roman Empire would come ten "horns," a term used in the Bible for seats of power.

Daniel 7:8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, *a little one*, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great [boasts].

Out of these ten seats of power from the Roman Empire, a little power would arise that would be boastful and would subdue three of the ten horns in its quest for power. Verse 24 and 25 explain it further...

Daniel 7:24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom [Rome] ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them [the little horn], and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. **25** And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (italicized words added)

By carefully reading this section, we can see that out of the Roman Empire (the fourth beast) there will be ten horns, or countries. This is exactly what took place historically upon the demise of the Roman Empire. H. Grattan Guinness, author of *The Divine Program of the World's History* stated it this way:

The historian Machiavelli, without the slightest reference to this prophecy, gives the following list of the nations which occupied the territory of the Western Empire at the time of the fall of Romulus Augustus (476 AD), the last emperor of Rome: the Lombards, the Franks, the Burgundians, the Ostrogoths, the Visigoths, the Vandals, the Heruli, the Suevi, the Huns, and the Saxons; ten in all.¹

These ten countries comprise the area of what we know today as Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, Britain, France, and Italy. The Scripture tells that out of these ten regions would arise "a little horn," an

infant country, that "shall be different from the previous ones" and the little horn shall subdue three kings. This little horn is going to speak *"great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."* (Dan. 7:25)

One can see direct similarities between Daniel's vision and Nebuchadnezzar's dream in regards to the four major kingdoms it speaks about, but we need to pay strict attention to the interpretation the angel gave Daniel of the vision.

Daniel 7:16 I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: **17** "These great beasts, which are four [in number,] are four kings [who] will arise from the earth. **18** But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.' **19** Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, [and which] devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet, **20** and [the meaning] of the ten horns that [were] on its head, and the other [horn] which came up, and before which three [of them] fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great [boasts,] and which was larger in appearance than its associates. **21** I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them **22** until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

What is the passage saying? It is saying in verse 20 that out from the midst of the ten "horns," or seats of power left from the Roman Empire, there will come a new nation, diverse from all the rest that will speak great things, be arrogant and boastful, and will be larger in size than its "associates" when compared to the other horns. This little horn is going to "pluck out by the roots" three kings (from among the ten horns) and it will speak great words against the most High, and make war with the saints for 3½ years. After the 3½ years, Jesus Christ will return in

REVELATION UNRAVELED

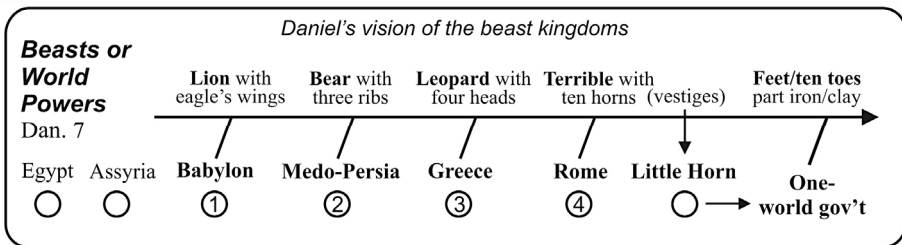
glory, destroy the kingdoms of the world, and cause His kingdom to reign forever and ever.

These truths about the rise of the final beast are explicit and clear, but as we will see, they are going to be further elaborated on in Daniel chapters 9 and 12 and in Revelation, chapters 13, 17, and 18. When we get through studying these Scriptures, and put together the insights gained, it will bring us to the point that we can know with certainty who the "little horn" is that is going to bring about so much pain and hardship on God's people.

Before we go on and discover the details about this particular horn and its development into the final beast kingdom, let us review what Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 have shown us.

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, God revealed that after Rome, another empire (the feet with ten toes) would arise that has both the strength of the Roman Empire as signified by iron, and would also be part clay, signifying the inclusion of weaker countries made up of various nationalities. This description of world government is made plainer still by the statement "they will combine with one another in the seed of men."

Daniel's vision then explains how the world government comes about. It says that out of the ten horns, or vestiges of the Roman Empire, will come a little horn which is *different* from all the others and it will "pluck out" three of the ten horns, and after doing so, it will rise in prominence and arrogance until it ultimately leads the one-world government that Christ will come and destroy. Look at the chart below to comprehend this truth.



