

Big Picture Bible Study

Lesson 08: The Beginning of the Time of the End

THE MILLERITE MOVEMENT AND THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES

In the 1840s, William Miller and his followers believed that there was a final message that was to be given to the world from God. God entrusted the Millerites with the mission to boldly and intelligently proclaim that the final message at *the beginning of the time of the end*, and the same message will be preached until *the ending of the time of the end*. By studying the message of the Millerites, by understanding the patterns in the Bible, and by becoming like the character of Christ, we can also partake in the honorable mission.

The message we are to share is summed up nicely in the *Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14*. Theirs is the final call of warning before the Second Coming of Jesus when the wicked will be separated from the righteous. It is a call to enter into the ark before the door is shut; it is a call to allow Christ to live in you according to the law of God that is found in the Ark of the Covenant within the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary: *the Ten Commandments*.

1st Angel's Message: Revelation 14:6-7

"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

2nd Angel's Message: Revelation 14:8

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

3rd Angel's Message: Revelation 14:9-12

"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, ¹⁰The 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: ¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. ¹²Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

The 3AM have beautiful details, but they can also be summed up:

1AM: there is a good guy (*the cross, grace through faith, Sanctuary, judgment*)

2AM: there is a bad guy (*antichrist, counterfeit theology, Sunday sanctity*)

3AM: choose the good guy (*the mark of the beast VS the seal of God*)

The Close Of Human Probation

Revelation is a book of symbols (*Rev. 1:1*); also, it is not a strictly chronological book—many times it is thematic, breaking from strict chronology to give details on certain topics. Anchor points in the larger timeline (*i.e.: 7th trumpet = trigger marking the time of trouble*) set these moments of detail in their place and allow us to see incredible parallels.

Right now there is a judgment scene in Heaven. When it ends Jesus will return for those who accepted His grace. But these events are quite detailed, and many patterns and parallels find their ultimate fulfillment in those concluding moments. By studying those very patterns and parallels, we can be prepared to face those moments ourselves. The transition between the investigative judgment and the end of our opportunity to accept grace is aptly called the close of probation.

- **Daniel 12:1** “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.”

Daniel was shown this moment in history, when Jesus (Michael) stands up from His judgment. This marks the beginning of “*a time of trouble, such as never was,*” but every person who was written in the Book of Life during the investigative judgment “*shall be delivered!*”

Go READ DANIEL 12:1-3—WHAT JESUS CHRIST DOES AT THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

John was also shown this moment, but give us a very different image. It is the announcement:

- **Revelation 22:11** “¹¹He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

REVELATION 22:10—WHAT JESUS CHRIST SAYS AT THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

In both of these passages, we are given a very clear anchor point in the chronology. So as long as we are in the same context, the details found in the verses *directly preceding* them will parallel the experience of we who are alive at the time of the **Close of Probation** and the **Second Coming**. By studying these times in history, we build our understanding of the future as God has revealed it.

- **Revelation 22:10** “¹⁰And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.”

The only thing in Revelation that is sealed is found in Revelation chapter 10: the Seven Thunders.

Understanding Patterns—building links in the chain

To understand how the Seven Thunders describe the Millerite experience, notice how Revelation 10 and 11 form a thematic interlude in the chronology of the 6th and 7th trumpets (*just like the vision of the 144,000 and the great multitude in Revelation 7 was an interlude between the 6th and 7th seals*). Islam played a leading role in the historical fulfillment of the trumpets, placing the chronology in the early 1840s.

5th Trumpet “First Woe”—in 1299 Turkish Muslims began an assault on the eastern Roman Empire.
6th Trumpet “Second Woe”—in 1449 (150 years), the Byzantine Empire became subordinate to the Ottoman who then turned its attention to Papal-dominated Europe, allowing Protestantism to flourish. Beginning of time of end—in 1840 (391 years), the Ottoman Empire deferred to the protection of four European nations, effectively ceasing as an independent power.

The 3AM were preached by the Millerites and theirs was a very unique experience. Both are types for the message and experience of *the last day church* in fulfillment of the prophetic pattern.

THE SEVEN THUNDERS: REVELATION 10

Read the description of Jesus in **Revelation 1:13-16**. The similarities with the mighty angel in chapter 10 are striking: clothed with a cloud, rainbow upon his head, face as the sun, feet as pillars of fire. Jesus stands on both the sea earth signifying His message is of worldwide significance. The little book that is opened was once sealed. Here is a picture of the unsealing of the book of Daniel as was foretold to Daniel (verse below), bringing about to the experience of the loyal church in 1844.

- **Revelation 10:3-4** “³and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. ⁴Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.” ”

Daniel was told that he would not understand his own words. They were not given to benefit him, but these events had been revealed to him to serve as a guide to future generations. When we learn the good news through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, we begin to search ways of God, longing to understand more fully His character that ours may turn into the same image from glory to glory.

