

# Book of Revelation – Revelation 17—Beast Comparison

Series REV-45

-Comparison of Beasts of Rev 12, 13 & 17

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Let us keep in mind that, “*there is one great central truth to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures—Christ and Him crucified. Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its relation to this theme.*” {7A BC 458.1} Let us not forget that the Testimony of Jesus includes Rev 17.

The information for this lesson was adapted from Louis Were’s book, *The Woman and the Beast in the Book of Revelation*.

The Lord has seen it necessary to make a distinction of the beasts mentioned in these chapters, Rev 12, 13 & 17. He has done this for the discerning Bible student who is seeking truth. In the table below, we will be able to view this distinction and then throughout this lesson gather a greater understanding on the subject. Lastly, we will have questions based on what you read therein.

	Rev 12	Rev 13	Rev 17
BEAST	A Great-Red Dragon	Sea Beast (combines church/state)	From Abyss Woman sitting upon the beast (church distinct from state)
7 Heads / 10 Horns	Crowns upon Heads	Crowns upon Horns	No Crowns

As we look at this simple table, we can quickly see the differences. The variation on the crowns is due apparently to the emphasis placed upon the time element introduced in the prophecies. Beasts pictured in Rev 12, 13 & 17 have characteristics so similar to show that in the Revelator’s prophetic picture gallery these three beasts are designed to illustrate the continuity of Satan’s efforts down through the ages working to oppose Christ through the various governments upon earth.

Crowns upon heads emphasize the fact that it is the governments Satan has employed which war against the Lord’s people down through the ages.

In Rev 13, the crowns are upon the horns because the prophecy focuses upon the time of papal supremacy in the dark ages when the nations of Europe obeyed the behest of the beast and made war upon the saints (Rev 13:15).

However, the prophecy after the papal wound (in 1798 at end of the 1260 years), then presents a picture of how the final conflict will be precipitated through the work and influence of the lamblike beast—vss.11-17. Protestant countries will forsake their principles of religious liberty, being deceived concerning the mark of the beast.

In Rev 17 this outstanding addition to the picture presented in Rev 13 is that of the woman sitting upon the beast. The woman's presence, instead of detracting from the fact that the same beast is referred to, actually serves to emphasize the conclusion it is the same beast referred to in both chapters. There are no crowns upon the heads or the horns, because it is to highlight upon the final conflict, and in that chapter the kings are said not to have received their power as kings to join with the beast in persecuting God's people until a certain time, when they'd receive power one hour as kings with the beast.

Questions:

Why has the Lord made the distinction of these beasts?

- 1) What do the Crowns upon the heads emphasize?
- 2) What reason is given in Rev 13 for the crowns on the heads?
- 3) In Rev 17, no crowns are upon the heads, because...?

### The Beast of Revelation 12

It is to be remembered that the Rev 12 beast with the crowns upon the heads of the dragon represents the governments of earth down through all the ages that have been employed by Satan in persecuting God's people—including the governments of earth in the last days. {SOP concurs, see TM 38.2}. This is the significance of the dragon being mentioned in Rev 16:13.

The beasts of Rev 13 and Rev 17 are designed to enlarge upon the two periods of time when professing Christian powers would employ the power of the State to persecute the saints, namely in the Dark Ages, and in the closing scenes of earth's history.

Two specific times of persecution are brought to view during the long life of the dragon of Rev 12:

- 1) During the 1260 years (vs.6) and
- 2) In the final conflict with the remnant church (vss.14, 15, 17)

It is interesting to note that in between vs. 15 and 17, we find the earth helping the woman by opening her mouth to swallow “up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth” (vs.16). In between these verses we see the rise of the United States and the spread of Protestant principles of religious and civil liberty, until the period of the final conflict when those principles are first restricted and at last removed entirely {our day}. It is in this space of time when America rises to power, that there is comparative calm before the scene changes and she is afflicted again by the dragon through the governments of earth.

It is to enlarge upon these persecutions of—

- 1) the Dark Ages, that Rev.13:1-9 was given with the crowns upon the horns signifying the nations (particularly of Europe) assisting the Papacy in her persecution during the 1260 years of her supremacy, and
- 2) the final conflict over the Sabbath, that Rev.17 was specifically given. {cf Daniel 12:7-13}

So then, time to put your thinking caps on:

Q.1 If the period of “comparative calm” mentioned in the above paragraph brought to view in Rev 12:16 refers to the rise of the USA, what verse in Rev 13 refers to America which spreads democratic principles among the governments of the earth, affording temporary peace to the church? \_\_\_\_\_.

Q.2 Have you noticed how much of the last half of Rev 13 refers to this persecuting power when it begins to speak like a dragon, in contrast to the little amount of space referring to the rise of this power? What does that tell you re. its importance?

## IN CONCLUSION

Thus, we see that the beasts of Rev 12, Rev 13 and Rev 17 are the same, but refer to different aspects and times when the dragon has worked through the governments to persecute and suppress God’s people. Further Rev 13 & 17 are but enlargements of the two periods of persecution brought to view in Rev 12; the former the persecution of the Dark Ages and the latter in the final conflict over the Sabbath.

*Next week we will wrap up our study of Rev 17  
with our focus on the last half of the chapter*