This chart shows the four kingdoms, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and the Roman Empire all lining up with each other in both historical order and characteristics. The fourth part of the statue which has legs of iron, and the fourth "terrifying" beast are without a doubt the same thing — the Roman Empire. The little horn then, coming out from

within the ten horns has to be the world power we see before the final one-world government arrives because in Daniel 2 we see Rome, then the one-world government, then Christ's rule. Here in Daniel 7 we see Rome, the little horn rising to power and being destroyed by Jesus Christ, and then Christ's rule begins. Thus, the little horn has to be directly involved with the implementation of the final world government.

Having seen how all this fits, one needs to ask themselves the question, "What nation today fulfills the following criteria?"

1. What nation came out from the midst of the areas we now know to be Britain, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, and Italy?
2. What nation is set apart and diverse from all these countries, yet has the military and economic might of the former Roman Empire?
3. What nation has proven to be larger in size than its "associates?" (*associates being the nations of Europe*)
4. What nation routed out or "subdued" three of the vestiges of the Roman Empire during its rise to power and prominence? (*Hint: use France, England, and Spain as vestiges*)
5. What nation boasts of itself as being the greatest nation on the face of the earth?

Answer: **The United States of America** is the only **nation** in the world that fits all the essential criteria of being the "little horn."

What about Russia being the "little horn" that leads the nations into one-world government? It cannot be because Daniel says the little horn came out from *within* the ten horns of Rome as a young emerging nation made up of Roman nationalities. Russia had been around for centuries prior to the Roman Empire and does not have the vast wealth and awe of the nations that the beast is spoken of having in the eighteenth chapter of book of Revelation. It cannot be China because of the ethnic considerations, and it cannot be Germany because it says the little horn was *diverse* from all the other horns and larger than its associates.

Of course you then have Rome, from which so many commentaries say the final beast or antichrist must emerge. Does the Scripture substantiate such a claim? No, for it says the little horn is *diverse* from those regions of the world, it is *larger* than any of the ten horns, and in addition, it will be in the habit of uttering great and prideful boasts. Are

REVELATION UNRAVELED

Italy and the city of Rome boasting about being in the position to lead the nations into world government? Of course not, yet *the United States is, and continues to be the self-proclaimed economic and military super-power of the world.* In fact, that particular message continues to be drummed out each and every day by this nation in order to remind the countries around the globe that they ought to line up with the United States' democratic "ideals."

Given the evidence that the United States of America meets all the criteria to be the "little horn" spoken of in Daniel 7, we can now go to the book of Revelation and see how this "little horn" will propel and guide the rest of the nations of the world into a comprehensive, totalitarian world-government.

REVELATION 13

To begin looking into the book of Revelation, we need to first establish the source of the information we seek:

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John: **2** Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw, **3** Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand. (KJV)

Scripture states plainly that the things revealed in the book of Revelation are from Christ Himself, and His purpose is to show us, His servants, what must shortly come to pass. This revelation, which God gave to Jesus Christ, was written down by the Apostle John and continues to build on the information given in the book of Daniel.

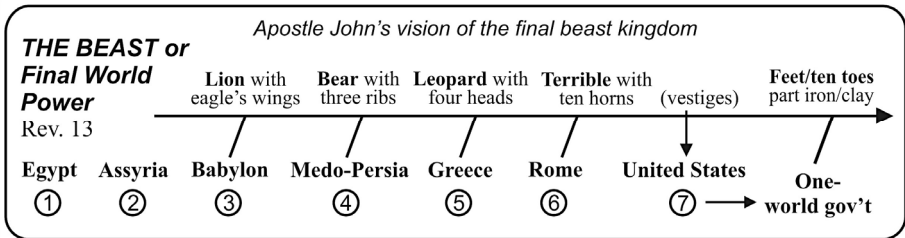
In the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, the Apostle John now labels world powers as "heads" and he uses the term "beast" to describe the world government system that the United States will ultimately lead the nations of the world into. The rise of this one-world government is described as follows:

Revelation 13:1 And he [John] stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having

The Origin and Identity of the Beast

ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns [were] ten diadems, and on his heads [were] blasphemous names.