- **Daniel 12:8-9** “⁸Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?” ⁹And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.” ”

The 1260 days time prophecy is mentioned as the context for “*the end of these things.*” Prophetic context secures the timeframe as 1798 – 1844 when Daniel was finally unsealed, resulting in a very unique experience for God’s people. Knowledge of this parallel and a study of their experience (the unsealing of the book of Revelation—the Seven Thunders) will fulfill the prophetic pattern as it is repeated among God’s people during the time of the end. **This is happening right now!**

Illustrating The End With The Beginning

The experience of the Millerites is best characterized as *a purification process*. The impressive evidence of confirmed prophecy had enticed many, but only those who had deep relationships and with Jesus and had received divine faith from the Holy Spirit were able to survive. Those who had only partially surrendered to the truth were shaken out of God’s loyal. This is the experience that will be repeated. Concerning “*the time of the end*” (1844 – the Second Coming), Jesus has illustrated the final experience of His people with their experience at the beginning of this final chapter.

Ellen White was a contemporary of these events and councils that the events that happened when the Millerites were preaching the 3AM are delineated in the message of the Seven Thunders as fits the pattern and the chronological context.

- **SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 971** “The special light given to John which was expressed in the seven thunders was a delineation of events which would transpire under the first and second angels’ messages. It was not best for the people to know these things, for their faith must necessarily be tested. In the order of God most wonderful and advanced truths would be proclaimed. The first and second angels’ messages were to be proclaimed, but no further light was to be revealed before these messages had done their specific work.”
- **Ibid.** “After these seven thunders uttered their voices, the injunction comes to John as to Daniel in regard to the little book: ‘Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered.’ These relate to future events which will be disclosed in their order.”

The Seven Thunders represent the experience of *THE MILLERITES* during 1798–1844; they also represent the experience of *THE 144,000* during the **Time of Trouble – Close of Probation.**

The Millerite Experience: *what were they teaching that was so convincing?*

The sealing up of the Seven Thunders is a parallel to the sealing up of the book of Daniel. The impact of **Daniel** being unsealed (*2,300 Days*) brought about the Millerite experience; the impact of **Revelation** being unsealed (*the Seven Thunders*) will bring about the experience of the 144,000. **WE CANNOT KNOW EACH INDIVIDUAL MESSAGE, BUT WE CAN KNOW THE COLLECTIVE PATTERN.**

In knowing what the Millerites studied and the incredible new light they discovered, we will understand their experience and therefore our future experience.

- **Notes of Travel The College View Council, Review and Herald, Jan. 1905.** “We have, as had John, a message to bear of the things which we have seen and heard. God is not giving us a new message. We are to proclaim the message that in 1843 and 1844 brought us out of the other churches. We need the Holy Spirit to kindle in our hearts the zeal and earnestness that were then seen among God’s people. I thank the Lord that there are still living a few who can remember those days, and who know whereof they speak.”
- **Manuscript Releases, Vol. II, p. 20.** “Blessed are the eyes which saw the things that were seen in 1843 and 1844. The message was given. And there should be no delay in repeating the message, for the signs of the times are fulfilling; the closing work must be done. A great work will be done in a short time. A message will soon be given by God’s appointment that will swell into a loud cry. Then Daniel will stand in his lot, to give his testimony.”



When we repeat the process and proclaim the gospel in the Loud Cry of the Holy Spirit, it will have a great impact and only those who have prepared will survive. But the time will be marked by a great many of people coming out of other churches that still teach that which is not according to the Bible and they will have be able to make the choice for salvation before it is too late.

What is “Sealed” on the Chart: The 2,520 Days Prophecy

The Millerite message was founded on prophecy. They preached the 70 weeks, the 1260 days, the 2,300 days and the statue of Daniel 2. But foundational to their message was that *reason* for their understanding of prophecy. They saw that the revelation and unsealing of truth was prophesied as the end of the curse that God had placed on His people Israel many, many years before. Daniel himself mentions it in his prayer in chapter 9 when Gabriel gives him the 70 weeks prophecy.

- **Daniel 9:11** “¹¹Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.”

The curse is outlined in Leviticus, part of “*the Law of Moses,*” and is an example of a conditional prophecy: ***if*** the children of Israel kept the covenant, ***then*** they would be blessed: free choice. The Millerites, reading Daniel and thus being referred to Leviticus, saw that there was a time prophecy in regard to the indignation of God against literal Israel for breaking the covenant (*Ex. 19:5-6*).

- **Leviticus 26:3, 12** “³If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them... ¹²I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.” **BLESSINGS**
- **Leviticus 26:14, 17** “¹⁴But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments... ¹⁷I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies.” **CURSES**

The “if-then” or conditional prophecy concerning Israel’s obedience

If Israel kept the covenant and remained loyal they would be blessed as a chosen nation, but if they were disloyal they were to receive very specific punishment. Notice the description:

- **Leviticus 26:21, 24** “²¹Then, ***IF*** you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins... ²⁴***THEN*** I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.” (v. 18, 28)

Remember, a “time” in Bible prophecy is 1 year or 360 days; so 7 “times” (7 years of 360 days) = 2,520 literal years of history.

