What of the European War
in the light of the Prophecies

Is THIS the ARMAGEDDON War?
Will the United States be drawn in?
Here is a prophetic analysis you will want to read.

1) Hitler would try to make peace with Britain and France after smashing Poland—a peace that would let him have Poland and dominate the Balkans. If this happened, the war would follow a little later. This possibility was tried, but has FAILED.

2) Britain and France would go on and smash Hitlerism—perhaps with the help of the United States and with Italy either remaining neutral or astonishing the it might seem, again join the allies with whom she fought in the first part of this same war. In this eventualiy, the prophesied WORLD WAR ending at ARMAGEDDON will come later, and this will pave the way for

3) Italy to come in to help her "axis" partner Germany—a deadlock on the Western Front—the main sector of battle shifting the Mediterranean, especially Palestine and Egypt—and this war developing into the last war of the Bible prophecies. In this eventuality, Russia will remain out for the present, coming in later against the allies or against both sides after she has brought China, Japan, and other allies under her power in one way or another. All nations, finally, to come against Jerusalem, and the last final battle at the Second Coming of Christ to occur at ARMAGEDDON, 70 miles northwest of Jerusalem in the Valley of Jezreel.

And so let us now summarize the events,
and their causes, to date; together with an analysis of the present situation in the light of the prophecies.

STALIN, NOT HITLER, CAUSED IT

Few realize JOSEPH STALIN, not Adolph Hitler, really plunged Europe into war. Starting events swiftly changed the entire European scene.

The situation was this:
Russia is the "Gog in the land of Magog" of Ezekiel 38. This great Red "bear", with vast allied manpower, eventually will come IN THE AIR, against Great Britain, the United States, and allies, at ARMAGEDDON! The "Evil thought" she was to think is COMMUNISM--"to take a spoil"--to get possession of the wealth of the "capitalist" nations. Britain and America possess more than two-thirds of all the wealth and resources of the world--WE are the "capitalist" nations! Too, Communism is godless ANHEISM, seeking to destroy all religion, and after Stalin's recent pact with Hitler, Europe, and saw HITLER standing in his way! Hitler, too, had a plan to conquer and rule the world. Hitler's method was to win bloodless battles, thru power politics by threat of force, until he was strong enough to win by actual fighting when that became no longer avoidable. Among the territory to be controlled in a future war is the Russian Ukraine! Of this Stalin was aware.

And Hitler was strengthened by his alliance with Mussolini----the "ROME-BERLIN AXIS"! And it was an anti-Communist alliance! Stalin actually FEARED Hitler. Stalin is cool, crafty, ruthless, with the brutality of a fanatic. Hitler is a neurotic, a mystic, and his flighty mind was thrown completely off balance by the plan Stalin laid to trap him!

First, Stalin flirted with the Democracies, let the world--Hitler included--think England and France might be able to conclude an alliance with Russia AGAINST GERMANY. Allied statesmen and military officers were negotiating in Moscow. The world was tense and jittery.

In that moment of crisis, during August, Stalin secretly offered Hitler a pact; NOT an alliance, but a non-aggression pact by which Russia agreed NOT to join the allies against Germany, and also agreed to supply Germany with direly needed raw materials, in exchange for Hitler's agreement NOT to invade any part of Russia, and to certain divisions of Poland and perhaps other parts of Europe between them.

Hitler was led to suppose, with the sudden dramatic stunning announcement of this pact, that Britain and France would not DARE fight, but would back down and be bluffed into letting him take Poland.

Hitler walked right into Stalin's TRAP. HE DID NOT WANT TO FIGHT BRITAIN, as we have repeatedly told our readers and listeners. Stalin KNEW the allies would have to fight, if Hitler attacked Poland.

