

“Web of Deceit” Presentation Handout

The Real Story of A True Fake

Frank Abagnale was widely recognized as the best con artist, check forger, impostor, and escape artist in American history.

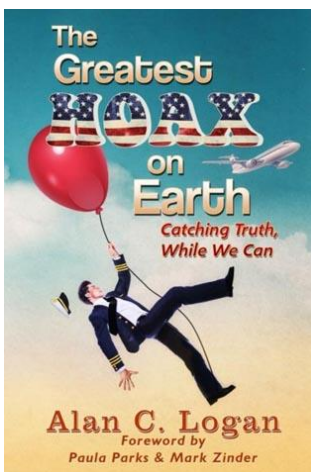
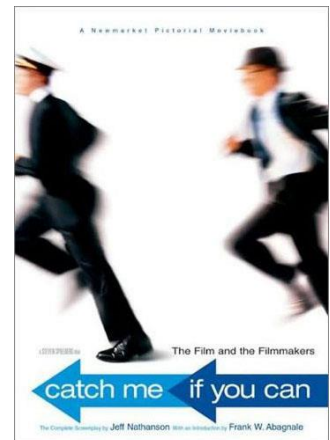
Here’s some of his claimed exploits. At age 17 he impersonated being an American Airlines pilot in New York. When 20, he again impersonated being a TWA pilot in Louisiana. At 22, Abagnale, again, dressed in a pilot’s uniform and traveled around college campuses, like the University of Arizona, passing bad checks and claiming he was there to recruit stewardesses for Pan Am.

Later in 1975, he approached a bank with an offer to speak to the bank’s staff and show them various tricks used to defraud banks. With this gig, he began a new career as a speaker and a security consultant, during which time he falsified his resume to show he had worked with the Los Angeles Police Department and Scotland Yard.

In 1977, Abagnale gave public talks where he claimed that between the ages of 16 and 21 years old, he was a doctor in a Georgia hospital for one year, an assistant state attorney general for one year in Louisiana, a sociology professor for two semesters at Brigham University, and a Pan American pilot for two years, logging over two-million air miles.

In addition, he claimed to have eluded the FBI with a daring escape from a commercial airline through the laboratory toilet bowl, while the plane was taxiing at the John F. Kennedy International Airport.

In propagating his exploits, Abagnale became popular, even appearing on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson and having a movie made in 2002 about his life by Stephen Spielberg: “Catch Me If You Can.”



That is...until his popularity became tarnished, debunked, when Irish historian Alan C. Logan researched Abagnale’s life exploit claims, publishing his findings in his 2020 book, *The Greatest Hoax on Earth: Catching Truth, While We Can*. In his book, Logan debunks most of Abagnale’s claims as either fiction, exaggerated, or inflated—a figment of Abagnale’s imagination.

Finally, Abagnale admitted on his website that some facts had been over-dramatized or exaggerated, though he was not specific about what was exaggerated or omitted about his life. Later, other journalist have independently verified that Logan’s findings were in fact true. Frank Abagnale, indeed, had created web of deceit, a deceptive twist on his life exploits.

TAKE-AWAY: Unfortunately, Frank Abagnale’s web of deception/deceit was believed by many, even by Hollywood, as they made a popular movie about his life exploits, which grossed \$352 million worldwide in box office sales, and developed a TV series following the movie.

It’s amazing how easy it is to be deceived by stories like Frank Abagnale. But there’s another story, a story even more deceptive—a web of deceit—then anything Frank Abagnale could ever “spin.” And the *real deception/deceit is, it’s real!*

Satan, God & humanity’s arch enemy, is “spinning” a “web” of deceit to trick all the world into believing his lies about God and His gospel truth to deflect worship to himself. Come on an investigative journey to uncover his web of deceit, debunking all of his deceptive lies.

