

The Beast and the False Prophet

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Progression of 7 Cycles

◆ Commission

1. 7 seals: scouts

◆ Prosecution of war

2. 7 trumpets: effects on earth

3. 7 symbolic accounts: characters

4. 7 bowls: more effects on earth

◆ Elimination of evil

5. 7 messages about Babylon: seductress

6. white horse: power source

7. white throne: all evil

culmination

A. The Nature of the Beast



Bamberg Apocalypse

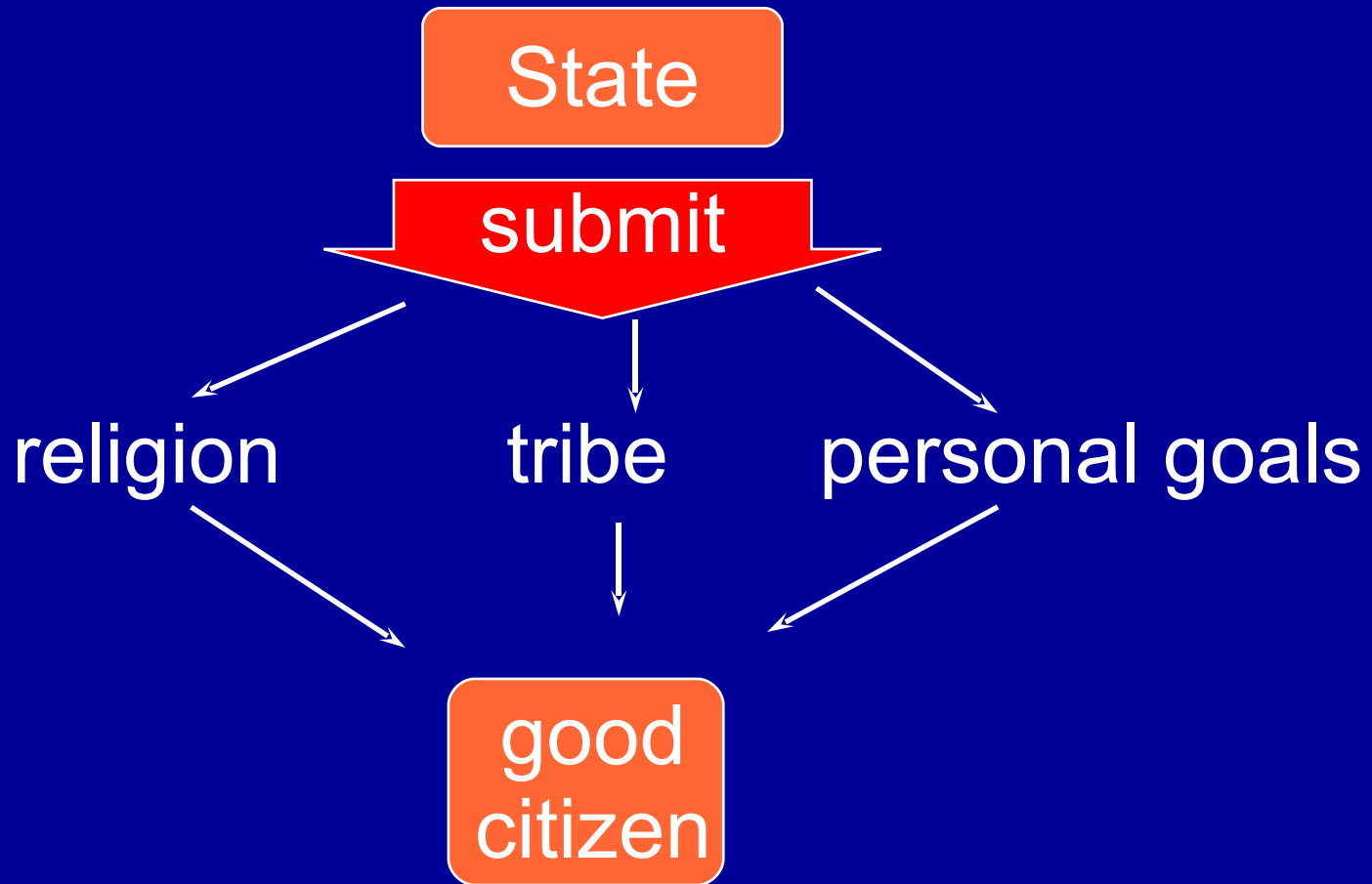
Four Views of the Beast

1. Roman Empire ◆ Roman persecution
2. Final Crisis ◆ Final persecution
3. Church History ◆ Persecution NOW,
2 Tim. 3:1,12
4. Repeated
Pattern ◆ Repeated
persecution

