

# #029 The 7 heads of Revelation

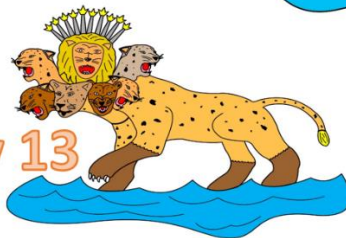
## Understanding Revelation's 3 Beasts w/ 7 Heads



Rev 12



Rev 17



Rev 13

You will learn Key Bible Texts that will help you eliminate false interpretations of Rev 17. You will learn God uses different symbols to represent the same kingdom in different chapters. You will learn the three 7 headed beasts represent Rome at different points in time. Multiple heads on one beast represent multiple governments, not multiple kingdoms. You will learn what the 7 heads represent.

**KEY TEXT: Revelation 17:10-11** "And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and ONE IS, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition."

<b>Fallen</b>	<b>Fallen</b>	<b>Fallen</b>	<b>Fallen</b>	<b>Fallen</b>	<b>"One Is"</b>	<b>"Not Yet Come"</b>	<b>Rev. 17:10-11</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Head</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Head</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Head</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Head</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Head</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Head</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Head</b>	<b>The 8<sup>th</sup></b>

BTW, did you know that you can ask different preachers, what or who the 7 heads of Revelation represent, and you will most likely receive different answers from each of them! Why is there NO Consensus? I believe that our enemy, the devil, would do everything he can to inject confusion, that if it were possible, even the very elect would be deceived. Here are samples of some false beliefs.

## Examples of what some believe!



1 <sup>st</sup> Head	2 <sup>nd</sup> Head	3 <sup>rd</sup> Head	4 <sup>th</sup> Head	5 <sup>th</sup> Head	6 <sup>th</sup> Head	7 <sup>th</sup> Head	The 8th
Egypt	Assyria	Babylon	Medo-Persia	Greece	Pagan Rome	Divided Rome (10 Horns)	Papacy
Assyria	Babylon	Medo-Persia	Greece	Pagan Rome	Divided Rome (10 Horns)	Papacy	USA
Babylon	Medo-Persia	Greece	Pagan Rome	Divided Rome (10 Horns)	Pre-wound Papacy	USA	Revived (post wound) Papacy
Babylon	Medo-Persia	Greece	Pagan Rome	Pre-wound Papacy	USA	Revived (post wound) Papacy	Satan

These are only a few of the theories men teach today, the point is, there seems to be no consensus, and this causes much confusion. However, by sticking with the Bible and the historical record, you will see how easy it is to properly interpret the 7 heads of Revelation.

Let's identify when John is seeing this vision! **Revelation 17:10** (KJV) And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

**“five are fallen” – This is PAST tense**

**“one is” – This is PRESENT tense**

**“the other is not yet come” – This is FUTURE tense**

John is seeing the vision in PRESENT tense, during the time of the Roman Empire in 96 AD. You may remember, the Romans sent John to the isle of Patmos in 96 AD. While he was there Jesus sent an Angel to give John the visions which are known today as “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”.

John is seeing the 7 kings of Rev. 17 from his day, after 5 of them had already fallen, and during the time of the 6th king. The 7th king has not yet come into existence. This is VERY IMPORTANT! Rome was the kingdom in power when John received the vision. Therefore the 6th king must be found in Rome!

**Point #1 - Revelation 17:10 Indicates the 6th head, or the ONE THAT “IS” in the PRESENT (during John's day), is in fact Pagan Rome, because Pagan Rome was in power at the time of John's vision.**

Only 1 theory on our chart has Pagan Rome listed as the 6th head. Any theory that does not have Pagan Rome as the 6th head must be eliminated! We have now confirmed that Pagan Rome is the 6th head, but we have not confirmed who the other heads are at this point.

**Point #2 - God uses different symbols in different chapters to represent the same kingdom.** When you come to the three 7 Headed Beasts in Revelation, don't get hung up on variations, they all have 7 heads and 10 horns. They are all the same kingdom. Just as God used different symbols to represent, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome, in Daniel, He also uses different symbols to represent Rome in the Revelation.