A Deceptive Spiritual Battle—A Web of Deceit {*Revelation 12-14*}

▪ **Revelation 12**

- *Revelation 12-14* is the center of the book of Revelation and all of biblical history with a dominate backstory of a spiritual conflict between good and evil.
 - And the dominate characters of this spiritual conflict our Christ Jesus & Satan {*Revelation 12:3-4; Genesis 3:14, (15b)*
 - ✓ Ultimately, this battle fans out to be between Satan followers (which he works through) and God’s people after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension to heaven {*Revelation 12:6, 13-16; Genesis 3:15a*}.
 - ✓ Finally, the conflict takes an end-time turn with Satan’s final attack on God’s end-time Church/people through his followers right before Jesus’ Second Coming {*Revelation 12:17; chapter 13*}.
- **The woman** {*vv. 1-2, 4b, 5-6, 13-16*}
 - In the Bible the Holy Spirit uses the symbol of a woman to symbolically describe His Church—people of God—whether faithful/unfaithful {*Isaiah 54:6-7; Jeremiah 3:19b-20; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 5:25-26, 32; Revelation 19:7-9*}.
 - ✓ This “woman” represents both Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church as the above Scriptures teach us.
 - ❖ “Sun & moon” -> echoes Solomon’s bride [*Song of Solomon 6:10*] as well as the Sun of Righteousness (Jesus) & the New Testament {*Malachi 4:2-3; 2 Corinthians 4:6*} and the Old Testament that points forward to Jesus, like the moon reflecting the sun {*Hebrews 10:1-10 (1-4, 10)*}.
 - In *vv. 1-5*, the woman represents Old Testament Israel “bringing” the Messiah into the world.
 - In *vv. 6, 13-17*, the woman represents the New Testament Christian church.
 - ❖ “Labor...pain to give birth” -> harks back to the first Messianic promise and humanity’s experience as a result of sin {*Genesis 3:15-16*}.
 - ❖ “Garland of 12 stars” -> reminds one of the 12 tribes of Israel {*Genesis 49:1-28*} and Jesus’ 12 disciples/apostles {*Luke 6:12-16*}.
- **The red dragon** {*vv. 3-4, 7-10, 12*}
 - The Devil/Satan {*v. 9*}.
 - ✓ “Seven heads” = seem to represent the seven major kingdoms/powers Satan has worked through to oppose God and His plans/purposes as well as oppress His people—Old & New Testament {*Revelation 17:9-11*}

- ❖ Satan does his work incognito through these earthly powers:
 - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, political Rome & religious Rome
- ✓ “Ten horns” = political authorities {*Revelation 17:12*}
- ✓ “Seven diadems”/crowns = Satan’s false claim of lordship over this world {*Matthew 4:8-9; Luke 4:5-6*} and thus his working through the above powers, particularly political Rome at His birth {*Matthew 2:1-2, 16*} and His crucifixion {*John 18:28-31; 19:1, 1015-16*}.
- ✓ “His tail” = Satan’s deceptive lies/falsehoods he used to deceive one-third of the angels/stars to side with him against God and what he uses to sidetrack human beings from God, faith in Him, and/or His beautiful truth {*Isaiah 9:14-16 (15); Revelation 9:10, 19*}.
 - ❖ Stars {*vv. 3-(4a)*} = angels {*v. 9*} -> both were cast out from heaven to the earth (must be the same identity/beings)
- He fought/warred against Christ Jesus (Michael) in heaven {*vv. 7-8*}.
 - ✓ One-third of the angels in heaven sided with Satan.
 - ✓ His rebellion failed {*v. 8*}.
 - ✓ He along with his angels were cast out to the earth—our world {*vv. 9, 12*}.
 - ❖ The battle is now on this earth between God through His followers and Satan through His followers {*vv. 6, 13-17*}.
 - ❖ This casting down is progressive:
 - Initially it occurred something after the war in heaven started {*Genesis 3:1-5*}, though Satan still seems to have access to heaven to accuse, harass, and oppose {*Job 1:6-7; 2:1-2; Zechariah 3:(1)-2*}.
 - The final casting down—no more access to heaven, but confinement on the earth only—happened at Jesus’ death and enthronement as the rightful Ruler/King of this world {*John 12:(31)-33*}.
 - Why was this the final casting out? The real character of Satan was revealed as he killed the Son of God on Calvary. Reminding all of humanity, and the unfallen angels and worlds that he would have done this in heaven in the beginning if he could have {*Isaiah 14:12-14; John 8:42, 44*}.
 - ✓ Now, that Satan is fully and finally cast out of heaven—no more sympathy from the unfallen angels & worlds, he turns his attention to destroy God’s people in *vv. 6, 13-17*.
- **The male Child** {*vv. 2, 4b-5*}
 - Christ Jesus in incarnate humanity on this earth.
 - ✓ Throughout the Bible the prophecy of the Messiah is couched in child-birth language—God in human flesh, Immanuel, God with humanity {*Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 9:(6)-7; Matthew 1:1, 21-23; Luke 3:23; Galatians 4(4)-7*}.
 - “Rule all nations...rod of iron” = Jesus’ judicial role as the true Messianic Leader/King of this world {*Psalms 2:7-9; Revelation 19:15-16*}.
 - “Caught up” = Christ Jesus’ ascension back to heaven after His resurrection {*Acts 1:8-11*}.
 - ✓ When Jesus returned to heaven He was enthroned at the “righthand” of the Father—a position of authority and author of our salvation, not necessary a