In this vision, God gives us an all-encompassing view as to the breadth and source of the final beast's power. The seven heads represent the world's great powers that include their vast geographic domain, namely the Egyptians, the Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks, and the Romans, with the United States being the seventh one as shown in the chart below.



We see from the chart that both Egypt and Assyria, two world powers that affected Israel and controlled much of the world before Babylon, can be included in this vision because it is looking back on the history of man as a whole. In this context, the United States, the little horn, turns out to be the seventh beast, the forerunner of the final eighth beast power.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like [those] of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

The attributes given to this beast, like a leopard, feet as a bear, and mouth as a lion, all coincide with the former expressions God used to describe the strength, military might, and boldness under which the former world powers operated when controlling the world. It is very important to realize that the dragon, otherwise known as Satan, is spoken as the source of this world government's power, for it says that Satan gave this beast his throne, his power and great authority. These are the same rewards that the devil offered Jesus if only He would fall down and worship him (Matt. 4:8, 9). The infrastructure of leadership and much of big business in the United States has since taken Satan up on his bribe by selling its soul, its people, and the rest of the world to the god of materialism and self. If this seems ludicrous, merely look on where our

REVELATION UNRAVELED

government promotes dependence. It downplays God and the churches originally designed by God to take care of the needy, and instead promotes dependence on government, through the confiscation of citizen's money via the IRS that in turn feeds a bureaucracy instead of the people in need. Nearly 80% of the money designated for relief of the poor is eaten up in government overhead while organizations such as The Salvation Army, operating out of love and free will offerings, spends nearly 94% of its income in direct aid to those in need. Government finds a way to continually feed itself and the power structure within and it does so under the guise of helping the poor.

Big business, advertisers, and multi-national companies care little how deeply in debt the average wage earner becomes for their job is to make you want more so you will buy their product. It does not matter who wants to buy it either, as long as they get their money. Take for example the country of Red China. *The Guinness Book of World Records* lists Red China as history's most murderous government. The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1971 estimated the casualties due to communism in China at between 34.3 and 63.8 million people. In March of 1956, *Time* magazine said the figures "stagger the imagination. In no previous war, revolution or human holocaust, or in the time of Hitler, have so many people been destroyed in so short a period." Even as I write, the government of China continues to practice genocide on young girls, leaving them to starve to death in "dying rooms." What is the United States' response? Our leaders give these murderers most favored nation (MFN) trade status! Is this what our country does to show concern for the poor?

In an April 24th *Washington Post* article, reporter Peter Behr reported that adopting voluntary codes of conduct for doing business in Communist China "...is a role U.S. business wants no part of according to corporate leaders and heads of business lobbying organizations." The article quotes the soon-to-be chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers as saying, "We would find that very onerous." The article goes on to say that most business leaders feel if US companies tried to pressure China on human rights they would soon be sent home, shut out of perhaps "the most fantastic economic opportunity in history." In light of this, does one have to wonder why 1 Timothy 6:10 says the LOVE of money is the root of all evil? Wretched communistic regimes would die a quick and natural death if not for the massive infusion of aid, food, and sophisticated technology that both our government and the military-

industrial complex is more than happy to supply regardless of the human suffering such sales continue to inflict upon mankind. We go back to Revelation 13:3...

Revelation 13:3 And [I saw] one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed [and followed] after the beast; **4** and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

Scripture tells us here that one of these seven "heads" had a wound as if it had been killed. Revelation 13:14 further describes this wound as having a "wound by a sword, and did live." It is at this point that most Christians stray off the path of logic and understanding by concluding that this mortal "head wound" is an actual wound inflicted upon an actual person namely "antichrist," who upon being slain, will be resurrected before the world and thus gain worship and allegiance. This conclusion cannot be true for Revelation 13:3 says of this beast, "*and I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed.*" If this wound was to a literal man, then this man also would have to have seven heads, feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion, which is obviously not the case. The Apostle John here must be referring to world powers just as Daniel referred to world powers as beasts back in Daniel 7.