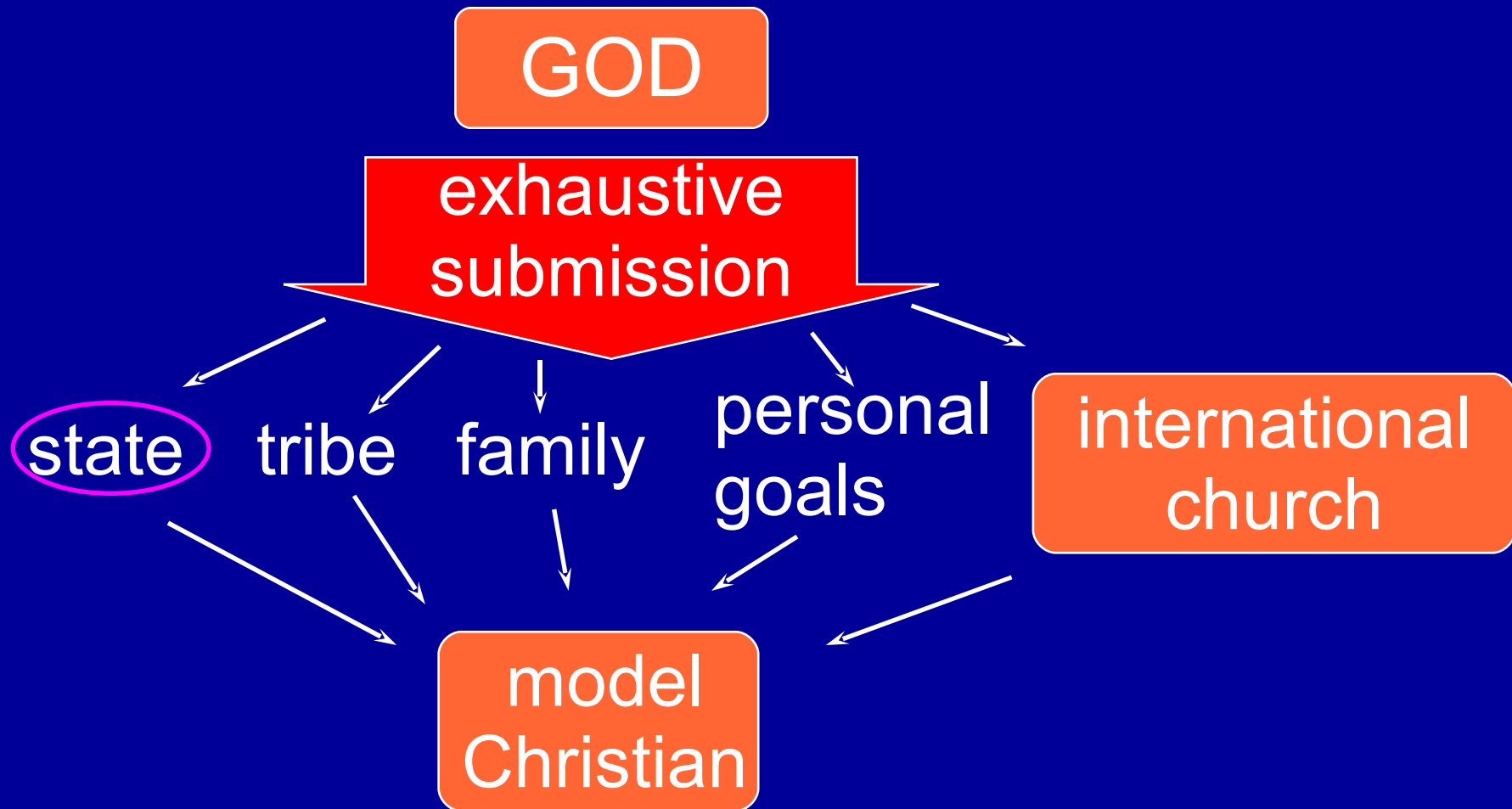
Confirming Four Views of Beast

1. **Roman Empire** ◆ **Dan. 7:7; Suetonius, *Domitian* 12.2.**
2. **Final Crisis** ◆ **2 Thess. 2:6-8**
3. **Church History** ◆ **Totalitarian aspirations**
4. **Repeated Pattern** ◆ **Dan. 7 spans this age**

Modern Totalitarian Dream



Christian Loyalties



B. The Nature of the False Prophet

Rev. 13:11-18

Two Monsters

Rev. 13:1-10

A beast
from the sea

Called
“The Beast”

Rev. 13:11-18

A beast
from the earth

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

- ◆ Promotes worship of Christ
- ◆ Leads into truth
- ◆ Works miracles
- ◆ Exercises authority of Christ

False Prophet

- ◆ Promotes worship of the Beast
- ◆ Deceives
- ◆ Counterfeit miracles
- ◆ Exercises authority of the Beast

