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The Mark of the Beast

Some Startling Signs of the End

Sermon by Nathan Cohen Beskin, in Evanston, Ill., Feb. 8, 1931

I am calling your attention tonight to the thought found in the 13th chapter of Revelation beginning with the 16th verse. I shall speak some on Mussolini but first of all I want to show what the number of the beast is and then the mark of the beast. If I can find the mark I will have no trouble finding the man; if I give you a description of the uniform of a man you will have no trouble recognizing the man.

I should like to correct a mistake which is quite general; it seems to be a general conception that the number of the Antichrist is 666 but this is not so. The number 666 is a number belonging to another man and the Antichrist appropriates it; he takes away another man's possession and uses it himself.

Now first I want to give you the mark or the emblem of the beast. The beast, you will notice, is not a man but an institution, ruled by the man who has charge of the kingdom which has incorporated into it all other empires of the world. In the seventh chapter of Daniel the prophet gives his vision of the four empires of the Gentile world. He saw a lion with two wings, then he saw a bear and a leopard; then he saw a terrible beast with ten horns, and here another feature is added. A little horn comes up out of the fourth beast (the Roman Empire) "before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots."

In the 13th chapter of Revelation we are given another picture of the Antichrist and what do we find there? We find that his head is the head of a lion, his feet are the feet of a bear and the body is the body of a leopard; we find he has ten horns and seven heads; in other words we have the same panorama given in the 7th of Daniel repeated here in the 13th chapter of Revelation, with the exception that in the 7th of Daniel the Lord makes it very plain that these beasts represent four distinct kingdoms: the first, Babylon, the second, Medo-Persia, the third, Greece, and the fourth, Rome. In the 13th chapter there is one man who controls all these kingdoms; in other words he has charge of all the powers that the Gentile world ever possessed. In another place we are told that there are seven mountains and Rome is the only city in the world which is built on seven mountains. Then too, Rome at her height was called the mistress of the world. Neither Babylon nor Persia nor Greece ever achieved the height which Rome had gained, for she controlled all the powers of all these kingdoms. Now if Rome is the beast, which it is, all I have to do is to find the emblem of Rome. You would have no trouble at all to tell me what the emblem of the United States of America is, for it can be only one of two things, either the Stars and Stripes or the American Bald Eagle. What is the emblem of Rome? Webster tells us it was the fasces and the description he gives of fasces is a bundle of seven rods tied together with leather straps and through the center of these seven sticks a battle-axe. These fasces were carried before a Roman magistrate when he sat in execution of judgment; that is, when a Roman emperor or magistrate appeared in public there would always walk ahead of him a man carrying these fasces. Remember that it is a bundle of seven sticks or rods, tied together with leather straps with an axe in the center of it.

In the year 1914 the world was at peace; our good friend William Jennings Bryan, then Secretary of State, was making peace treaties and our college professors were telling us that the world had progressed too far to ever have any more wars. Prince Henry of England was having dinner on a British Man of War and while that took place an anarchist killed the rich Duke of Austria and immediately the World War broke out. Italy was in the central entente. The world allied! When the war broke out Germany declared war on Russia, France on Germany, Belgium on Germany and Austria declared war on Serbia, and Turkey on Russia. Italy stood alone—would not fight. There was an important man looming above the political horizon, an Italian but not in Italy at that time; the son of a blacksmith but he became a radical socialist for which he had been exiled. After the World War started he came back to Italy and said that Italy should not unite with Germany but with France, England and Russia, and declare war on Austria. For this advocacy he was put out of the Socialist Party and immediately after that he came out with a new newspaper, on the heading of which he had the fasces, a bundle of seven rods and the axe in the center. His enemies, making fun of him, called him a Fascist, the man who is trying to put fasces back in Italy, the man who is trying to rebuild the Roman Empire. He adopted that emblem and organized the Fascisti Party, which at first was a very small nucleus but finally it became very large.

On the very self-same day that Mussolini came out with the fasces on his newspaper, the United States of America came out with a new dime and on that dime, instead of the eagle, they put on...
the fasces, that bundle of seven sticks tied together with leather straps and with an axe in the center. If you have a new dime, look at it carefully and you will see that you have the emblem of Rome, the mark of Rome, the emblem of the Fascist party on your United States dime. You ask me, did Mussolini have anything to do with that? No. How did it get here? Fulfillment of prophecy. There is no question that this is the mark of the beast and this mark appeared simultaneously in a dozen or more places. Let me ask you to look at your new dime again and investigate the other side. You may think that is the statue of Liberty at first, but it is not. You will notice it has two wings and the statue of Liberty has no wings. It is not a woman; it is a man. It is Mercury, the Roman god of commerce. On one side we have the emblem of Rome and on the other side we have the god of Rome.

