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## 13:14-15

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And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

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# WHAT IS “AN IMAGE”?

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- Connected with mankind — we are made in the “image of God” (Genesis 1:26-27, James 3:9)
  - Connected with idolatry
  - The papacy gives “breath to the image” — to create, to bring to life, to animate (Genesis 2:7)
  - The world would be compelled by the image to worship the image
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IMAGE OF THE BEAST = HOLY ROMAN  
EMPIRE

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# PEPIN THE SHORT

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- Pope Stephen II anoints Pepin and his two sons “Patrician(s) of the Romans”
  - Pepin defends Rome against the Lombards, becomes the protector of the papacy
  - 756 - the Donation of Pepin
  - Charles I, Charlemagne, is one of Pepin’s sons
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# EMPRESS IRENE (797-802) OF BYZANTIUM

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- Blinded and deposed her son, Constantine IV, to become empress
  - Highly controversial — widely viewed as “usurping the authority of a man”
  - Pope Leo III would not acknowledge her
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# DECEMBER 25, 800

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- Internal dissension put Leo III on defensive; Charlemagne comes to Rome to defend and affirm
  - In return, Pope Leo III crowns Charlemagne “Emperor of the Roman Empire”
  - “To Charles Augustus *crowned by God*, to the great and pacific emperor of the Romans, long life and victory.”
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In considerable part, (Charlemagne's coronation) was the consequence of an idea shaped by the interpretation given to Charlemagne's actions as ruler. Over the years, some of the king's chief political, religious, and cultural advisers became convinced that a new community was taking shape under the aegis of the king and the Frankish people, whom, as one pope avowed, "the Lord God of Israel has blessed." They spoke of that community as the imperium Christianum, comprising all who adhered to the orthodox faith proclaimed by the Roman church. This community accepted the dominion of a monarch increasingly hailed as the "new David" and the "new Constantine," the guardian of Christendom and executor of God's will. Concern for the welfare of the imperium Christianum was heightened by the perceived unfitness of the heretical emperors in Constantinople to claim authority over the Christian community—especially after a woman, Irene, became Eastern emperor in 797.

—*Encyclopedia Britannica*

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# THE SUCCESSOR OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

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- Claimed an unbroken succession from the emperors of Ancient Rome - *translatio imperii*, “transfer of rule”
  - First monarchs were French — the Carolingian dynasty
  - 962 — Otto I, King of Germany, crowned Emperor of Rome
  - Empire was first French, then German: “The Holy Roman Empire was neither holy nor Roman.” (Voltaire, 1756)
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# A COMPLETE FABRICATION

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- Created by Pope Leo III and (maybe) Charlemagne
  - True successor to Rome was Byzantium
  - The pope had no legal right or claim to make Charlemagne emperor
  - So what is an empire created by a pope, that looks like another empire, has no historical connection to the other empire, but claims to be that empire?
    - It's an image.
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“Charles had received, as his enemies were quick to point out, only a title; the imperial crown brought with it not a single new subject or soldier, nor an acre of new territory.”

—*Norwich, Absolute Monarchs*

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“There remains the question of why the pope acted as he did. Not, certainly, to engineer a deliberate split in the Roman Empire, still less to bring about two rival empires where one had been before. There was, so far as he was concerned, no living emperor at that time. Very well, he would create one, and because the Byzantines had proved so unsatisfactory from every point of view-political, military, and doctrinal-he would select a Westerner, the one man who, by his wisdom and statesmanship and the vastness of his dominions, as well as by his prodigious physical stature, stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries.”

*—Norwich, Absolute Monarchs*

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“But if Leo conferred a great honor on Charles that Christmas morning, he bestowed a still greater one on himself: the right to appoint, and to invest with crown and scepter, the Emperor of the Romans. Here was something new, even revolutionary. No pontiff had ever before claimed for himself such a privilege-not only establishing the imperial crown as his own personal gift but simultaneously granting himself implicit superiority over the emperor whom he had created.”