literal position of sitting {*Luke 22:68-69; Acts 2:32-33, 36; 7:55-56; Hebrews 8:1-3, 6; 10:11-13 (12); 1 Peter 3:21-(22); Revelation 3:21; 5:1-14*}.

- ✓ The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost in commemoration of Jesus' enthronement-coronation in heaven as the rightful King of the universe {*Acts 2:32-33*}.
- ✓ Christ's enthronement is what ultimately casts out Satan & his evil angels from heaven {*Revelation 12:10*}.
 - ❖ Because His death, which caused the "tearing apart" {*Matthew 27:46*} of the Godhead, revealed Satan to be a liar.
 - Because Satan's lie that God (the Godhead) is a Liar who is selfish, self-centered, only caring about Himself {*Genesis 3:1b, 4-(5)*} was debunked by the self-sacrificing love of the Godhead through the incarnation of Jesus (God) into humanity and His death for sinful, undeserving, unresponsive (in general) human beings {*John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8, 10; 1 John 4:9-10, 19*}.
 - Now, Christ Jesus is recognized and worshipped as the rightful Ruler/King of the universe and the earth {*Revelation 5:1-12 (4-6a, 9b, 12a)*} where Adam relinquished his stewardship authority as the ruler of this world to Satan in the Garden of Eden {*Luke 5:5-7; John 12:31*}.
- **War on earth—"woman" in the wilderness** {*vv. 6, 13-17*}
 - In *vv. 1-5*, the woman symbolically represents Old Testament Israel—God's true people, whether Jews or Gentiles, spiritual "Jews" who were committed to God.
 - In *vv. 6, 13-17*, the woman symbolizes God's New Testament people, His Church, particularly after Christ Jesus' ascension to heaven and Satan's final casting out to this earth because of Jesus' death and enthronement in heaven.
 - Satan realized he couldn't harm Jesus anymore, but he knows how dear the Church is to Christ, so he turned his assaults against it.
 - ✓ This persecution involved:
 - ❖ Physical persecution and martyrdom
 - More than 50 million committed Christian followers (men, women & children) lost their lives for their faith in Jesus and commitment to His truth during the Dark/Middle Ages alone.
 - Sadly, Satan incited this persecution and martyrdom through the established Church of the time.
 - And we still see this type of persecution and martyrdom happening today.
 - ❖ Spiritual—a twisting of God's truth through superstition, falsehood, etc. {*v. 15*}.
 - Along with physical persecution Satan "joined" God's Church, trying to "contaminate" it through falsehoods that twist the beauty of who God is and the truths about Him in the Bible.
 - We will study this further when we unpack *Revelation 13* later.
 - Interestingly, one begins to see the word "mouth" appear in connection with/during this "time and times and half a time" period of Satan's persecution of God's Church/people—a spiritual persecution.

