

Chapter 13

[1] And I saw another sign, in the likeness of the kingdoms of the earth; a beast rise up out of the sea, and he stood upon the sand of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns; and upon his horns ten crowns; and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

[Daniel 7:2-3, 7] Daniel saw in a vision, four great beasts come up from the sea, of which the fourth beast was dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; ... it devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it; and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome

[2] 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.

[Daniel 7:4-6, 17] **The first was like a lion,** (Babylon) **[5] A second beast like a bear, and it ... had three ribs in it's mouth; and they said unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.** (The Meads & Persians; conquered Egypt -525 BC, Babylon 539 BC and Lydia 546 BC, the three ribs) **[6] After this I beheld another like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. [17] These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.** (Greece, under Alexander the Great, conquered the Persian Empire 331 BC. When Alexander died his kingdom was divided among his four generals; Seleucids of Syria, Ptolemy I of Egypt, Cassander of Macedonia, and Antigonus of Asia Minor, which were the leopard's four wings, or the four kings that arose out of the earth.)

[Verse 2] says the dragon, (*the devil*) gave the beast it's power. *see red dragon [ch 12:4 & 8]

The beast ascended out of the sea and stood upon the sand of the sea. [verse 1] *(for the meaning of the sea, review the study of [chapter 8:8-9] * further amplified in [chapter 17].

[Matthew 7:34-35] Whosoever hear these sayings of mine and do them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock, and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock. [35] And every one that hear these sayings of mine, and do them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand; and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.

The rock, in this case, represents the sayings of Jesus. The sand represents all other doctrines.

[Psalms 31:1-3] In you, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in your righteousness. ... be my strong rock, for a house of defense to save me. [3] For you are my rock and my fortress; therefore for your name's sake, lead me, and guide me. [Psalms 18:2, 31] [Isaiah 17:9-10] [Isaiah 8:13-14] [Romans 9:33]

[1 Corinthians 10:4] ... they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them; and **that Rock was Christ.**

[Psalms 24:8] And he will roll away the heavens; and will come down to redeem his people; to make you an everlasting name; to **establish you upon his everlasting rock.** (everlasting gospel) Did not the wise man build his house upon the “everlasting gospel,” the doctrine of Christ.

[3] 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. (But his deadly wound was healed - see Vrs 12)

[4] 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?

The Roman Empire was “wounded unto death” by the ten kingdoms that conquered it, but was revived, his deadly wound healed by the power of the dragon working through the seventh head (the Papacy). And they worshiped the dragon (the devil) which gave power to the beast; they also worshiped the beast.

Ancient Rome began to expand during the 300's B.C. and by 275 B.C. ruled much of Italy. Expansion overseas made Rome the dominant Mediterranean power by 133 B.C. The Roman Empire grew relatively little after the death of Augustus in A.D. 14. It reached its greatest size under Trajan, who ruled until A.D. 117. And this Empire was “wounded unto death,” but was healed; and in [Verses 12-17] we shall learn how it was healed.

As stated in [chapter 9], by the end of the Imperial Persecutions in 313 A.D., Christians numbered about one-half of the population of the Roman Empire. Constantine was baptized a Christian on his deathbed in 337 A.D. Thus, the Imperial Persecution of Christians was a thing of the past and the Imperial Church was a thing of the future. As long as the church was being persecuted it was held together by common goals, common values and principles; moral standards were important to its members. But after Constantine became a Christian, joining the church was the popular thing to do. The church still flourished; but those joining it had different goals; different values; and a completely different set of moral standards, which infected the church.

He rebuilt Byzantium (now Istanbul, Turkey), renamed it Constantinople, and made it his capital. He shifted the Roman Empire's strength from Rome to the eastern provinces and thus laid the foundations of the Byzantine Empire, and for a split in the Roman Catholic Church.

[5] 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. (1260 years)

[6] And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

[7] And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

[8] And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

[Daniel 7:20-25] And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spoke very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. (see verse 24)

[21] I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

[22] Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

[23] Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. (Rome was the fourth kingdom of this vision)

[24] And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise; and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

(The Papacy - in it's genesis conquered the Lombards, Ravenna, and Rome; the three kings).