The idea that “seven times” could mean seven prophetic years is not only based on this passage. Remember, we always need to search for “The Testimony of Two” to establish any principle of truth in our beliefs. Read the whole story and let the interconnectedness of the Bible speak for itself:

- **Daniel 4:32** “³²And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”

Remember the story?! Nebuchadnezzar was considered a god in Babylon, but was forewarned of the consequences in a dream and by Daniel’s interpretation. Even still, he who thought himself a god would not humble himself and so THE God had him live like a wild man for seven years.

God uses Nebuchadnezzar’s 2,520 literal days (7 years) as an illustration of Israel breaking His covenant.

The Kingdom of Israel Breaks the Covenant

The nation split and in the north the Kingdom of Israel reigned with many evil kings. Israel was warned clearly of the covenant to keep His commandments and that they were close to filling up the measure of their iniquity, their own choices resulting in separation from Him.

- **II Kings 17:13-18** “¹³Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.” ¹⁴Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God. ¹⁵And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; ***they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them.*** ¹⁶So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. ¹⁷And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. ¹⁸***Therefore*** the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.”

Abandoning their calling and their truth, they served the idols of Satan, breaking the promise they had made to God. We see this same thing happening in Christian churches all across the world. In that time, God scattered His people out of the Promised Land, beginning the seven times of indignation that had been prophesied in Leviticus 26.

- II Kings 17:6-8** “⁶In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. ⁷For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, ⁸And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made”

The northern Kingdom of Israel was led away into captivity, separating themselves from Yahweh on a spiritual level that had before been open between the chosen nation and the God who loved them. We know from secular and Jewish history that Hoshea murdered his predecessor and ascended the throne of Israel in 732 B.C.; the ninth year of his reign was 723 B.C.

The 2,520 began for the Kingdom of Israel in 723 B.C.

The Kingdom of Judah Breaks the Covenant

Whereas the Kingdom of Israel had mostly done evil, the southern Kingdom of Judah had a long history of loyalty to Yahweh. But slowly they atrophied and then a king named Manasseh came to the throne and did worse than even Israel had done (*read his story in II Chronicles 33:1-20*).

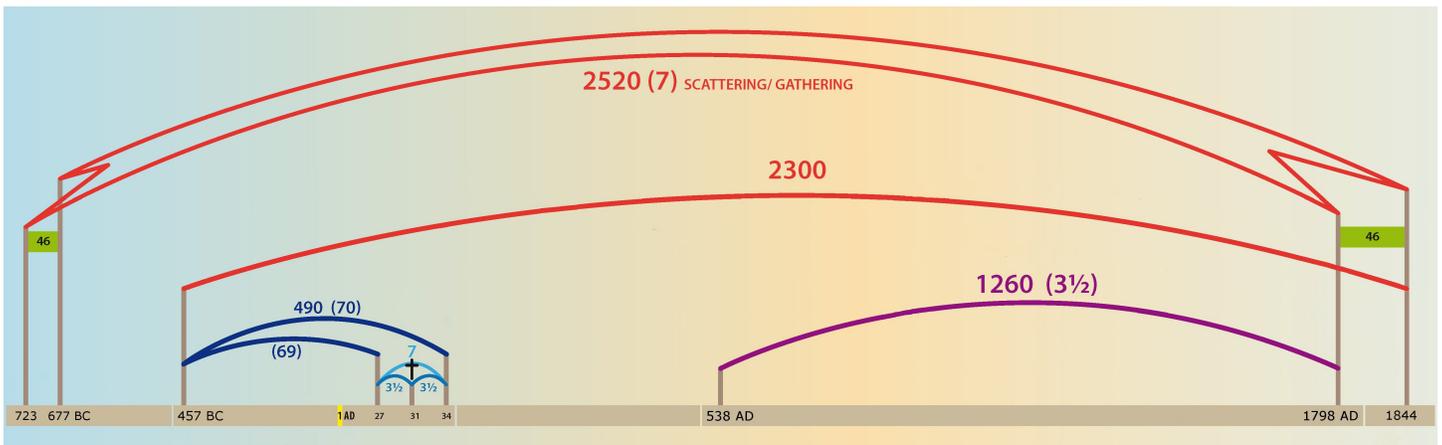
- II Chronicles 33:9-11** “⁹So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem *to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel.* ¹⁰And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. ¹¹Therefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon.”

God warned them, also, that they must turn from their idolatry and follow the law. The biblical account is confirmed by Assyrian and Jewish history that Manasseh reigned for 55 years and he was carried off to Babylon in 677 B.C. He later repented but the time of predicted probation had ended.

