C. Role of the Beast

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Bamberg Apocalypse

Background for Rev. 13:1-10

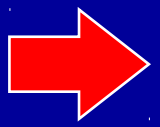
Beast of Rev. 13:1-10

OT text ?

Daniel 7 and Rev. 13:1-10

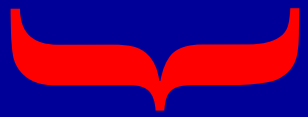
Daniel 7

① **lion**
② **bear**
③ **leopard**
④ **iron teeth & ten horns**



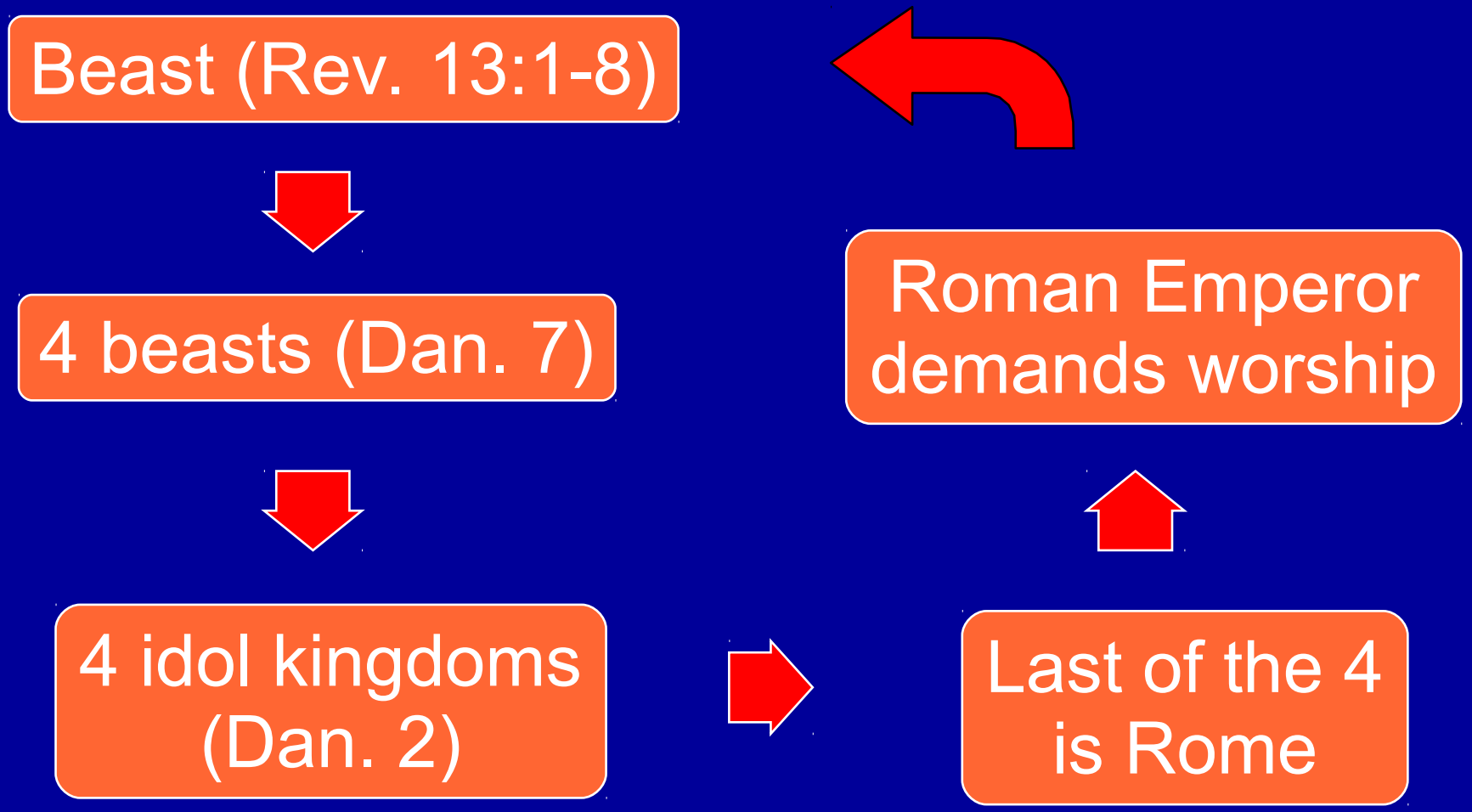
Revelation 13

- **lion's mouth**
- **bear's feet**
- **leopard**
- **10 horns**



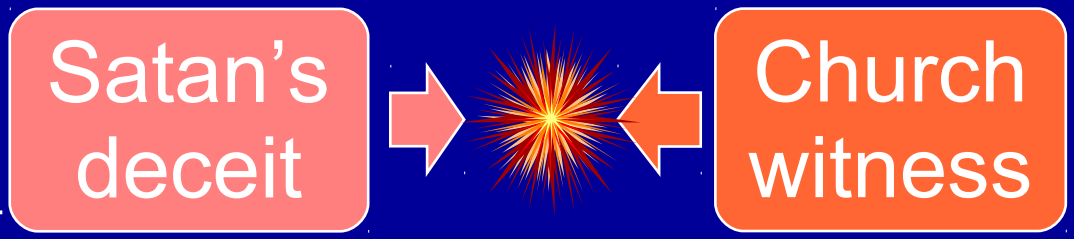