HOW HITLER IS IN STALIN'S POWER

So with one master stroke Stalin smashed the Rome-Berlin axis and its alliance with Japan; he STOPPED Hitler in the East; he started a war in the west, and set Hitler to fighting the very powers Russia wants weakened so the Communists eventually may conquer them! More, he actually placed Hitler, whom he detests, absolutely at his mercy--for Hitler is now dependent for life, and ability to keep fighting, upon the raw materials Stalin agreed to supply--for which Hitler PAYS, using them to weaken the Capitalist nations!

Thus, without realizing it, Hitler became Stalin's tool, now in Soviet power. Hitler quickly conquered Poland. And then, according to the Pact, Russia sent her Red army in to gobble up HALF of Poland, without having fired a shot! Hitler did Stalin's dirty work for him! And Stalin took all that portion of Poland which borders Romania--shutting the Germans off from capturing the rich Romanian oil fields!

This accomplished, Russia quickly employed power politics herself, and by threat of force put the North Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, under the Red power. So far Finland has balked, but if and when Russia gains her demands in Finland, she will have complete dominance of the North Baltic, long a virtual GERMAN sea, and WILL HAVE GERMANY COMPLETELY ENCIRCLED!

Stalin will continue to let Hitler pay him for the raw materials used to war against the Capitalist allies, as long as this is to Russia's advantage. Then he will double-cross Hitler, cut him off----and Hitlerism will be crushed.

RUSIA AND GERMANY NOT ALLIED

You have heard much recently of how this "alliance" between Russia and Germany is the alliance of "Gog" and "Gomer", Ezekiel 38. But there HAS BEEN NO ALLIANCE! Russia has not entered the war, and will not--NOT YET! No, Russia will keep out, feeding Germany raw materials to fight the "Capitalists", doing all in her power now to draw in the United States, too.

We have seen no proof that Germany is the "Gomer" of this prophecy, anyway.

Meantime, Russia has communized eastern Poland. Property has been taken from owners----property owners dealt with----perhaps killed by the thousands.

ITALY--MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR

The most important factor for the prophetic student to watch is ITALY.

For it is the ROMAN power, not Germany, which will precipitate events leading directly to ARMAGEDDON! Until you see Italy getting in----and on the side of Germany, at that----or at least fighting against Great Britain----BE SURE THIS WAR IS NOT THE LAST PROPHESIED WAR TO END AT ARMAGEDDON!

At present Italy remains neutral, but is shifting toward the allies.

You must understand Italy's FOREIGN POLICY to really grasp how Mussolini is now turning in sympathy away from his axis partners, toward the allies. The foreign policies of European powers are aptly summed up in the November 13 issue of "TIME".

"The aim of Italy's foreign policy is to acquire BY NEGOTIATION an importance greater than can be supplied by her own physical strength. It is thus the antithesis of the GERMAN system, since instead of basing diplomacy upon (cont. on page 3)
also is too powerful to attack. Hence we have a dead-locked stalemate on the Western Front. Britain dominates the Sea, despite German submarines—and Sea dominance may determine the ultimate outcome. Germany is superior in the air—both sides are about even on land. Hence allied strategy is to wage purely DEFENSIVE war, not attacking, blockading Germany on land and Sea, while they employ their vast resources to build aircraft and other offensive weapons until eventually they will be so superior they can crush a weakened, half-starved Germany.

Hitler's one chance to win would appear to be a "Blitzkrieg"—probably a major attack thru neutral Holland or Belgium, timed with continuous terrific aerial bombardment of London, Paris, and industrial centers, WHILE Germany is still superior in the air.

It is reported only the older German honorers have been used so far in the few attacks that have sunk a British battleship and an aircraft carrier. Why have they not started a furious air attack with the full force of their great air fleet? That, we do not know! Yet it appears Hitler's only chance to win.

THE PROPHESESED FUTURE

Finally, remember this war is merely a RESUMPTION OF THE WORLD WAR. It is not, as far as present events are concerned, directly and specifically mentioned in the Bible prophecies at all. BUT UNDOUBTedly IT IS PAYING THE WAY for prophesied events.

