



AMERICAN ROME

By Sigung John

Predator and Prey

The Book of Revelations Chapter 13

“And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?”

Most bible scholars believe the beast from the sea is the revised Roman Empire. This may be based on the beast having seven heads like the seven hills of Rome.

The Romans built temples to the gods on the hills, (blasphemous names). The head that had the wound would represent Emperor worship and the decline of the Imperial Roman Empire.

The horns would indicate military leaders and the crowns, dictatorship.

While the Empire succumbed to barbarian invasions and economic ruin, the spirit of Rome continued to flourish throughout Europe and eventually the colonies.

The holy Roman Empire under Charlemagne dominated the continent. His successors ruled until the nineteenth century.

In all aspects the United States of America represent the pinnacle of Roman ideals.

Consider Roman law which was based on the stela of Babylon's King Hammurabi's code. These were interpreted into twelve tablets which were extrapolated to all forms of social and business laws. The concept that a person was considered innocent until proven guilty came from these laws. The Roman judicial system filtered through the Empire until it reached the U.S.A.

The Roman republic was divided into four government authorities, the senate which represented the rich and powerful, the centuriate and tribal assemblies spoke for the common people and a judicial system of judges and magistrates.

The senate appointed a First Citizen (Consul) called August who would later evolve into strong men dictators.

The American republic has mimicked Roman governance with a similar balance of senate, congress, judiciary and executive . Each with a responsibility and balance of power. But as recent events have shown, that like the rise of dictators in Rome, so also the executive branch of America has eroded the power of the other branches of government.

On an obvious note Washington has plainly adopted Roman architecture and symbols. Domes, obelisks, colonnades and eagles define Washington.

The economic system in Rome was based on a rich hierarchy ruling over working class citizens and slaves. Trade and conquest were the machines that drove the Empire.

During two centuries of peace under Augustus, the number of captured slaves dwindled forcing the middle class citizens to replace the void, leading to the slow decay of Rome's mighty economic structure.

While America no longer maintains slaves, corporate domination has forced millions into economic slavery, working for minimum wage while the rich two percent grow in power and wealth.

Like Rome, America stands on its military might. Even now, America threatens other countries with military force and dominance.

Rome controlled its populous by providing free wine and bread. The promotion of sports, entertainment and spectacles kept the citizens from thinking about rebellion.

When we look at America's popular culture, it is much the same as Rome's. Sports and entertainment is a multi billion dollar business. Movie stars, pop stars and athletes are replacing the old gods, being worshiped and emulated. Young Americans want nothing more than fame and riches, even without any work or talent. Social media has become the temples of worship and self gratification.

Rome was renown for its propaganda and lies. For example, it accused the Carthaginians of child sacrifice, gaining support from the populous for the Punic wars. The American president has accused all his enemies of egregious crimes. He has reached the point that every word that comes out of his mouth is a lie.

Aside from all these parallels and clones of Roman Imperialism, the beast from the sea can be considered the final confirmation. During the first century, the American continents were unknown, so that a great power coming out of the west would be seen as coming out of the sea and as the scripture states, " Who can stand against him?"

The sea is sometimes used as a symbol for peoples, but in this case, because the scripture also refers the beast from the earth, we can consider the sea to be literal.

Now concerning the dragon (Satan) who gives power to the beast and who people worship because of the power he gave to the beast.

(Rev.13:11) Then I saw another beast coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in the full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power on behalf of the first beast, to deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honour of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead (implanted chip), so that no-one could buy or sell unless he had the mark which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. The second beast comes in the guise of a religious leader or prophet. He deceives the world with his counterfeit miracles. He

forces everyone to worship the empire and emperor, murdering all who refuse.

The end times are marked by a period of seven years called the Tribulation. The second half of this period is called the Great Tribulation, which is time of suffering unlike anything that has ever existed before.

The Lord said the while we would not know the exact hour of his coming, we would know the times. Here the times refer to the seven year period of the Apocalypse and the Great Apocalypse which begins at the half way point, three and a half years.

If as I believe that the rule of Donald Trump is the beginning of the seven years, then the three and a half years would coincide with the election. All indications are that Trump will not give up power at that time. The scripture says that the beast will magnify himself and nobody has ever magnified himself like Trump. Then comes the beast from the earth.

At the time that the scripture was written, Babylon had long ceased to exist, so the actual city cannot be the reference here.

Some have suggested that it would be rebuilt and again become a world power. At present the city is undergoing a reconstruction of the original, hardly qualifying as a power. However, Babylon was the first city to reach such heights of riches and luxury. This same dream was carried forth by Rome and now the U.S.A. So we can conclude that the spirit of Babylon, the world system, is alive today. So that people's desire is to idolize wealth, power and total liberality.

(Rev.18) After all this I saw another angel come down from heaven with great authority, and the earth grew bright with its splendour. He gave a mighty shout, "Babylon the Great (world system) is fallen; she has become a den of demons, a haunt of devils and every kind of evil spirit. For all the nations have drunk the fatal wine of her intense immorality. The rulers of the earth have enjoyed themselves with her, and businessmen throughout the world have grown rich from all her luxurious living.