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## *Kids' Prophecy Corner*

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### Revelation 13

Welcome to Kids 'Prophecy Corner.

Today we will look at Revelation 13 through a present truth prophetic lens. This study is the third in a series on Daniel and Revelation and their connection with Daniel 11:40.

There is a thread between Revelation 13 and Daniel 2 that allows us to connect these two books. Daniel 2 talks about an image. Revelation 13 shows us where else in the Bible we see an image.

Through parable teaching we can compare and contrast these stories and see what it teaches us at the end of the world.

## The Two Beasts

Revelation 13 talks about two beasts: one coming out of the sea and one out of the earth.

The second beast is an image. But to have an image you need a particular object to compare it to. In our case, this particular object is the first beast.

The sea represents many people. Therefore, the beast rises from where many people are. The second beast represents few people.

<u>1<sup>st</sup> Beast</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Beast</u>
Sea	Earth
Object	Image
Many people	Few people

In verse 2 we are told: 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: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

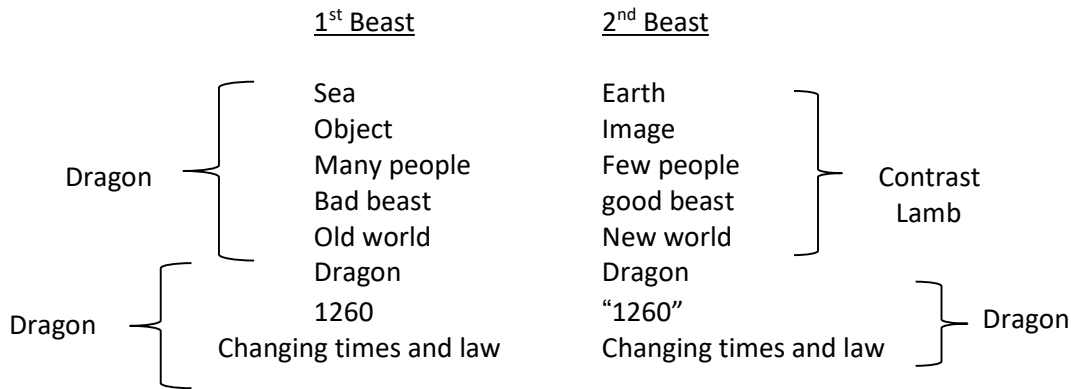
In reading this verse we can see that the beast gets his power from the dragon. Therefore, it will speak like the dragon. The first beast also has seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns. By deduction, we can say it is a bad beast.

The second beast that we see in verse 13 has two horns like a lamb and speaks as a dragon. This beast is naturally a good beast until its speech changes. A lamb is gentle and represents youthfulness and innocence. The second beast is also a nation that emerges from the new world – The United States . By contrast the 1st beast must come from the old world.

When the first beast speaks blasphemies comes out of its mouth. This is represented by the 1260 years of persecutions of the saints. We can deduct that when the second beast speaks as a dragon it will also persecute the saints for a symbolic “1260” years.

The first beast persecutes by wearing out the saints and changing times and laws. We learn that from Daniel 7:25. So, we can understand that the second beast will also think to change time and laws.

Now, that we have all these characteristics, we can compare and contrast them.



The first five characteristics are contrasting one another. The lamb beast vs the dragon beast. We see opposite characteristics. The last 3 characteristics are a comparison showing how a lamb becomes like a dragon. We can therefore see two phases of the second beast - the first as a lamb and the second as a dragon.

The 2 phases of the Second beast

When we read the Spirit of Prophecy many characteristics are given to us about this beast. In the Great Controversy pages 440.1 to 441.1 we learn that:

- There is a lamb like beast coming out of the earth.
- It did not come through the overthrowing of other powers; it rose in a territory previously unoccupied.
- It grew up gradually and peacefully.
- It develops were from being peaceful and being lamb-like to being like a dragon and dangerous.