[25] And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. (1260 yrs)

“upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” [**verse 1**]

The following statement discloses how the popes soon viewed themselves:

“I do make holy and unholy; I do justify the wicked; I do forgive sins; I open and no man shutteth. All the world is my diocese, and I am the ordinary of all men, having the authority of the King of kings upon subjects. I am in all and above all . . . If these things that I do be said to be done not of man, but of God, what do you make me but God? . . . I, being above all prelates, seem by this reason to be above all gods; whereupon no marvel if it be in my power to change times and abrogate laws, to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ.” [Bolton's, The Great Antichrist, p. 48]

The following evidences that the “Ancient of days” mentioned in [**Verses 9 & 22**] is Adam:

[**D&C 26:2f**] ... with Michael, or Adam, the father of all, the prince of all, the ancient of days.

[**Daniel 7:9-10,13-14**] I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool; his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. [10] A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him; thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the judgment was set, and the books were opened. [13] I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. [14] And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him (*the Son of man*); his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

[9] If any man have an ear, let him hear.

[10] He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he that kills with the sword

must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

[11] And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon.

[12] And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him, and causes the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Like the first beast, the other beast of [verse 11] was standing upon unsound doctrine; and even though this beast believed in God and promoted Jesus' name, he believed in a God of his own making. He contrived a God that fit the image of how he thought he should be, instead of worshiping him as he is.

This other beast of [verse 11] "had two horns like a lamb," but "spoke as a dragon." The Papacy emerged out of the ruins of the Roman Empire, the fourth beast seen by John and by Daniel, but became divided into the eastern and western churches in 1054 A.D., with the seat of the eastern church in Constantinople and the seat of the western church in Rome. The beast with "two horns like a lamb," endorsed and promoted the devil's doctrine as though it were from Christ, for it derived its power, its seat, and its authority from the devil. The two horns like a lamb signified that the two rulers had the appearance of being meek and humble instead of being of the devil. And it caused the earth to worship the first beast (Rome), that was "wounded unto death;" thus giving it life.

This is not to say that there were not good people living during the time these two beasts reigned over them. For of the first beast (Roman Empire) we read from [verse 7] that "it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." History shows that this Empire did indeed "make war with the saints," especially during the time of the Ten Imperial Persecutions of the Church, beginning with Nero in 64 A.D. and continuing to Diocletian, Emperor of Rome in 305 A.D. They were hunted and tortured, they were put in the arena to be slaughtered and eaten by wild beasts, they were hung on crosses and set on fire to light up the streets of Rome. But the worse was yet to happen to the Church. Emperor Constantine, 306-337 A.D. issued his edict of Toleration, 313 A.D. granting everyone the right to worship as he pleased. The Roman Empire grew weaker during the A.D. 300's. In 395, it was split into the West Roman Empire and the East Roman Empire. Each empire was subdivided into two parts called prefectures. The West Roman Empire soon fell to Germanic tribes. But the East Roman Empire survived as the Byzantine Empire until 1453.

However, Emperor Theodosius, 378-395 A.D. made Christianity the State religion of the Roman Empire and made Church membership mandatory. He then forcibly suppressed all other religions, which paved the way for the Church to become a political institution, which set the groundwork for the emergence of the other beast, the Papacy. The church was beginning to make itself over in the image of the beast.

[13] And he does great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

[14] And deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Asia was probably the first to acquire knowledge of gunpowder. This knowledge reached Europe in the 1200's. Gunpowder contributed to changes in the social system of Europe in the 1300's and 1400's. Artillery with gunpowder was used in Constantinople in 1453 A.D. when the city fell to the Turks. Consider how far this technology has advanced just in the last quarter of the sixth seal, the time covered by the voice of the sixth angel. What about atomic and nuclear power! Science and technology has invariably made God look smaller to the world. Until a few years ago the Church was the number one entity in which people put their trust for hope and security, but the military deposed the Church of this honor and people now place their trust in the might of the military to save them from the perils of the world. And no wonder! With all the corruption that has been displayed by Church leaders in this day and time.

There is another aspect to affirmation that **“he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.”** Instead of the clergy bringing the gospel down from on high to share with the people, they brought down the fear of “hellfire and damnation” if they refused to revere them as their superiors. This would also be congruent with this allegory being spiritual, but **“in the likeness of things on the earth.”**

[D&C 1:3a-e] Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear; **[b]** prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is near; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; **[c]** and the day is coming that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people; **[d]** for **they have strayed from my ordinances, and have broken my everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness,** **[e]** but every man walks in his own way, and after **the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol,** which waxes old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall. Does this not agree with what the Lord told Isaiah in:

[Isaiah 24:5-6] The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because **they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.** **[6]** Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate; **therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.**

This last scripture has frequently been used during this study, but with good reason, it will likely culminate during this day and age. Let's examine this scripture a little closer.

