

Fundamental Belief Number Thirteen

The Remnant and its Mission

Part 15

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Memory Text

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the **dragon**, and out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the false **prophet**.

Bible Study Summary Introduction Statement

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness.

BIBLE STUDY

The Harlot Woman or Beast combines Church and State power to enforce her dogmas

How did Aholah and Aholibah unite “Church” and “State” in their spiritual adultery?

Ezekiel 23:4 And the names of them *were* Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus *were* their names; Samaria *is* Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.

Ezekiel 23:5 And Aholah played the **harlot** when she was **mine**; and she doted on her lovers, on the **Assyrians** *her* neighbours,

Ezekiel 23:6 *Which were* clothed with blue, captains and rulers, all of them **desirable** young men, horsemen riding upon horses.

Ezekiel 23:7 Thus she committed her **whoredoms** with them, with **all** them *that were* the chosen men of Assyria, and with all on whom she doted: with all their **idols** she **defiled** herself.

Ezekiel 23:11 And when her sister **Aholibah** saw *this*, she was more **corrupt** in her inordinate love than she, and in her **whoredoms** more than her sister in *her* whoredoms.

Ezekiel 23:12 She doted upon the **Assyrians** *her* neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men.

Ezekiel 23:13 Then I saw that **she** was **defiled**, *that* they *took* both one way,

Ezekiel 23:14 And *that* she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men pourtrayed upon the wall, the images of the **Chaldeans** pourtrayed with vermilion,

Ezekiel 23:15 Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the **Babylonians** of Chaldea, the land of their nativity:

What three religious groups make up Babylon?

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into **three** parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great **Babylon** came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the **dragon**, and out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the false **prophet**.

The Harlot Woman rides a beast and in other parts of the Bible she is described as a beast. What is this apostate Church involved with that a beast is a symbol of in Bible Prophecy?

Daniel 7:17 These great **beasts**, which are four, *are* four **kings**, *which* shall arise out of the earth.

Daniel 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth **beast** shall be the fourth **kingdom** upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

Note: On February 11th, 1929, an historic treaty was signed between the Italian Government and the Vatican re-establishing the political power and diplomatic standing of the Catholic Church, which had been lost when Italy seized Rome, the last of the Papal States, on September 20th, 1870.

“Long ages ago, when Rome through the neglect of the Western Emperors was left to the mercy of the barbarous hordes, the Romans turned to one figure for aid and protection, and asked him to rule them; and thus,... commenced the temporal sovereignty of the popes. And meekly stepping to the throne of caesar, the vicar of Christ took up the scepter to which the emperors and kings of

Europe were to bow reverence through so many years.” *American Catholic Quarterly Review, April 1911.*

“When the Roman Empire became Christian, and the peace of the Church was guaranteed, the Emperor left Rome to the Pope, to be the seat of authority of the Vicar of Christ, who should reign there independent of all human authority, to the consummation of ages, to the end of time.” Papal Rights and Privileges, pgs. 13, 14. 1889. Francis P. C. Hays (who is a Roman Catholic).

In the West a new power was formed—the Roman Church, the church of the bishop of Rome. The Church understood itself as the successor of the extinct Roman Empire. In the political vacuum of the West that was created by the invasion of the Germans and the destruction of the Roman state and administrative apparatus, the church became great and powerful as the heir to the Roman Empire. Only within this vacuum could the idea of the papacy develop in which the great popes, as bishops of Rome, stepped into the position of the vanished emperors. *Encyclopedia Britannica 1998*

“The removal of the capitol of the empire from Rome to Constantinople in 330, left the Western Church practically free from imperial power, to develop its own form of organization. The Bishop of Rome, in the seat of the Caesars, was now the greatest man in the West, and was soon forced to become the political as well as the spiritual head.” *The Rise of the Medieval Church, pg. 168. Alexander C. Flick. Ph.D. Litt.D.*

If a man considers the origin of this great, ecclesiastical dominion he will easily perceive that the papacy is none other than the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire sitting crowned upon the grave thereof. *Leviathan p. 457, Thomas Hobbs, Historian*

Out of the ruins of the Roman Empire there gradually arose a new order of states whose central point was the Papal See. Therefore, inevitably resulted a position, not only new, but very different from the former. *The Church and Churches p. 42, 43, J.J. Ignatious von Dollinger*

To the succession of the Caesar’s came the succession of the Pontiffs in Rome. When Constantine left Rome he gave his seat to the Pontiff. *Labianca, Professor of History, University of Rome*

The popes filled the place of the vacant emperors of Rome, inheriting their power, prestige, and titles from paganism ... The papacy is but the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire sitting crowned upon its grave. *Stanley’s History p.40*

Where did the *paganization* of Christianity begin? At its inception at the Council of Nicea in 325 CE. The Roman emperor Caesar Constantine organized the Roman Church and unified its doctrines.

Constantine retained the title of chief priest of the state cult until he died. When he died in 337 CE, he was still engaged in the process of simultaneously building pagan temples and Christian churches, and **was slowly turning over the reins of his pagan priesthood to the Bishop of Rome.**

Caesar Gratian was the first emperor to refused to accept the title Pontiff Maximus (Supreme Priest) in 376 CE. So, in 378 CE Bishop Demasus of Rome assumed the title.