Composite horror

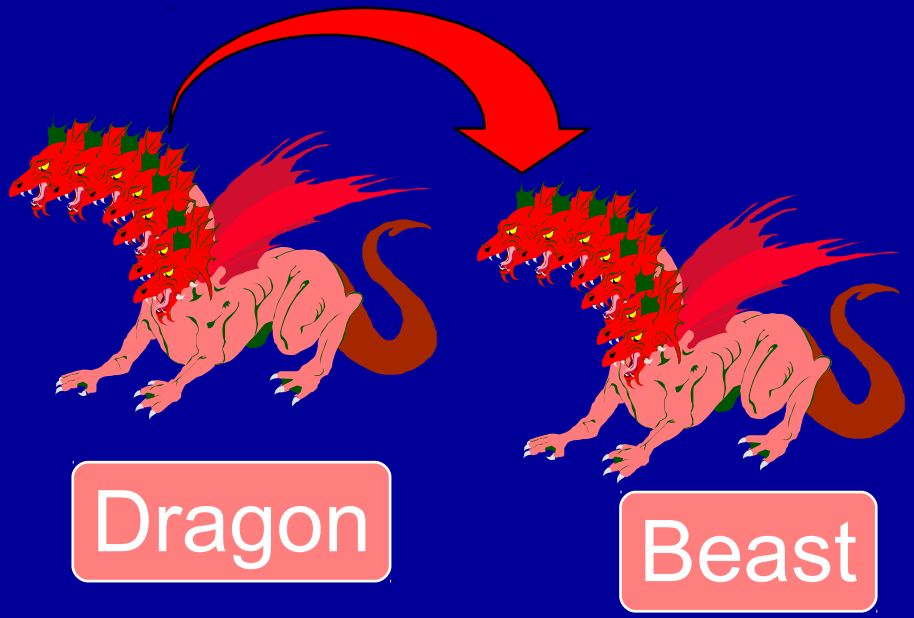
Beast as Demonized State



Satan's Counterfeit "Son"

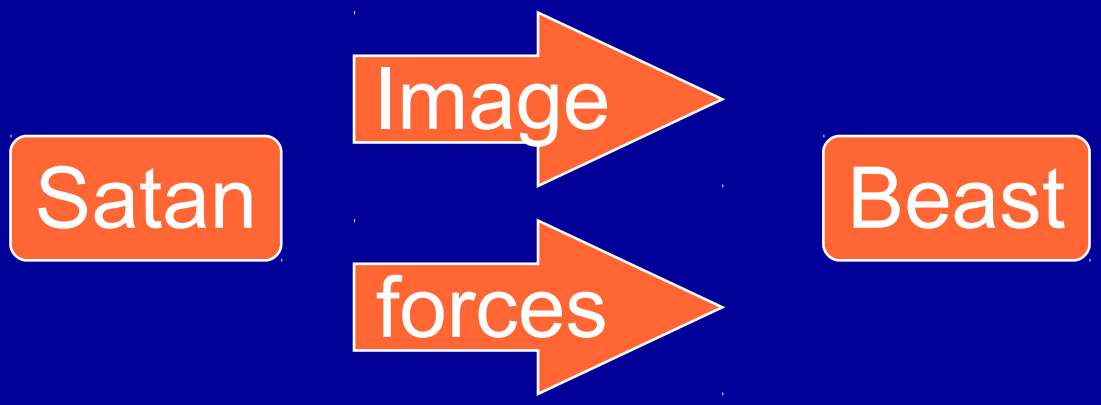
- **Rev. 12:13-17: Satan cannot defeat the church by deceit alone.**
- **Rev. 13:1,2,4: he creates a monster in his image.**

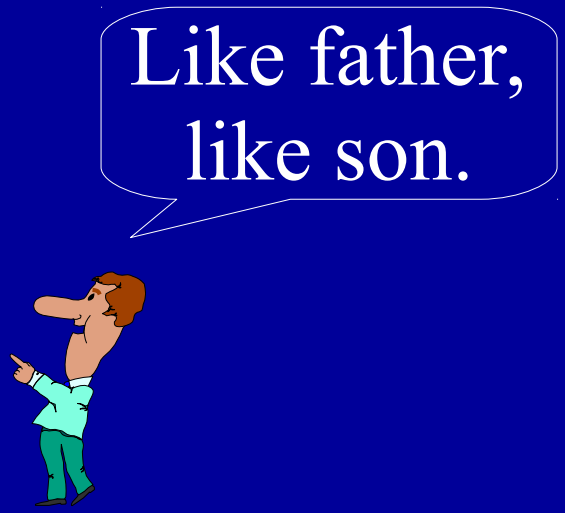




Repeated Manifestations

- **Satan has repeated defeats (pattern or war)**
- **The Beast can have**
  - **repeated manifestations**
  - **and repeated defeats.**