*Daniel 7*      *Daniel 2*

**Daniel 8**

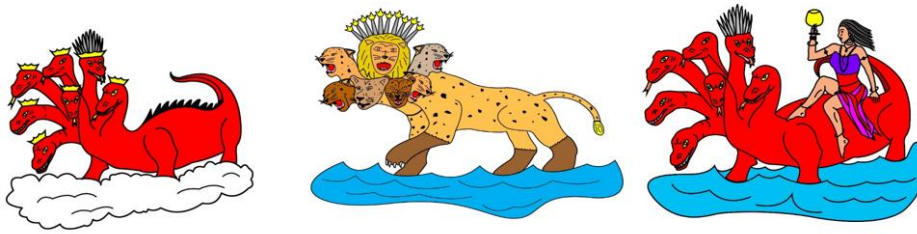
**Out of 1 came A Little Horn that waxed exceeding Great**

Each symbol below Portrays either Pagan Rome (and/or) Papal Rome & the 10 divisions of Rome  
 If you do not understand this, please review lessons #25 – 28

## 5 Symbols of Rome

Daniel 2      Daniel 7      Rev. 13  
Rev. 12      Rev. 17

The Bible indicates all three 7 headed beasts represent Rome, either in its Pagan or Papal form, at different points in time. Let's examine NINE reasons why this is true by comparing the following points of commonality! All three beasts have the following four points in common.



**1) Each Beast has 7 Heads & 10 Horns**

Rev 12:3

Rev 13:1

Rev 17:3

**2) Wonder or Amazement is associated with each Beast**

Rev 12:3

Rev 13:3

Rev 17:8

**3) Each Beast Makes War Against or Persecutes God & His People**

Rev 12:4, 7, 13, 15 & 17

Rev 13:7

Rev 17:6 & 14

**4) Each Beast is Associated with the 1260 Year Wilderness Experience**

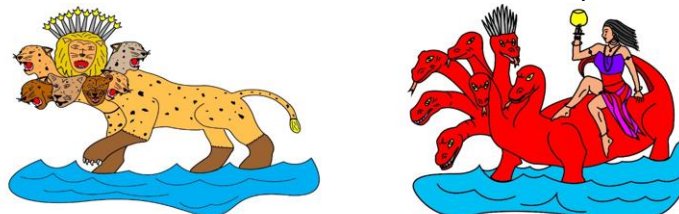
Rev 12:6 & 14

Rev 13:5

Rev 17:3

**538 - 1798**

In addition, the Rev 13 & 17 beasts also have these five points in common.



**5) Both Beasts are Associated with the "Sea" or "Many Waters"**

Rev 13:1

Rev 17:1

**6) Wisdom is Needed to Understand who these Beasts Are**

Rev 13:18

Rev 17:9

**7) Both Beasts are Full of Blasphemy**

Rev 13:1, 5 & 6

Rev 17:3

**8) Both Exercise Power over All Kindreds, Peoples, Multitudes, Nations & Tongues**

Rev 13:7

Rev 17:15 & 18

**9) Both Beasts are Worshiped by those who are NOT in the Book of Life**

Rev 13:8

Rev 17:8

**Point #3 - All three 7 headed beasts represent Rome, either in its Pagan or Papal form, at different points in time.**

**Point #4 - Satan works behind the scenes to influence Rome in both its Pagan and Papal forms.**

The Great Controversy p. 138, referencing Revelation 12:9, states: The dragon is said to be Satan,.. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people... was the Roman Empire.... Thus while the dragon primarily, represents Satan, it is in a secondary sense a symbol of pagan Rome.



**Rev 12 Dragon** – Is Satan cast out of heaven, seeking to destroy Jesus & crucifying Him through Pagan Rome, while making war against God’s people.



**Rev 13 Leopard** – Is Satan working through Papal Rome to persecute God’s people during the Dark Ages from 538 to 1798 when the papacy received it’s deadly wound.



**Rev 17 Scarlet Beast & Harlot Woman** – Is Satan working in the time of the end, through Papal Rome as she mingles the powers of Church and State deceiving the world to worship her.