For those who want to persist with the idea of the antichrist being a literal man by citing the usage of the pronouns "he" and "his" throughout chapter 13, one needs to realize that the word "beast" is the Greek word *therion*, and it is neuter gender, neither masculine or feminine. This important truth is side-stepped in both the King James and the New International Version whereas some Bible translations, such as the Revised Standard Version, Phillips translation and the early Greek papyrus manuscripts translate this pronoun "it." This more accurate rendering of the pronoun further establishes the beast as a governmental power as described in the book of Daniel."²

"Antichrist," that word which conjures up images of a maniacal and demon-possessed leader needs to be more closely looked at also since it is used only five times in the Bible and in fact does not even appear in the book of Revelation! The way the word "antichrist" is used in its context is very enlightening.

REVELATION UNRAVELED

1 John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 2:22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; **3** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the [spirit] of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2 John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ [as] coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

According to the Scriptures just cited, "antichrist" is anyone who denies Jesus Christ and intends to deceive others of the same.

As the United States and the rest of the world fall deeper and deeper into sin and apostasy towards the truth as mentioned in 2 Timothy 3:1-5; it will give rise to an all pervasive spirit of hatred and rebellion against the truth and the authority of God. This attitude will truly bring about a time of "antichrist," which means according to Strong's Concordance, "adversary of the Messiah."

If we consider we are now talking about a world power in Revelation 13:3 as opposed to a person, then this near fatal wound by a "sword" would suggest a military defeat so devastating that it was looked on as miraculous that the nation survived. Not only that, but Scripture tells us that it will be through this miraculous recovery from military defeat that both the beast and Satan become an object of worship to the world because of the beast's invincible strength. This truth is made evident by what we see the inhabitants of the earth saying at this particular time:

Revelation 13:4(b) and they [*the inhabitants*] worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?'

The Wound by a Sword

We have seen that all indicators point to the United States being the seventh world power according to the chronology of world powers revealed in Daniel 7. Now one needs to ask themselves the question in regard to verse 4 and one of the "heads" being wounded, "What military wound did the United States experience as a nation that caused it to become the world's largest economic and military power? The answer is *the bombing of Pearl Harbor*, that "day of infamy" as Roosevelt called it, when in less than an hour the United States experienced a massive hemorrhage of its military strength. Where at one moment you had 353 planes on the airstrips poised and ready for action, minutes later 341 of those planes were either damaged or destroyed. Where 146 United States warships floated in the waters of Pearl Harbor during early dawn, minutes later over 19 ships including eight battleships were left sunk or heavily damaged. The *USS Arizona* alone took 1,177 young men down to its watery grave. This attack on Pearl Harbor was planned a full year in advance by the Commander of the Japanese Naval Forces, and was carried out in his own words, to "mortally wound" the military capabilities of the United States.³ The Japanese however never conceived that through this "mortal wound," the United States government and the American people would rally to the point that they would become the most awesome and revered nation on the face of the earth. Yet that is exactly what has happened.

Ever since it's decisive victory in World War II and its entrance into the United Nations, the United States has been slowly and methodically moving toward bringing all nations in under a global government with the United Nations being the cover. To convince you of this truth is not the purpose of this book nor is it available within the scope of this study. Let it be said however, that in my opinion the United States is not the *sole* purveyor of this globalist dream, but will be consummated through a multi-faceted linkage of global idealists in both the free world *and* communistic countries. The key to understand is that the United States is the mother of them all, for it is from this country and its channels of money that both communist and socialist nations have

REVELATION UNRAVELED

continued to be fed. Let it also be known that it is from New York City, haven for both industrialists and one-world ideologues, that many of these important decisions are made — not Washington.

Listen to what Paul H. Nitze, veteran member of the Council on Foreign Relations had to say in a speech celebrating the opening of a new Council on Foreign Relations office in Washington. After taking the time to describe the Council's influence during the 1920's and 1930's, he said:

The State Department and White House might conduct diplomacy in peace and raise and command armies in war, but policy was made by serious people, men with a longer view, i.e. the great men of finance and their advisers. New York was where they were to be found.