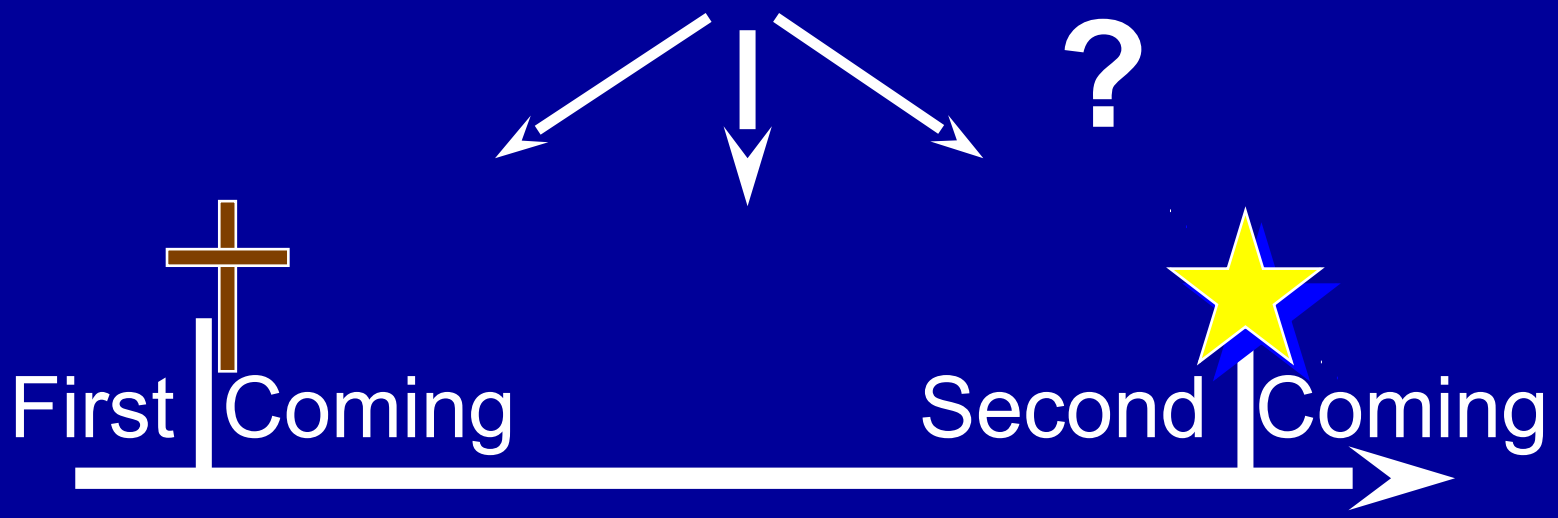
Understanding Our Time

- **What is our era of redemptive history?**

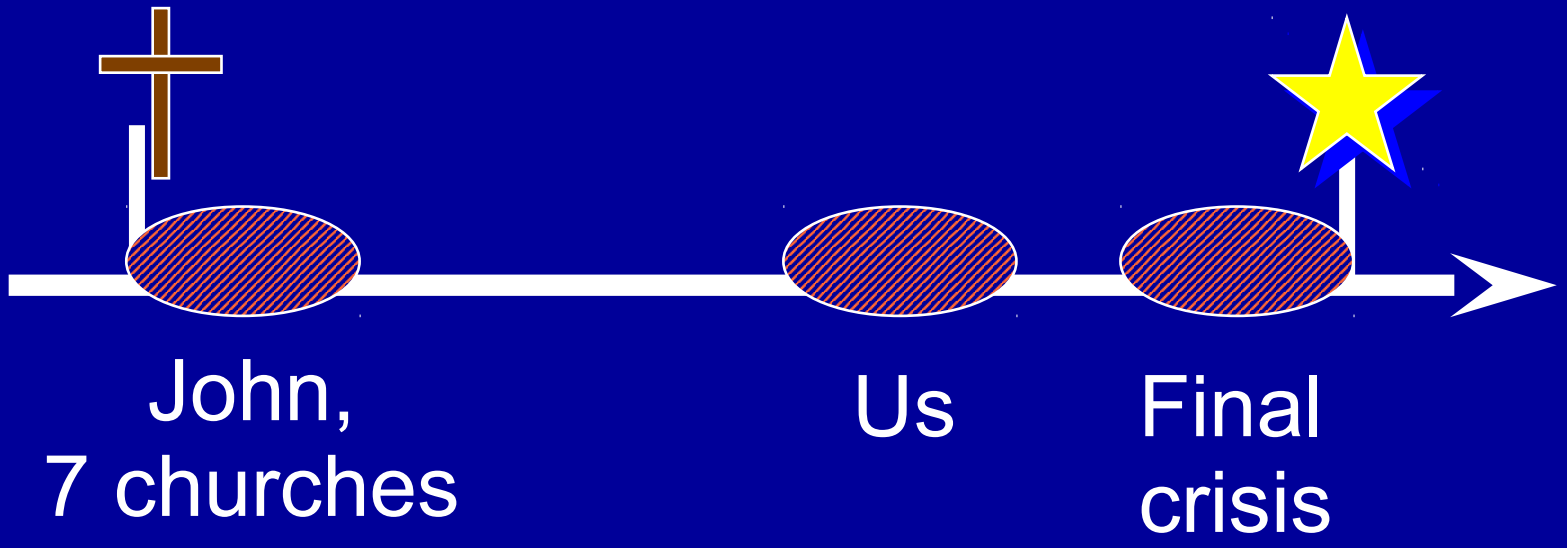
- **When does it begin?**
- **When does it end?**

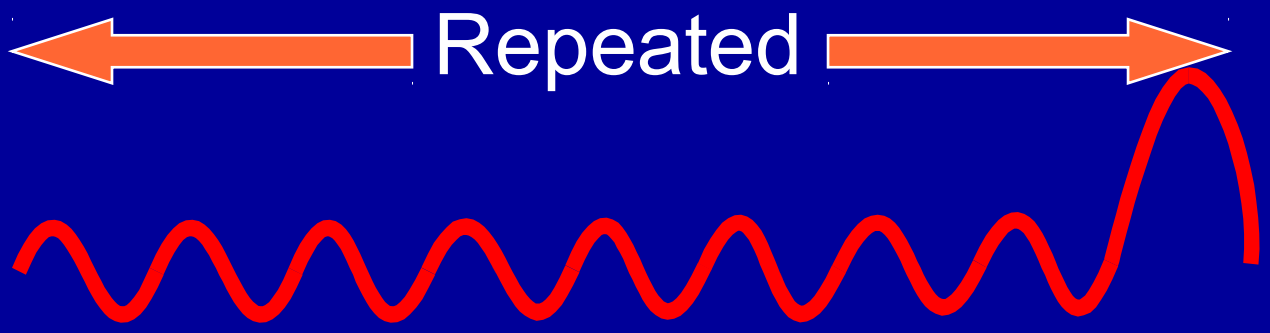
Time of Fulfillment

When is the primary fulfillment?