One of two things may happen, 1) the allies may go on to smash Hitler, possibly with the help of either or both of the United States or Italy— in which case the last war of Bible prophecy will soon follow. 2) Italy might yet come in on the side of Germany—the battle sector shifting at once to the Mediterranean, especially Egypt (Suez) and Palestine, (as described with maps in the Feb.-March PLAIN TRUTH). In this eventuality this will develop INTO the last war of Bible prophecy. The United States will be drawn in with the allies, Russia will enter with her yellow-race allies LATER, and before Armageddon.

Which of these two eventualities takes place, we must wait to see.

Briefly, the events prophesied leading to ARMAGEDDON are these:

Daniel 11:40-45. After having conquered Ethiopia (v.40), the ROMAN ruler will attack and take Palestine and Egypt, in order to gain the Suez canal. This means war between Italy and GREAT BRITAIN, each with their allies. Russia will enter LATER (v.44).

Mat. 24:19-22. The Great Tribulation—an persecution and martyrdom of saints who keep God's Commandments (Rev. 12:17) by organized religion, Rev. 19:19-20; 16:16; Zech. 14:1-4; Ezek. 39. ARMAGEDDON, Mussolini will revive the ROMAN EMPIRE by uniting TEN dictatorships in Europe (Rev. 17:8-14), shortly prior to Armageddon. This probably will include the Balkan nations and Spain. This alliance is the "BEAST" of Rev. 19:19. Russia, allied with China and Japan, will come in at the very last. Christ will come and end it all, as KING of kings!
The most important question of the hour is: "What, or who, is the Beast, the Image of the Beast, and the Mark of the Beast?"

Whatever this weird "Beast"—whatever the baffling "Image"—whatever the mysterious "Mark"—it behooves you and me to find out.

For it is those of this very present generation who shall be worshiping this "Beast" or his "Image," or shall have received his "mark," that will suffer the unspeakable tortures of the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES!

Ignorance will not excuse! "My people are destroyed for lack of wisdom," says the Lord, in Hosea 4:6. And the illustration of Ezekiel's watchman shows that those who are ignorant, because they are not warned, will suffer just the same. (Ezekiel 33:6; and 3:18) God expects HIS PEOPLE to be His "watchmen" and to warn the people, and unless we do, He will require their blood at our hand!

The time is at hand! The plagues of God's WRATH will soon be poured out, unmixed and undiluted—FULL STRENGTH—upon a heedless, God-defying world, and a careless, luke-warm, indifferent Christianity!

Who Shall Suffer the PLAGUES?

Listen! John the revelator describes the last, final, warning message:

"If any man worship the Beast and his Image, and receive his MARK in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the WRATH OF GOD, which is poured out without mixture." (Rev. 14:9,10)

See Special Chart Page 7
This Issue.

Listen again!

John, carried forward in vision into the terrible "Day of the Lord," sees these plagues beginning to fall! "And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven last plagues... the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a NOISOME AND GRIEVous SORNE upon the men which had the Mark of the Beast, and upon them which worshiped his IMAGE!" (Rev. 15:6 and 16:2).

Every sign tells us these things will happen, plunging the world into the most frantic, frenzied state of anguish ever known, WITHIN A MATTER OF MONTHS!

Those who suffer the indescribable WRATH of Almighty God are described as those who worship the BEAST, or his IMAGE, or have his MARK.

It is futile to try to imagine, as so many are doing, what the "Mark" of the Beast may be. Too many are trying to fix this all up in their imaginations. But God says "My thoughts are not your thoughts."

We cannot work this out in our minds. We are face to face with a stern reality, not an imaginary fairy-tale! There is ONLY ONE WAY to learn the Truth. That is to study carefully, cautiously, prayerfully, with an open mind yielded to and guided by the Holy Spirit, ALL the testimony of the scriptures that bear on this question.