The 2,520 began for the Kingdom of Judah in 677 B.C.

The “**scattering**” of God’s people took place in 677 and 723 B.C. Adding 2,520 literal years comes to some familiar dates: 1798 and 1844! What incredible confirmation of Bible prophecy, of our interpretation principles, and the Spirit’s leading! The very time when the book of Daniel was to be unsealed and God’s people were to go through the “**gathering**” out of disloyal churches (*teaching idolatry, spiritualism, or pagan worship practices*) to come into the truth based on the word of God, was the very time when the ending of God’s indignation upon Israel was prophesied to take place.

How wonderful is God’s book!! We hold a divine message.



Histories Paralleled

The Millerite experience kicked off the final chapter in this world's history, *The Time of the End*, with the unsealing of the book of Daniel. Christ began a process of purification to develop a loyal and faithful people to carry the message reserved for this time: the 3AM. The purification was progressive, each revealed truth being a prerequisite for the next.

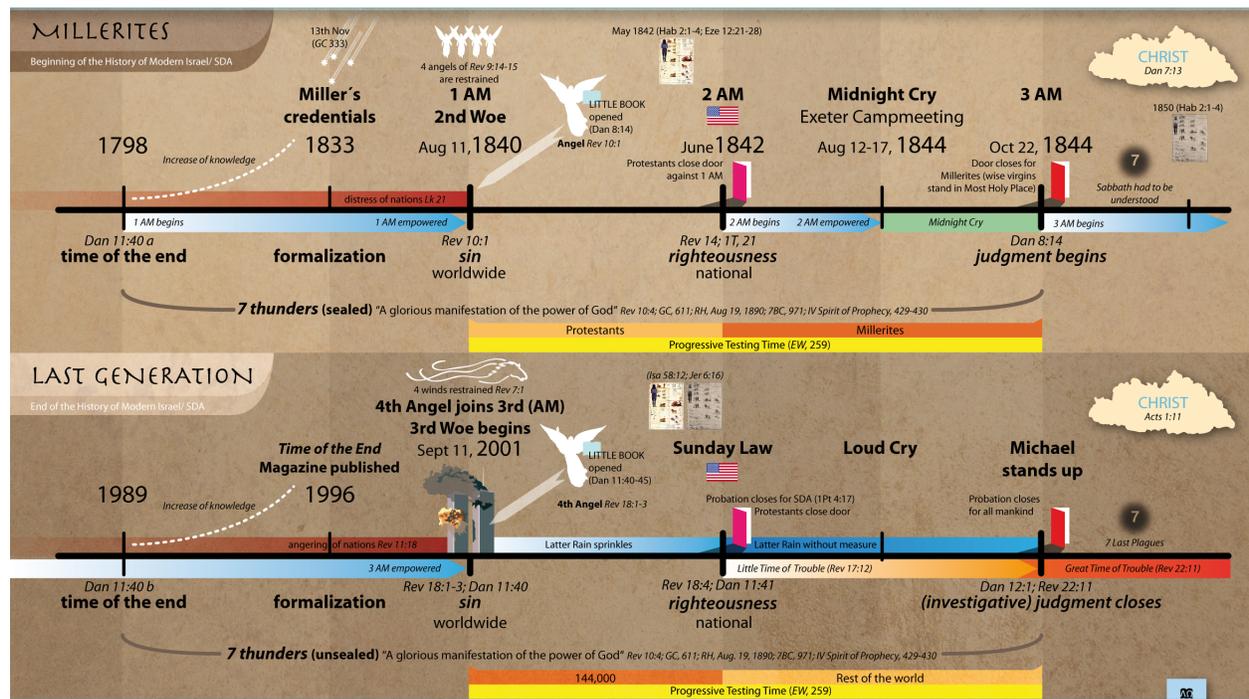
Again, at the end of this chapter, *The Time of the End*, just before probation closes and Jesus stands from judgment to come get his loyal bride, the same experience of seven thundering events will take place among those in the loyal church. Again the Bible's pages are unsealed, but now it is the most light this planet has had; again the process of purification will take place, but now it will be worldwide; again the 3AM will be preached in boldness, but now it will be empowered by the Holy Spirit; again the people of God will be faced with a bitter disappointment as they see the result of their loud preaching of the truth to the crumbling world, but ours will end in the sweetness of seeing Jesus face-to-face. 144,000 History (to be)

God's process of purification will prepare us to face whatever trials may come. It is our duty to prepare now by STUDY PRAY SHARE.

The seven thunders were sealed; we will never know exactly which events were pointed to as the delineation described in that awesome scene. But we CAN know the major points, the general transitions and experiences. There are clear and major transitions, discoveries, and patterns that are making the season of things all too clear. We see the signs of the times and know that it is near.