- It is during this Dark/Middle Ages that this spiritual persecution took more of a strong hold than in the early New Testament Church time—the time right after the apostles lived.
- That beginning apostasy bore sad, but effective fruit by the Dark/Middle Ages. We will see this next in our as we'll study *Revelation 13*.
- ✓ “Two wings...great eagle...fly into the wilderness...nourished”
 - ❖ Through persecuted, Christ didn't abandon His church to Satan's attacks.
 - ❖ He used isolated wilderness places:
 - Like the Cottian Alps that border France & Italy where the Waldensians lived.
 - Other followers were spared by fleeing to the New Country, the North America continent, particularly what is now the United States today.
 - Another way God's protection in these wilderness areas is through His using the “earth” to “swallow up” Satan's “flood” of persecution against God's Church/people.
 - The idea of the “earth/land” will become important as we unpack *Revelation 13* next in our study.
 - ❖ Christ Jesus also “nourished”—kept His Church “alive” despite Satan's attacks, keeping the enemy from totally annihilating it.
 - ❖ And this Dark/Middle Ages' persecution was also limited by Him, described in the language of “a time and times and half a time.”
 - In *v. 6*, this time period is referred to as 1,260 years.
 - It's a period of time John the Revelator says God “feed” or “nourished” {*v. 14*} His people during Satan's persecution.
 - This time period has been understood by many commentators as the time from 538 AD to 1,260 AD.
 - This limiting of Satan's attacks is realized through God using the “earth” to “swallow up” Satan's persecution and spiritual twisting of God's truth.

TAKE-AWAY: Though physical persecution and martyrdom was fierce during the Dark/Middle Ages, a strange change also took place in God's Church—Satan “joined” the church!

Superstitions, falsehoods, paganism, etc. gradually became mainstream in the established, dominate church during this time. This is revealed in different language that begins to unfold in at the end of *chapter 12* and into *chapter 13*.

▪ **Revelation 13**

○ **Subversive Spiritual Attack**

- As *chapter 12* ends one discovers a surprising, dichotomous statement in *v. 17*.
 - ✓ Not surprising is the dragon's (Satan) attitude toward the woman
 - ❖ He was enraged with God's Church/people because he hates Christ Jesus with an uncontrollable passion-rage!
 - ✓ What's surprising and dichotomous is how he responds to his rage -> “...He (Satan) “went to” (better translation: “went away”) “to make war with the rest of her offspring (remnant).”

- ❖ Throughout *chapter 12* up to *verse 15 & 16*, Satan has been on an offensive, frontal attack against God and His Church/people trying to persecute and/or destroy (martyr) them.
 - ❖ Now..., he “backs off” and goes away (“went away”) to make his war.
 - ❖ His tactics have changed. The frontal attacks (they still happen) have become more deceptive/deceitful!
 - ❖ Whatever his new tactic(s) is it involves Satan “joining” God’s Church to subvert/destroy it through an “inside job”—an internal spiritual web of deceit, no one is expecting.
 - ❖ This “inside job” is fully unmasked in *Revelation 13*.
- **A false trinity/godhead** {*Revelation 12, 13 & 16:13-14*}
- Satan forms/creates a false trinity/godhead as he “joins” the Church, through which he “spins” his web of deceit from the inside out.
 - ✓ His tactic is now a subversive, non-frontal, deceptive/deceitful attack that undermines the power of God in His Church/people and tarnishes His Church in the eyes of the onlooking culture/society around it.
 - **Red dragon** = Satan/devil {*Revelation 12:7-(9), 10, 12*}
 - ✓ Mimics/counterfeits God the Father and His work, but with a twisted bent.
 - ❖ Though God the Father is loving, caring, self-giving, self-sacrificing, allows freedom of choice, etc., Satan is the opposite: coercive, controlling, demanding, destructive, self-centered, self-serving, etc.
 - ❖ The hideousness of Satan’s counterfeit in mimicking God the Father, is he deceives human beings into believing God is like him.
 - ❖ We know what Satan is really like because of what we already have observed in *Revelation 12* plus what is revealed in the character of the sea beast in *Revelation 13*.

God the Father	Satan
▪ Dwelling place in heaven { <i>Rev 4:1-2; 5:3, 11, 13; 11:13; 19:1</i> }	▪ Dwelling place once in heaven { <i>Rev 12:7-9; Isaiah 14:12-15</i> }
▪ Throne in heaven { <i>Rev 4:2-6, 9-10; 5:1, 7, 13; 19:4; 20:11; 22:1</i> }	▪ Throne on earth { <i>Rev 2:13; 13:2</i> }
▪ Worshipped { <i>Rev 4:8-11; 14:7; 15:3-4; 11:16; 19:4</i> }	▪ Worshipped also { <i>Rev 13:4</i> }
▪ Gives His power, throne & authority to Christ Jesus { <i>Rev 2:27; 3:21; 22:1</i> }	▪ Gives his power, throne & authority to the sea beast { <i>Rev 13:2-4</i> }
▪ Pours out His righteous wrath against rebellious humanity { <i>Rev 11:18; 15:1; 19:15</i> }	▪ Pours out his rage against God’s people { <i>Rev 12:12, 17</i> }
▪ Lives & reigns forever { <i>Rev 4:9; 11:15</i> }	▪ Destroyed forever { <i>Rev 20:9-10</i> }