- She explains what the old world is by quoting Revelation 17:15. The Old World—that turbulent sea of “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”
- The nation in 1798 that was rising into power giving promise of strength and greatness was unmistakably the United States of America.
- She then describes the principles of its success as a nation: **Republicanism and Protestantism**. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity.
- Also attached to these two principles is **the constitution** which guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws.
- Also, freedom of religious faith was granted.

The two principles represented by the two horns were found in the declaration of independence. In that declaration is stipulated that “all men are created **equal**” and endowed with the unalienable right to “**life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.**” Inalienable means that the right of life, liberty and happiness cannot be transferred to someone else. It is a right someone gets from birth. This is how the lamb speaks.

However, when you continue to read from The Great Controversy page 442, sister White brings a contrast with the second phase of the beast. The beast speaks now as a dragon.

She describes the speaking of the nation as *the action of its legislative and judicial authorities.* { GC 442.1 }

**The legislative** branch is one of the three branches comprising the US government (executive, legislative and judiciary). It is responsible for enacting laws. The legislature is comprised of the House of Representatives (Congress) and the Senate.

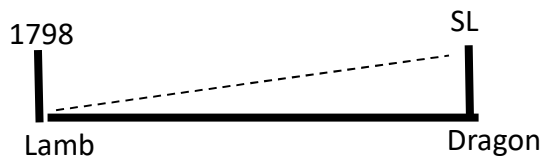
**The Judiciary** implements and interprets the law and punishes lawbreakers. It is composed of the judges. It is the supreme court. If you don't obey the law, they will punish you because you are breaking it.

**The executive** is the office of the president.

So, we said the speaking of a nation comes from its legislative and judicial authorities. When the lamb speaks, good words come out of its mouth. But when the beast speaks as the dragon, it will be the contrary; it will speak harsh words. When it speaks as the dragon it will do so against the two principles of Protestantism and Republicanism. It is going to be contrary to the declaration of independence and to the constitution which protect each and every persons' rights to observe their religion and obey their conscience.

The dragon-like USA will change times and laws in relation to the constitution. The lamb beast established the constitution and the dragon beast will destroy it. Although it will be very subtle. The constitution will continue to exist, but the USA will not practice it. They will **profess** to be a republic or a democracy but will act as a dictator.

Under the lamb beast, the constitution separates church and State. The church cannot rule over the state and the state over the church. But the dragon beast of the United States is going to bring church and State together and the church will use the legislative and judiciary arms of the government to execute and persecute "heresies". This will happen at the Sunday Law.



As much as the United States is going to speak as a dragon at the Sunday Law, we know that it is a progressive process. Because the United States will not speak as a dragon all of a sudden. Externally, the United States has to get rid of the King of the South – Russia. Then he will be able to rule solely and supremely. Daniel 11:40 gives this information.

Internally the United States has to make changes to its judicial and legislative branches. Ellen White says that the speaking of a nation is the

action of these two branches. This has started happening, especially from 2014. 2014 was the Time of The End for the Nethinim and the Sunday Law for the Priests. We see the characteristics of the Sunday Law starting to take shape in that year. Mitch McConnell began blocking Obama from appointing judges to the supreme court and other courts. Steve Bannon, Jeff Session and Stephen Miller, began to purge the Republican Party of those with more moderate or centrist views. They wanted republicans that are more right-leaning than those that formed the party elite up to that time. All these changes happened without Obama's approval. In fact they were against him.

These actions were undertaken in such a way that the Judicial and the legislative branches would be transformed and would act out a far-right ideology independent of the Executive Branch (the presidency). And the nature of these actions is such that it will be difficult for a subsequent government to undo them for generations to come. Trump has continued to purge the Republican party and he has been appointing judges that believe in him and his Christian Nationalist ideology (see Seven Mountains Theology).<sup>1</sup> These changes will allow the United States to speak as a dragon at the Sunday Law.

### The United States and Medo-Persia

Medo-Persia gives us characteristics of what the United States look like.

In Daniel 2, Medo-Persia is represented by:

- The chest.
- The silver.

In Daniel 7, Medo-Persia is represented by:

- A beast (bear).
- The shoulders one is higher and the other one lower.

