



# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 3, Part 3 (Revelation 13:3-4, 17:11-14) - More About the Beast

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# SUMMARY OF 12:13-13:2

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- Satan, the dragon, will make war against the church using all means at his disposal.
  - Rome was a manifestation of Satan's power and was Satan's tool to use in persecution of the church.
  - Rome itself was a composite of earlier kingdoms having conquered and assimilated the nations and cultures of those more ancient empires.
  - Out of the fall of the Roman Empire would emerge the kingdoms of Europe.
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## 13:3-4 - THE BEAST CAPTIVATES THE WORLD

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“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. [4] So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’”

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# WHAT JOHN SAW

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- “one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded and his deadly wound was healed”
    - The appearance of a mortal wound, yet the beast manages to recover.
    - 13:14, “wounded by the sword and lived” - a sword represents warfare
  - “all the world marveled”
    - the beast was not terrifying to most people; they found the beast marvelous, worthy of praise, awe-inspiring
    - And they “followed the beast” and “worshipped the beast”
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# THE SEVEN HEADS - 17:10

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- “Five have fallen” — five types of Roman governance
  - “one is” — the emperors from Augustus (36 BC) to Aurelian (282 AD)
  - “the other has not yet come” — Diocletian reorganizes the empire, Constantine completes it
  - “And when he comes, he must continue a short time” — Nicean Council (325) - fall of Rome (476)
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# 13:14, “WOUNDED BY THE SWORD”

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- Gothic invasion, 396-410
  - Vandal invasion, 409-455
  - Hun invasion, 444-452
  - Coalition of Germanic tribes led by Odoacer conquers Rome in 476
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# “WOUNDED BY THE SWORD AND LIVED”

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- “Christian” Emperors lived on in Byzantium for another 1,000 years
  - Revelation 17:11, “The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.”
    - There is another iteration of Roman power that will follow the seventh
  - The eighth is the Latin church, the ecclesiastical hierarchy
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# 17:11-13 - THE EIGHTH AND THE TEN HORNS

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“The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. [12] The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. [13] These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”

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“Long before the fall of Rome there had begun to grow up within the Roman Empire an ecclesiastical state, which in its constitution and its administration was shaping itself upon the imperial model.”

—Meyers, *Ancient History*, p. 582

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“The College of the Pontiffs was so called probably because one of the duties of its members was to keep in repair a certain bridge (Latin: *pons*) over the Tiber. This guild was the most important of all the religious institutions of the Romans; for to the pontiffs belonged the superintendence of all religious matters. The head of the college was called *Pontifex Maximus*, or 'Chief Bridge Builder,' which title was assumed by the Roman emperors, and after them by the Christian bishops of Rome (the papacy).”

—Meyers, *Ancient History*, p. 365

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“When Christianity conquered Rome the ecclesiastical structure of the pagan church, the title and vestments of the pontifex maximus, the worship of the Great Mother and a multitude of comforting divinities, the sense of supersensible presences everywhere, the joy or solemnity of old festivals, and the pageantry of immemorial ceremony, passed like maternal blood into the new religion, and captive Rome captured her conqueror.”

—*Durant, Caesar and Christ, p. 672*

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“...there is something to be said for the view that when the Latin-speaking Roman Empire collapsed in the West in the fifth century, its civil servants promptly transferred to the payroll of the Western Church.”

–MacCulloch, *The Reformation*, p. 12

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# AN ALLIANCE OF CHURCH AND STATE

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- “By [Constantine's] aid Christianity became a state as well as a church, and the mold, for fourteen centuries, of European life and thought.” (Durant, *Caesar and Christ*, p. 664)
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7, “And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. [7] For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.”
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# 13:3, “HIS DEADLY WOUND WAS HEALED”

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“The [Western Roman] empire having been overthrown, unless God had raised up the Pontificate, Rome, resuscitated and restored by none, would have become uninhabitable, and been a most foul habitation thenceforward of cattle. But in the Pontificate it REVIVED with a second birth, its empire being in magnitude indeed not equal to the old one, but in kind not very dissimilar; because all nations, from the east to the west, venerate the Pope not otherwise than they before obeyed the emperor”

