

DISCOVER PROPHECY



The U.S. in Bible Prophecy

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The Founding of America

Years ago the Pilgrims came here to America to start fresh and anew. Having been persecuted for their faith in other countries, they came in hopes of finding freedom of religion and politics. In time, they founded America after freeing themselves from the leadership of the old world. With religious tyranny fresh in their memories, they then wrote the *Constitution of the United States of America*. Amendment 1 says, “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Here they wrote out the importance of religious liberty. The freedom to worship as you wish with no government involvement.

In the *Declaration of Independence* it is written, “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

The United States of America was founded on religious liberty and freedom of worship. Over the years this has been challenged by a wide variety of individuals attempting to have the state prohibit religious exercises (worship) or to make laws respecting them.

God also respects religious freedom. It has never been of God’s plan that people should be forced to worship Him. The forcing of worship is a plan or scheme of Satan. He will do all in his power to force worship on the lives of people. Where God calls people to worship Him out of the motivation of love, the devil seeks to force people to follow after him and his teachings, practice and methodology.

The final issues in the book of Revelation deal with the subject of worship and the freedom of conscience. Where God is calling people to worship Him, Satan is using the power of two beasts to cause by force the world to follow after him in worship.

The First Beast

We’ve looked extensively at the first beast of Revelation chapter 13. But before we expose the second, let’s review the first and the characteristics of him. (Be sure to review The Beast of Revelation 13 and The Mark of the Beast Sermons). “And I saw a beast

coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 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” Revelation 13:1,2.

The Bible gives us the identifying marks of the first beast. They tell us who the first beast is.

1. A Roman Power
2. A worldwide religious power
3. A power dominating civil powers
4. A blasphemous power
5. Reigns 1260 years
6. The deadly wound healed
7. End time worldwide prominence

These characteristics point to Papal Rome as the first beast of Revelation 13. But, there is a second that would come. This one, a bit different from the first.

The Second Beast

“And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon” Revelation 13:11. The 13th chapter of Revelation continues by introducing the second beast. This beast, coming into prominence after the first beast receives his deadly wound, actually gains the strength necessary to force the world to worship the first beast.

Remember that a beast in Bible prophecy is a kingdom (Daniel 7:17) and this beast would represent some kind of a political power that would have worldwide prominence.

The Bible gives us several clues as to the identity of this beast. By lining all of these clues up together, we are able to clearly see that the political power that would be the strong arm for the first beast would be the United States.

1. *It Arose at the Right Time:* This political power would come up around the time of the first receiving its deadly wound. The Papacy received its deadly wound in 1798 and the United States of America was on the rise at that time.
2. *It Arose in the Right Place:* The first beast was seen, “coming up out of the water.” Unlike the

other beasts that came up out of the sea, this beast came up from the land; quite the opposite of the others. In Bible prophecy, water represents peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues (Revelation 17:15). As the other kingdoms came up from populated regions of Europe, this political power would arise among a region unpopulated. And just so, the United States of America did indeed come up among an unpopulated region. It was not as populated as the regions of Europe.

3. *It is Predicted as a Nation:* The Bible says that this power was also a beast. So it must be a national power.
4. *It is a Democracy:* The Bible says that this power had two horns (Revelation 13:11). Horns in Bible prophecy represent powers of authority. The first beast had ten horns, representing the divisions of Europe. One power with ten different leaders. Here, the second beast has two horns, representing two powers working hand in hand to lead the country. This is a democratic society. Also notice that this power does not have any crowns. As crowns represent the governing body of dictatorship, this power was not like that. America is a democracy and very much unlike a kingly power.
5. *It is a Power of Worldwide Influence:* “And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed” Revelation 13:12. The United States today is known as the world’s super power. If a country or nation chooses to step beyond the bounds of the United States’ direction, they can be punished. We have already seen in many ways how the United States and the Vatican have teamed together to bring about change in the world. Ronald Reagan and John Paul II conspired together to bring down communism in Poland. The United States and the Vatican worked together to bring down communism in the former Soviet Union. We have even heard in recent months how they have been working hand in hand to bring communism down in Cuba and already things are dramatically changing there.
6. *Change in Character from a Lamb to Dragon:* Revelation 13:11 says that this power would have two horns like a lamb but would speak like a dragon. The United States attempts to be very peaceful in its dealings with other nations and individuals. But if crossed, the United States will use every power in her midst to destroy. Historically this has been called the

process of “speaking softly but carrying a big stick” forcing people to give in to its demands. In time, the United States will be forcing people to worship as the Vatican dictates.

