

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”



Acts 5:29

The United States is unquestionably the most powerful nation on earth today. More than this, it is the most powerful nation that has ever existed in the history of the human race. This political, economic, and military potency has caused many to inquire what role, if any, the United States would play in Bible Prophecy. When you think about it, it makes sense that the most powerful and influential nation on earth will play a vital role in the final stunning events of the world’s closing history.

1. Revelation 13 describes two beasts. Describe the first one. (*The imagery, of course, comes directly from Daniel 7, as we have already seen and studied.*)

Notice the sequence:

- *John sees 10 Horned Beast → Leopard → Bear → Lion*
- *Daniel sees Lion → Bear → Leopard → 10 Horned Beast*

Remember that Daniel was looking forward in time, whereas John was looking back in time.

2. Two world powers are symbolized in Revelation 13. What is the first power?

3. Who is the Second Beast?

The Second Beast

4. Identifying characteristics of the Second Beast:

- Rises out of the _____
 as opposed to the _____
- Has two horns like a _____
 but eventually speaks as a _____
- Horns have no _____
 There is no _____ or _____
- Rises up about the same _____
 the first beast goes _____
- Does not conquer other nations but was seen
 _____ up.
- Eventually possesses _____
 power and influence.

The Bible predicted that the papacy would lose its world influence and power at the end of the 42 months. This prophecy was fulfilled in 1798, when Napoleon's General Berthier took the pope captive and the papal power received its deadly wound. This new power advocates a democratic form of government, without a king or queen, which seeks to model and reflect Christian principles of liberty, freedom and fairness, and would eventually possess unprecedented global influence.

5. Why was the United States founded with a separation of church and state?

6. Consider how the Roman Church-State originally was formed: It has no standing army. What kind of existing governments has it always worked through to achieve its purposes?

The Bible predicts the United States will speak like a dragon and make an image to the first beast. This will lead to an erosion of freedom as church and state unite.

7. What do those who receive the mark of the beast experience? Revelation 14:9,10

Here we find the most serious warning in all of the Bible. You cannot find a more serious, more austere, more amazing warning than the one given here in Revelation 14. God warns His followers to not worship the beast or receive the beast's mark. The consequences of disobedience is experiencing the wrath of God.

8. In Revelation 14:12 note the characteristics of the saints, those who do receive the mark of the beast:

- 1) _____
 2) _____

Because the mark of the beast deals with false worship, those who do not get the mark of the beast must be worshipping God the correct way. We discover that those who do not get the mark of the beast are keeping God's commandments.

9. What is the mark of the beast?

If the Sabbath is a sign of God's authority, then the mark of the beast must be a sign of the beast's authority. Please remember, as important as it is to know what the mark is, it is better for you to know how to avoid it.

10. The antichrist power will "think to change" what? Daniel 7:25

Daniel tells us that the antichrist power would arise and would seek to change times and laws... (the very laws of God!) You see the issue in the last day is not barcodes and microchips, the issue in the last days is the law of God. Will we remain obedient to Jesus Christ or will we follow the antichrist? This is the central issue.

11. What is Sabbath a sign of?

12. What is Sunday a sign of?

This issue is about more than “just a day.” (Imagine Adam saying, “It was just an apple.”) It is about Biblical fidelity and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. In short, the issue could be boiled down to the following sentence: Who are you taking orders from—from the Roman Church-State, or from Jesus Christ? This is an issue of loyalty and authority.

13. What does the forehead represent?

14. What does the hand represent?

The forehead is intellectual rebellion against God. The hand represents those that just go along because it is easy. Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Hebrews 10:16

15. Who are you taking orders from?

16. Whose authority are you under?

17. Whose law are you going to obey?

Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, God’s last-day people will be forced to choose between “forced worship” and God’s commandments. In Daniel 3 we find them standing strong by God’s enabling grace. Would you like to ask Jesus Christ to grant you the grace, courage, and power to do the same?