—Augustin Steucus, Catholic Writer

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# THE TEN HORNS

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- Represent the European kingdoms that rose out of the fall of the Western Roman Empire
  - 17:12, “they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast”
    - They begin as autonomous (“kings *with* the beast”)
    - Their autonomy is short lived (“they receive authority for *one hour*”)
    - They “will give their power and authority to the beast” (17:13) and “give their kingdom to the beast” (17:17)
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# THE TEN HORNS ARE “OF ONE MIND”

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- One mind with one another (17:13) and with the beast (17:17)
  - “...one mind” = to be united in purpose, outlook, objective, etc.
    - Five times Scripture exhorts Christians to be of “one mind”
  - Gradual conversion of the European powers to the Latin Church beginning with the Franks in 496
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“Stability characterized one half of medieval life, unity the other half. Feudal and manorial practices, for all their basic similarities, differed in detail from area to area, and towns, too, varied considerably, *but the church unified all into a Christian commonwealth.* When a pope called for a crusade, he drew from all European men who reacted first as Christians and only later as Normans, Germans, or Englishmen. The church was the moral force that welded medieval Europe into a single block. The church dominated the age and conditioned all men's values and habits.”

–Hawke, *The Colonial Experience*, p. 3

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# POWER, AUTHORITY, AND KINGDOMS SURRENDERED

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“The gravest problem of the Church, next to reconciling her ideals with her continuance, was to find a way of living with the state. The rise of an ecclesiastical organization side by side with the officials of the government created a struggle for power in which the accepted subjection of one to the other was the prerequisite of peace. In the East the church became subordinate to the state; in the West she fought for independence, then for mastery. In either case the union of church and state involved a profound modification of Christian ethics...”

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# POWER, AUTHORITY, AND KINGDOMS SURRENDERED

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“She had not in herself the means of force; but when force seemed desirable she could appeal to the ‘secular arm’ to implement her will. She received from the state, and from individuals, splendid gifts of money, temples or lands; she grew rich, and needed the state to protect her in all the rights of property. Even when the state fell she kept her wealth; the barbarian conquerors, however heretical, seldom robbed the Church. The authority of the word soon rivaled the power of the sword.”

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## 13:3-4 - THE WORLD MARVELS

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“And all the world marveled and followed the beast. [4] So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’”

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# WHO IS LIKE THE BEAST?

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- The fourth beast in Daniel 7 is incomparable
  - “Who is like” is often used in connection with God — Isaiah 40:18, 25 and 46:5
  - 17:8, “who was, and is not...and is going to perdition”
    - Revelation 1:8, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
    - Description of the beast is a perversion of a description of God
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# BEAST CONNECTED WITH THE DIVINE

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- They believed the beast was of divine origin and therefore worthy of worship
    - 13:3-4, “all the world marveled and followed the beast...and they worshiped the beast.”
    - 17:8, “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”
  - Reverence for the institution
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“If art is the organization of materials, the Roman Catholic Church is among the most imposing masterpieces of history. Through nineteen centuries, each heavy with crisis, she has held her faithful together, following them with her ministrations to the ends of the earth, forming their minds, molding their morals, encouraging their fertility, solemnizing their marriages, consoling their bereavements, lifting their momentary lives into eternal drama, harvesting their gifts, surviving every heresy and revolt, and patiently building again every broken support of her power.”

—*Durant, Age of Faith, p. 44*

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# WORSHIP BEAST = WORSHIP DRAGON

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- Idolatry is the work of demons — Leviticus 17:7, Deuteronomy 32:17, Psalms 106:36-39, I Corinthians 10:20-21
  - Demons influence false teaching — I Timothy 4:1-3, I John 4:1-3
  - Satan himself is the force at work
    - Satan has seven heads and ten horns; the beast has seven heads and ten horns
    - He can even appear as a messenger from God - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
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# CANNOT BE DEFEATED BY HUMAN MEANS

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- Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
  - Revelation 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."
  - 17:8,11: "[the beast] is going to perdition"
    - Perdition = destruction
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“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

*—Revelation 19:20*

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# SUMMARY OF 13:3-4, 17:11-13

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- The successive invasions by Germanic tribes seem to deal a death blow to Rome.
  - But the Latin church revived the empire and becomes the eighth phase of Roman power.
  - The kingdoms of Europe that rose out of the Roman Empire eventually acquiesced to the authority of the Roman church
  - This alliance of church and state creates a beast unlike any other; it is revered by mankind and cannot be defeated by human means
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