He went on to say about his organization:

In the postwar years, the Council has continued to represent an invaluable way for many of us Washingtonians to tap the enormously important New York business and intellectual community.⁴

This influence of the New York City elite should not be underestimated, nor the influential power brokers through which their goals are communicated. H. Rowan Gaither, a CFR member and past president of the well-known and extremely powerful Ford Foundation made a frank admission to Norman Dodd, the director of research for the congressional committee investigating the activities of tax-exempt foundations in 1953. In a private meeting to discuss why Congress wanted to investigate the foundations, Rowan Gaither told Dodd that for years he and others had worked for the State Department, the United Nations, and other Federal agencies during which time he and others

...operated under directives issued by the White House, the substance of which was that we should make every effort to so alter life in the United States as to make possible a comfortable merger with the Soviet Union.⁵

As an afterthought, Rowan then said, "We are continuing to be guided by just such directives." When the flabbergasted Dodd asked Gaither if he would repeat the statement to the full House Committee, Gaither replied, "This we would not think of doing." The sad truth is that

The Origin and Identity of the Beast

the goal of many of our government leaders is to make the United States into a socialist state, and then merge all nations into a one-world government controlled by a powerful few. Is this hard for you to believe or imagine? Then just read the ten planks of Marx and Engel's famed *Communist Manifesto* and see if we are unknowingly on the brink of being a confirmed socialist state.

1. Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes. (*Ask anyone in the Southwest or Northwest these days if this is not happening to them as the government takes over private land under the auspices of the Endangered Species Act or Federal Wetlands Act.*)
2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax. (*Our burdensome tax system has continued to be a key campaign issue for the last two decades.*)
3. Abolition of all right of inheritance. (*To those who have experienced it, the present inheritance tax amounts to sheer theft from the families the departed loved one sought to provide for.*)
4. Confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels. (*Thanks to the Comprehensive Forfeiture Act of 1984, both rebels and innocent citizens are having their assets, their homes, and their cars confiscated by law enforcement officials on the mere suspicion of being involved with illegal drugs.*)⁶
5. Centralization of credit in the hands of the state, by means of a national bank with state capital and an exclusive monopoly. (*The Federal Reserve anyone?*)
6. Centralization of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the state. (*TV and radio stations cannot operate unless under the watchful eye of the Federal Communications Commission, nor can transport companies operate unless they meet all the stringent requirements of the Department of Transportation.*)
7. Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the state; the bringing into cultivation of waste lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan. (*The EPA, Soil Conservation Service, and the Bureau of Land Management fit this description nicely, especially if you have tried to comply with their demands.*)
8. Equal liability of all to labor. Establishment of industrial armies,

REVELATION UNRAVELED

especially for agriculture. (*This transformation will take place when government moves even further into people's lives when crisis hits this country.*)

9. Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country by a more equable distribution of population over the country. (*Yet to be realized, but as can be seen from the FEMA laws in place for times of "national emergency," this type of redistribution of individuals to locations designated by government can take place.*)
10. Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of children's factory labour in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production.⁷ (*Government job training, public schools, and labor laws are all deeply imbedded within our culture.*)

Karl Marx would be proud we've come such a long way towards attaining the model attributes of a purely socialistic state, yet people in this country are barely waking up to how far our nation has fallen from the God-given rights afforded us by the Constitution. With these things in mind concerning the rise of the seventh beast, we can see according to Revelation 17:3 and verse 7 that the United States will lead all other nations into world government.