- **Matthew 24:32-33** “³²Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!”

We know that we are right on the brink of global crisis and we need to be prepared NOW!



THE TWO BEASTS OF REVELATION 13

To understand these two beasts, we need to set the larger context. The chronology of the seven trumpets finished at the end of **chapter 11**. A new vision flashes before John as he records the scene in **chapter 12**. It is a panoramic image of the great controversy in 17 verses. Quickly another vision comes before the aging disciple as the two beasts of **chapter 13** appear. This would make it quite difficult to recognize what era of human history is being symbolized. Praise God we have the **golden thread of prophecy** strung throughout the narrative, which allows us to place the timing.

The 1,260 year period of Papal rule over Europe when paganism had usurped Christianity, when God's people were trampled (*Rev. 11:2*), the scriptures were in sackcloth (*Rev. 11:3*), the church fled into the wilderness (*Rev. 12:6*), the hiding church was nourished (*Rev. 12:14*), the imposter church was given authority (*Rev. 13:5*), the abomination of desolation was set (*Dan. 12:11*), and the false Christian church tried to change the law of God (*Dan. 7:25*).

*This time of 538 – 1798 A.D. characterizes **THE IMAGE** of the Roman Church State:
THE USE OF POLITICAL POWER TO ENFORCE SPIRITUAL LAWS CONTRARY TO GOD'S LAW*

The Beast From the Sea: *Read Revelation 13:1-10*

Notice the similarities of this first beast to the image of Satan from chapter 12. This is his frontman; the powers of the world that he has used to try and control the inhabitants of earth.

- **Revelation 13:1-2** “¹Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ²Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”
- **Revelation 12:3** “³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.”



This beast has attributes from the four beasts in Daniel 7: beast with ten horns (Rome), leopard (Greece), bear (Medo-Persia), lion (Babylon). John is seeing the enemy's frontman, the same image that Daniel saw, only after Satan had evolved his strategy: combine everything from the pagan past into his crowning act of usurping Christianity from within. **The beast is the Roman Church State.** The identity is confirmed by prophetic evidence, thematic evidence, and the description details in the verses. It is the new guise of the same religion (Luciferianism) that has controlled the kingdoms of history behind the scenes; they use fronts and shadow organizations to teach the same esoteric traditions, sacred knowledge, the mysteries that go back to Babylon and the Tower of Babel.

- **Revelation 13:3-4** “³And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” ”

But Satan's frontman power received a deadly wound (remember the Papacy was invaded by Napoleon's French army in 1798 and the Pope was taken captive and died). It appeared that the Papacy's dominion was over, so enemy needed a new power to further his agenda. The Justinian Law was replaced with the Napoleonic Code that stripped all religion of its authority over man on a national level: the separation of church and state. And notice how all the world will wonder when power is given back to the Papacy, but the worship is directed ultimately to Satan, the dragon.

The Beast From the Earth: Read Revelation 13:11-18

When the pagan strategy for attacking God's people failed, Satan changed and used pretended Christianity, claiming publically to support God but secretly destroying His law and killing any who stood in the way. When the prophetic time was ending for the Papal rule, Satan changed again and use pretended freedom to attack God's people, claiming publically to support liberty of conscience but secretly preparing to devour in one swift move all freedom on pain of death. Thus this new power will rebuild **THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST** (*the RCS*) and return power to the Papacy.

To identify who this second beast represents, we must look at our evidence from the chronology of the context, from prophetic and thematic patterns, and from the details in the verses themselves.

Contextual chronology: the deadly wound was given to the Papacy in 1798; the Beast from the Earth must have come onto the political scene around that time. **Prophetic symbolism:** the first beast came from the sea, or populated and warring areas; this beast comes from the calm of a land not beset by ravaging war. **Thematic pattern:** this beast has two horns like a lamb, representing a youthful and innocent nation; the Christ-theme of the lamb indicates that this is a political power that appears to promote the Christian principles of civil and religious liberty. **Description details:** the beast has no crowns (no kings or Popes), but still achieves global influence.

The Beast from the Sea represents the United States of America.

The United States began in 1776-1789 in a relatively peaceful and unpopulated area with strict founding principles of freedom of conscience and civil liberty. It has no king but has managed to achieve world superpower and is poised believably now to strip away those liberties in the face of crisis and to lead the world in returning authority to the Pope of Rome.

It is sad to think that the USA will one day use its global influence, in direct contradiction to its founding principles of Republicanism and Protestantism, to become an **IMAGE OF THE BEAST**—*THE USE OF POLITICAL POWER TO ENFORCE SPIRITUAL LAWS CONTRARY TO GOD'S LAW*. But the prophecy is clear that during the time of trouble that is soon to come, the USA will be foremost in redirecting worship to the first beast on pain of death, which is truly redirected to Satan, just as he always wanted.



- **Revelation 13:15-17** ¹⁵And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. ¹⁶Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.”

