

LESSON 2. – July 14, 1888.

THE TIME OF THE MESSAGE continued.

1. To what event, and date, were we brought in the previous lesson?

[Answer not supplied, but here it is: Removal of the pope in 1798.]

2. In this dealing with the Papacy what additional prophecies were fulfilled? Rev. 13 : 3, first part, and verse 10.

3. How may we know that this prophecy relates to the same power as that in the previous lesson? Compare Dan. 7 : 4-8 with Rev. 13: 1, 2; and Dan. 7 : 8, 25 with Rev. 13 : 5-7.

4. Was this captivity and deadly wound to put a total end to the Papacy? Rev. 13 : 3.

5. When was it that this captivity occurred? *AIM*—A. D. 1798.

6. At that time what else-did the prophet see? Rev. 13 : 11.

7. Is it for us to know what this means? Deut. 29 : 29.

8. Is this a revelation? Rev. 1 : 1, 3.

9a. What part of the world was represented by the symbol of the leopard?

Ans.—Grecia.

9b. What by the bear?

Ans.—Media and Persia.

9c. What by the lion?

Ans.—Babylonia.

9d. What by the beast and the ten horns?

Ans.— Western Europe and North Africa.

10. Then as the characteristics of all these are found in the first beast of Rev. 13, what parts of the world are covered by the description of this first beast?

Ans.—The principal parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

11. Whence was this other beast seen coming up?

Ans.— " Out of the earth." Rev.13 : 11.

12. Whence had the first beast risen? Rev. 13 : 1.

13. What is meant by " sea," when used as a symbol? Rev. 17 : 15.

14. What then is represented by a power coming up out of the sea?
See note.

15. What by a power coming out of the earth?
See note.

16. In 1798, how much of Europe, Asia, and Africa, was occupied by peoples, multitudes, and established and organized nations?
Ans.—All the known parts of them.

17. How long had it been so?
Ans.— For ages.

18. Therefore, as the symbols which are directly connected with the beast, embrace the principal parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa, as all the rest of the known parts of the Eastern Continent had been for ages occupied by established nations; and as the other beast was to arise where this had not been so; where must this " other beast " arise?

Ans.— In the Western Continent.

19. Did the dominion of the first beast or any of the ten kingdoms extend to any part of the Western Continent in 1798?

Ans.— It did. Spain, France, Portugal, and Britain then owned all except the possessions of what had been the thirteen British colonies, but which then formed the United States of America.

20. What position then did the Government of the United States occupy in 1798?

Ans.-It was the only independent nation then on the earth, which had arisen where there had not formerly been for ages, peoples, multitudes, and established nations.

21. What then is the inevitable conclusion?

Ans.--:-That the United States Government is the power signified in the prophecy of Rev. 13 : 11-17.

22. What is to be said to the people of this Government? Verse 14, last part.

23. When they shall have made an image to the beast, what will he do? Verses 11, 15.

NOTE.

QUESTIONS 14, his vision of the seventh chapter, Daniel says: "The four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea." These four great beasts represented the four great kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, and Rome. Each of these arose by overthrowing the one that had gone before it. And as a symbolic sea represents peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues, it is easy to understand how these great powers came up from the sea. It is also plain that a power symbolized as coming up out of the *earth* would arise from a condition of things the opposite of that represented as the sea; that is, from a place where, before it, there had not been peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Ellen White Notes Compiled:

The book of Revelation, in connection with the book of Daniel, especially demands study. Let every God-fearing teacher consider how most clearly to comprehend and to present the gospel that our Saviour came in person to make known to His servant John--"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass." Revelation 1:1. None should become discouraged in the study of the Revelation because of its apparently mystical symbols. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not." James 1:5. {Ed 191.2}

The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power. "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." Verse 3. The infliction of the deadly wound points to the downfall of the papacy in 1798. After this, says the prophet, "his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." Paul states plainly that the "man of sin" will continue until the second advent. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8. To the very close of time he will carry forward the work of deception. And the revelator declares, also referring to the papacy: "All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life." Revelation 13:8. In both the Old and the New World, the papacy will receive homage in the honor paid to the Sunday institution, that rests solely upon the authority of the Roman Church. {GC 578.3}

At this point another symbol is introduced. Says the prophet, "I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb." [Revelation 13:11.] Both the appearance of this beast and the manner of its rise indicate that the nation which it represents is unlike those presented under the preceding symbols. The great kingdoms that have ruled the world were presented to the prophet Daniel as beasts of prey, rising when the "four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." [Daniel 7:2.] In Revelation 17, an angel explained that waters represent "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." [Revelation 17:15.] Winds are a symbol of strife. The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea, represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power. {GC88 439.3}

But the beast with lamb-like horns was seen "coming up out of the earth." Instead of overthrowing other powers to establish itself, the nation thus represented must arise in territory previously unoccupied, and grow up gradually and peacefully. It could not, then, arise among the crowded and struggling nationalities of the Old World,—that turbulent sea of "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." It must be sought in the Western Continent. {GC88 440.1}

What nation of the New World was in 1798 rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness, and attracting the attention of the world? The application of the symbol admits of no question. One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America. Again and again the thought, almost the exact words, of the sacred writer have been unconsciously employed by the orator and the historian in describing the rise and growth of this nation. The beast was seen "coming up out of the earth;" and, according to the translators, the word here rendered "coming up" literally signifies to "grow or spring up as a plant." And, as we have seen, the nation must arise in territory previously unoccupied. A prominent writer, describing the rise of the United States, speaks of "the mystery of her coming forth from vacancy," and says, "Like a silent seed we grew into empire." [TOWNSEND, IN "THE NEW WORLD COMPARED WITH THE OLD," P. 462.] A European journal in 1850 spoke of the United States as a wonderful empire, which was "emerging," and "amid the silence of the earth daily adding to its power and pride." [THE DUBLIN NATION.] Edward Everett, in an oration on the Pilgrim founders of this nation, said: "Did they look for a retired spot,

inoffensive from its obscurity, safe in its remoteness from the haunts of despots, where the little church of Leyden might enjoy freedom of conscience? Behold the mighty regions over which, in peaceful conquest, . . . they have borne the banners of the cross.” {GC88 440.2}

“And he had two horns like a lamb.” The lamb-like horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as “coming up” in 1798. The Christian exiles who first fled to America, sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance, and they determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. The Declaration of Independence sets forth the great truth that “all men are created equal,” and endowed with the inalienable right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity. The oppressed and down-trodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. Millions have sought its shores, and the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth. {GC88 441.1}

But the beast with lamb-like horns “spake as a dragon. 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, . . . saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” [Revelation 13:11-14.] {GC88 441.2}

The lamb-like horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The “speaking” of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak “as a dragon,” and exercise “all the power of the first beast,” plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopard-like beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns “causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast,” indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy. {GC88 442.1}

Such action would be directly contrary to the principles of this government, to the genius of its free institutions, to the direct and solemn avowals of the Declaration of Independence, and to the Constitution. The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on the part of the church, with its inevitable result—intolerance and persecution. The Constitution provides that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” and that “no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.” Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation's liberty, can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority. But the inconsistency of such action is no greater than is represented in the symbol. It is the beast with lamb-like horns—in profession pure, gentle, and harmless— that speaks as a dragon. {GC88 442.2}

“Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast.” Here is clearly presented a form of government in which the legislative power rests with the people; a most striking evidence that the United States is the nation denoted in the prophecy. {GC88 443.1}