Foci of Fulfillment



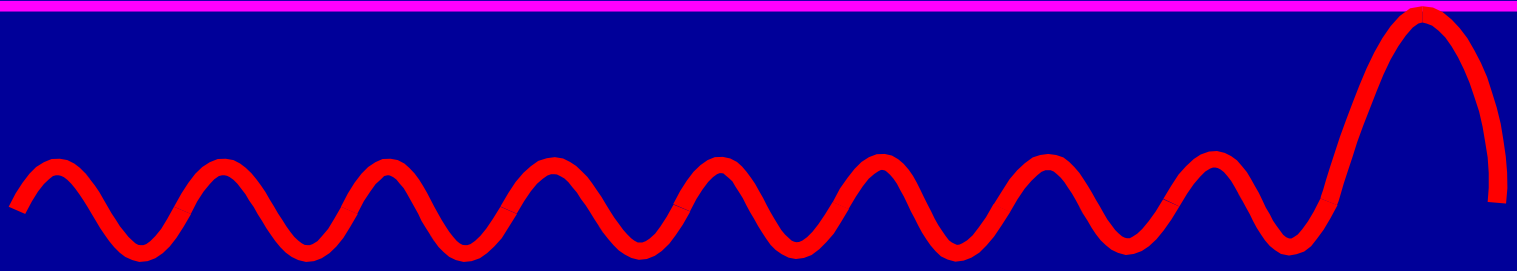


Fourfold Work of Beast

- **Roman persecution**
- **Final persecution**
- **Persecution NOW, 2 Tim 3:1,12**
- **Repeated persecution**

- **Suetonius, *Domitian* 12.2.**
- **2 Thess. 2:6-8**
- **Totalitarian aspirations**
- **Dan. 7 spans this age; 2 Tim. 3:1, 12**

Repeated Wickedness



already

- 2 Thess. 2:7
- restrained mystery
- “mystery of lawlessness”

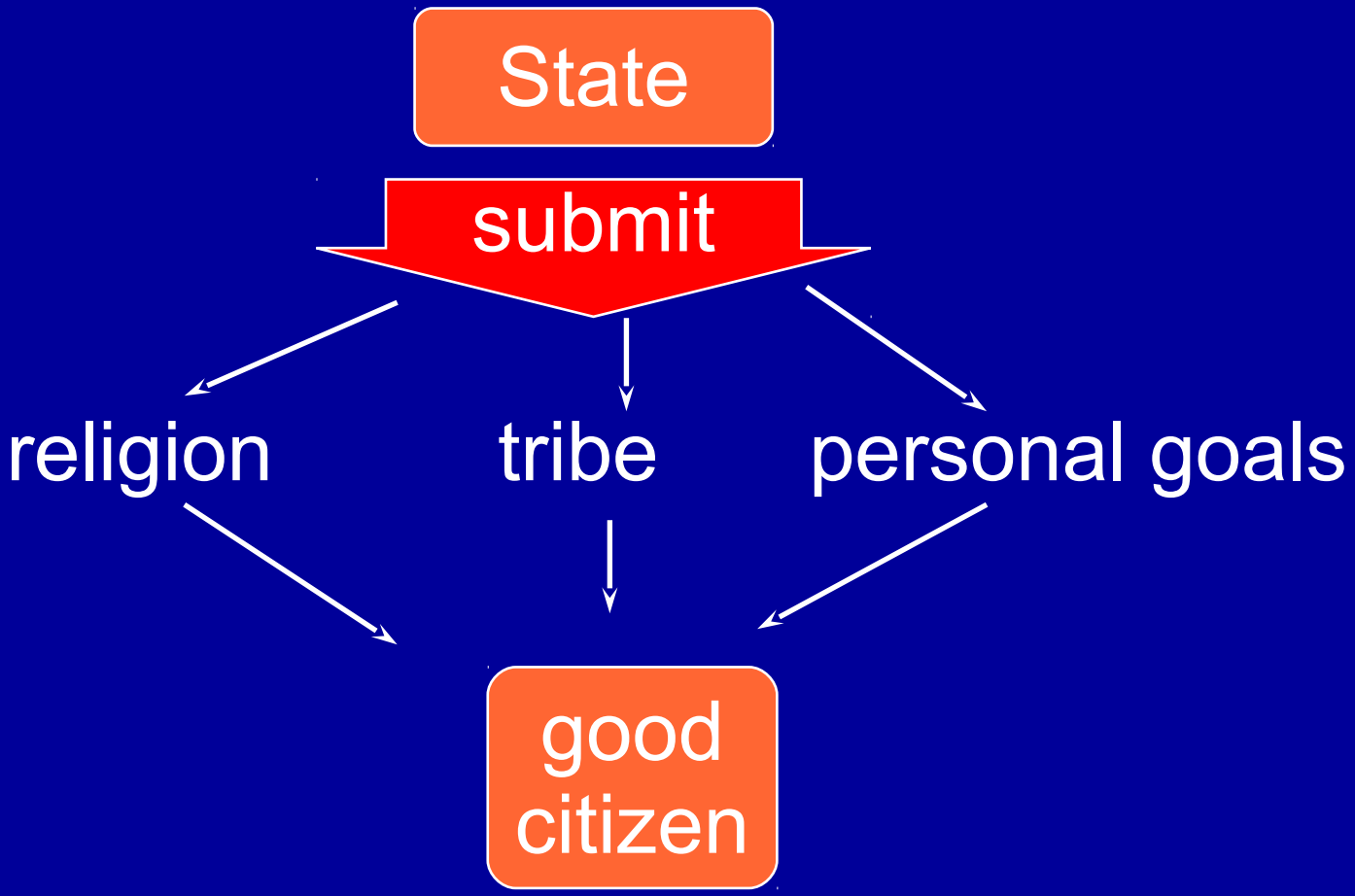
yet to come

- 2 Thess. 2:8
- unrestrained, revealed
- “man of lawlessness”