(1) they have transgressed the laws, We need to be unwavering in living by those laws (principles) which govern Zion, the celestial law; for many will inherit lesser glories because they are not

steadfast in their belief that God is unchangeable! They embrace lesser laws while transgressing the greater ones.

(2) they have changed the ordinance. The word “ordinance,” according to Webster, is: A rule or statute established by authority; a permanent rule of action; or a law or statute of sovereign power.

Ordinances established by God are meant to be permanent and man should not tamper with them, no matter how much they may disagree with them. Yet, man has the inherent propensity to permit their sympathies to overcome that which God caused to be written in his scriptures. [D&C 125:15e] And when we change His ordinances, we cause the earth to be defiled!

(3) they have broken the everlasting covenant. What is the everlasting covenant? It is defined in Genesis this way; “when men should keep all my commandments, Zion should again come on the earth, the city of Enoch which I have caught up unto myself. And this is my everlasting covenant, that when your posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; [23] And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is my everlasting covenant, which I made with your father Enoch.” [Genesis 9:21-23]

(4) therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. “Therefore” is defined by Webster as: “for that or this reason.” Therefore, because **they have transgressed the laws; changed the ordinance; and have broken the everlasting covenant;** for these reasons, the curse has devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate; **therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.**

So these things are to happen just prior to the earth being burned and few men being left. That means – the Lord is not referring to Israel of old, he is referring to Latter Day Israel; he is referring to us! Who else even knows about “the everlasting covenant?”

[15] And he (the Papacy) had power to give life unto the image of the beast (the image of the Roman Empire; not the empire itself), that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

[16] And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads;

It was seen in [chapter 12] that the Papacy became the “seventh head;” that Papal power reared itself in the image of the Roman Empire, and it was just as brutal. It was the only super power to arise after the Roman Empire collapsed. It had power over the spiritual **and** social lives of the people; it had power over Church and State. An estimated 60 million people were put to death, and many more tortured by this beast. But the implication is that they should be killed spiritually as well as physically – for to receive a mark in their right hand means that they dedicate their power to the beast.

[**Genesis 31:29**] Laban told Jacob, “It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt;”

[**Micah 2:1**] Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand.

[**Exodus 15:6**] Your right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power; your right hand, O Lord, has dashed in pieces the enemy.

[**Habakkuk 3:3-4**] God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. [4] And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand; and there was the hiding of his power.

Thus, the hand, is a source of power, not only to man, but also to God.

To receive this mark in their foreheads means that they give their thoughts, their intellect, their understanding over to the beast.

[**D&C 28:12b-d**] and thus did I, the Lord God, appoint unto man the days of his probation; [c] that by his natural death, he might be raised in immortality unto eternal life, even as many as would believe, and they that believed not, unto eternal damnation; [d] for they can not be redeemed from their spiritual fall, because they repent not, for they will love darkness rather than light, and their deeds are evil, and they receive their wages of whom they list to obey.

One of the most often used cliches is this: “God loves the sinner but he hates the sin.” What does that mean? Do those who say this think that God is going to save the sinners in their sins because – He loves them? (Save in this context means to save in one of the glories)

[**Alma 8:87-91**] And Zeezrom said again, Shall he save his people in their sins? [88] And Amulek answered and said unto him, I say unto you he shall not, ... [91] And I say unto you again, that he can not save them in their sins; for ... he has said that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven.

If God does not save people in their sins, what is the purpose of that cliche? Are people trying to justify their sins because God loves them? Or, is it comforting to have a fairy-tale image of God?

It may well be that Jesus loved Judas, but he did not save him! Notice what Jesus said in his prayer to his Father; [**John 17:12**] While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name; those that you gave me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

[**Matthew 26:20**] ... woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had not been born. [**Mark 14:19**]

[**Proverbs 14:12**] There is a way which seems right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death. [**Proverbs 16:25**]

Who a person is cannot be separated from the way he thinks. For the way a person thinks is expressed by what he does, and what he does demonstrates who he is.

[**Proverbs 23:7**] For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

So, to receive that mark in your right hand and in your forehead means that you worship the beast with your might and your mind. As evidence of this, lets refer back to [**verse 8**]; “And all that dwell upon the earth **shall worship him** (the beast), whose names are **not** written in the **book of life of the Lamb** slain from the foundation of the world.” (“book of life” will be discussed in Ch 17 & 20)

[17] And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

To say that “no man might buy or sell unless he had the mark, the name, or the number of the beast” is an understatement, for he was not allowed to live unless he had these characteristics.

