

## **THE POWERS THAT BE**

### **JOHN 19:7**

7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

### **JOHN 19:8**

8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was **the more afraid**;

### **JOHN 19:9**

9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

### **JOHN 19:10**

10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that **I have power to crucify thee**, and have power to release thee?

### **JOHN 19:11**

11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have **no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above**: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the **greater sin**.

## **[STOP]**

### **ROMANS 13:1**

1 ¶ Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: **the powers that be are ordained of God**.

### **COLOSSIANS 1:16**

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

### **DANIEL 7:9**

9 ¶ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

### **DANIEL 7:1**

1 ¶ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

### **DANIEL 7:2**

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

### **DANIEL 7:3**

3 And **four great beasts** came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

### **DANIEL 7:4**

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.

The peculiarity of the "First Beast" was that it had Eagle's Wings. This combination of the lion, the King of Beasts, and the eagle, the King of Birds, corresponded to the Royalty of the "Head of Gold", and typified the "Eagle-like" swiftness of the armies of Nebuchadnezzar.

The "Plucking of the Wings" doubtless referred to the "Beastly Insanity" of Nebuchadnezzar ([Dan. 4:20-22](#)), and the lifting up, and causing to stand upon its feet as a man to his restoration to sanity.

### **DANIEL 7:5**

5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of

it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

The bear is the strongest beast after the lion and is distinguished for its voracity, but it has none of the agility and majesty of the lion, is awkward in its movements, and effects its purpose with comparative slowness, and by brute force and sheer strength.

These were the characteristics of the Medo-Persian Empire. It was ponderous in its movements. It did not gain its victories by bravery or skill, but overwhelmed its enemies by hurling vast masses of troops upon them.

Xerxes' expedition against Greece was undertaken with 2,500,000 fighting men, who with the camp followers made up an army of 5,000,000. Other Persian generals had armies running up into the 100,000's of men. It is easy to be seen that the movements of such enormous bodies of men would "devour much flesh, " not only in the destruction of their enemies, but thousands would die of disease and exposure and the countries through which they passed would become famine stricken by the loss of food seized to feed such armies.

The side of the Bear which raised up to attack typified Persia, in which lay the greatest military strength, and corresponded to the right shoulder and arm of the image of gold. The "Three-Ribs" stood for the three Kingdoms of Lydia, Babylon and Egypt, which formed a "Triple Alliance" to check the Medo-Persian power, but were all destroyed by it.

### **DANIEL 7:6**

6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

The leopard is the most agile and graceful of creatures; but its speed is here still further assisted by "wings." Slight in its frame, but strong, swift and fierce, its characteristics render it a fitting

symbol of the rapid conquests of the Greeks under Alexander the Great, who, followed by small but well-equipped and splendidly brave armies, moved with great celerity and in about 10 years overthrew the forces of Persia, and subdued the whole civilized world.

The "four wings of a Fowl" indicate, that, as a "fowl" does not fly high, the armies of Alexander were fitted mainly for lowland fighting.

The "Four Heads" of the Leopard represent the "Four Kingdoms" into which the Empire of Alexander was divided by his generals, namely Egypt, Syria, Thrace and Macedonia. From B.C. 323 to B.C. 30 there was no world-wide Kingdom, there being this break or parenthesis between the Medo-Persian and Roman Empires.

The Third Beast, the Leopard, corresponds to the abdomen and hips of the IMAGE.

### **DANIEL 7:7**

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

The Fourth Beast was unlike any beast that Daniel had ever seen or heard about, it was **dreadful and terrible**, and strong exceedingly, and it had great IRON TEETH. It devoured and brake in pieces, and tamped the residue (the other Beasts) with the feet of it; and it was diverse from all the Beasts that were before it and it had Ten Horns.

The fact that the Fourth Beast had Iron Teeth, and that there are Ten Horns on its head, the "iron" corresponding to the "Iron Limbs" and the "ten horns" to the "Ten Toes" of the IMAGE, would cause Daniel to see that the Fourth Beast represented the Fourth World Kingdom.