Reading with the interpretation in mind, here is a plausible image of the rapidly approaching future. *AS PROTESTANT LEADERS IN AMERICA REJECT GOD'S LAW, HIS POWER AND PROTECTION WITHDRAWS IN LINE WITH THEIR FREEWILL CHOICE. THE EVIL IN SOCIETY INCREASES AS IN NOAH'S DAY AND INSTEAD OF EMBRACING REPENTANCE AND INWARD HEART CHANGE, PROTESTANT AMERICA DEMANDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT ENFORCE RELIGIOUS LAWS TO "BRING THIS NATION BACK TO GOD." THE AGENDA OF TEMPERANCE AND PEACE MASKS THE ULTERIOR MOTIVE OF MAKING SUNDAY A MANDATORY DAY OF REST. THIS FURTHER REJECTION OF GOD'S LAW IS ACCOMPANIED BY DETERIORATING WORLD CONDITIONS AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WILL BE LEGISLATED AGAINST THOSE WHO REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW LAWS, SO THE LOYAL WILL BE UNABLE TO BUY OR SELL. FINALLY, A DEATH DECREE WILL BE ISSUED AGAINST THE LOYAL, BUT CHRIST'S RETURN WILL INTERRUPT THE EXECUTION.*

We can be prepared to face this time. That is why we are studying.

THE BEAST FROM THE ABYSS: FROM RELIGION TO REASON

As we are quickly finding out, our modern society may be further along this path to taking away our freedom than we once thought. With such powerful confirmation of prophecy as we have seen, how can we not trust the word of God in what is prophesied to take place in this, our great country?

So what's the point of trying? Why don't we give up and go live in the woods?

We keep our eyes focused on Jesus. We stay connected to the Holy Spirit. We do our best to spread the gospel during the time of peace while we prepare our hearts for the time of trouble. We spend time in the world and with the people of the world while we lose our grip on the things of this world and store up treasures in Heaven.

Also, we can fight in the battle against the spiritual powers. Because our fight is not against other humans—they are who we are fighting *for*. No, our battle is *against* the fallen angels of Heaven, the spiritual wickedness in high places. But if we are to fight in the battle we have to first debrief. God has given us in the Bible the enemy's battle plans. We must know the strategy so we can counter it.

The Beast from the Abyss: understanding Satan's battle plans

Here it is right in the beginning: the beast from the abyss is the ideals that came out of the French Revolution and the subsequent modern movements of atheism, reason, and spiritualism. The enemy will **create a problem** to **get a reaction** and then be there to **provide a solution**. In true Hegelian fashion, Satan will throw the world into great trouble and then use a trifecta strategy of Protestantism, Papalism and Spiritualism to present a solution of counterfeit truth.

- **Revelation 11:7-8** “When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. ⁸And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

As we have already shown, verses 2 and 3 contain the prophetic thread and by referencing the 1,260 years have set the context of this chapter again to the era around 1798. Which power was growing around this time that specifically attacked religion and the Word of God (the two witnesses)? Which power has a philosophy that comes from the abyss (or *abisos* in Greek: the same word describing the world before creation **Gen. 1:2**) that says God does not exist as the Bible says? Which power demonstrates the spirit of **Egypt** (**Ex. 5:2**—*who is the Lord that I should obey Him?*) and **Sodom** (**Gen. 18-19**—*sexual immorality, violence, and self-gratification*)?

Clearly this is the French power, and specifically the ideals it promoted.

The French Revolution in 1789 and subsequent Reign of Terror was completely anti-Christian and anti-religious; it denied the Bible and supported modernist, relative, and pluralistic ideas of Truth. This is what sits at the heart of witchcraft: rebellion against God (**I Sam. 15:23**).

- **Education p. 228** “At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution—all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France. Such are the influences to be met by the youth of today.”

The same triggers of the French Revolution are visible in our world today; the coming struggle will be different and even more severe.

7 Forms of witchcraft that sprung out of the abyss:

From the time of revolution, French society embraced sexual licentiousness and atheism, rejected the Bible, and persecuted all Christians, both members of the loyal and the false church alike. It was from this era that we get many of the common philosophies of modernity, all of which lead away from God and a relationship with Him and grace to cover our sins—they lead to death, ultimately.

1. The Theory of Evolution: Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744 – 1829)

Lamarck is typically remembered for his theory of the inheritance of acquired characteristics, and the use and disuse model by which he claimed organisms developed their unique characteristics. His theory of evolution was based on these ideas and it was Lamarck who inspired the well-known Darwin to write his book, *Origin of Species*. Lamarck developed the idea that evolution occurred in accordance with natural laws. He was a naturalist who did not believe in creation.