Remember that God does not use force in the act of worship. He desires that we worship Him out of a motivation of love in response to Him sending His Son Jesus Christ to die upon the cross. We have experienced salvation, therefore we are desiring to follow after Him in worship.

The devil, in contrast, uses force and coercion. He will use any resource at his disposal to force people to turn away from God; thus ultimately worshipping him.

If the beast power is to cause the world to worship after the first beast, it must tell them to do so. How is it that the beast will speak like a dragon? How does a nation speak? The United States of America speaks through it’s governing body of laws and decrees as set forth in legislation. Therefore, sometime in the future, the United States will actually pass laws to enforce the worship of the first beast, the Vatican, by instituting the worship of the Papacy’s Sunday sacredness. The United States will legislate law, and back it by force if necessary, for people to observe Sunday as the Lord’s day and thus bring honor to Rome’s Papal authority over that of God’s sacred word. The United States will actually change its legislation and Constitution to give preference to issues of religion.

“And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed...And there was given him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed” Revelation 13:12, 15.

Church And State Union

In order for our present government to begin enforcing laws of a religious nature, there must first be a union of church and state. The government must turn its face from the current approach of separation of church and state and believe that it is in the best interest of the nation to enforce religious matters. Are there those today that feel that the wall separating church and state be torn down?

“The wall of separation between church and state is a metaphor based on bad history, a metaphor which has proved useless as a guide to judging. It should be frankly and explicitly abandoned.” Chief Justice

William Rehnquist. Note what he is saying. That the government should be able to legislate issues of morality, dealing with religious matters.

“The separation of church and state is (1) not a teaching of the founding fathers; (2) not an historical teaching; (3) not a teaching of law (except in recent years); (4) not a biblical teaching. In summary, there should be absolutely no ‘separation of church and state’ in America.” David Nelson, 1992.

Listen to the thinking of many of the right wing conservatives. They (both Catholics and evangelicals) have bound together on issues of morality to do what they can to get religious matter through government procedures. They plan on reinstating a manner of government before the writing of the Constitution when the colonies forced people to worship and keep Sunday holy. Presently, many are reconsidering the place religion has in government. The first step is to allow the government to make such decisions, the second will be for the government to believe that Sunday sacredness would be a valuable asset to the life of American culture and life.

“As the second century of the Bill of Rights draws to a close, the supreme court is redefining what religious liberty will mean in the third century. Broadly, the courts new approach helps conventional religions while hurting unconventional ones.” St. Louis Dispatch, October 29, 1991.

Signs And Wonders

Part of the process involved in the legislation and force of worship will be the signs and wonders movements. Now, before we go any farther on this subject, let me clarify a couple points. First, I believe that the scriptures are accurate to say that God does miraculous things in the lives of people. Secondly, God can still do it today and does. But it must be clearly understood that the devil will utilize the signs and wonders movement in the last days to bring about a greater religious awakening. “And he will perform great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life” Revelation 13:13,14.

This process is a result of the false revivals or false charismatic movements. The strong miracle orientation combined with the United States abilities of government

will join forces with the Vatican. You might consider this force to be that of Protestant America!

There will be great signs and wonders that will mislead the people of the earth and America. “And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worship the image” Revelation 19:20. Many will fall prey to the deception of miracles. The strong charismatic movement, utilized by the forces of Satan will cause some truly outstanding things to take place in the lives of people. So great, that instead of basing truth and reality upon the sacredness of scripture, they will follow after the beast’s teachings instead. Scripture will be placed aside because of miracles.

The Christian Coalition

Listen very carefully in the news whenever you hear something about the Christian Coalition. The Christian Coalition is extremely active in our society today to regain political clout so that it may legislate morality and issues of religion. If they were to unite, they could do it. The Bible says they will!