- ✓ Satan playing God shouldn’t surprise us. He’s wanted to be God from sometime in the beginning before the creation of human beings {*Isaiah 14:12-14*}.
 - ❖ As *Revelation 13* opens in *v.1*, there are two ways to interpret/translate this verse, either: “I” - meaning John the Revelator or “he” - meaning the dragon.

- Most early Greek manuscripts use “he stood” not “I stood,” indicating it’s the dragon/Satan, not John, who is standing on the seashore as the sea beast arises from the sea or he (Satan) summons it from the sea.
- The “he” translation would fit the mindset of the dragon (Satan) who desires to be like God, be God, so his actions imitate God as Creator-God in *Genesis 1*.

➤ **Sea Beast** {*Revelation 13:1-10, 18; 16:13-14*}

✓ Mimics/counterfeit of Christ Jesus

- ❖ This shows at the end of time there will be a massive counterfeit of Jesus Christ and His salvation activities.

Jesus Christ	Sea Beast
▪ Began ministry coming from water { <i>Luke 3:21-23</i> }	▪ Comes from water to begin its activities { <i>Rev 13:1</i> }
▪ Like God the Father { <i>John 10:30, 32-33; 14:9</i> }	▪ Like the dragon—7 heads & 10 horns { <i>Rev 12:3 -> 13:1</i> }
▪ Is Michael (means: “who is like God?”) { <i>Rev 12:7 -> Joshua 5:13-15; Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9</i> }	▪ Addressed as: “who is like the beast” { <i>Rev 13:4</i> }
▪ Receives authority & throne from the Father { <i>Luke 1:32; Rev 2:7; 3:21</i> }	▪ Receives authority & throne from the dragon { <i>Rev 13:2, 4</i> }
▪ Has 7 horns { <i>Rev 5:6</i> }	▪ Has 10 horns { <i>Rev 13:2-4</i> }
▪ Ministry lasted for 3 ½ years	▪ Activity lasts for prophetic 42 months/3 ½ years { <i>Rev 13:5</i> }
▪ Slain & resurrected { <i>Rev 5:6; 13:8</i> }	▪ Slain & resurrected { <i>Rev 13:3</i> }
▪ Received worship & universal authority after resurrection { <i>Matthew 28:18</i> }	▪ Receives worship & universal authority after deadly wound is healed { <i>Rev 13:3-4, 8</i> }
▪ Focus of salvation activity is “every nation, tribe, tongue & people” { <i>Rev 5:9; 10:11; 14:6</i> }	▪ Focus of deceptive activities is “every tribe...people...tongue...nation” { <i>Rev 13:7 -> 17:15</i> }

✓ Description/Activities:

- ❖ “Beast” = a political power {*Daniel 7:2-3, 23*}
- ❖ “Sea” = stormy social and political conditions out of which political powers can arise and/or evil powers come to attack God’s people {*Isaiah 17:12-14a; Revelation 17:15*}
- ❖ “Ten horns” = divisions of political/Roman Empire and the nations that sprang up after its demise {*Daniel 7:23-24a*}
- ❖ “Ten crowns” = royal crowns of political authority {*Daniel 7:23-(24a)*}
 - This is the same as the red dragon in *Revelation 12:3*, reminding the reader that this beast reflects the dragon in characteristics and attitude, like Jesus does for God the Father {*John 10:30*}.
- ❖ “Seven heads” = the powers used by Satan to persecute God’s people throughout history {*Revelation 17:9-11*}.
 - A suggested list by commentators is Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, political Rome & religious Rome

