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## The First Symbol of Revelation Thirteen

### Lesson Fifty-Three

#### 1. Describe the first beast of Revelation 13.

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a \_\_\_\_\_, and his \_\_\_\_\_ were as the feet of a \_\_\_\_\_, and his \_\_\_\_\_ as the mouth of a \_\_\_\_\_." Revelation 13:2.

Note: The leopard beast of Daniel 7 represented Grecia (verse 6); the bear, Media and Persia (verse 5); and the lion, Babylon (verse 4). The characteristics of all these beasts are found in the beast of Revelation 13, which would seem to show that it would extend its territory over all the countries occupied by these kingdoms. The Roman government absorbed all these countries, and ruled over them. Other comparisons show that the first beast of Revelation 13 is the papacy, which controlled the governments of these countries by virtue of its ecclesiastical power.

#### 2. How was the papacy to show its authority?

"And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to \_\_\_\_\_ times and laws." Daniel 7:25.

#### 3. From what was the papacy developed?

"Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a \_\_\_\_\_ away \_\_\_\_\_, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

#### 4. In what was shown the first tangible evidence of "falling away" from the truth of God?

"But in vain they do worship me, \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of man." Matthew 15:9.

The adoption of the heathen rites and customs. "The bishops augmented the number of religious rites in the Christian worship, by way of accommodation to the infirmities and prejudices, both of Jews and heathens, in order to facilitate their conversion to Christianity. For this purpose, they gave the name of mysteries to the institutions of the gospel, and decorated particularly the holy sacrament with that solemn title. They used in that sacred

institution, as also in that of baptism, several of the terms employed in the heathen mysteries, and proceeded so far, at length, as even to adopt some of the ceremonies of which those renowned mysteries consisted." Maclaine's Mosheim, cent. 2, part 2, chap. 4, paragraphs 2, 5.

**5. How early was this tendency manifested?**

"This imitation began in the eastern provinces; but, after the time of the Adrian [emperor from 117-138 A.D.] , who first introduced the mysteries among the Latins, it was followed by the Christians who dwelt in the western parts of the empire." Ibid., para. 5.

**6. What has been the great characteristic of the papacy?**

A union of church and state, or a religious power dominating the civil power to further its own ends.

**7. When was the union of church and state formed, from which the papacy grew?**

In the reign of Constantine, 312-337 A.D.

**8. What was the condition and work of most of the bishops at that time?**

"Worldly minded bishops, instead of caring for the salvation of their flocks, were often but too much inclined to travel about, and entangle themselves in worldly concerns." Neander's History of the Christian Religion and Church, translated by Prof. Torrey, vol. 2, p. 16.

The "theocratical theory" was that of a government administered by the direct power of God.

**9. What was the out growth of that theory among the Roman bishops?**

"Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and \_\_\_\_\_ himself above all that is called God, or that is \_\_\_\_\_; so that \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ sitteth in the temple of \_\_\_\_\_, showing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

**10. When and by whom was the Council Nice convened?**

The Emperor Constantine, 325 A.D.

**11. What was the principal objects in calling that council?**

"The question relating to the observance of Easter, which was agitated in the time of Anicetus and Polycarp, and afterward in that of Victor, was still undecided. It was one of the principal reasons for convoking the Council of Nice, being the most important subject to be considered after the Arian controversy." Boyle's Historical View of the Council of Nice, p. 22, ed. of 1839.

**12. What was the particular question to be settled concerning Easter?**

"It appears that the churches of Syria and Mesopotamia continued to follow the custom of the Jews, and celebrated Easter on the fourteenth day of the moon, whether falling on Sunday or not. All the other churches observed that solemnity on Sunday only, viz., those of Rome, Italy, Africa, Lydia, Egypt, Spain, Gaul, and Britain." Ibid., p. 22.

**13. How was the matter finally decided?**

"Easter day was fixed on the Sunday immediately following the new moon which was nearest after the vernal equinox." Ibid., p. 23.

In addition to their yearly spring festival at Easter time, sun worshipers also had a weekly festival holiday. As was previously pointed out, the first day of the week had wide spread recognition as being sacred to the sun. The bishop of Rome, seeking to outrival pagan pomp, assaulted those churches, which celebrated Easter as a movable feast. He determined to force Easter to come on the same day of the week each year, namely, Sunday.

