

Persian, the Grecian and the ROMAN. The fourth beast had ten horns, and from it proceeded a new power, "Speaking great things." "Great words against the Most High," wearing "out the saints of the Most High," who were to be under its power for "a time, times and the dividing of time," or a prophetic year, years, and a half, or three and a half years. Then there should be an end of "these wonders." Then would the seals of the mystery be opened.

John the Apostle saw also in a vision from God, nearly 1800 years ago, a beast having seven heads and ten horns. It had "a mouth speaking great things," blaspheming against God." It made war against his saints" and "overcame them" "forty and two months, or three and a half years. Elsewhere he described it as "scarlet coloured," having as a rider "the great whore," with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication. This power was to tread under foot "the holy city" for 42 months or three and a half years. Two witnesses should testify in the cause of God for 1260 days in sackcloth, or three and a half years. The persecuted one was to have a place prepared of God, and to be fed in the wilderness for "a time, times and a half," 1260 days, or three and a half years.

What is meant by this prophetic imagery? the Book of Revelation is manifestly a symbolical history of the Christian Church in the world. It *opens* seven seals, *sounds* seven trumpets, and *pours out* seven vials; indicating developement, proclamation, judgment—when, as it is said, Rev. X. 7—"In the days of the voice of the Seventh Angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished."

"The wise" believe that we have reached the dawning of a most important era—the sixth vial is now about to be poured out upon the earth. How important, therefore is it that we should both listen to the voice of God in his word, and endeavour to compare it with his voice as uttered in the events of his Providence. What are we taught from past history compared with the Revelation of God?

1st. The Beast—Scarlet coloured—upon which the whore rode—having seven heads and ten horns, is ROME—gorgeous and bloody—corrupting—situated on seven hills, formed originally out of ten principalities or kingdoms. Rev. XVII. 3, 9, 12.—THE MAN OF SIN assuming the place of God—blaspheming his name by claiming to be "our Lord God the Pope,"—"The Vicar of Christ" darkening the human mind by depriving it of the light of the Divine Word, and murdering the people of God from age to age.

2nd. The Saints of God—the Holy City—his persecuted Church—his Holy Word, the Bible—are to be exposed to the pestilential power of this beast for "a time, times, and a half." (three and a half years)—"42 months," or "1260 prophetic days," or years of 360 days. From what period must the beginning of this be reckoned? "The wise," in past ages say from the year A.D. 606, when the Pope assumed the title and powers of "Universal Bishop." The following remarkable explanation of this question was given by one Fleming, an eminent Scottish author, about 147 years ago:—