- This is the same as the red dragon in *Revelation 12:3*, reminding the reader that this beast reflects the dragon in characteristics and attitude, like Jesus does for God the Father *{John 10:30; 14:9}*.
- ❖ “Blasphemous name” = the divine titles the beast claims, thus claiming to be God *{John 10:31-33}* or a religious power in opposition to God & His people *{Daniel 7:8, 24-(25)}*
 - Blasphemy = a human being claiming to be God *{John 10:33}*
 - He blasphemes God’s name, His tabernacle & those who dwell in it. Since, Christ Jesus ministries as High Priest on behalf of His people in heaven, working out their salvation, this beast power denies Jesus’ salvation work and substitutes a human/earthly system of offering salvation and forgiveness through human priests.
 - This blasphemy against God continues for 42 months (1,260 prophetic “years”—the same time frame as the “woman” fleeing the dragon’s (Satan) persecution in *Revelation 12:6, 14*.
 - These anti-God activities mirror the activities of the “little horn” power of *Daniel 7:8, 23-(25)*.

Little Horn – <i>Daniel 7</i>	Sea Beast – <i>Revelation 13</i>
▪ Mouth speaks great, pompous things <i>{7:8, 11, 20}</i>	▪ Mouth speaking great things <i>{13:5}</i>
▪ Wages war with the saints & overcomes them <i>{7:21, 25}</i>	▪ Wages war with the saints & overcomes them <i>{13:7}</i>
▪ Exercises power & authority for a time, times & half of time <i>{7:25}</i>	▪ Exercises power & authority for a time, times & half of time <i>{13:5}</i>

- ❖ “Leopard..., bear..., lion -> reminds one of the four beast-powers of *Daniel 7:2-8*
 - The beast-powers’ *Daniel 7* similarities/descriptions are in reverse order, reminding the reader the beast-power appears in history when the nations that sprang up after the demise of political Rome exercised political power.
 - Clearly, corresponding to the “little horn” power of *Daniel 7* that arises from/among the ten horns *{Daniel 7:23-25}*.
- ❖ “Power..., throne..., authority” is delegated to the beast by Satan.
 - This enthronement scene copies Christ Jesus’ enthronement in *Revelation 5*.
 - As the dragon gives his throne and authority to the sea beast, he’s investing it as his co-regent and representative on earth, the same as the Father did for Jesus.
 - Clearly, this beast-power/system is trying to take the place of Jesus on earth in the eyes of the people. And the dragon (Satan) is helping him to do it!
- ❖ One head “mortally wounded” & “healed”
 - Somewhere in history one the sea beast’s heads suffers a deadly wound, causing the death of the beast.
 - But this wound is eventually healed with the beast restored to life.

- This experience mirrors/mimics the death and resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, the same Greek word is used for the beast's deadly wound and Christ Jesus' death in *Revelation 5:6*.
- However, there is a difference between their two death "blows"—the beast suffers because of its attitude of brutal aggression/persecution *13:9-10*, but Jesus died undeservingly for our sin, not His {*John 3:14-17 (16)*; *Revelation 5:6-7, 9*}.
- This life, death, and resurrection experience of the sea beast are defined in *Revelation 17:8* as: "was, and is not, and is about to come," which stands in opposition to the divine title of God: "who is, and was, and who is to come" {*Revelation 1:4, 8; 4:8*}.
- The "resurrection" of the sea beast causes great amazement, astonishment among the earth's inhabitants. In their admiration, they worship both the sea beast and the dragon, instead of the Godhead—Father, Jesus & the Holy Spirit.

✓ Identification:

- ❖ *Chapter 13* shows this power is the successor of political Rome and exercises its authority and power during the prophetic 42-months, 1,260 "years," or time, times & half a time.
 - This time frame fits the Dark/Medieval/Middle Ages when the state Church dominated politics and religion, persecuting anyone who disagreed with her.
 - The beginning of this period would be around 538 AD until 1798 AD when the events of the French Revolution & Napoleon toppled this church-political power.
 - Thus, in a reaction to this Church's state-instituted religion and iron-fisted dominance was replaced by a human-centered, godless, materialistic life focus/outlook, which our culture still struggles with today.
- ❖ In addition to this church-state power religiously dominating the Western world, it also claimed the pope was its head, with the position and prerogatives of God, thus he and the priests were able to forgive sins.
 - "We [the popes] hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty" {*Pope Leo XIII – Encyclical Letter, June 20, 1894*}.
 - "Seek where you will, through heaven and earth, and you will find but one created being who can forgive the sinner.... That extraordinary being is the priest the Catholic priest" {*Michael Muller – The Catholic Priest, p. 78*}.
- ❖ This sea beast-power—church-state power—is the **Roman Catholic Church**.
 - Please understanding this prophetic identification is not meant to demean any of the sincere Catholic believers/members!
 - The Bible is addressing a broken, out-of-control system, which knowingly or unknowingly has supplanted the beautiful character of Christ Jesus and His gospel truth.