We cannot determine what the "Mark" of the Beast may be, until we have learned what, or who, the BEAST is!

For, of course, the "Mark" is the Beast's mark. WHO, WHAT, is the "Beast"?
November, 1950

The Bible Description of the "BEAST"

The "Beast", the "Image to the Beast" and the "Mark of the Beast" are all described primarily in the 13th chapter of Revelation.

Notice carefully this Bible description:

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having SEVEN HEADS and TEN Horns, and up

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. (Rev. 13:1, 2).

Now most of those who are teaching and preaching to others on those subjects overlook entirely this description. For this description will IDENTIFY the "BEAST!"

If the "BEAST" is some mysterious super-man, or Antichrist, soon to appear as world dictator, he will be a peculiar looking individual indeed, for he will have SEVEN HEADS, AND TEN Horns. Have you ever seen a man with seven heads, and ten horns growing out of one of his heads? And did you ever see a man who was like a LEOPARD and a BEAR, and a LION? And did you ever see a man who was like a super-man coming who will have the feet of a BEAR, and the mouth of a LION? And will he appear by coming up from the sea?

Now those, of course, are all SYM- BOLS. The very word "BEAST" is a symbol. And our problem is to INTERPRET the symbols, for they stand for real, literal things. And when we know what the heads and the horns are, what the feet of the bear, the mouth of the lion, and likeness to a leopard all MEAN, then we can know what, or who, the "BEAST" really is!

The Bible Interprets Its Own Symbols

The point we want to stress is that the Bible INTERPRETS ITS OWN SYMBOLS! If we want the TRUTH, we must be guided solely by the BIBLE interpretation, not man's interpretations and imaginations.

To illustrate: In Rev. 1:12 seven golden candlesticks are pictured. And in verse 16 is pictured a man having in his right hand seven stars. Of course the candlesticks and the stars are symbols. What are they? We need not use our human imaginations, for verse 20 tells us in plain language: "The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Again, in Ezek. 17 is a riddle, using symbols. In verse 2 we read: "A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colors, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar." Now what is this "eagle?" What is Lebanon? What is the Cedar? The 12th verse gives the BIBLE interpretation, the many preachers and writers have given their own interpretations. "Know ye not what these things mean? Tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof." How PLAIN!

What the Symbols Represent

So while we know that the words "BEAST" and "heads" and "horns" and "leopard" and the "bear" and the "lion" are only used as symbols, yet they represent things that are very REAL. And the BIBLE ITSELF tells us what they represent.

In the 7th chapter of Daniel, we find exactly these same symbols described. Here again are the "beasts", with the "seven heads, the ten horns," and here also is the "lion," the "bear," and the "leopard." And here the Bible tells us what these symbols represent.

God had given Daniel understanding in dreams and visions (Dan. 1:17). And Daniel had a dream and a vision (Dan. 7:1) in which he saw four great BEASTS (verse 3). And notice, as in Revelation, the "beasts" came up out of the sea.

The first was like a "LION" (verse 4), the second was like a "BEAR" (v.6), the third like a "LEOPARD" (v.6), and the fourth was so dreadful and terrible it could not be compared to any wild beast known to inhabit the earth.

Now there was only the one head describing the lion, one for the bear, one for the fourth beast—but the third beast, the leopard, had FOUR HEADS—thus making SEVEN HEADS in all! And out of this great and dreadful fourth beast grew TEN Horns!

Now notice verse 16, latter part. Here comes the INTERPRETATION OF THE THINGS: The question is, will we accept this BIBLE interpretation of the seven heads, the ten horns, the lion, the bear, and the leopard?

These great beasts, which are four, are FOUR KINGS which shall arise out of the earth," is the interpretation of verse 17.

And the word "KING" is synonymous with KINGDOM, and used only in the sense that the king represents the kingdom over which he rules, for in verse 23 we read: "the fourth beast shall be the fourth KINGDOM upon the earth." Notice also the word "kingdom" is used to explain the beasts in verses 18, 22, 24, and 27.