**Point #5 - Multiple heads on a beast represent different governments or powers within a kingdom!**

As an example, look at the 4 headed Leopard of Daniel chapter 7

*The Leopard is Alexander  
The 4 Heads are his 4 Generals*



*Greece  
331 BC to 168 BC*

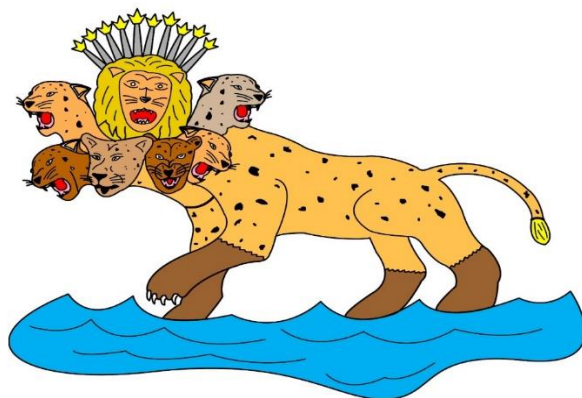
**This is VERY IMPORTANT:** The 4 heads are NOT 4 different kingdoms! Each of Alexander’s 4 generals ruled a portion of the territory of Greece! **Therefore multiple heads on a beast do not represent different kingdoms, they represent different governments or powers within a kingdom!**

Let's put it all together now! **Isaiah 28:10** "For precept must be upon precept, ... , line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"

Since the Great Red Dragon of Rev. 12 is Satan, working through Pagan Rome, this means the seven heads on the Dragon must represent 7 forms of Roman government, because multiple heads on one beast represent powers or governments within a kingdom.

Therefore, when we consider the 7 Headed Beasts of Revelation, those 7 heads do not represent 7 different kingdoms or nations, but rather they represent 7 different forms of government within ONE nation! Specifically, these 7 heads represent 7 forms or types of government within Rome!

The 7 heads do not represent any of the kingdoms such as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, or Greece. But someone may ask, why then does the Rev. 13 beast have the attributes of a Lion, a Bear, a Leopard and the Dragon gives him his power, his seat and great authority? This is a good question!



Those prior kingdoms were persecuting powers. God is telling us the Leopard like beast of Rev. 13 would also be a persecuting power, having the attributes of persecution and cruelty found in the kingdoms before it.

**Read what Rev. 13:2 says:** "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."

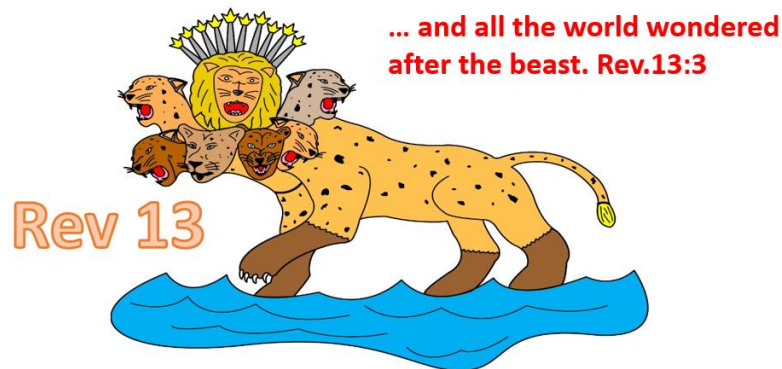
Let's put into practice what we preach. Isaiah 28:10 "For precept must be upon precept, ... , line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"

**Look very closely at this verse above, NOT at the pictures which artists have used to illustrate the Leopard beast, then answer this question. Where in Revelation 13:2 does God say the HEADS of this beast ARE THE HEADS of a Lion, a Bear or a Leopard?**

God does NOT say the HEADS of the Rev. 13 beast are the HEADS of a Lion, a Bear or a Leopard! The Bible says: It's Like a Leopard, it doesn't say the head is a Leopard. It has the MOUTH of a Lion, not the head of a Lion. It has the FEET of a Bear, not the head of a Bear. And the Dragon gives him his power, seat and authority!