Notice how erosive his theory is. The description of the effects of sin (*having both inherited and cultivated tendencies towards specific sins passed on to the next generation*) is labeled a law of nature. God does not exist; only natural laws like evolution. This is a *pharmakeia* that came straight from the Beast from the Abyss. While we fight against the teaching of evolution in our schools, we must recognize that the enemy is using the effects of sin to change our environment, slowly seeing even the elect of God adapt to the world around them. It is time for us to stand out!

2. Use of the Theater: François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire (1694 – 1778)

The Enlightenment era was characterized by many intellectuals who understandably despised the workings of the Catholic Church. The enemy used the friction to promote the French Revolution. Voltaire was key in this process. As an Enlightenment writer, historian, and philosopher he was famous for advocating liberty by mocking religion, the church, and the Bible.

Again, view this in the big picture context of Satan's strategy to attack us in this time—the concept is extremely erosive to morality. The use of entertainment to promote disdain for spiritual topics is seen in our modern world more and more. At the end of the 1,260 years, Satan was building a strategy that would foster lukewarmness and entertainment-seeking in the church.

3. Sexual Immorality: Donatien Alphonse François, Marquis de Sade (1740 – 1814)

Marquis de Sade was a revolutionary politician, philosopher, and writer famous for his libertine sexuality and lifestyle. While pagan Rome was known for its violence and licentiousness, the Middle Ages were not. As modernity loomed in the future, people like Marquis de Sade played hugely influential roles in bring moral deviancy not just into the culture, but into pop culture. Devoid of moral restraint, his works were best known for their erotic content that combined philosophical discourse with pornography, depicting sexual fantasies with an emphasis on violence, criminality, and blasphemy.

Is this not one of the major temptations of our world? Do you think it is coincidence that sexual immorality is one of the 2 major sins mentioned by God on numerous occasions? Do you think it is a coincidence that this was part of Satan's core strategy of creating a society that is NOT conducive to living according to God's law?

4. Humanism: Isidore Auguste Marie François Xavier Comte (1798 – 1857)

Comte was the founder of the philosophy "positivism" that ultimately placed science in the place of God as able to answer questions of the universe and society. He taught that the **theological stage** in society (in which God was the answer to all questions), was replaced by a **metaphysical stage** in which investigation and reason led true seekers to question religion and authority, but focused on universal human rights. This was in turn replaced with the **scientific** or **positive stage** in which people could find solutions to social problems without referring to human rights or the will of God.

Humanism sprang from Comte's positivism and focuses on human values and concerns without influence from the divine or supernatural matters. Humanism is a philosophy that emphasizes the value of humanity (individually and collectively); it is an ethic in which critical thinking and evidence (rationalism, empiricism) are accepted over theology or dogma. Science and reason give us answers—not God. This is absolutely part of our society today.

5. **Romanticism: Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712 – 1778)**

Romanticism is a concept that came in reaction to the norms of the Enlightenment and in rebellion against the scientific rationalization of nature. Intense emotion and individualism was seen as the true source for aesthetic and beauty. Romanticism focuses on intuition and emotion and not the rationalism of the Enlightenment; value is assigned to the individual achievements of heroic or artistic in nature.

Rousseau was a deist (rejects divine revelation as a source of religious knowledge, but accepts reason and observation of the natural world as being sufficient to know the creator and truth) and is widely recognized as the father of Romanticism. We see the impact on our society today: emphasis is placed on “if it feels good” instead of the truth of the Bible. Both narcissism and hedonism can be traced through Romanticism.

6. **Pantheism**

As philosophy and reason burst upon the scene after centuries of laying dormant, pantheism also made a strong resurgence. Pantheism is the theological philosophy that the universe (or nature) and God (or divinity) are identical. Pantheists do not believe in a personal god. The word derives from the Greek (*pan*) meaning “all” and the Greek (*theos*) meaning “God”. So they see god as being in everything; and they see everything as part of god: universe, the nature, and even we are sacred.

Pantheists focus their religious energy on nature and the universe. Instead of admiring these as evidence of the glory of God the creator, they would love them for themselves. They seek to overcome all sense of separation from the earth and from their own body. They replace faith with common sense and science, and reconcile the religious and the everyday parts of thinking in a syncretic fashion. They express Pantheism through seasonal rituals that they believe link them to the earth and universe of which we are a part, and they use meditation techniques that they believe allow a direct mystical experience of nature and matter.

7. **The Religion of Voodoo & the Drum**

Satan knows the powerful influence of music better than perhaps anyone. He was in Heaven and knows how worshipful it is. That is why he has spent such an invested effort to hijack our music and especially our worship. And—surprise, surprise—he used the era of the French Revolution (the Beast from the Abyss) to further this new agenda for the modern world.

During the 15th-19th Centuries, the slave trade was in full motion. African families brought various religious traditions with them often from West Africa (Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria that all have similarities), but in the New World, they were combined through common identity to form a new religion called “Vodún” from which we get voodoo. A central characteristic to the practices of this religion involves the drum. It was a holy instrument that brought syncopation, connecting the spirits of the gods to the bodies of the practitioners; the spirits would ride the bodies of the practitioners.