Now what do the "Horns" represent? Notice verse 24: "And the ten horns out of this KINGDOM are ten kings that shall arise Notice the ten horns, or ten succeeding kingdoms or governments, come OUT OF a KINGDOM, not out of a man, or a super-man. This alone makes plain that the "BEAST" is not some mysterious personal super-man yet to come. Also that the beast is not the Roman Catholic Church, for no ten kingdoms ever did, or will, come OUT OF that Church. And since king in these prophecies only stands for the KINGDOM he represents, and since the words are used interchangeably, it follows that these ten horns are ten succeeding KINGDOMS growing OUT OF the FOURTH Kingdom, which was to rule the earth from the time of Daniel!
Identification of the Kingdoms

Those same four world-ruling Gentile kingdoms are described in the second chapter of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar of the Chaldean Empire, who had taken the Jews captive, had a dream, the meaning of which God revealed to Daniel.

The dream is described in verses 31-35. The king saw a great image. Its head was of gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of brass, its legs of iron, and its feet part iron and part clay. Finally, a stone, not in men's hands (but supernaturally) smote the image upon its feet and toes. It was broken in pieces, and was blown away like chaff. Then the stone that smashed it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

"This," Daniel says, beginning verse 36, "is the dream; and we will tell the INTERPRETATION thereof to the king."

You see, this head of gold. And after these shall arise another KINGDOM inferior to these, and another third KINGDOM of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the Fourth KINGDOM shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things; and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise" (verse 36-40).

The interpretation of the STONE smashing the image at its toes is found in the 44 verses:

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

The Stone is Christ and His KINGDOM. The interpretation of the STONE is given many places in the Bible. "Jesus of Nazareth...is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become HEAD of the corner." (Acts 4:10-11).

And so we see that here are four universal world-ruling Gentile kingdoms. They begin with the Chaldean Empire, at the beginning of the "times of the Gentiles," when the Jews were taken captive to Babylon, 604-585 B.C. They continue through four universal great kingdoms, and out of the fourth grows ten succeeding governments. These carry to the time of the Second Coming of Christ, and the setting up of the KINGDOM OF GOD to fill the whole earth and last forever.

The Fourth Beast

Plainly, here are described the SAME FOUR universal world-ruling Gentile powers that are described by Daniel's four beasts. And this dream image identifies WHO they are. The first was Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, the Chaldean Empire, called "Babylon" after the name of its capital city, 625-638 B.C.

The second kingdom, which followed, then, we know from history was the Persian Empire (558-338 B.C., often called Medo-Persia, composed of Medes and Persians.

All ancient history students know the third world kingdom was Greece, or Macedoni under Alexander the Great, who conquered the great Persian Empire 333-330 B.C. But Alexander lived only a short year after his swift conquest, and his vast new Empire was divided among his Four Generals: Macedonia and Greece: Thrace and Western Asia; Syria and territory east to the Indus; and Egypt. So these were the "four heads" of the third beast of Daniel 7.

And the FOURTH KINGDOM, which, developing from Rome, spread out and gradually absorbed one after another of these four divisions,---"Dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly," was the ROMAN EMPIRE (31 B.C. to A.D. 476). It had absorbed all the others, occupied all their territory, was greast and stronger than all. It included all the royal splendor of ancient Babylon, thus having the head---the strongest part---of the "lion." It had all the massiveness and numerically-powerful army of the Persian Empire---symbolized by the LEAD, the most powerful part, of the BEAR. It was the greatest war-making machine the world had ever seen, and it also possessed the swiftness, the cunning, the cruelty of Alexander's army, symbolized by the LEOPARD.