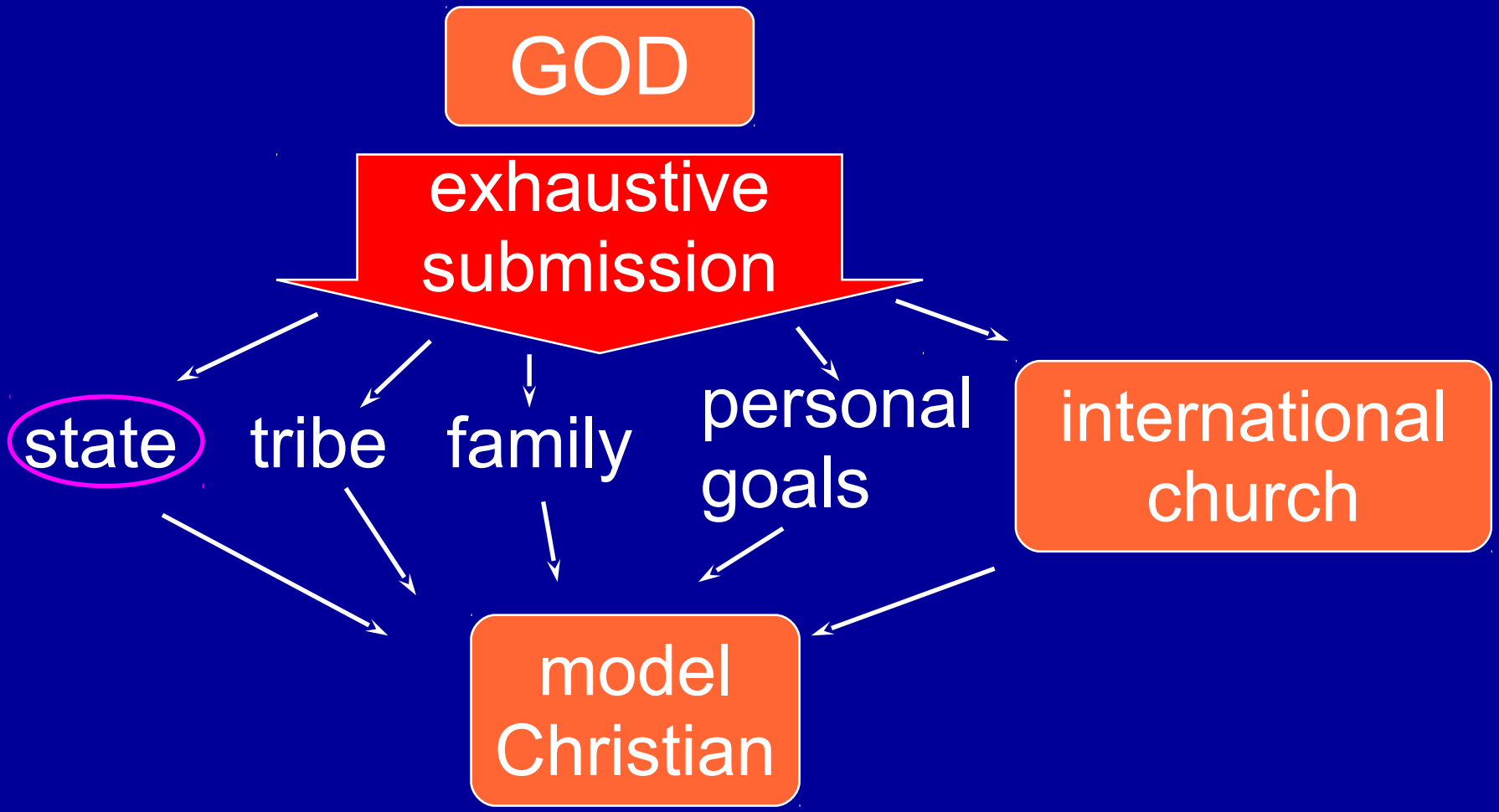
Analogous Climaxes

	already	yet to come
2 Thess. 2:7-8	mystery (7)	man of lawlessness (8)
Rev. 17:1-18	Beast that was (8)	eighth king (11)
1 John 2:18	many antichrists	supreme Antichrist

Modern Totalitarian Dream



Christian Loyalties



D. The False Prophet

Two Monsters

Rev. 13:1-10	Rev. 13:11-18
A beast from the sea	A beast from the earth
Called "The Beast"	Called "The False Prophet"

Note Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10.

The False Prophet

- **False Prophet assists the Beast.**
- **He promotes worship of the Beast, 13:12-15.**
- **He counterfeits the Holy Spirit.**

False Prophet as Counterfeit

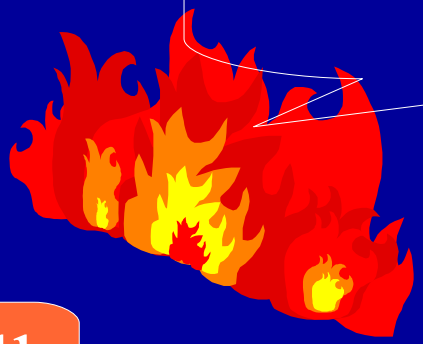
Holy Spirit	False Prophet
Promotes worship of Christ	Promotes worship of the Beast
Leads into truth	Deceives
Works miracles	Counterfeit miracles
Exercises authority of Christ	Exercises authority of the Beast

E. The Prostitute

West Flemish Apocalypse

Two Opponents

Who will defeat God's people for me?



