

# Book of Revelation – The Lamblike Beast and its Image -Revelation 13:15-18

Series REV-32

Part IIb

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## The Lamblike Beast and the Image of the Beast

It is no mystery to those who know that from the beginning of sin, the arch enemy of God and man has initiated and mastered the work of deception (John 8:44). Jesus said Himself, "...he is a liar, and the father of it."

As it was in the beginning, so it must be in the end. "Because Satan's kingdom is a counterfeit of the Lord's kingdom, the things pertaining to Babylon are described in similar language to those pertaining to the Lord's kingdom centered in Jerusalem—the church." *The Woman and the Beast (Louis Were) p.51* We can expect to see this in those key chapters in the book of Revelation.

### Revelation 13 & 17

As we will notice in this lesson, Rev 17 follows Rev 13 in the same way, same pattern as we saw in Daniel 2, 7, & 8—a repeat and enlarge pattern. This principle, God employs for the purpose of clarity and emphasis, for good reason—we understand and do not forget.

In Rev 17, a woman is introduced as "a great \_\_\_\_\_" (vs.1). This woman is depicted as sitting upon a "scarlet coloured beast" (vs.3). In Rev. 13, the 'sea beast' and 'lamblike beast' comprise Babylon (though the term is not mentioned, per say).

The picture of a woman sitting on the beast (Rev 17) conveys the same truth, but in a clearer, plainer way—*the Church controls the State*.

SOP concurs, as recorded in GC 443.3—

*"Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. . . . It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy—the beast."*

The comments I made re. the "New Insight" last week, which the Lord gave me, partly sprouted from a line of Louis Were who stated that Rev 17 has a counterpart in Rev 11 (the atheistic beast of France). But he clarified it in this manner:

"In Rev.17 the beast represents the civil power which does the bidding of the apostate church until the time of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> plagues, *after* which it is very similar to the beast of Rev. 11 in its anti-clericalism. However, until the time of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> plagues the beast of Rev. 17 represents the power of civil governments which is controlled by the church." *The Woman and the Beast, p.165*

There are a number of similarities we find between these beasts of Rev. 13 and 17. In the following verses list those similarities: Rev 17:3 gives three characteristics which are found in Rev 13:1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. In both, we find a death and resurrection, and in both it is followed by the world wondering after the beast (see Rev 13:3 and Rev 17:2).

Wisdom dictates that we view this notion of “a death and resurrection” through the lens of the Great Controversy theme.

### Key to the Counterfeit

Since Satan has been counterfeiting God’s Kingdom and it’s principles of righteousness for thousands of years, we can expect the book of Revelation to unfold both the counterfeit and the genuine. The interpretation of symbols employed in Rev 17 is based on this principle: The things of Babylon are a *counterfeit* of the things of Christ. To apply this principle, we need only look at a couple verses:

- Rev 13:18 – mentions the number 6
- Rev 17:11 – references the number 8

In Rev 13:17,18 we find that the number of the beast is brought to view in connection with “the *name* of the beast.”

It is interesting to note that the Pope’s official title numbers 666, just as the Lord’s *name* JESUS, in the numerals of Greek equate to 888. {It is worthy of notice that Jesus’ name is mentioned 12 times in the Apocalypse.}

Thus, by following the principle that Rev. 17 specifically mentions the things of Babylon as they relate to Jesus, we now can see that the number eight used in reference to the coming of the beast out of its *state of death* in a likeness (as counterfeit) to the *resurrection* of Jesus, also emerges with a further resemblance to Jesus, even with the number eight—the number expressed in the name of Jesus.

Reference to these two numbers is significant in what they symbolically represent:

The number 6 – mentioned throughout Scripture is in reference to the anti-Christ (a counterfeit).

The number 8 –also is significantly employed in the Scriptures symbolizing the Lord’s resurrection (new life) and triumph over His enemies.

“This beast that received a “death-stroke” and whose deadly wound is to be healed and all the world wonder after it, according to Rev. 13, is described in Rev. 17 as having a resurrection” thus imitating the death and resurrection of Jesus. As Jesus triumphed over His enemies and arose in glorious power to use that power to *save* His people, so this beast will emerge from its place of death to a position of even greater power, which it will... employ for the *destruction* of the people of God. Rev. 17:11 refers to “the beast that was [i.e. had life and power], and is not [lost life and power for a time], even he is the eighth [i.e.it is to have a resurrection to life and power], . . . and goeth into perdition.”

-*Ibid p.115*

## Power to Give Life to the Image (Rev 13:15)

As we turn our attention back to these final verses of Rev 13, we see this same idea coming through. The Lamblike beast has ‘power’ to “give life” unto the image of the beast. The idea of resurrection in the ‘giving of life’ is another counterfeit.

Note the picture of the genuine as depicted in the writings of Paul, 2 Cor 4:1-4:

*“Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to everyman’s conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the **light** of the **glorious gospel of Christ**, who is **the image of God**, should shine unto them.”*

Just as Christ is the image of God, so we are to “put on the new man” which is renewed “after the image of [Christ] that created him. (see Col 3:10)

The Lamblike Beast of Rev 13:11, ‘gives life’ unto ‘the image of the beast’ that it should both ‘speak, and cause’ [force] all to worship this image. Those refusing, would be killed. (vs.15)

Note this SOP statement from GC 445.1, clearly indicating the actors in the drama: “When the **leading churches** of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall *influence the state to enforce their decrees* and to sustain their institutions, then **Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy**, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.”

The last item in the chapter to decode is the “mark of the beast” (vs.16 & 17)

Can you show support, without SOP, i.e from Scripture alone (O.T. & N.T), what this mark refers to? [You can use as many verses as you deem necessary. {If you need to explain the genuine first, that is fine.} Think of it as giving an answer to one who asketh you to explain what this mark really is in light of Chp 13.]

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(Much of this lesson was adapted from the book, *The Woman and the Beast in the Book of Revelation*, Chp 12 & 19 by Louise Were)

*End of Rev 13 Part II*

