

# A GREAT PERSECUTING POWER

## (The Ten-Horned Beast of Revelation 13)

### 1. WHAT is the first symbol of Revelation 13?

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a *beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns*, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

**Revelation 13:1.**

**NOTES** — As already learned from studying **the book of Daniel**, a beast in prophecy represents some great earthly power or kingdom; a head, a governing power; horns, a number of kingdoms; crowned heads or crowned horns, political rulership; waters, “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” **Revelation 17:15.**

“The beasts of **Daniel and John** are empires. The ten-horned beast is the Roman power. . . . The head is the governing power of the body. The heads of this beast represent successive governments.”— “*Romanism and the Reformation*,” by H. Grattan Guinness, pages 144, 145.

**Publisher’s Addition:** “A nation being represented by a wild beast, the government of that nation, that by which it is controlled, must as a very clear matter of course, be considered as answering to the head of the beast. The seven heads of this beast would therefore denote seven different governments; but all the heads pertain to one beast, and hence all these seven different forms of government pertain to one empire. But only one form of the government can exist in a nation at one time; hence the seven heads must denote seven forms of government to appear, not simultaneously, but successively. But these heads pertain alike to the dragon and the leopard beast, from which this one conclusion only can be drawn; namely, that Rome, during its whole history, embracing both its pagan and papal phases, would change its government six times, presenting to the world seven forms in all. And the historian records just that number as pertaining to Rome. Rome was ruled first by Kings; secondly, by Consuls; thirdly, by Decemvirs; fourthly, by Dictators; fifthly, by Triumvirs; sixthly,

by Emperors; and seventhly, by Popes.” **Uriah Smith, *The Marvel of Nations*, pg. 115 (1887)**

## **2. How is this beast further described?**

“And the beast which I saw was *like unto a leopard*, and his feet were as *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth as *the mouth of a lion*.”

**Verse 2**, first part.

**NOTES** — These are the characteristics of the first three symbols of **Daniel 7**,—the *lion*, *bear*, and *leopard* there representing the kingdoms of *Babylon*, *Medo-Persia*, and *Grecia*,—and suggest this beast as representing or belonging to the kingdom symbolized by the *fourth beast of Daniel 7*, or *Rome*. Both have ten horns. Like the dragon of **Revelation 12**, it also has seven heads; but as the dragon symbolized Rome in its entirety, particularly in its pagan phase, this, like the “little horn” coming up among the ten horns of the fourth beast of **Daniel 7**, represents Rome in its later or papal form. Both it and the little horn have “a mouth” speaking great things; both make war upon the saints; both continue for the same length of time.

Allowing a very broad meaning to the symbol, the Douay or Catholic Bible, in a note on **Revelation 13:1**, explains the seven heads of this beast as follows: “The seven heads are seven kings, that is, seven principal kingdoms or empires, which have exercised, or shall exercise, tyrannical power over the people of God: of these, five were then fallen, viz., the Egyptian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Persian, and Grecian monarchies; one was present, viz., the empire of Rome; and the seventh and chiefest was to come, viz., the great Antichrist and his empire.” That the seventh head represents Antichrist there can be little doubt. See Satan’s Warfare Against the Church.

## **3. What did the dragon give this beast?**

“And the dragon gave him his *power*, and his *seat*, and *great authority*.” **Verse 2**, latter part.

**NOTE** — It is an undisputed fact of history that under the later Roman emperors, beginning with Constantine, the religion of the Roman government was changed from pagan to papal; that when Constantine removed the seat of his empire from Rome to

Constantinople in 330 A.D., the city of Rome was given up to the bishop of Rome, who, from Constantine and succeeding emperors, received rich gifts and great authority; that after the fall of Rome, in 476 A.D., the bishop of Rome became the ruling Rower in Western Rome, and by decree of Justinian, March 15, 533, was declared “head of all the holy churches,” and in a letter of the same year he was designated as “corrector of heretics.” See note on page 223. Thus Rome pagan became Rome papal; the seat of pagan Rome became the seat of papal Rome; church and state were united; and the persecuting power of the dragon was conferred upon the professed head of the church of Christ, or papal Rome. As Dr. H. Grattan Guinness, in his “Romanism and the Reformation,” page 152, says, “The power of the Caesars lived again in the universal dominion of the popes.”

#### **4. How are the character, work, period of supremacy, and great power of the beast described?**

“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” **Verses 5–7.**

**NOTE.**— All these specifications have been fully and accurately met in the Papacy and identify this beast as representing the same power as that represented by the little horn phase of the fourth beast **of Daniel 7**, and the little horn **of Daniel 8**, in its chief and essential features and work. See **Daniel 7:25; 8:11, 12, 24, 25**, and readings on The Kingdom and Work of Antichrist and The Vicar of Christ. For an explanation of the time period mentioned, read the latter pages of the foregoing.

#### **5. What was to be inflicted upon one of the heads of this beast?**

“And I saw *one of his heads as it were wounded to death*; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.” **Verse 3.**

**NOTE** — This wound was inflicted upon the papal head of this beast when the French, in 1798, entered Rome, and took the Pope prisoner, and for a time, it seemed, abolished the Papacy. But in 1800 another Pope was placed upon the papal throne, and the deadly wound began to be healed. Temporal dominion was taken away from the Papacy in 1870, but nevertheless its power and influence among the nations have been increasing since then. “In that year,” says Mr. Guinness in his work “Romanism and the Reformation,” page 156, “the Papacy assumed the highest exaltation to which it could aspire, that of infallibility.” To such a position of influence over the nations is the Papacy finally to attain that just before her complete overthrow and destruction she will say, “I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” **Revelation 18:7. See Isaiah 47:7–15; Revelation 17:18.**

**6. What is said concerning the captivity and downfall of the Papacy?**

“He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword.” **Verse 10.** See **Psalm 18:25, 26; 109:17; Jeremiah 50:29; Revelation 16:4–6.**

**7. What questions asked by its worshipers indicate the great station to which this beast-power was to attain?**

“And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast, saying, *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*” **Revelation 13:4.**

**8. How universal is the worship of this power to become?**

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” **Verse 8.**

**9. What did John say was to be the end of this beast?**

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him. . . . *These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*” **Revelation 19:20.** See **Isaiah 47:7–15; 2Thessalonians 2:3–8; Revelation 17:16, 17; 18:4–8.**

**10. In what similar language is the fate of the fourth beast of Daniel 7 described?**

“I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was *slain*, and his body *destroyed*, and *given to the burning flame*.” **Daniel 7:11.**