“If Christians unite we can do anything, we can pass any law or any amendment, and that’s exactly what we intend to do.” Liberty, May/June 1980, page 4. They plan on doing it. They plan on fulfilling biblical prophecy!

Pat Robertson, the leader and spokesman for the 700 Club and the Christian Coalition comes out pretty strongly about his plans to legislate morality and Sunday sacredness. Once he can institute his plan of a new world order of a religious government or theocracy, Sunday laws will be a logical step. “The next obligation that a citizen of God’s world order owes is to himself. ‘Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.’ is a command for the personal benefit of each citizen.... Higher civilizations rise when people can rest and draw inspiration from God. Laws in America that mandated a day of rest...have been nullified as a violation of the separation of church and state.... As an outright insult to God and His plan, only those policies that can be shown to have a clearly secular purpose are recognized.” Pat Robertson, *The New World Order*, page 236.

The plan of action is to have the Catholics and Evangelicals uniting efforts. “I believe if Catholics and Evangelicals can unite there is no person who runs for office in any city or any state in America that can’t be elected and there is no bill that can’t be passed in either house of Congress or any state legislative chamber

anywhere in America. It is the emerging force in the electorate today.” Ralph Reed, former head of the Christian Coalition.

Once the Christian Coalition can fully unite its efforts, it will put into office, in the presidency, congress and legislative chambers throughout America. Once they have accomplished this, they will then be able to legislate their laws. And they are pretty open that these laws will include issues of morality and areas of a religious nature; the popular views of course.

“Only with a renewed vision, with a statewide grassroots effort, and, with the will to be political in defense of the Sunday laws, will common day of rest advocates in this Commonwealth be able to preserve against the tremendous odds faced in defense of the current Sunday Closing laws.” Dr. Barbara Darling - Smith, Sunday Closing Laws Revisited, Boston, January 1993.

Dies Domini - The Lord's Day

The Vatican released a letter in 1998 written by John Paul II. The title of this letter, Dies Domini, when translated means the Day of the Lord or the Lord's day. The extrusive nature of this letter is to encourage Sunday solemnity and the plans for the future of its sacredness. The letter is divided into sections. Each essential point noted by a section. You may find your own copy of the letter at the Vatican's web site at www.vatican.va

“The coming of the third millennium, which calls believers to reflect upon the course of history in the light of Christ, also invites them to rediscover with new intensity the meaning of Sunday” Section 3. Here John Paul II says that there is a need to rediscover the meaning of Sunday sacredness with a new intensity.

John Paul II then goes on to say that historically, it was easy to keep Sunday holy. But because of many unfortunate changes in culture and society it is no longer as easy. “Until quite recently, it was easier in traditionally Christian countries to keep Sunday holy because it was an almost universal practice and because, even in the organization of society, Sunday rest was considered a fixed part of the work schedule” Section 4.

“What began as a spontaneous practice [observing Sunday] later became a juridically sanctioned norm. The Lord's day has structured the history of the Church through two thousand years; how could we think that it will not continue to shape her future” Section 30.

So John Paul II wishes to make Sunday sacredness more meaningful once again. The Catholic Church is

making a renewed effort to have Sunday sacredness. The Church is refocusing once again on the importance of this crucial last day issue. She is preparing for the future.

“She [the Catholic Church] feels herself called to a new catechetical and pastoral commitment, in order to ensure that, in the normal course of life, none of her children are deprived of the rich outpouring of grace which the celebration of the Lord's day brings” Section 30.

The Catholic Church is calling itself to a renewed effort in catechetical and pastoral commitment. Catechetical comes from the word catechism meaning the teachings of the church. Pastoral is the practice of the church. So, here John Paul II said that the Church is making a renewed effort in the teachings and practice to have Sunday sacredness ensured to all.

Before he explains how he would like to encourage more Sunday involvement, in how it affects the future of the church and world, he explains the history of its previous enforcement in both the church and political realms. “It was only later, faced with the halfheartedness of some, that the Church had to make explicit the duty to attend Sunday Mass; more often than not, this was done in the form of exhortation, but at times the Church had to resort to specific canonical precepts...” Section 47.