TAKE-AWAY: According to *Revelation 13*, the Catholic Church will have a resurgence in religious and political power sometime in the future—the time of the end particularly, right before Jesus’ Second Coming. This is why John uses present and future tense verbs to describe these activities of the sea beast (Catholic Church during the time right before Jesus’ Second Coming).

This healing of it’s deadly wound is also revealed in the activity of the third power of the demonic trinity/godhead—the earth beast *{Revelation 13:11-17}*.

- **Earth Beast** *{Revelation 13:11-17}*
 - ✓ Mimics/counterfeit of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit	Earth Beast
▪ Called “Spirit of truth” – guiding people to salvation <i>{John 16:13}</i>	▪ Called “false prophet” – deceiving people <i>{Rev 16:13; 19:20; 20:10}</i>
▪ Directs people to worship Jesus <i>{John 16:13-14}</i>	▪ Promotes sea beast & directs people to worship it <i>{Rev 13:12, 15}</i>
▪ Exercises authority of Christ Jesus <i>{John 16:13-14}</i>	▪ Exercises authority of sea beast <i>{Rev 13:12}</i>
▪ Performs miraculous signs <i>{Acts 4:30-31}</i>	▪ Performs miraculous signs <i>{Rev 13:13; 16:13-14; 19:20}</i>
▪ Came down in fire from heaven at Pentecost <i>{Acts 2:1-4}</i>	▪ Brings fire down from heaven <i>{Rev 13:15}</i>
▪ Gives life & breath of life <i>{Romans 8:11}</i>	▪ Gives life & breath of life to sea beast’s image <i>{Rev 13:16}</i>
▪ Slain & resurrected <i>{Rev 5:6; 13:8}</i>	▪ Slain & resurrected <i>{Rev 13:3}</i>
▪ Applies seal of God on foreheads <i>{2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; Rev 7:1-3}</i>	▪ Applies mark of the beast on hands or foreheads <i>{Rev 13:16}</i>
▪ Focus of salvation activity is “every nation, tribe, tongue & people” <i>{Rev 5:9; 10:11; 14:6}</i>	▪ Focus of deceptive activities is “every tribe...people...tongue...nation” <i>{Rev 13:7 -> 17:15}</i>

- ✓ Description/Activities:
 - ❖ “Another beast”
 - Means = “another of the same kind” that is “savage” like the sea beast.
 - John the Revelator reminds us this earth beast is of the same kind—character, attitude, etc.—as the sea beast, like the Holy Spirit in relation to Jesus.
 - ❖ “Earth”
 - The combination of the words “earth” and “sea” signify a worldwide scope of activities and influence *{Revelation 10:12; 12:12}*.
 - ❖ “Two horns like a lamb”
 - While the sea beast had a terrifying appearance this earth beast has a lamb-like, harmless appearance.
 - It has two lamb-like horns while the sea beast has 10 monstrous horns.
 - Since the symbol of a lamb is used for Jesus in the book of Revelation, this beast-power is “Christ-like” in appearance and friendly (at least in the beginning) to God’s people.