Revelation 17:3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. **7** And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

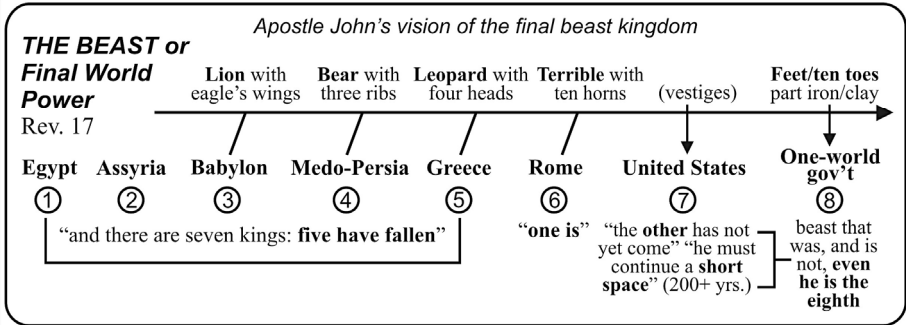
The beast that has the seven heads and ten horns that we first saw in Revelation 13:1 will now be explained for us by the angel:

Revelation 17:9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

In this Scripture, God unveils human history both past and future. The seven heads are seven mountains that represent the geographical area

The Origin and Identity of the Beast

that fell under the control of these heads. It says the seven heads are also seven kings which have had power and authority over the earth. Look at the chart below to better understand these truths. It will be helpful to follow along with the chart as you read Revelation 17:9-11.



Revelation 17:9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; **five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.** **11** And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is [one] of the seven, and he goes to destruction. (emphasis added)

We can now understand God's total view of mankind's history. The Apostle John was told in regards to world powers, that five had fallen, which were the kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. He was then told "one is," which would correspond to the Roman Empire which was still in power at the time John wrote the book of Revelation. The next nation is referred to as "the other has not yet come," because it had not yet appeared on the world scene, but John was told that "when he comes, he must remain a little while." This statement perfectly describes the United States of America. It was born from the nationalities of the fallen Roman Empire and upon arriving; it only remains "a little while." The United States is just over two hundred years old, making it a mere infant compared to the thousands of years other countries and nationalities of the world have been in existence. The accuracy of God's Word is astounding!

REVELATION UNRAVELED

Revelation 17:11 And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is [one] of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

The United States, which according to Scripture is only to remain "a little while," will be transformed into the eighth and final beast empire. We can know this by reading Revelation 17:11 carefully.

And the beast which was [the United States] and is not, [there is a time coming when it will no longer be the United States] is himself also an eighth, [when it is transformed from the seventh into the eighth] and is [one] of the seven, [right now the US is the mystery seventh beast] and he goes to destruction, [when it is destroyed by Jesus Christ as part of the final beast system] (italicized words added)

From reading Revelation 13 and 17 we are told that the final eighth beast empire, the New World Order, will arise and be led into power by the United States of America. It is going to be a totalitarian, one-world government that will have power over "all kindred, tongues and nations." How will such a world-wide government be managed? Revelation 17:12-13 provides us the answer.

Revelation 17:12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. **13** These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast.

This verse can be understood in light of the plans already set down by the globalist elite. The Club of Rome (COR), a think-tank organization comprised of scientists, educators, economists, humanists, industrialists, and other national and international civil servants, was commissioned by the insider elite to prepare a report for the regionalization and unification of the entire world. On September 17, 1973 they published their report called *Regionalized and Adaptive Model of the Global World System*. In the report they divided the world into ten "kingdoms". When the call for global unification finally arrives, which will most likely be due to world-wide economic and social chaos stemming from the birth pangs of God's judgment beginning to erupt on earth, these ten magna-regions could very well be the vehicle whereby

The Origin and Identity of the Beast

world government is established. According to Revelation 17:12-13, the rulers who preside over these "kingdoms" will be given authority with the beast for a very short time. Why only a short time? Because the final beast kingdom only has power for 3½ years to exert its power as declared in the book of Daniel. These regions then, correspond to the "ten toes" of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the statue whose feet portrayed a one-world government that Jesus Christ would ultimately come to destroy.



Excerpt from *Club of Rome Report: Regionalized and Adaptive Model of the Global World System; Strategy For Survival Project* (*Behold a Pale Horse*, by William Cooper, 1991 pg. 456; Light Technology Publishing, Sedona, AZ)

We have seen that the United States of America fulfills in a dynamic way the criteria needed to indeed be the seventh beast, the world power which the book of Revelation says will arise before the end. It is now necessary to go further into the Word of God and see exactly how the final eighth beast system gains control over the world and what every Christian needs to be aware of in these the last days.