—Norwich, *Absolute Monarchs*

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13:16-18

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He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

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# “RECEIVE A MARK”

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- Denotes ownership and allegiance to the first beast
    - Deuteronomy 6:6 and 8, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart... You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.”
  - The “mark” = “name of the beast” = “the number of his name” = Lateinos (666, verse 18)
  - Represents the gradual conversion of Western Europe to the Catholic Church
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# CONVERSIONS TO CATHOLICISM

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- Pagans converted to the Catholic Church all over Europe
  - Converting Arian Christians to Catholicism
    - Arianism = the belief Jesus is a created being; declared heretical by Council of Nicaea in 325
    - Most of the West was non-Arian, but it persisted in some parts of Europe: “It maintained favour among some groups, most notably some of the Germanic tribes, to the end of the 7th century” (Encyclopedia Britannica)
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# DANIEL 7:24 - "SUBDUE THREE KINGS"

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- 10 horns = Germanic tribes that become Western European powers
  - Three horns subdued = three major conversions by Pope Gregory I (the Great)
    - Visigothic Spain was converted from Arianism to Catholicism
    - Anglo-Saxons converted from paganism
    - Frankish Gaul converted from Arianism to Catholicism
  - Three important powers aligned with the church
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# THE UNMARKED WILL BE KILLED

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- 772-804, the “Saxon Wars” — Charlemagne’s campaign against the Saxons
  - 785 - Capitulatio de partibus Saxoniae (“Ordinances concerning Saxony”)
    - #8: “If any one of the race of the Saxons hereafter concealed among them shall have wished to hide himself unbaptized, and shall have scorned to come to baptism and shall have wished to remain a pagan, let him be punished by death.”
    - Also imposed the death penalty for the destruction of churches and violating the Lenten fast
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# DISSENTERS WILL BE OSTRACIZED

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- One could not “buy or sell” without the mark of the beast (more on that in 18:11-13)
  - Church councils pushed civil authorities to root out heresy
  - “This repeated and comminatory appeal to the secular arm should theoretically have extirpated heresy. Experience shows that it was insufficient. The princes and nobles, especially in the south of France, turned a deaf ear to the injunctions given them, and subjects remained submissive to heretical princes. It was necessary to seek something more efficacious. The papacy sought and found an institution for ever famous, which represented and incarnated the suppression of heresy – the Inquisition.”
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# THE INQUISITION

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- A tribunal devoted to searching out and suppressing heresy
  - Bishops were to visit places in their dioceses where rumors of heresy circulated 1-2 times per year
  - Accused heretics were to be tried
    - If they recanted, they were given penance
    - If they resisted, they were tortured until they recanted
  - Death by fire was the ultimate punishment
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# THE WARNINGS OF CHAPTER 13

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- The saints will be persecuted for 42 months
  - Keep yourself pure, otherwise you will suffer the same punishment
  - Do not be deceived by the beasts
  - Be willing to lay down your life if necessary
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# LOOKING AHEAD

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- Chapter 14, conclusion of Vision 3 — the goodness and severity of God
  - Chapters 15-19, Vision 4 — judgment of the beast and false prophet
  - Chapter 20, Vision 5 — judgment of the dragon and the world
  - Chapters 21-22, Vision 6 — heaven, the reward
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# REVELATION 14:1-5

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Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. [2] And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. [3] They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. [4] These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. [5] And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

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# THE 144,000

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- “a Lamb standing on Mount Zion” - Jesus Christ reigning in His kingdom
  - “one hundred and forty-four thousand”
    - 1000: A definite number representing an indefinite number
    - 12: governmental perfection;  $12 \times 12 = 144$
  - “having His Father's name” - as opposed to the name or mark of the beast
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# 144,000 SEALED IN SEAL #6 (CHAPTER 7)

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- Seal #6 — represents Constantine and the shift from paganism to Christianity
  - Signals the beginning of the 1,260 years that ends with the period of the Reformation
  - The 144,000 represents the small minority who did not convert to Catholicism in the Middle Ages
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# MORE ABOUT THE 144,000 (VERSES 4-5)

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- “who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins” – spiritually faithful to God
  - They “follow the Lamb wherever He goes” – absolute obedience
  - “redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb” – born again Christians, redeemed from sin (see James 1:18)
  - “In their mouth is found no deceit” — contrasted with the beasts who deceive the world
  - “without fault before the throne of God” (see Ephesians 5:27)
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# SINGING REDEMPTION'S SONG (VERSES 2-3)

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- “like the voice of many waters” - a description of the voice of Christ (see Revelation 1:15)
  - “sound of harpists playing their harps” - the songs of the saints before the throne (see Revelation 5:8)
  - Redemption first, then singing follow (e.g. redemption in Exodus 14, singing in Exodus 15)
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# SUMMARY OF THE BEASTS

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- The first beast: Rome culminating in the Latin (Catholic) Church
  - The second beast: the papacy
  - The image of the beast: the “Holy Roman” Empire
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# SUMMARY OF 13:14 - 14:5

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- The papacy created the Holy Roman Empire to be its secular arm
  - Those who would not convert to Catholicism were persecuted, ostracized, and eventually killed
  - The church should heed the warnings about the two beasts
  - A reward in heaven awaits those who remain true to the Lord in the midst of this apostasy and persecution
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