God is simply saying this beast like a Leopard will have the persecuting attributes of the kingdoms before it! The Lion has Powerful Jaws to Devour. The Bear's Feet can Destroy with a single swipe. The Leopard is Cunning, Stealthy & Fast when it strikes. The Dragon is Dreadful, Terrible & Exceedingly Strong with great Iron teeth!

Mix these attributes together in one kingdom and you have an overwhelmingly Powerful & Deceptive force to deceive its prey and devour those who stand in it's path.



As the Bible indicates, these 7 heads represent 7 forms or types of government within Rome, but what are those 7 forms of government?

### 7 Forms of Roman Government



1st Head	2nd Head	3rd Head	4th Head	5th Head	6th Head	7th Head	The 8th
Kings	Consuls	Dictators	Decemviri	Tribunes	Emperors	Dukes	Papacy

7 Forms of Government

The 8th, is of the seven!

#### Apply the Key Text

Revelation 17:10-11

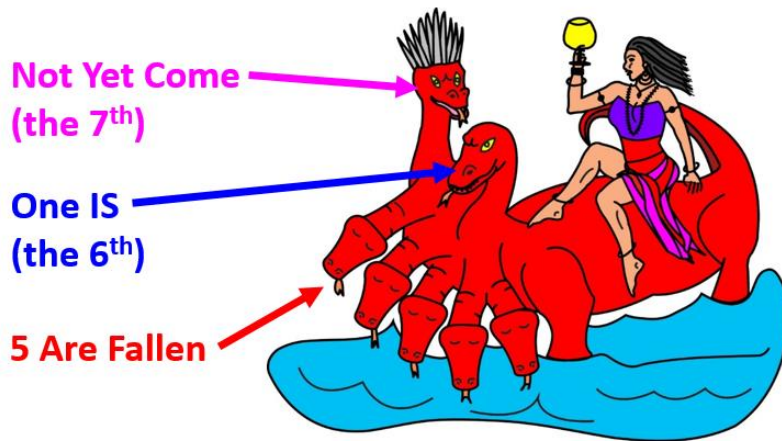
“And there are seven kings: **five are fallen**, and **ONE IS**, and the other is **not yet come**; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is **the eighth**, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”

## Let's identify when John is seeing this vision!

**"five are fallen"** – This phrase is **PAST** tense

**"one is"** – This is **PRESENT** tense

**"the other is not yet come"** – This is **FUTURE** tense



When John received the revelation, the Roman Emperors were seated on the throne.

### In John's Day (96 AD)

1 <sup>st</sup> Head	2 <sup>nd</sup> Head	3 <sup>rd</sup> Head	4 <sup>th</sup> Head	5 <sup>th</sup> Head	6 <sup>th</sup> Head	7 <sup>th</sup> Head	The 8 <sup>th</sup>
Kings	Consuls	Dictators	<u>Decemviri</u>	Tribunes	Emperors	Dukes	Papacy

**5 are "Fallen"**

**"One Is"**

**"Not Yet Come"**

**The 8<sup>th</sup>, is of the seven!**

After the Emperors who formed the 6<sup>th</sup> head, the next (7<sup>th</sup>) kingdom or form of government in Rome was that of the Dukes, or the Dukedom. When the Dukes departed, the Papacy was left remaining on the seat of Rome.

Historian Prof. Arthur P. Stanley, writes in "History of the Eastern Church", p. 40. : "The Popes filled the place of the VACANT Emperors at Rome, INHERITING their power, prestige and TITLES from PAGANISM... The Papacy is THE GHOST of the deceased Roman Empire sitting crowned upon its grave."



Here is some history on the Dukes. The head of the Exarchate of Ravenna, called the Exarch of Ravenna, was the Eastern Roman Emperor's 'lieutenant' who was put in charge of the disintegrating Western half of the Pagan Roman Empire at the time when Rome's 7th head, or the Dukedom, was in existence. The Exarch of Ravenna exercised power over Rome for a short time of approximately 60 years.

The papacy came immediately after the Dukedom that was set up by the Exarch of Ravenna, and is therefore "the eighth," or the Papal form of government, which will go into perdition (Rev. 17:8, 11). Thus the Papacy is said to be "of the seven" heads that proceeded it.