John Paul II says that some were not very active in attending church on Sunday so the Church began to tell its members how important it was to keep Sunday holy.

However, to encourage others to begin keeping Sunday holy, the church begins using as bit more force in the lives of the people. Note what he says happens next. “This was the case in a number of local councils from the fourth century onwards (as at the Council of Elvira of 300, which speaks not of an obligation but of penalties after three absences) and most especially from the sixth century onwards (as at the Council of Adgs in 506). These decrees of local Councils led to a universal practice, the obligatory character of which was taken as something quite normal” Section 47.

Did you here what he was saying there? The church began enforcing people to keep Sunday holy. They began doing it out of a fear of penalties. In time however, it was just a normal practice. Why is it that so many go to church in Sunday today? John Paul II has just answered for us. That people were once forced to keep Sunday holy. If not, they would be penalized for it. In time, people just believed that Sunday sacredness

was the thing to do.

He continues to explain how Sunday sacredness became meaningful in the history of the church, but understand his purpose in explaining the history is to outline the future plan of reinstating its solemnity. “The Code of Canon Law of 1917 for the first time gathered this tradition into universal law. The present Code reiterates this saying that “on Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to attend Mass” Section 47.

Now up to this time, he is speaking only of the church’s role in enforcing Sunday sacredness. But now he continues on stating instead how the civil laws made Sunday observed. “Only in the fourth century did the civil law of the Roman Empire recognize the weekly recurrence, determining that on ‘the day of the sun’ the judges, the people of the cities and the various trade corporations would not work” Section 64. In time, the Church joins forces with the government and civil authorities. Now, the government, despite religious conviction, begins enforcing the populous the worship on Sunday.

John Paul II does a great job describing the history of the sacredness of Sunday. He goes farther to explain how it happened; to explain how he intends to make it more meaningful in the future.

“When, through the centuries, she has made laws concerning Sunday rest, the Church has had in mind above all the work of servants and workers, certainly not because this work was any less worthy when compared to the spiritual requirements of Sunday observance...” Section 66. Here, John Paul II says that laws were enforced for the benefit of others, but notice very carefully when reading the document footnote. Right here in the middle of section 66 is footnote number 109, explaining the history of its enforcement. Before I quote footnote number 109, remember that this is an outline for the future enforcement of Sunday. “The most ancient text of this kind is canon 29 of the Council of Laodicea (second half of the 4th century): Mansi, II 569-570. From the sixth century, many councils prohibited ‘opera ruralia’. The legislation by civil laws, became increasingly detailed” Footnote 109. Not only were people highly encouraged to keep Sunday, but instead, people were forced to keep it holy. If not, there would be grave punishment for doing so. One of these enforcements was Canon 29. Canon 29 says that not only should you keep Sunday, but you can’t keep Saturday! “Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honoring the Lord’s day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ.”

Not only was the church forcing people to keep Sunday

holy, but they were prohibiting people from keeping Saturday holy. And this, John Paul II is saying, is how he will see that Sunday sacredness is once again kept.

Continuing along with section 66 he says that Sunday sacredness MUST be enforced by the state. “...but rather because it needed greater regulation to lighten its burden and thus enable everyone to keep the Lord’s day holy. In this manner, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spoke of Sunday rest as a worker’s right which the state must guarantee.”

There you have it. The Bible says that the Beast (Papal Rome) would unite with America (Protestant America) in the enforcement of Sunday sacredness. Both are presently saying that this is what they wish to accomplish. John Paul II is not just quoting history but outlining what he wishes to see in our time. “Therefore, also in particular circumstance of our own time, Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy” Section 67.

The Last Days

Friends, the Bible says that it is going to happen. We have people today that are saying that they are going to do it. We are truly living in the last days. An exciting and eventful time. I believe that the Lord is preparing you for this wonderful time. Won’t you, in preparation for the soon second coming of Jesus Christ, commit to following Him with all your heart? Holding onto Him is where we will find the grace and power to make it through these last days.