In the Christian world of the slave masters, these peoples were not allowed to continue practicing Vodún, so in order to fool their slave masters, they began to put Christian words over their music.

Revolution and the Louisiana Purchase

- In 1791 during the French Revolution, the slaves on island of Hispaniola (now Haiti and Dominican Republic) caught “the revolutionary bug” and revolted.
 - This became known as the only successful slave revolt in history.
- In 1803 France makes a land agreement with the USA in the famous Louisiana Purchase
 - The Beast from the Abyss sells a piece of property to the Beast from the Earth
 - **The Great Controversy p. 588** “The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.”

Voodoo in New Orleans

- Right in the center of the property is a city called New Orleans.
 - These voodoo practitioners make their way to New Orleans during slavery/colonial period of the 18th Century and were given Sundays off of work and were allowed to congregating in a place called Congo Square where the slaves would set up a market, sing, dance, and play music. This tradition continued even after the Louisiana Purchase.
- New Orleans is like Egypt, Sodom, and France
 - It was the only place in which prostitution was allowed. To prepare the people for the prostitution, they would use the voodoo music.
 - It is famous for the Marti-Gras celebrations.
 - **Revelation 11:10** “¹⁰And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry [*this also is translated as “celebrate”*], and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.”
 - “Southern Decadence” is a week-long celebration of homosexuality, climaxing with a parade through the French Quarter and surrounding neighborhood of New Orleans.

Voodoo Music’s Evolution

- The concept of evolution is based on mutation. When in a new environment mutations occur.

Ragtime Music

- Voodoo music developed in New Orleans into something called “Ragtime” (1897 – 1918)
 - Ragtime is a musical genre characterized by its syncopated, or “ragged,” rhythm. It began as dance music in the “red-light districts” (part of an urban area where there is a concentration of prostitution and other sex-oriented businesses) of African American communities in St. Louis and New Orleans.
 - Everywhere that Ragtime went, the principles of Sodom and Egypt went with it.

Rhythm and Blues Music

- The evolution did not stop there; soon Ragtime developed into Rhythm and Blues.
 - This is music based in African Americans Ragtime characterized by the urbane, rocking, jazz based music that had a heavy, insistent beat.
 - Everywhere that Rhythm and Blues went, the principles of Sodom and Egypt went with it.

Jazz Music

- It evolved even more; soon in the 1920s and 1930s in evolved into Jazz.
 - Jazz is a mix of African and European musical traditions, characterized by its African pedigree and use of blue notes, improvisation, polyrhythm, and syncopation.
 - As we see Jazz spreading around we see the principles of Egypt and Sodom

Rock and Roll Music

- Another mutation had occurred in the 1950s and young people began to go crazy for music
- It is interesting to note that wherever this music went the principle of rebellion against God followed: Sodom (sexual immorality) and Egypt (Who is God that I should obey Him?).
 - **Palmer, Robert. *Rock & Roll, An Unruly History*. Harmony Books: New York, 1995, p. 53** “The idea that certain rhythm patterns or sequences serve as conduits for spiritual energies, linking individual human consciousness with the gods, is basic to traditional African religions, and to African-derived religions throughout the Americas. And whether we’re speaking historically or musicologically, the fundamental riffs, licks, bass figures, and drum rhythms that make rock and roll can ultimately be traced back to African music of a primarily spiritual or ritual nature. In a sense, rock and roll is a kind of ‘voodoo’.”
 - **Selected Messages II p. 352** “For thousands of years Satan has been experimenting upon the properties of the human mind, and he has learned to know it well. By his subtle workings in these last days, he is linking the human mind with his own, imbuing it with his thoughts; and he is doing this work in so deceptive a manner that those who accept his guidance know not that they are being led by him at his will. The great deceiver hopes so to confuse the minds of men and women, that none but his voice will be heard.”

Reggae Music

- Reggae is a music genre developed in Jamaica in the late 1960s.
 - It is most easily recognized by the rhythmic accents on the off-beats, accenting the second and fourth beat in each bar.

Rap/Hip-Hop Music

- Hip-Hop is a music genre developed in the Bronx, NYC in the 1970s.
 - This music is characterized by “emceeing:” the rhythmic spoken delivery of rhymes and wordplay, delivered over a beat or without accompaniment which takes inspiration from the Rapping derived from the griots (folk poets) of West Africa.
 - When we see Hip-Hop spreading around the country and the world, it is clearly promoting the principles of Egypt and Sodom. Everywhere that rap music goes, there seems to follow non-morals right along with it.

It was as if the Devil was testing his theories, saw that they would work, stopped the progress the USA, stepped back and said, “It is time to put our plan of global organized confusion into effect.”