Then **Revelation 17:9** says, "And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth."

**According to Revelation 17:9**

**Not only are the 7 heads representative of 7 forms of government, but they also serve a Dual Application to locate where the woman sits, so there will be NO mistake!**



Therefore the 7 forms of government will be identified by the location of the harlot's seat, or her center of power from where she rules! Two questions should come to mind. 1) Who is the harlot Woman? 2) Where are the 7 mountains she sits on?

God Symbolically views His church, or His people, as a Pure Woman. **Jeremiah 6:2** "I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman." The "daughter of Zion" is a term used for God's people, or the church.

A Pure Woman is a Pure Church, a Harlot Woman is an Apostate Church. The Symbol of a woman is "a figure ... used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church." {GC 381.1}. Prophecy clearly identifies this Harlot Woman as the church of Rome.

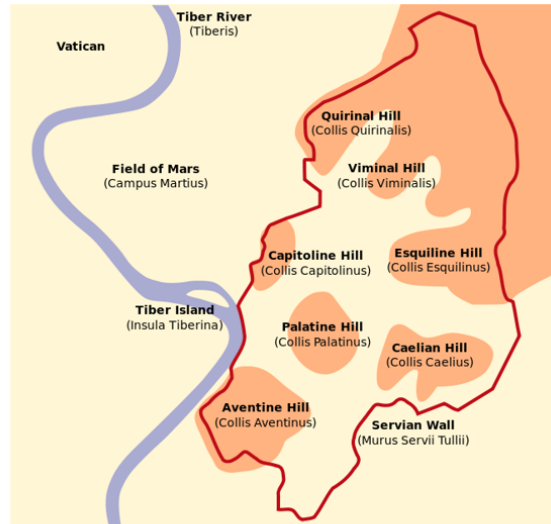
**Revelation 17:18** “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome. {GC 382.2}. Therefore, Revelation’s Harlot Woman is the Apostate Church of Rome.

## Q. 2) Where are the 7 mountains she sits on? Does the Church of Rome sit on 7 hills?

An online search of the phrase “**Seven hills of Rome**” will quickly answer this question!

**YES!**

**ROME was founded  
Upon 7 hills!**



Permission details for drawing of Seven Hills of Rome: GFDL & all CC-BY-SA  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven\\_hills\\_of\\_Rome#/media/File:Seven\\_Hills\\_of\\_Rome.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_hills_of_Rome#/media/File:Seven_Hills_of_Rome.svg)  
Renata3 - Self-made using Inkscape. Based on a map by Orangeowl from German Wikipedia (File:Die sieben Hügel Roms de.png).

**Point #6 - The Church of Rome sits on the 7 Hills of Rome**, giving us double confirmation that the 7 heads of the Revelation beast are the 7 forms of government found in the Roman Empire! What you have learned in this presentation is The Only Interpretation which fulfills these BIBLICAL points and agrees with History and the Spirit of Prophecy!