I will

I will

Strategy of Opposition

How?

Persecution!

Seduction with money and sex!

Response to Opposition

Calling of the church:

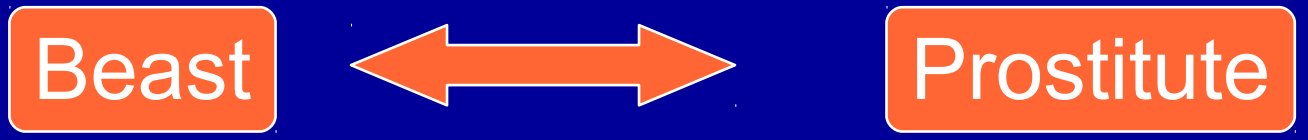
Light-bearing Witness	Virgin purity
Endurance (13:10)	Separation (18:4)

Opposition:

Persecuting power of the Beast	Seductive luxury of the Prostitute

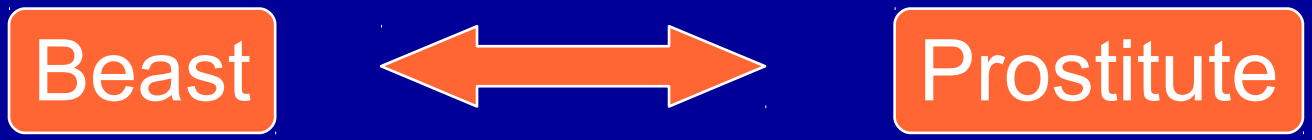
Prostitute Depends on Beast

- **Prostitute sits on the Beast (Rev 17).**
- **Beast and Prostitute go together.**



- **Fourfold manifestations of the Beast lead to fourfold manifestations of the Prostitute**

Beast and Prostitute



- **Roman persecution**
- **Final persecution**
- **Persecution NOW**
- **Repeated persecution**

- **Roman seduction**
- **Final seduction**
- **Seduction NOW**
- **Repeated seduction**

Fourfold Work of Prostitute

- Roman seduction
- Final seduction
- Seduction NOW
- Repeated seduction

- Jezebel (2:20-23)
- 2 Thess. 2:10-11
- Compromise with worldliness:
  - money
  - sex
- Dan. 7 spans this age

F. Levels of Application

Idols Worldwide

Beast

Prostitute

False Prophet

- **Totalitarian Power**
  - **Communism**
- **Immoral Pleasure**
  - **Corrupt business**
  - **Corrupt sexuality**
- **Propaganda**

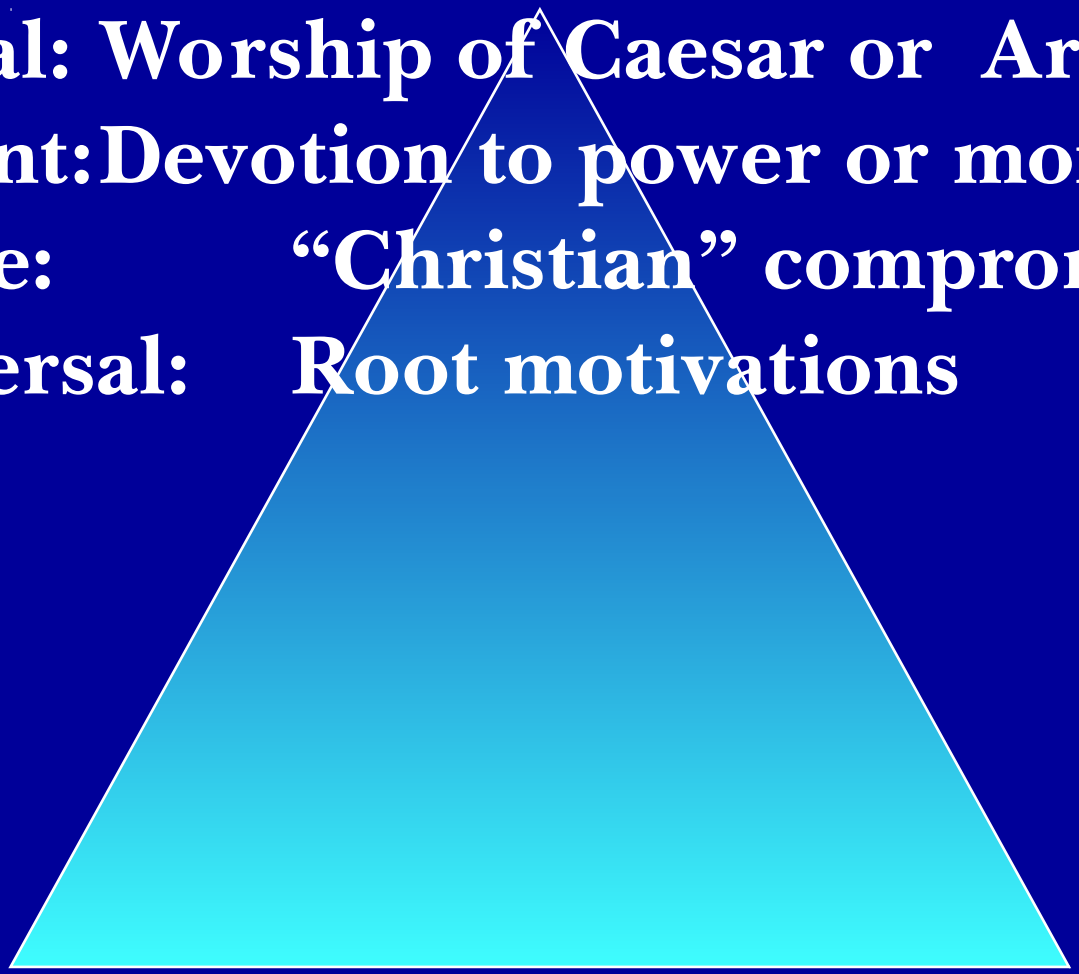
Revealing Contrasts

- **God vs. Satan: Transcendence**
- **Christ vs. Beast: Power**
- **Bride vs. Harlot: Worship**