In Daniel 8: 3,20, Medo-Persia is represented by:

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<sup>1</sup> Seven Mountains Theology is an evangelical Christian doctrine which says that Christians have a Biblical mandate to take control of all aspects of society. These aspects of society are framed as the seven mountains of family, religion, education, media, entertainment, business, and government affairs.

- A beast (ram) which is referred as Medo-Persia.
- Two horns, one being higher and the other which referred to the Kings of Media and Persia.

In Rev 13: 11, the United States is represented by:

- The beast in two parts: being a lamb and being a dragon.
- Two horns.

When looking at the lamb-like beast with 2 horns we must notice three things:

- Although revelation 13:11 talks about one beast there are in fact 2 beasts - a lamb beast with two horns and a dragon that speaks.
- The word that would allow us to see that is the word **“like”**. In that context, it means **equal to**.

We can go to Daniel 7 as an example. In verse 4 we are told:

7:4 The first [was] **like** a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Just like Revelation 13:11, the word **“like”** is used. It doesn't say that this beast had the appearance of a lion or was never a lion. We say, it was a lion.

Another example is Romans 8:3

8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in **the likeness** of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

The word **“likeness”** is similar to the word “like”. We know Christ took human flesh. He didn't just pretend to be in a sinful flesh. So, the word likeness means **equal to** human flesh.

When we come to Revelation 13:11, we are identifying the word

“like” to mean “equal to”. we do not see a pretend lamb, but a lamb nor a pretend dragon. But John wants to tell us on which characteristic of the lamb and the dragon we need to focus on. And it is on the horns, and the voice. Not the legs nor the wool nor the tail.

- Another important point is to note that If the lamb has 2 horns, then the dragon must have 2 horns.

The 2 horns of the dragon must be in opposition with the 2 horns of the lamb.

The horns of the lamb are republicanism and Protestantism. They offer civil liberty and religious liberty. By contrast, the horns of the dragon must offer civil oppression and religious oppression.

We know it because at the Sunday law we enter into a symbolic “1260” years of persecutions. And when we look at the real 1260-period, Ellen White says that *Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America and sought an asylum **from royal oppression and priestly intolerance** were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of **civil and religious liberty**. {GC 441.1}*

So, what we should expect is a combining of church and state that will bring not only a religious intolerance but also civil oppression. It will make an image of the first beast. There again, it will be very subtle. The USA will never stop to profess the constitution and never stop to profess to be a republic or a democracy. Many will profess to believe in the constitution and the separation of Church and state but in the reality, they won't practice it. We know it because today, if we look at the white evangelicals, they believe in freedom and religious liberty. But it is a liberty that suppresses the rights of the minorities. They want to be free to discriminate someone who is gay for example and no provide them with proper health care or simple service like baking a cake. They want to be free to make laws against abortion because they are pro-life. They want to be free to uphold their white supremacist view because it is part of their understanding of the Bible. They want to be free to bring the logo “ In God We Trust” in any public spheres regardless that the constitution separates church and state. So, they will profess the constitution, they will profess civil rights and religious liberty, but will not practice it.



To conclude. We looked at the characteristics of the 2 beasts. The first beast is the papacy who received its power and authority from the kings of Europe and the second is the United States. At the beginning both beasts have nothing in common, but at the end the United States forms an image or copy of the papacy and introduces the principles and methods of the papacy. It brings church and state together and uses the civil power to oppress people who do not obey its religious laws. We saw how subtle it will be done. We will see a dictatorship that professed in democracy. This shows how church and state is not only about Sunday law as Sabbath vs Sunday, but also about civil rights. The legislative and Judicial branches are already set up to pass laws that will advantage those who believe in the 7 mountains divine mandate which is the control of family, religion, education, media, entertainment, business, and government affairs. It will be possible for them to speak through laws regardless who is the president of the United States. This is why it is important to understand equality, racism, gender, homophobia because if we are not sensitive to these issues, we will not see the characteristics of the "Sunday Law" and misunderstand the character of Christ. Many will profess to believe in the constitution and the separation of Church and state but in the reality, they will not practice it. They will speak as a dragon. And we see how this process is already happening.