Counterfeit Trinity

Original

- ◆ **The Father**
- ◆ **Christ
the Son**
- ◆ **Spirit**

Function

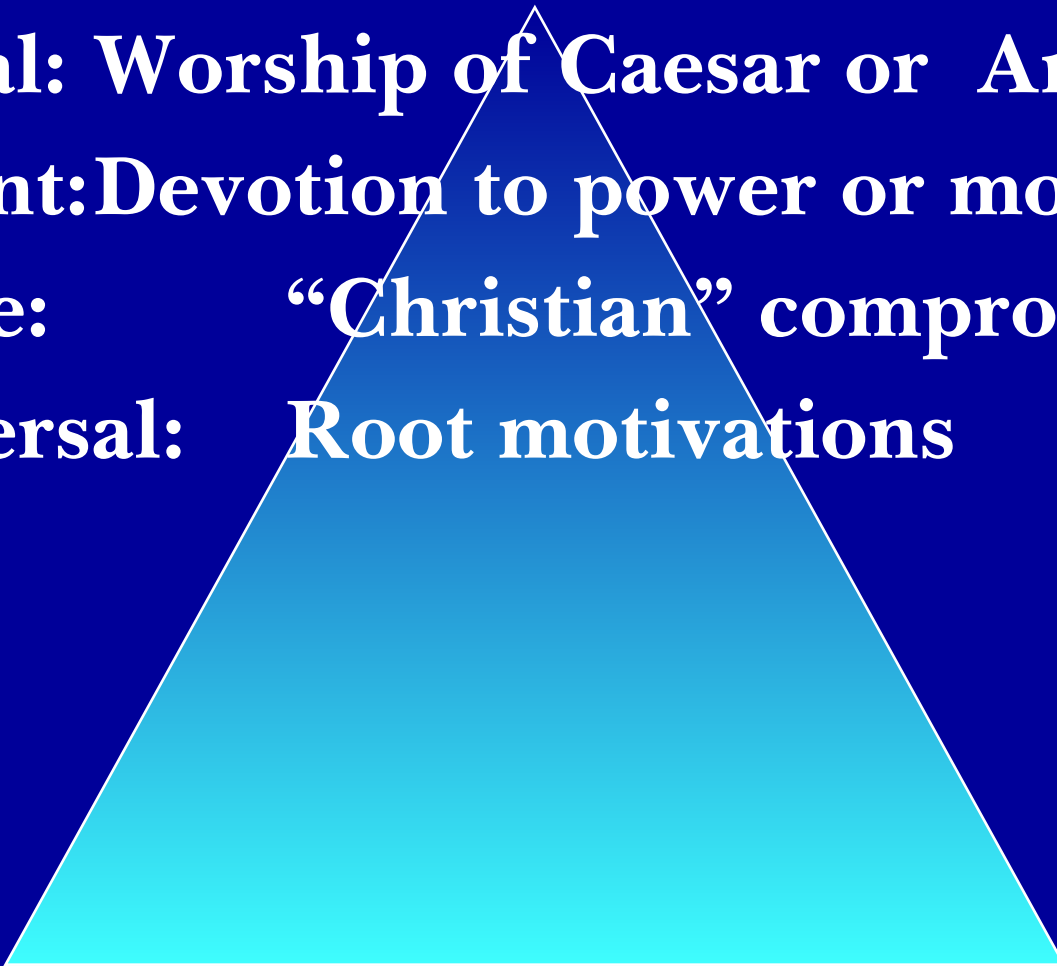
- originates**
- executes**
- witnesses**

Counterfeit

- ◆ **Dragon**
- ◆ **Beast**
- ◆ **False Prophet**

C. Levels of Application

Forms of Idolatry

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

Beast Worship Worldwide

Beast

- ◆ **Totalitarian Power**
 - **Communism**
 - **Islamic states**
 - **Other totalitarian governments**

False Prophet

- ◆ **Propaganda**
 - **From State**
 - **From Media**

The Beast in the USA

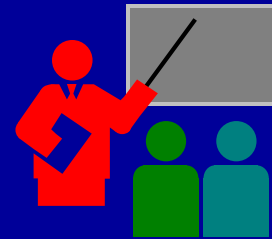
Beast

- ◆ **Power**
 - **State**
 - **Business**



False Prophet

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



Worship of the Beast in the USA

Beast

- ◆ **Statism**
- ◆ **Manipulation**
 - Pressuring
 - Pleasing man

False Prophet

- ◆ **Educate citizens (pluralism)**
- ◆ **Manipulate with words**
 - Secularism
 - Conformity

It's tempting.



Subtle Worship of Beastly Power

I obey Christ's commandments in my personal life. But ...

- ◆ **Politics and business demand realistic manipulation.**
- ◆ **Or pacifist renunciation.**
- ◆ **Or make the state into a sympathetic mother.**
- ◆ **Or Marxism (let experts do it for me).**

Universal Beast Worship

Beast

False Prophet

- ◆ Fear
- ◆ Passive, retreating
- ◆ Avoid pain
- ◆ At any cost
- ◆ For ME



Solution for Idolatry

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ◆ Worship Satan | ◆ Worship God (4) |
| ◆ Deceptive redemptions | ◆ True redemption in the Lamb (5) |
| ◆ Fear false power | ◆ God's Throne (22:1; 4:2) |

False

replaced by

True