But what does it mean to have his name? When one is born into a kingdom he takes on the name of that kingdom; e.g., one who is born in Germany is a German; one who is born in America is an American, etc. Also, one who is born into a family takes on the name of the family; e.g., if you are born into the Smith’s family you are a Smith; if you are born into the Webber family you are a Webber, and et cetera.

Those who are born into Jesus’ kingdom, his Church, take upon themselves his name.

[**3 Nephi 12:18**] You must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name? for by this name shall you be called at the last day; and **whoso takes upon him my name**, and **endures to the end**, the same shall be saved at the last day. [**Mosiah 3:8-11**]

[**D&C 16:4e-g**] Take upon you the name of Christ, and speak the truth in soberness; and **as many as repent, and are baptized in my name, which is Jesus Christ, and endure to the end**, the same shall be saved. [**f**] Behold, Jesus Christ is the name which is given of the Father, and there is none other name given whereby man can be saved; [**g**] wherefore, **all men must take upon them the name which is given of the Father**, for in that name shall they be called at the last day; wherefore, if they know not the name by which they are called, they can not have place in the kingdom of my Father.

But what about those who have the name of the beast? How do they take upon themselves his name? There are a number of scriptures that testify how and why one must take upon himself the name of Christ, but are there scriptures that also explain how one takes upon himself the name of the beast. Remember, this beast is a kingdom masked as a church, and gets it’s power from the devil?

[**Mosiah 3:13**] And now, whosoever shall not take upon them the name of Christ, must be called by some other name; therefore, he finds himself on the left hand of God.

[**1 Nephi 7:48-54**] The righteous need not fear, for they are those who shall not be confounded. [49] But it is the kingdom of the devil which shall be built up among the children of men, which kingdom is established among them which are in the flesh: ... [51] Yes, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil, are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake. [**3 Nephi 12:23**]

Of the latter days, this is written in [**2 Nephi 11:90-94**]; The Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches; [91] Nevertheless they put down the power and the miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves, their own wisdom, and their own learning, ... and the devil leads them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he binds them with his strong cords for ever.

[**Alma 3:41, 45**] talks about “the children of the kingdom of the devil.”

[**2 Nephi 12:23-26**] The kingdom of the devil must shake, ...For behold, at that day *the devil* shall rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good; [25] And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say, All is well in Zion; yes, Zion prospers, all is well; [26] Thus the devil cheats their souls, and leads them away carefully down to hell.

[**1 Nephi 3:236-237**] And when the day comes that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose foundation is the devil, [237] Then at that day, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he made to his people, who are of the house of Israel.

Simply put, those who take upon themselves the name of Christ are those who are born into his kingdom and abide in him; but those who take upon themselves the name of the beast are those who are born into the devil’s kingdom and abide in him.

[18] Here is wisdom. Let him that has understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The Greek word **LATEINOS** signifies the Latin man; or the man of Latium, from which city the Romans derived their origin and their language; and this word, according to the genuine orthography, contains in numerical letters, exactly the number **666**.

Though the apostle John wrote in Greek, he used a few Hebrew names in this book; so he probably alluded to a name in that language; and it is most astonishing, that the word **ROMIITH** in Hebrew, which answers to Latinos, contains in numerical letters exactly **666**. These are the only known words from two different languages that have the value in numerical letters and the same meaning.

The Greek word **APOSTATES** is numerically equal to **666**.

Vicarius Filli Dei and **Vicarius Dei generalia in terris** both equal **666** when the Roman numerals are taken out. These words mean Vicar of Christ and are always associated with the pope or the Roman Catholic church.