And thus, this fourth beast was unlike any wild beast of the earth. It was strange greater, more terrible, than any. And so John, in Rev. 13, sees, not four beasts, but ONE beast. Not a leopard, but LIKE a leopard---possessing all its cunning, cruelty, and speed. But it also possessed the dominant characteristics of the two other most powerful beasts---the FEET of a bear, and the MOUTH of a lion. Daniel's fourth Beast, the Roman Empire had absorbed and therefore it included, the three beasts before it. Thus it included all seven HEADS And John's beast also has SEVEN HEADS. It was Daniel's Fourth Beast, ONLY, which had TEN HORNS, and John's beast has TEN HORNS.

And so, if we are willing to be guided solely by the BIBLE description of this "beast" and to let the BIBLE interpret the symbols used to describe it, we come to the inevitable conclusion that the BEAST of Rev. 13 is the ROMAN EMPIRE of 31 B. C. to A.D. 476: of course many man-imagined THEORIES widely taught and published, interpret this BEAST otherwise---some as the Roman Catholic Church, some as a mysterious, individual, super-man yet to come. But these theories will not stand the test of applying the BIBLE interpretation all the symbols that describe this beast.

Nebuchadnezzar's Image, by the two legs describes the two DIVISIONS of the Roman Empire, after A.D. 330; West, with capital at Rome, and East, with capital at Constantinople.

John also pictures this BEAST, not as a church, or as an individual man, but as a powerful GOVERNMENT having a great ARMY. For they worshiped the Beast by saying: "WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE WAR WITH HIM? (Rev. 13:4)."

The Toes and the Horns

Let us now notice the symbolism of the toes of the image (Dan. 2), and the horns of the fourth Beast of Daniel 7 and of the Beast of Revelation 13.
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<td>9<strong>th HEAD</strong> of prophetic</td>
<td>9<strong>th Horn</strong></td>
<td>**the BEAST with 13 <strong>HEADS &amp; 50 HORNS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rev. 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Holy Roman Empire, (German head), 802-962 A.D.</strong></td>
<td><strong>The HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, (German head), 802-962 A.D.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th of <strong>TEN TOES</strong></td>
<td>10<strong>th HEAD</strong> of prophetic</td>
<td>10<strong>th Horn</strong></td>
<td>**the BEAST with 14 <strong>HEADS &amp; 60 HORNS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rev. 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Holy Roman Empire, (German head), 802-962 A.D.</strong></td>
<td><strong>The HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, (German head), 802-962 A.D.</strong></td>
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In 1814, just 1260 years after "deadly wound was healed, the "HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE" was dissolved. "So closed a govt. that dated from Augustus Caesar." (West, p. 377)
The ten toes and the ten horns both symbolize the same thing—the ten stages of government continuing out of the Roman Empire after its fall, 476 A.D. "The ten horns out of this kingdom" (the fourth—-the Roman Empire, 31 B.C. to 476 A.D.) "ARE TEN KINGS that shall arise ... and the KINGDOM and the dominion, and the great-ness of the KINGDOM under the whole heaven" (not IN heaven) "shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High." (Dan. 7:24,27.)

The ten horns, then are ten KINGDOMS to arise out of the Fourth Kingdom, the Roman Empire. These kings, also called KEMDOMS, continue from 476 A.D. until the time when the Stone, Christ and His Kingdom, smashes the image on its toes, and the KINGDOM is given to the SAINTS. Therefore, since in actual history there have never been ten contemporaneous kingdoms that have continued out of the Roman Empire, side by side, down to the present—and since there HAVE been NINE successive kingdoms ruling that territory from 476 to the present, with the ten one now being formed by Mussolini—-therefore we know that the kingdoms represented by the toes and the horns are SUCCESSIVE, not contemporaneous.

The Deadly Wound

Now let us return to our description of the "Beast" in Revelation 13.

"And I saw one of his heads as it were WOUNDED TO DEATH; and his deadly wound was HEALED; and all the world wondered after the beast. "And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast saying, Who is like unto the Beast? Who is able to make WAR with him? "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him TO CONTINUE FORTY AND TWO MONTHS." (Rev. 13:3-5.)