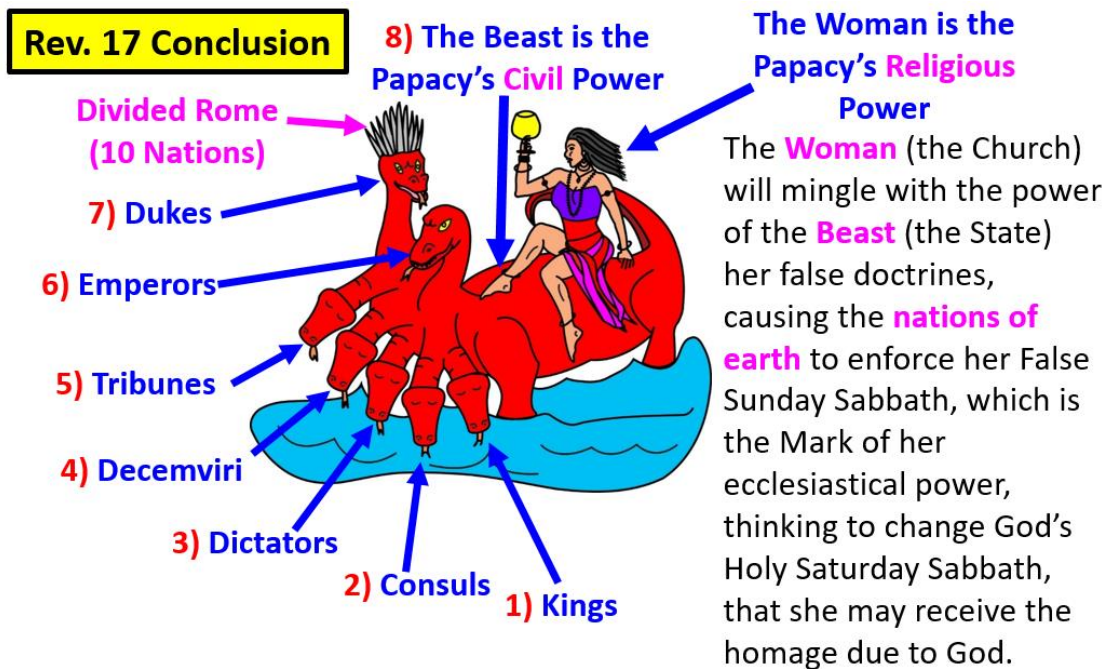
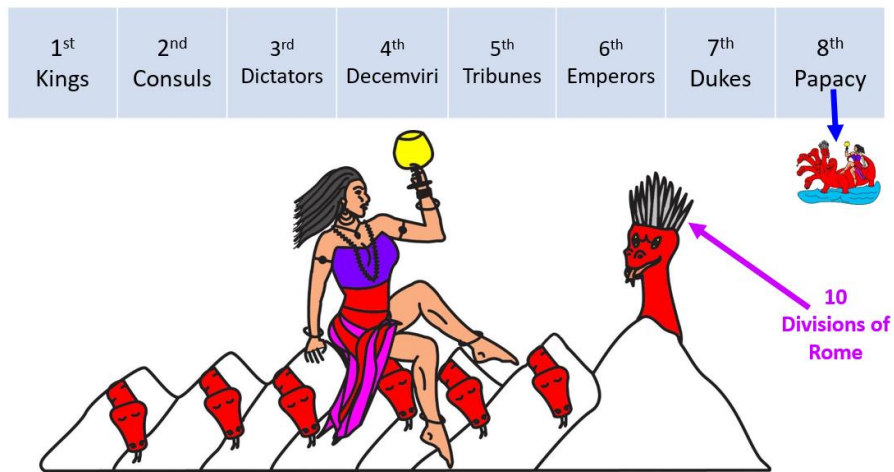
- 1) – All 3 beasts represent Rome, either Pagan or Papal
- 2) – John received the vision in 96AD (Rome was in power)
- 3) – The 6th head is the Government of the Roman Emperors
- 4) – Multiple heads on a beast represent different governments within one kingdom. All 7 heads must be part of Pagan Rome
- 5) – The Papacy is the 8th head “and is of the 7”
- 6) – The Harlot Woman is the Apostate Church of Rome
- 7) – The Church of Rome sits on the 7 Hills of Rome

**Any application such as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece is NOT Biblical for 2 reasons!**

- 1) Those nations were NOT part of the Roman Government, therefore they cannot be heads on the Roman Beast!
- 2) The Roman Church, (the Harlot Woman), NEVER sat on Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia or Greece. She does however sit on the 7 hills of Rome, on the throne of the Pagan Roman Empire!

Today we are living in the last days, while the Papal Beast gets the kings of the earth drunk on her false doctrines.

**Today we need Jesus more than ever before!**



### What did our Pioneers teach?

Uriah Smith writes in his book “Daniel and the Revelation” chapter 17 (1896 edition).

“We understand therefore, that the papal head is the eighth, and that a head of short continuance intervened between the imperial and papal. In fulfillment of this, we read that after the imperial form had been abolished, there was a ruler who for about the space of sixty years governed Rome under the title of the “Exarch of Ravenna.” Thus we have the connecting link between the imperial and papal heads.”