At this point it may be helpful to repeat the papal decree that was presented earlier:

I do make holy and unholy; I do justify the wicked; I do forgive sins; I open and no man shutteth. All the world is my diocese, and I am the ordinary of all men, having the authority of the King of kings upon subjects. I am in all and above all . . . If these things that I do be said to be done not of man, but of God, what do you make me but God? . . . I, being above all prelates, seem by this reason to be above all gods; whereupon **no marvel if it be in my power to change times and abrogate laws, to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ.** [Bolton's, *The Great Antichrist*, p. 48]

Also consider what the apostle Paul wrote about this man of sin; the man, (or string of men) whose number is 666:

[2 Thessalonians 2:2-4] “Be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled by letter, except you receive it from us; neither by spirit, nor by word, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means; for there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**”

[Isaiah 14:12-14] “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how you are cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the Most High.**”

In the summary of things concerning the dignity, authority, and infallibility of the pope, set forth by Boniface VIII, are these words: “The pope is of so great dignity and excellence, that he is not merely man, but as if God, and the Vicar of God. The Pope alone is called most holy, divine monarch, and supreme emperor, and king of kings. The pope is of so great dignity and power, that he constitutes one and the same tribunal with Christ, so that whatsoever the pope does seems to proceed from the mouth of God. The pope is as God on earth.” [Guiness; *Romanism and the Reformation*, pp. 25, 26]

Look at the Sicilian ambassador prostrated before him with the cry thrice repeated, “Lamb of God! That takes away the sins of the world!” It was the famous Gerson's declaration; “The people think of the pope as the one God that has power over all things in earth and heaven.”

[Elliot's *Horae Apocalypticae*, vol. 3, p. 189]

And hence it is, that the pope has power both in heaven and earth and hell: in token whereof he wears on his head a triple crown, and thus has written in one of his decrees: if the pope should send

many thousands of men into hell, no man may say unto him, What doest thou? Hence he imposes laws on the consciences, makes new articles of faith, canonizes books, saints and images, celebrates jubilees, sends forth innumerable indulgences or pardons for sin, empties purgatory. [Pareus on the Revelation, p. 171]

In like manner the successive invasions of barbaric hordes, and above all the invasions of the Lombards, extinguished utterly and destroyed the last vestige of the Roman Empire in Italy: ... And when the last vestige of civil authority has perished there remained in Rome one sole person who had been the Father, the Pastor, Lawgiver, Protector, the Head of the People, to whom they turned as their supreme spiritual authority, around whom they gathered in all their perils. The line of the Roman pontiffs alone was left. The providence of God thus liberated the head of the church completely and altogether from any civil authority whatsoever. [The Independence of the Holy See; Cardinal Manning, pp. 13, 14, London, 1877]

When the Lombards invaded and reduced Italy into several cantons, the pope took the opportunity and began to hold up his head. For being as it were governor and principal at Rome, the emperor of Constantinople and the Lombards bore him a respect, so that the romans by mediation of their pope began to treat and confederate with Longinus, the emperor's lieutenant, and the Lombards, not as subjects, but as equals and companions. [Machiavelli, History of Florence, book 1, p. 6]

Thus, the beast began to raise it's head. Here are a few events that happened during it's rise:

By 756 A.D. – the Papacy controlled Papal States (central Italy) including Rome.
By 1054 – a complete split between the Eastern and Western church during Pope Leo IX's reign.
1057 – Pope Gregory VII claimed power to dethrone & supplant both temporal and spiritual leaders.
1302 – Pope Boniface VIII instituted his “Unam sanccatm,” which claimed the pope to be the sole instrument of salvation.
1309 to 1377 – the popes resided at Avignon, in what is now France. This period, sometimes called the Babylonian Captivity, introduced a time of turmoil in the papacy known as the Great Schism.
1378 to 1417 – During this time, candidates from Avignon and Rome both claimed to be the pope.
1409 – the Council of Pisa tried to untangle the dispute but instead created a third claim to the office.
1417 – the Council of Constance finally resolved the conflict in that one man resigned and the two other candidates were deposed. A new pope, Martin V (1417-1431), was elected pope.

The deification of Mary had it's beginning in the second century. She began to be called “the mother of God” during Pope Celestine I's reign 422 – 432. However, the Immaculate Conception and Deity of Mary wasn't officially sanctioned until the reign of Pope Pius IX in 1854.

Though Pope Innocent III, 1198 – 1216 was the first to advocate Papal Infallibility, it wasn't until 1870 that the Vatican Council voted it so. The decree reads that it was “divinely revealed” to them! And who was the Pope at the time this decree was approved? Pope Pius IX! He skillfully orchestrated this result!

In 1929 Mussolini restored the Pope to temporal power, on a miniature scale:

- the Lateran Treaty created the tiny independent country of Vatican City, to be ruled by the pope.

“Wo unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” [2 Nephi 8:90] [Isaiah 5:20]

[2 Nephi 13:4-32] My soul delights in plainness: for after this manner the Lord God works among the children of men. [5] For the Lord God gives light unto the understanding: for he speaks unto men according to their language, unto their understanding.