### **DANIEL 7:8**

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

But as Daniel "considered" the Ten Horns, he was amazed to see another Horn, a "LITTLE" one, come up among them, and before whom there were "three" of the "First Horns" plucked up by the roots, that is destroyed; and as he examined the "Little Horn" more closely he noticed that it had Eyes like the eyes of a Man, and the Mouth of a Man speaking great things.

### **DANIEL 7:11**

11 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 7:12**

12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

### **DANIEL 7:13**

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

### **DANIEL 7:14**

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

### **DANIEL 7:15**

15 ¶ I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

**DANIEL 7:16**

16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

**DANIEL 7:17**

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

**DANIEL 7:18**

18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

**DANIEL 7:19**

19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

**DANIEL 7:20**

20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

**DANIEL 7:21**

21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

**DANIEL 7:22**

22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

In the explanation Daniel was told that the "Ten Horns" on the Fourth Beast represented "Ten Kings" that shall arise, and that the "Little Horn" was a king that should rise among them and subdue three of them, and that he would be a "person" of remarkable intelligence and great oratorical powers, having a mouth speaking great things (vs. 8, 20).

### **REVELATION 13:1**

1 ¶ 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 13:2**

2 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.**

### **REVELATION 13:3**

3 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.

### **REVELATION 13:4**

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 13:5**

5 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.

### **REVELATION 13:6**

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

### **REVELATION 13:7**

7 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.

### **REVELATION 13:8**

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.

### **DANIEL 7:23**

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.

### **BUTLER SAID:**

This is God's way of describing the Roman empire. Of course, men have described the Roman empire in far more glamorous terms, but God sees the heart and says the Roman empire in character was hideous.

### **IRONSIDE SAID:**

I have represented this beast as having a composite character, for I take it that it correlates to the beast described in Rev 13. It has the head of a lion, the body of a leopard, and the feet of a bear; thus including in itself the chief features of all the kingdoms pictured by the other beasts. It was the boast of the Romans that they never destroyed a civilization when **they conquered the people; they took from it everything of merit and combining all into one, produced the greatest civilization the world had ever known.**

The course of this last beast has not yet been fully run. In the book of Revelation it is described as having seven heads, one of



which was wounded to death and afterwards healed. The seven heads are said to be seven kings or forms of government. In John's day, five had already passed away and the sixth, or imperial form, was then in existence. The seventh had not yet come.

**JOHN GILL SAID:**

**the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom on earth;** which shows that the angel, by four kings, meant four kingdoms, that should successively arise in the earth, and out of it, is the Roman empire; for this is to continue until the kingdom of Christ takes place.

**which shall be diverse from all kingdoms;** from the kingdoms and monarchies that were before it; particularly as a kingdom, in its form of government, both when Pagan and Papal.

**and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces:** not the whole land of Judea only, as some read and interpret it; but the whole world, which the Romans became masters of; and the phrases used denote the destruction and desolation they made, wherever they carried their arms, and the cruelty and tyranny they exercised, and the vast profusion of blood made by them, both among the Heathens they subdued, and the Christians they persecuted.

**DAKE SAID:**

**[whole earth]** The "whole earth" here means the Roman Empire, the civilized world at that time.

**DANIEL 7:24**

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

**DANIEL 7:25**

25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

**DANIEL 7:26**

26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

**DANIEL 7:27**

27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

**REVELATION 17:1**

1 ¶ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

**BARNES SAID:**

It is expressly said that "this woman is that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth"--that is, as I suppose, Papal Rome; and the design here is to represent it as resembling an abandoned female-- fit representative of an apostate, corrupt, unfaithful church.

**BURKITT SAID:**

A whore is a person married to an husband, who afterwards proves false to his bed. **The Papal present church of Rome deserves this name**, having been guilty of the greatest defection and apostasy from the true evangelical doctrine and worship that ever was in the world; and she is deservedly also called the **great whore**.