The "Beast" here symbolized is the one which included the royal splendor and kingly power symbolized by the MOUTH of the lion (Babylon); the ponderous strength symbolized by the FEET of the bear (Medo-Persia), and the speed, cunning, and cruelty of the leopard (Greece). And since the INTERPRETATION of these symbols is found in Daniel 7, and since the fourth beast alone included all SEVEN of the heads, and had ten HORNS, the Bible interpretation of the BEAST of Revelation 13 is the FOURTH BEAST of Daniel 7—-the Roman Empire, of 31 B.C. to 476 A.D. The beast described by John in Revelation 13 also included 7 heads, but the only head existing at the time of this non-descript beast which included the most powerful characteristics of all the beasts symbolizing its predecessors was the fourth beast, containing the SEVENTH HEAD, and also the TEN HORNES. So the specific "one of its heads" that was wounded to death was the seventh head of the Roman Empire—the head out of which TEN HORNES grew. The ten horns, then, as Daniel interprets, represent ten successive governments OUT OF THE Roman Empire, which were to continue until the setting up of the KINGDOM OF GOD at the second coming of Christ.

The DEADLY WOUND, then, was the one administered to the Roman Empire, when, in its last decaying stages, the barbarians overran it, ending its government in 476 A.D.

Notice the DRAGON gave his power to the Beast. Who is the DRAGON? Some say "pagan Rome." But will we be guided solely by the BIBLE INTERPRETATION of its own symbols? Then, if we will, the Dragon is a symbol which means Satan, THE DEVIL. Notice Rev. 12. "The great DRAGON ... that old serpent, called the DEVIL and SATAN." (verse 9). "He was cast out into the earth ... the DEVIL IS come down unto you, having great wrath ... and when the DRAGON saw that he was cast unto the earth,"(v.18) "And he laid hold on the DRAGON, that old serpent WHICH IS THE DEVIL and Satan. (Rev. 20:2.)

They worshiped the Beast (Rev. 13:4). Therefore some conclude, from this one statement alone, that the "Beast" must be the Papacy, not knowing that the people worshiped the Roman Empire and its Emperor: Notice how the they worshiped the Beast saying WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE WAR WITH HIM? The Roman Empire was the greatest WAR MAKING POWER the world had ever known, but the Catholic Church never had an army. This beast killed by the SWORD (v. 10) but the Catholic Church never did. His was all of accounts of the worship of the Roman Emperors, for paganism was a STATE RELIGION. The following is from Robinson's "Medieval and Modern Times," a college text book, page 7. Chapter 1:

"The worship of the emperor: In a word the Roman government was not only wonderfully organized ... everyone was required to join in the worship of the emperor because he stood for the majesty and glory of the dominion ... all were obliged, as good citizens, to join in the official sacrifices to the head of the state, as a god. But when the seventh HEAD of this great beast received its DEADLY WOUND in 476 A.D. was that the end? No the prophecy says
"This deadly wound was healed... and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." The ten horns represent ten successive kings coming out of this kingdom to follow. So, thru the ten horns growing out of this head (The Roman Empire of 31 B.C. - 476 A.D.), the Beast (for the ten horns are part of the Beast) continues on until the second coming of Christ.

The text does not say the whole Beast died—but one of his heads was wounded to death. The Beast included the seven heads and the ten horns. John sees the Beast living in the days of its seventh head, the Roman Empire. And when that head of the Beast had its deadly wound, his—the Beast's—head was healed. The head was dead. But the Beast continued. The horns now reign, one by one.

In 476 the Empire was over-run by barbarians, under Odoacer. His government, set up at Rome, called the Heruli, was the first horn. But it did not heal the deadly wound, for this was a government in Rome, but not a Roman government, but one of foreign barbarians.