“The third phase of the beast that was, and is not, and yet is, is the Roman power under the rule of the papacy; and in this form it ascends out of the bottomless pit, or bases its power on pretensions which have no foundation but a mixture of Christian errors and pagan superstitions.”

**NOTE... when Smith says “the beast that was, and is not, and yet is, is the Roman power under the rule of the papacy; and in this form it ascends out of the bottomless pit” .... He explains these three phases as the beast:**

The beast **“That Was”** = Rome’s intense persecution lasted until 313 AD.

And **“Is Not”** = After Christianity was Legalized under Constantine the persecution ended, thus it could be said that the beast “Is Not” persecuting God’s people at this time.

**“Yet Is”** = Persecution would Resume again under the Papal form of the beast.

**Wikipedia states:** “Constantine’s decision to cease the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire was a turning point for early Christianity, sometimes referred to as the Triumph of the Church, the Peace of the Church or the Constantinian shift. In 313, Constantine and Licinius issued the Edict of Milan decriminalizing Christian Worship.”

**This was the Beast in the “IS NOT” stage because it no longer was persecuting the Christians.**

Concerning the 10 Horns **Smith writes in his book “Daniel and the Revelation” chapter 17 (1896 edition).** “On this subject, see remarks on Daniel 7:8, where they are shown to represent the ten kingdoms that arose out of the Roman empire.”

NOTE: In doing this, Smith ties the horns of Rev 17 with those of Daniel 7. This connection also ties the 10 toes of Daniel 2 with the 10 horns of Dan. 7, Rev 12, Rev 13 and Rev 17. They all consistently represent the divisions of the Roman empire.

### What does the Spirit of Prophecy say regarding Uriah Smith’s book, “Daniel and the Revelation”?

“The interest in Daniel and the Revelation is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth. Shall we not appreciate this light, ...?” (Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases Volume one No. 26, page 63, "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation," MS 174 1899)

“Those who are preparing to enter the ministry, who desire to become successful students of the prophecies, will find Daniel and the Revelation an invaluable help. They need to understand this book. It speaks of past, present, and future, laying out the path so plainly that NONE NEED ERR therein. Those who will diligently study this book will have no relish for the cheap sentiments presented by those who have a burning desire to get out something new and strange to present to the flock of God. The rebuke of God is upon all such teachers....” (Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases Volume one, No. 26. pages 60, 61, "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation," MS 174 1899).

**William Miller wrote “Remarks on Revelation Thirteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth” saying:**

“In this verse we are taught that John had a vision, and saw himself standing among the tumultuous nations of the earth; and he saw the Roman kingdom rise up out of the nations, having seven forms, or all kinds of governments, seven being a perfect number in this prophecy. Heads denote governments, or supreme power: 1, Republican; 2, Consular; 3, Decemvir; 4, Dictatorial; 5, Triumvirate; 6, Imperial; 7, Kingly.”

