

***“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon”
- Revelation 13:11***

In the climax of prophecy, we see the rise of two beasts. We first see “a beast rising up out of the sea” followed by “another beast coming up out of the earth” (Rev. 13:1, 11). In the Bible, a beast is symbolic of a kingdom or nation. We discover this in a previous prophecy where “four great beasts came up from the sea,” and we are told that “the fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth” (Dan. 7:3, 23). So these two beasts rising represent two nations rising up. Since this prophecy was written around 100 A.D., these nations must rise up after this time.

The prophecy says the first nation would “make war with the saints” and that it would “continue for forty-two months” (Rev. 13:7, 5). Since there were thirty days in a month at the time this was written, this represents a period of “one thousand two hundred and sixty days” (Rev. 11:3, 12:6). Of course, biblical scholars understand that in prophetic timelines, days are symbolic of years, “a day for each year” (Eze. 4:6), which means the first beast would rule for 1260 years, during the middle ages.

Late in History

As the world emerges from the middle ages, prophecy identifies “another beast coming up out of the earth” (Rev. 13:11). This second beast is the last major nation to rise in the history of the earth. In commenting on this nation, John Wesley, who lived in the 1700s, said in his Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament, “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.” Sometime after 1700, this new nation would rise up.

Unestablished Land

We notice that the first beast came up out of the sea, while the second beast came up out of the earth. In the Bible, we are told that “waters” represent “peoples” (Rev. 17:15). That means the first beast rising out of the sea represents a kingdom rising up out of an already established body of people. Since the land and the sea are opposites, the second beast coming up out of the land must be a new nation, rising up out of a previously unestablished land. While Indians roamed parts of the land, America was basically a new land, not yet established by a government, that rose at the end of the middle ages.

Christian Nation

While the previous nation rose like a leopard, this new nation rises up “like a lamb” (Rev. 13:11). In the Bible, Jesus is repeatedly referred to as a “Lamb” (Rev. 5:6; John 1:36). Since the Lamb is symbolic of Christ, this nation must be a Christian nation, founded on Christian principles, again depicting the rise of America. Christianity was built into the fabric of this nation, which is why the Pledge of Allegiance affirms that we are “one nation under God,” and our currency proclaims, “In God we trust.” This is also why America is still often referred to by many as a Christian nation, as the prophecy foretold long ago.

Land of Freedom

In addition, while the previous beast had horns “with crowns,” this new beast has “two horns” without crowns (Rev. 13:1, 11). Daniel 8:20 says that “horns” represent “kings,” or heads of government. The fact that this nation has two horns is symbolic of the fact that it has choice, without dictatorship. While previous kingdoms were ruled under a monarchy by

dictators, such as Kings or popes, this new nation cannot be ruled by a single leader since it has two horns. It is a new form of government built on democracy. This is affirmed by the fact that it has no crowns on its horns. It has a new form of government founded on the rights of the people, a clear depiction of America, which was founded on Republicanism, a government without a king, and Protestantism, a church without a pope. This is where we get the founding principle of separation between church and state.

Protestant America

Of course, we are told that this beast is not a lamb itself, but that it has “horns like a lamb” (Rev. 13:11). Since the lamb is a symbol of Christ and the horns represent government, this nation establishes its government on Christian principles. While the previous era of the Middle Ages, led by Catholicism, believed that the church should be involved in government, this new nation is built on the principle of religious freedom. This is a Protestant principle that has historically not been endorsed by Catholicism. That means this nation must be a Protestant nation, built on the Protestant principles of religious liberty, which is why America was once called “Protestant America.”

The Fall of America

While this nation rose like a lamb on the Christian principles of freedom, when it opened its mouth, it “spoke like a dragon” (Rev. 13:11). The “dragon” was seen leading the persecuting beast (Rev. 13:2-4). If the prophecy is right, this nation, which we believe is America, will one day let go of her Christian roots, and tyranny will result. People will say that America is no longer a Christian nation, and they will begin to tear down the very constitutional rights and freedoms that made

America great. The Bible says that the freedom America fought so hard to establish will one day be gone.

Universal Power

The prophecy goes on to say that this nation “exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed” (Rev. 13:12). Here we are told that this new nation that rises up at the end of history, which is the baby of the world compared to the other ancient nations that have existed for thousands of years, will have such great influence that it “causes” the entire earth to do something. That means this nation, rising in a basically unestablished land, professing to be a Christian nation built on Protestant principles of freedom, will rapidly rise to superpower status. Again, this could be none other than America.

The Mark of the Beast

Tragically, the story does not end well. As noted, the prophecy says that while this nation will start good, rising up like a lamb, it will end in tragedy, speaking “like a dragon” when it sets up the mark of the beast. The Bible says it will eventually unite with the first kingdom to “speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed” (Rev. 13:15). Nations speak, telling people how to act through laws, while the word “cause” implies force. This means America will set up a law enforcing some form of false worship which will violate the principles of religious liberty that America was founded on. Those who know the issues can see that these things are already beginning, and it is only a matter of time before the event occurs.

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