**14. In his letter to the churches, urging the observance of this decree, what singular reason did Constantine assign for its observance?**

"Let us then have nothing in common with most hostile rabble of the Jews." Ibid., p. 52.

**15. What did Sylvester, bishop of Rome under Constantine's reign, do by his "apostolic" authority, and with the approval of Constantine?**

"That he indeed changed the names of all the days of the week into festal days. Metaphrastes, however, relates that he retained the names of the days familiar to the Hebrews; but that the name of the first day alone was changed, which he called the Lord's day." *Historia Ecclesiastica per M. Ludovicum Lucinum*, pp. 739, 740, ed. Basilea, 1624. Library of Andover Theological Seminary.

**16. What was the Arien controversy at the council of Nice?**

Arius said, "We are persecuted because we say that the Son had a beginning, but that God was without beginning." A. T. Jones, *The Two Republics*, p. 333.

**17. What does the apostle Paul tell us in the book of Hebrews?**

"Being made so much \_\_\_\_\_ than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the \_\_\_\_\_ said he at any time, Thou art my \_\_\_\_\_, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall be to me a Son?" Hebrews 1:4, 5.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little \_\_\_\_\_ than the angels for the suffering of death,..." Hebrews 2:9.

**18. What is said by Eusebius of Caesarea, in 325 A.D. after the council of Nice?**

"For as no one hath known the Father, but the Son, so no one on the other hand, can know the Son fully, but the Father alone, by whom He was begotten...the first and only offspring of God (John 3:16; Colossians 1:15), the prince and leader of the spiritual and immortal host of heaven (Hebrews 1:6), the angel of the mighty (Zechariah 6:13; Acts 2:23), the agent to execute the Fathers' secrete will (John 5:30; 6:38), the maker of all things with the Father (Hebrews 1:2, 3; Matthew 3:17), and the Lord and God and King of all created things (Revelation 19:11-16; Isaiah 9:6), who has received power and dominion with divinity itself (Daniel 7:13, 14), and power and honour from the Father (Hebrews 1:8, 9)." Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, pp. 15-17.

**19. What did Eusebius of Nicomedia say?**

“We have never heard, my Lord, of two beings unbegotten, nor of one divided into two; nor have we learned or believed that He could suffer any thing corporeal, but that there is one unbegotten, and another truly from,...We believe not only that His origin cannot be explained in words, but that it cannot be comprehended.” Isaac boyle, A Historical View of the Council of Nice, p. 41.

**20, What evidence can we find in the Bible?**

“The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from \_\_\_\_\_, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth (born); when there were no fountains abounding with water.” “Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his \_\_\_\_\_, rejoicing always before him.” Proverbs 8:22-24, 30. Read Proverbe 8:22-30.

**21. What was issued by Catholic bishop Theodosius (second only to Constantine) in 380 A. D.?**

“Let us believe the sole deity of the Father the Son and the Holy Ghost under an equal majesty and a pious Trinity. We authorize the followers of this doctrine to assume the title of Catholic Christians; and as we judge that all others are extravagant madmen we brand them with the infamous name of heretics, and declare that their conventicles shall no longer usurp the respectable appellation of churches. Besides the condemnation of divine justice they must expect to suffer the severe penalties which our authority guided by heavenly wisdom shall think proper to inflict upon them.” Who is Telling the Truth About God? P. 41.

**22. Where does the doctrine of the trinity come from?**

“The mystery of the trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic faith. Upon it are based all the teachings of the church.” Handbook for Today’s Catholic, p. 16.

“Unless (people) keep the faith whole and undefiled, without doubt (they) shall perish everlastingly, and the Catholic faith is this: we worship one God in Trinity.” Catholicism.

**23. What does the apostle John tell us?**

“And this is life \_\_\_\_\_, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3.

**24. What does the apostle Paul say?**

“Grace be to you and peace from \_\_\_\_\_ the Father, and from our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.” Galatians 1:3.

Also look at Ephesians 1:2, 3; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2, 3; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothe 1:2; Philemon 1:3.