**What did other denominations teach?**

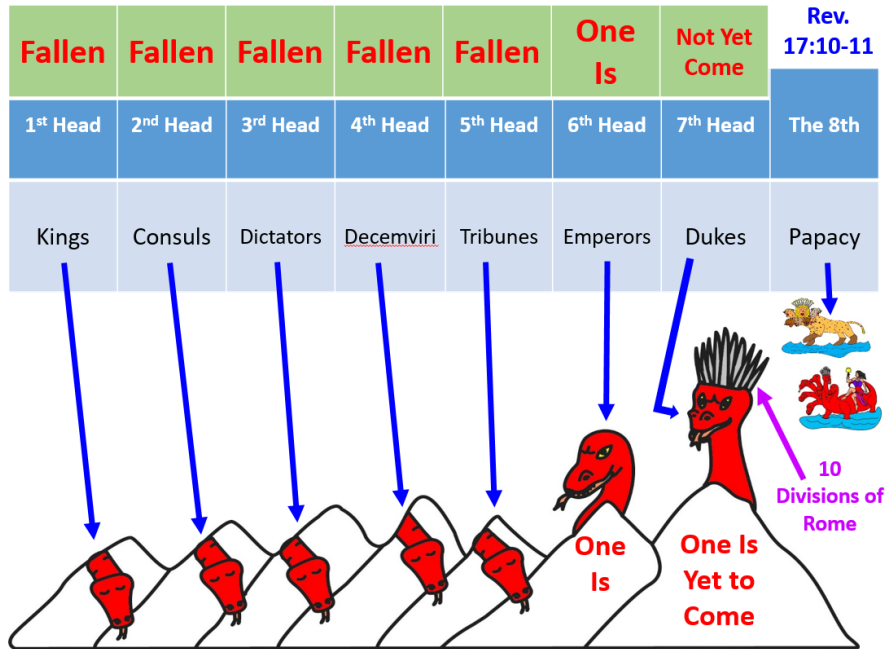
W. B. Godbey one of the most influential evangelists of the Wesleyan-holiness movement in its formative period from 1880-1920 writes in his Commentary on the New Testament regarding Revelation 12:3; “The seven heads and seven diadems emblemize the seven governments of Rome, the mighty empire of Satan; i.e., the kings, consuls, dictators, triumvirs, tribunes, emperors, and popes, who ruled the world two thousand years. The ten horns are the ten great political powers into which the Roman world was disintegrated when the barbarians dethroned the Czars.”

“Lectures on the Revelation” by William J. Reid, Pittsburgh PA, Stevenson, Foster & Co, 1878), p. 400 to 406. “The seven heads symbolize both the seven hills upon which the Roman power was built, as well as the seven forms of government through which it ruled. This scarlet colored beast therefore is the civil power of Rome. The symbol of the woman sitting upon the scarlet beast is the corrupt Church of Rome.”

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible, regarding Revelation 17:7-14 states: “This beast was seven heads, seven mountains, the seven hills on which Rome stands; and seven kings, seven sorts of government. Five were gone by when this prophecy was written; one was then in being; the other was yet to come. This beast, directed by the papacy, makes an eighth governor, and sets up idolatry again.”

Baptist commentator John Gill on Revelation 17:10: ... “but by the seven heads are meant so many forms of government which took place successively in the Roman empire, and were all of them idolatrous heads, as kings, consuls, dictators, decemvirs, tribunes, emperors, and popes; it being usual for any sort of governors, or governments and monarchies, to be called kings, ...

Disclaimer: I'm not endorsing everything these men believed, ... but as a Seventh-day Adventist, I will support Bible Truth! The Truth is always the Truth: No matter who repeats it! No matter how many are for it! No matter how many are against it! The TRUTH is still the TRUTH!



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### Additional points you may be interested to know:

The papacy is represented in Daniel 2 as the feet of iron and clay, because this represents the mingling of church and state by the papacy and her daughter churches.

**Isaiah 64:8** (KJV) "But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

**Jeremiah 18:6** (KJV) "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel."

Clay can be used as a symbol of God's people, or the church, while Iron is a symbol of Rome, (or the state). Therefore we see the mingling of church and state in Daniel 2.

"The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the State will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God's forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy. But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves." Ms 63, 1899, par.

Also found in the SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 4 (EGW), p. 1168.8 “The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay.”

### The Life span of the Roman Empire



Rome was founded in **753 BC**. It's Western empire disintegrated in **476AD**, and was ruled by the Dukes through the Exarch of Ravenna until the Papacy came to ecclesiastical power in 538 AD. The Eastern Empire came to an end in **1453 AD**, however, **Rome will continue in it's Papal form until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus!**

NOTE: When papal Rome received her power in 538, she only received Religious power at that time. Roman Emperors Constantine and Justinian gave the popes ecclesiastical power in 538AD, which religious power was later augmented by ACTUAL political power through Pepin, King of France, in 752AD, when the Eastern Roman Emperor refused to help the Italian pope resist the abuses of the invading Lombards. This political power ended in 1798 with the pope taken captive by France. The 1260 years is measured from 538 to 1798. The papacy's political power was later restored in 1929, and is strengthening day by day.

Remember, Our Hope is Built on  
Nothing Less than Jesus Christ and  
His Righteousness!