- **False religion**
- **Human autonomy**
- **Liberation**
- **Salvation through technique and state**
- **Integrate native religions**
- **Money, pleasure**

Forms of Idolatry

- **Literal: Worship of Caesar or Artemis**
- **Blatant: Devotion to power or money**
- **Subtle: "Christian" compromises**
- **Universal: Root motivations**



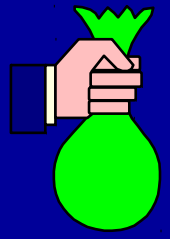
Idols in USA

Beast

- **Power**
  - **State**

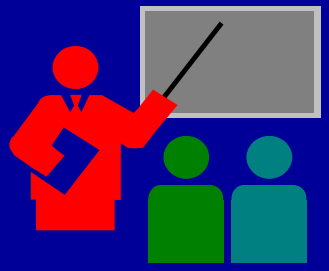
Prostitute

- **Pleasure**
  - **Leisure**

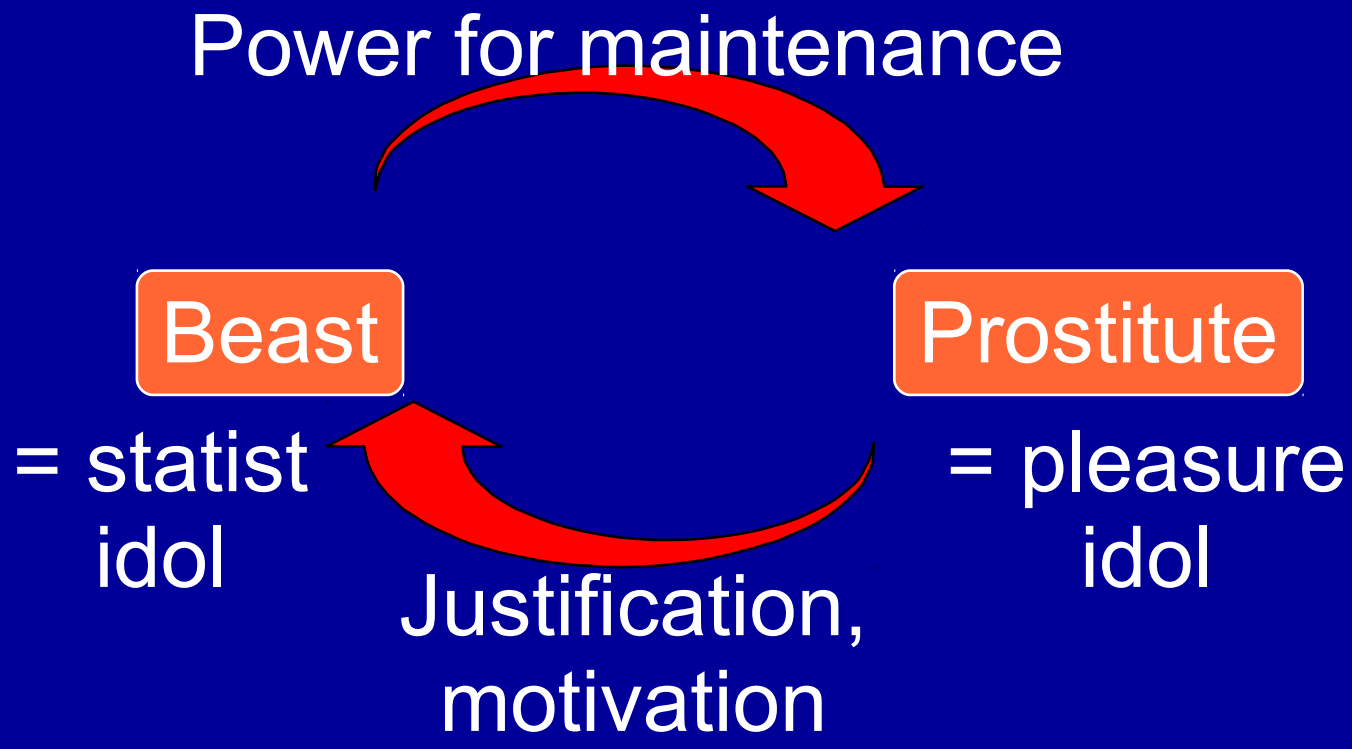


False Prophet

- **Propaganda**
  - **Education**
  - **Media**



Cooperative Evil (17:3,7)



False Prophet rationalizes (13:12-17)

Blatant and Subtle Idolatry

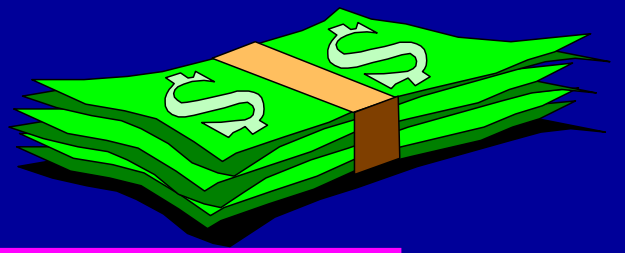
Beast

- **Statism**
- **Manipulation**
  - **–Pressuring**
  - **–Pleasing man**

Prostitute

- **Money, sex**
- **Fantasizing**
  - **–Being rich**
  - **–Sexual flirtation**