On the vacated seat of the Roman Empire arose the papacy. **Said Adolf Harnack, "The Pope...is Caesar’s successor."**—**Adolf Harnack, What is Christianity? (New York: G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1903), p. 270.** From hereon, the Bishop of Rome was the Supreme Priest to the pagans and the head of the Christian church; the streams of paganism

and Christianity flowed together under the leadership of Pontifex Maximus, ultimately to be shortened to the Pope.

The Pope is called the “vicar” (Vicar of Christ, Vicarious Filii Dei, Successor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, Bishop of Rome, Sovereign of Vatican City) meaning he is vicariously “the anointed.”

By claiming to be “anointed,” the Pope claims religious as well as civil power this is represented by the two keys in the Gregorian Crest. His civil key was established when the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths would not recognize the Bishop of Rome as king, and were deposed. *By Rabbi Rob Miller (YATI) April 12, 2005*

[p. 269] Whatever Roman elements the barbarians and Arians left ... [came] under the protection of the Bishop of Rome, who was the chief person there after the Emperor’s disappearance... [p. 270] **The Roman Church in this way privily pushed itself into the place of the Roman World-Empire, of which it is the actual continuation;** the empire has not perished, but has only undergone a transformation ... That is no mere “clever remark,” but the recognition of the true state of the matter historically, and the most appropriate and fruitful way of describing the character of this Church. It still governs the nations ... It is a political creation, and as imposing as a World-Empire, because the continuation of the Roman Empire. **The Pope, who calls himself “King” and “Pontifex Maximus,” is Caesar’s successor. Adolf Harnack, *What Is Christianity?* trans. by Thomas Bailey Saunders (2d ed., rev.; New York: Putnam, 1901), pp. 269, 270. [Ernest Benn Ltd., London, has recently published a new edition of this book.]**

Under the Roman Empire the popes had no temporal power. But when the Roman Empire had disintegrated and its place had been taken by a number of rude barbarous kingdoms, the Roman Catholic Church not only became independent of the states in religious affairs but dominated secular affairs as well. *The Papacy and World Affairs p.1, Carl Conrad Eckhardt.*

In 538AD, the year when the Ostrogoths collapsed, it was out of the smoking ruins of the western Roman Empire and after the overthrow of the three Arian kingdoms that the pope of Rome emerged as the most important single individual in the West, the head of a closely organized church with a carefully defined creed and with vast potential for political influence. Dozens of writers have pointed out that the real survivor of the ancient Roman Empire was the Church of Rome. - *McKenzie, "Catholic Church" p. 14.*

“Another consequence of the fall of the Roman power in the West was the development of the Papacy. In the absence of an emperor in the West, the popes rapidly gained influence and power, and soon built up an ecclesiastical empire that in some respects took the place of the old empire and carried on its civilizing work.” Philip Van Ness Myers, *Rome: Its Rise and Fall, General History for Colleges, Pg. 316.*

Besides the emperors at Constantinople, and the various German kings, there grew up in Europe a line of rulers more powerful than any of these, namely the popes ... the longest and mightiest line of rulers that the world has ever seen. *Medieval and Modern Times pp. 40, 41*

How does the Bible reveal that the beast and his image are both religious and political powers of world-wide influence?

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

Revelation 13:8 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.

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld **another** beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Revelation 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and **causeth** the **earth** and them which dwell therein to **worship** the first **beast**, whose deadly wound was healed.

Revelation 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not **worship** the image of the beast should be killed.

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a **mark** in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man **worship** the **beast** and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the **beast**, and the **kings** of the **earth**, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Revelation 19:20 And the **beast** was taken, and with him the false **prophet** that wrought miracles before him, with which he **deceived** them that had received the **mark** of the **beast**, and them that **worshipped** his **image**. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Would you like to worship Jesus and keep His Commandments totally rejecting the pressure of the Satan to worship the Beast and his Image? Yes!

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What bad combination did the harlots Aholah and Aholibah unite with that the Bible describes as spiritual adultery? **The uniting of Church and State**

What was the name of the political power that God's people under the symbolic names of Aholah and Aholibah united with to make the bad combination of Church and State? **Babylon**

What three religious powers unite with the state to enforce their religious beliefs on others? **The Dragon, the Beast and the false prophet.**

What does a beast represent in Bible Prophecy? **A kingdom**

Which modern day church is heavily involved in politics and is in fact an independent kingdom? **The Roman Catholic power.**

When did the Roman Catholic Church begin its rise to Political Power? 538 AD

What three opposing political powers were uprooted to make way for the Papacy's political dominance? The Vandals, the Heruli and the Ostrogoths

Who took the place of the Caesars in Rome after Constantine removed the capital to Constantinople in the East? The Popes

Who actually became the most powerful political figure out of the ruins of the Roman Empire? The Pope

How many people in the earth will worship the Beast? All the that dwell on the earth who do not have their names written in the Lamb's Book of life

What will the Beast impose on all those that dwell on the earth? A mark

Where is the mark placed? On the forehead or on the right hand

What is the third angel's message? A warning not to worship the beast or his image and not to receive the mark of the beast

What will eventually happen to the beast, his image and their armies? They will be thrown into a lake of fire