**DARBY SAID:**

There was a woman, a religious system, sitting on an imperial beast full of names of blasphemy, having the form which marked it Roman.

### **REVELATION 17:2**

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

### **REVELATION 17:3**

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

### **BURKITT SAID:**

The woman here is the same with her that was called whore, ver. 1. namely, idolatrous Rome; she is represented as a woman richly and splendidly arrayed, with her wealth and riches, with her pomp and power, enticing the world to her idolatry, called so often whoredom and spiritual fornication; and the **golden cup** in her hand is an allusion to harlots, who with their philters, or enchanted cups, do allure and provoke men to sensual satisfaction; in like manner doth Rome by her outward splendour allure, and by other specious pretences and means draw persons to idolatries and superstitions.

Note lastly, The name written on her forehead, to wit, **Mystery, Babylon the Great**; that is, not literal, but mystical Babylon, **the great city of Rome**, the mother of idolatry, the pattern of cruelty, the patroness of all impiety; and propagating all these by her power and policies, who calls herself **the mother church**, but is indeed **the mother of harlots**, and of all manner of **abominations**; that is, of abominable doctrines and practices.

### **CLARKE SAID:**

No doubt can now be entertained that this woman is the Latin Church, for she sits upon the beast with seven heads and ten horns, which has been already proved to be the Latin empire, because this empire alone contains the number 666. This is a representation of the Latin Church in her highest state of antichristian prosperity, for she Sits Upon the scarlet coloured beast, a striking emblem of her complete domination over the secular Latin empire.

**COKE SAID:**

*A woman sitting upon a beast*, is a lively and significant emblem of a church or city directing and governing an empire. In painting and sculpture, as well as in prophetic language, cities are often represented in the form of women; and **Rome itself is exhibited in ancient coins as a woman sitting upon a lion.**

**JOHN GILL SAID:**

The beast is the same with that in [Re 13:1](#) as the description shows, and is no other than the Roman empire as Papal; the "scarlet" color is expressive of its imperial dignity, its power and authority, it received from the dragon; and also of this beast's cruelty and tyranny, and of its shedding the blood of the saints: the woman sitting upon it is the great city of Rome, as is manifest from [Re 17:18](#) or the Romish antichrist, the apostate church of Rome, represented by a woman, as the true church is.

The woman designs the Romish church, with the pope at the head of it, and the beast the Roman Papal empire as civil, by which the former is supported and upheld, bore up on high, and exalted in the manner it has been: moreover, as purple and scarlet are the colors of garments wore by the pope, and cardinals.

**HAWKER SAID:**

All the characters here given of this woman, are descriptive of *Rome* and the *Pope*, and impossible to be applied to any other. The scarlet-colored *beast*, implies the regal power.

## **REVELATION 17:4**

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

### **BARNES SAID:**

***And filthiness of her fornication***, The image here is that of Papal Rome, represented as an abandoned woman in gorgeous attire, alluring by her arts the nations of the earth, and seducing them into all kinds of pollution and abomination. It is a most remarkable fact that the Papacy, as if *designing* to furnish a fulfilment of this prophecy, has chosen to represent itself almost precisely in this manner--as a female extending an alluring cup to passers by. Apostate churches, and guilty nations, often furnish the very proofs necessary to confirm the truth of the Scriptures.

### **COKE SAID:**

*The woman was arrayed too in purple and scarlet color, (ver. 4.) this being the color of the popes and cardinals, as well as of the emperors and senators of Rome. Nay, the mules and horses which carry the popes and cardinals are covered with scarlet cloth; so that they may properly be said to ride upon a scarlet colored beast.*

The woman is also *decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls*: and who can sufficiently describe the pride, and grandeur, and magnificence of the church of Rome in her vestments and ornaments of all kinds? The mitre of Paul II. which was set with diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, chrysolites, jaspers, and precious stones of all sorts.