Money as Subtle Idol



- **After a tithe, greed. It's MINE.**
- **Or monk's poverty.**
- **Or self-righteous simple life-style.**
- **Or Marxism (let experts do it for me).**

Sex as Subtle Idol

- **Promiscuity: “if it feels good, do it.”**
- **Selfishness within legal boundaries**
- **Monk’s celibacy**
- **Prudery: despising the body**
- **Feminism (let experts do it for me).**

Universal Idolatry

Beast	Prostitute
Fear	Lustful desire
Passive, retreating	Active, advancing
Avoid pain	Get pleasure
At any cost	At any cost
For ME	For ME

Solution for Idolatry

- Worship Satan
- Deceptive redemptions
- Fear false power
- Lust for money
- Lust for sex

False

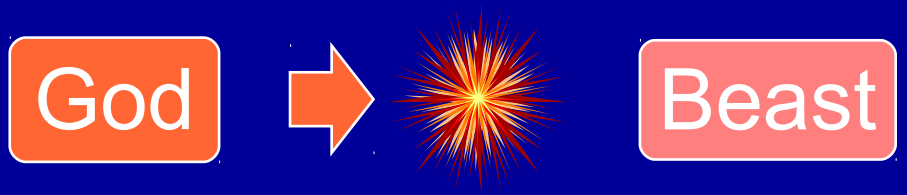
replaced by

True

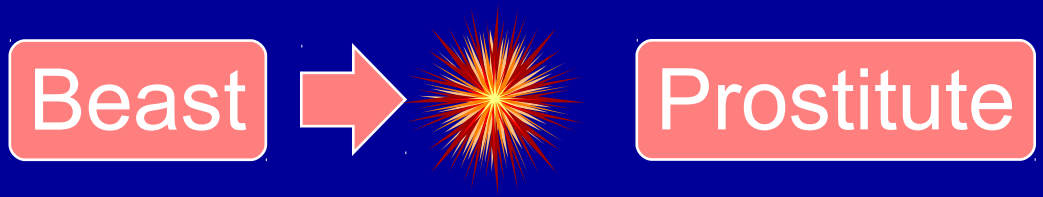
- Worship God (4)
- True redemption in the Lamb (5)
- God's Throne (22:1; 4:2)
- God's Wealth (21:21; 4:3)
- God's Marriage (19:7; 21:9)

Destruction of Idols

- **God judges idols, 15:1.**



- **Idols destroy idolaters, 17:16-17.**



Examples of Self-Destruction

- **Statism consumes wealth (communism).**
- **Self-pity needs suffering.**
- **Self-righteousness is self-willed.**
- **Self-love repels would-be lovers.**
- **God will purify you to the utmost.**

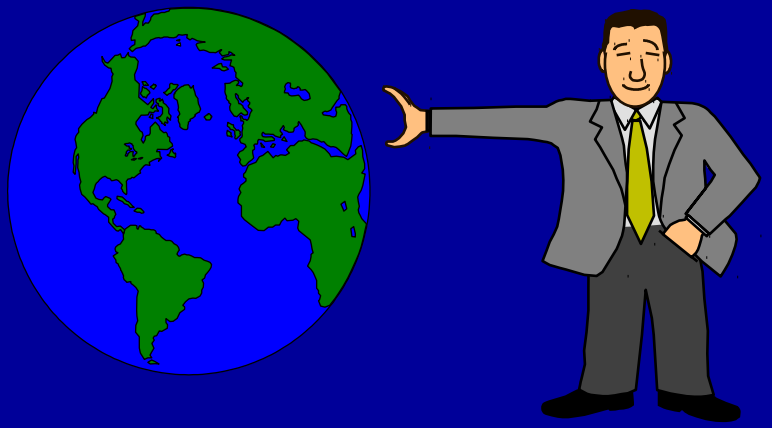
G. Truth and Error

Counterfeit Ideas

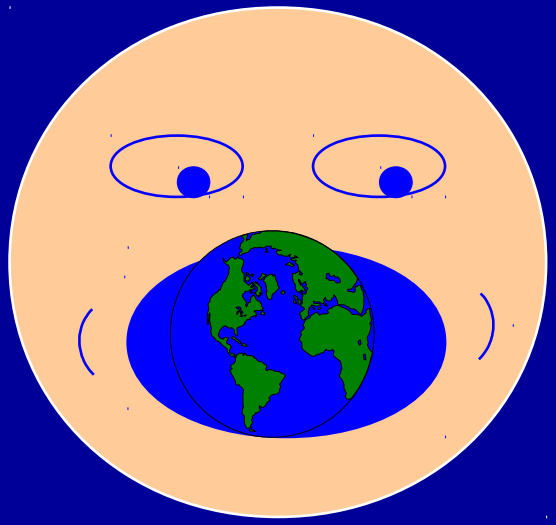
- **False ideas are counterfeits**
- **Institutionalized**
- **Containing enough truth to be plausible**
- **Containing spiritual poison**
- **Originating in Satanic deceit**
- **Useful for Christians?**

Bad Reactions to Counterfeits

- **Pure rejection**



- **Pure acceptance**



Using Counterfeit Ideas

- **Extract the truth**
- **Set in a Christian context**
- **But will we fall prey to deceit?**
- **The importance of spiritual discernment in scholarship and cultural analysis**
- **Revelation as promoting discernment**
- **Ultimate failure of the deceit**