- ❖ “Spoke like a dragon”
 - This beast-power is deceptive—it displays a dragon-like/satanic spirit as it “speaks.”
 - It’s speech is deceptive and seductive like the serpent in the Garden of Eden {*Genesis 3:1-5*}.
 - As true prophets are “mouthpieces” for God this earth beast is a mouthpiece for the dragon/Satan and the sea beast. This false prophet claims to speak for God but actually draws people away from God.
 - *Vv. 12-17* elaborate on this beast’s speech and how it’s instrumental in inducing the whole world to worship the sea beast—helping to heal it’s deadly wound.
 - We’ll address this in our next presentation—*Forever 05*.
- ❖ “Exercises all the authority...”
 - When John the Revelator begins to describe this earth beast’s activities, he shifts from past tense verbs to present tense verbs, bringing his readers to the closing days of earth’s history.
 - Truly, this power is a mimic of the Holy Spirit, which points humanity to Jesus. This power points humanity to the sea beast that tries to take the place of Jesus.
 - The sea beast’s authority was a coercive power that the Medieval/Catholic Church used to impose upon people unbiblical doctrines and practices. And whoever didn’t embrace these teachings were persecuted or martyred.
 - This leading the whole world to worship the sea beast is done through miraculous signs {*vv. 13-14*} and finally coercion {*vv. 15-17*}. We’ll discuss this in more detail in our next presentation—*Forever 05*.
 - It’s greatest sign is bringing fire down from heaven {*v. 13*}, which mimics Elijah’s experience on Mount Carmel {*1 Kings 18:20-40*} and the Day of Pentecost {*Acts 2:1-4*}.
 - This falling fire fell on God’s altar/people was the right/true. In the end-time the fire falls on Satan’s “altar”/people through the earth beast’s activities—the wrong altar/people.
- ✓ Identification:
 - ❖ While the first beast arose from the sea/waters—stormy & political conditions after the demise of the Roman Empire/populated areas {*Revelation 17:15*}—this beast arises from the earth signifying more peaceful conditions/less populated area.
 - This is the same “earth” that in *Revelation 12:14-16* saved the “woman” (God’s true Church/people) from the dragon’s (Satan) physical persecution and spiritual deceptions/deceit.
 - This friendly (at least in the beginning) power appears sometime after the Dark/Medieval/Middle Ages.
 - ❖ While the sea beast has a long history this earth beast-power has a short history—a new “player” on the scene of this world’s history.
 - This beast arises to power around the time the sea beast receives its deadly wound during the French Revolution.

- This earth beast is an end-time world power.
- ❖ There is only one world power that fits this description: the ***United States of America***.

What Now? What Do We Do?

- Our only hope!
 - The Apostle Paul reminds us, we don't wrestle against "flesh and blood" (mere humans) in our spiritual warfare on this earth.
 - We actually wrestle against satanic powers—Satan & his evil angels—who hate us with rage because we as human beings are made in the image of God (who He hates worse) and for a spiritual commitment to Jesus through faith.
 - And in this spiritual battle there is no way we'll be able to stand against our arch enemy (Satan) in our own human strength and wisdom!!
 - We can only overcome as we rest by faith in the grace-power of Christ Jesus as our God, Savior & Lord in our end-time great controversy battle against evil!
 - This is why John the Revelator proclaims: ***"...They overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death"*** {[Revelation 12:11](#)}.
 - And the Apostle Paul quotes Jesus' promise to him, which is a promise for us too: ***"My (Jesus) grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness"*** {[2 Corinthians 12:9](#)}.

Further Commentary/Research/Study Resources

- ***Andrews Study Bible*** ~ Andrews University Press, Berrien Springs, MI
 - Though it's a study Bible and not a commentary it does have some very helpful biblical insights into the book of Revelation.
- ***Revelation of Jesus Christ: Commentary on the Book of Revelation*** ~ Ranko Stefanovic
 - An academic, deep, thorough commentary with great Old Testament references for understanding the background and interpretation of the book of Revelation.
- ***Plain Revelation: A Reader's Introduction to the Apocalypse*** ~ Ranko Stefanovic
 - As the title and subtitle suggest this book is a baby/mini version of Dr. Stefanovic's huge commentary of the book of Revelation.
 - Though a "boiled-down version the reader will find this smaller version very, very helpful and probably all one will generally need to help interpret the book of Revelation.
- ***Revelation*** ~ Sigve K. Tonstad
 - Dr. Tonstad has an uncanny way of "pulling" from the biblical text the spiritual meaning and gospel application for seeing God and His beauty and how live life as a result though it's still academic in nature.

LIVING CHOICE: Will you rest in Jesus' grace-power in your spiritual battle against your arch enemy, Satan, in this end-time of prophet history, as he tries to crush and/or deceive you?