Then followed the Vandals, of Northern Africa, who sacked Rome in 455 and held it for a brief space. Then was the kingdom of the Ostrogoths, 493-554, another outside foreign people who rule in the territory. But they were driven out of Italy and disappeared.

These three kingdoms, sweeping into the Roman territory, filled the period known in history as the "transition age." (See Myers Ancient History, Page 571). That is, a transition between the wound and the healing.

Now Daniel saw a "little horn" coming up among these ten, before whom these first three were "plucked up by the roots." That leaves 7 horns to come. And of the little horn, Daniel 7 says "his look was more stout than his fellows." The papacy dominated completely all the "horns" to follow.

The Deadly Wound Healed!

It was the fourth kingdom (horn, or toe) succeeding the fall of the Empire in 476, which really healed the deadly wound, and restored the Empire. In 556 A.D., Justinian, Emperor of the East, from Constantinople, moved to Rome and brought about what is known in history as the "Imperial Restoration" of the Empire.

Now, notice verse 5, of Rev. 13. Power was given to this "Beast", once healed, to "continue forty and two months." In the prophecies pertaining to the Times of Israel's punishment, each day represents a year in the actual fulfillment (Ezk. 4:4-6, Num. 14:34). Thus, the "healed" Beast is to continue 1260 years.

Following the healing, in 556, came the Frankish Kingdom (French), the "Holy Roman Empire" (German), the Habsburg dynasty (Austrian), and Napoleon's kingdom (French). But, when Napoleon met his "Waterloo" in 1814, the healed beast continued no longer. "So closed," says West's Modern History, page 377, "a government that dated from Augustus Caesar." (From 31 B.C.) It went into Abyss.

And from 554 to 1914, the duration of the "healed beast", was EXACTLY 1260 years!

At that time, eight of the "horns" having appeared and gone, the "Beast" itself went into the non-existent condition symbolized in Rev. 17:9 as the "bottomless pit." But in the year 1870 Garibaldi united the many little divisions in the peninsula of Italy into one nation, and the kingdom thus established (the 9th horn), continues today. King Emanuel is its titular head, tho he is a "rubber stamp" with Mussolini in actual power and control.

The "Heads" the Woman Rode

We shall deal later more specifically with the 17 Chapter of Revelation in this connection. Then we shall prove beyond doubt that the "harlot woman," BABYLON THE GREAT, is the Roman Catholic Church. But let us note in passing that the "woman," the Catholic Church, with the papacy, never "rode" on any part of this Beast excepting its last seven "horns!" She is the "little horn" of Daniel 7, whose look was more stout than his fellows," and who caused the first three to be plucked up by the roots. Justinian was the first ruler who ever acknowledged the supremacy of the pope, and bowed to his dictates! And since in the 17th Chapter, the "woman" rode on all seven of the heads of the "Beast" there pictured, and since she rode none of the "heads" but only the last seven of the "horns" of the 17th Chapter. "Beast," it follows that the seven "horns" of the "healed beast" of the 17th Chapter FOR THE seven HEADS of the Beast of the 17th Chapter!

Notice, at the present time, five are fallen, one is, and one is yet to come (Rev. 17:10). The five that are fallen are the 5 during the 1260 years in which power was given for the "healed beast" to continue. The one that is, is the present kingdom from Caribaldi to the present. Yet it is not in any sense the old Roman Empire, so during the stage of this 9th horn or 6 head (Rev. 17) John speaks of it as the Beast that was, and is not, and yet IS, and shall arise once more out of the bottomless pit. The 10 "horns" symbolized by the 7 head with its 10 horns in the 17th chapter, yet to come, will be, as the 17th Chapter explains, the revival of the Beast, the Roman Empire, "out of the bottomless pit by a "United States of Europe," or federation of 10 European nations within the bounds of the old Roman Empire. (Rev. 17:12-18). This Mussolini is bringing about today! Five of these nations already are in his control. When Jesus comes, the Roman armies will be ready for Armageddon.

See next issue for What is the Image?