At the very self-same time that Mussolini came out with his newspaper and the United States came out with the new dime, Mr. Giannini, an Italian banker in California came out with his letter-head and on this appeared the fasces, the mark of Mussolini, the mark of Rome. Mr. Giannini is an Italian, born in San Francisco. He first became a fruit merchant and then opened up a bank. When the great earthquake took place in San Francisco, Mr. Giannini had money because his Federal Reserve System consisted of a hole in his basement which was covered with a trap door. The result was that the earthquake wrecked practically every bank but his. He took advantage of his opportunity, put a sign on his house and called it the Bank of Italy. He made fairly good progress among the Italian people. In 1915 Mr. Giannini had a hearing before the Banking Commission of California. He wanted to branch out but the Banking Commission refused to give permission. The Lehman Brothers, who had banks in Los Angeles ever since the United States occupied California, protested against Mr. Giannini opening up a branch in their city, whereupon Mr. Giannini turned to them and said, "I will buy you out." Then turning to the other bankers he said, "In just a little while there will be no other bank in California excepting my bank." They laughed at him but they gave him permission to branch out and it was then that he came out with his new letter-head. I shall not deal further with Mr. Giannini excepting to say this: Mr. Giannini today controls the greatest combination of banks with the greatest amount of money, not only in the United States, but in the whole world. But the banks now go under three names—the Bank of Italy, The Bank of Italy in California, and the Bank of America, and all are controlled by a holding corporation which is called Bancitaly. The three largest banks in the world are, The City National of New York, The Chase National of New York, and the Bank of Italy. Some time ago I was speaking about this in Portland, Oregon, and they laughed at me and said, "He has never come here." The very next morning the newspaper came out with the statement that The Bank of Italy had bought out every State Bank in the State of Oregon. Today there is not a bank in Oregon which is not controlled by The Bank of Italy.

Andrew Mellon, the third richest man in the world, is shivering in his boots and trying to get a combination of banks because he knows the Bank of Italy will swallow every bank unless they combine. The Lehman Brothers Bank which was the greatest bank in Los Angeles has scratched out the word. Lehman, and over it is written, The Bank of Italy. Wife and I had our money in a bank in Long Beach and one day when I went to set a new filler I found the words. Morris Trust Bank, scratched out and in place was written, The Bank of Italy. I went home and said to my wife, "Never will I hold money in a Bank of Italy," and we drew it out. The Bank of Italy controls most of the chain stores in America. A man in Phoenix, Arizona, whom I know owned a grocery store and the Posly Wigel firm came along and bought his business and his name. Who was behind that? The Bank of Italy. I know of a man who borrowed money from the Bank of Italy, and when the time came he was unable to pay back the loan. He went to the farm and labored in his grape vineyard, hoping to sell the fruit and thus be able to pay the loan. He put the fruit on the train, but in the course of shipment they side-tracked his car-load and instead of getting anything for the grapes he got his bill in red—he had to pay the freight and his property, worth a quarter of a million dollars, went into the Bank of Italy for a song. Who made their side-track that fruit? The Bank of Italy. It is the largest holding, the largest banking and the largest financial institution in the world. Look at your Hummable car, if you have the latest model, and you will find the fasces mark on it. I look at your Federal milk and you will find the same fasces mark on that. Now comes the startling statement that the American Society of Engineers have adopted the fasces as their emblem. I have a list of several hundred commodities in America which bear the fasces mark. You ask, "Do you think Mussolini is the beast? Do you think he is the Antichrist?" I say "No," "Who is he then?" I believe he is the John the Baptist of the Antichrist. There is a holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. There is also an unholy trinity: the devil, the Antichrist, and the false prophet. Before the Son of God came in His power there came a man before Him who prepared the way for the Christ. Mussolini having the mark of the beast, the mark of the Antichrist, is preparing the way for the Antichrist. Mussolini not only controls Italy, as you will notice, but other countries also. He took a Mohammedan king, Zog, from a Mohammedan country, made a Catholic out of him, and made him king of Albania. Is Mussolini such a good Catholic? No. He was arrested in Italy at one time for making speeches against the Pope. Then why is he so strong for the Catholics? To accomplish his own end. He has appropriated the emblem of Rome. What for? Preparing the way for the Antichrist.

Now let us turn to the number of the beast; his number is 666. On the Pope's crown is found this inscription, Vicarius fidei, the Substitute of the Son of God. Add together the Roman numerals in this inscription, and you will have the number of the beast, 666.

In Hebrew the name of the Pope of the Roman church is the name which means a Roman and that spells in Hebrew 666. In Greek it means the Latin kingdom and it is 666. Now the Pope is not the Antichrist but he has the number 666 and the Antichrist will take the Pope's number: he will claim to be a follower of the Pope. What for? To gain his own ends. So you find that while Mussolini is using the Catholic church for his own end, he does not answer to the description. The Pope is not the Antichrist. It couldn't be Emil Pasha of Turkey for he is not using the Pope for his benefits; it couldn't be Stalin of Russia, for he is fighting the Pope. Who is it then? It is someone who claims to be the friend of the Pope, someone who claims to use his influence to further the cause of Catholicism; one who is using the Catholic church as well as any other church possible, for his own means and powers. Who is that man? He must be a great statesman, he must be a man of great eloquence, a great scientist, a great religious influence, and a great dictator. Who is he?

I believe it is the Black Pope. Who is the Black Pope? He is the man who
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dresses in black. Whenever you find a picture of the Pope of Rome sitting in his sacred conclave, you find that all of his associates, including the Pope himself, are dressed in white, but there is one man beside him who is always dressed in black. He holds greater authority, has greater power and controls more kings and nations than any other man in the world. His name is Ledochowski. Perhaps you have never heard of him, but if you will go to your encyclopedia you will find out who Ledochowski is. He is the General of the Society of Jesus. I will give you a different name which you will recognize—the Jesuits. They are not Catholics. As a matter of fact they were excommunicated by the church of Rome but they came back three times until today they have stronger power than ever before. They were organized in the time of Martin Luther. What for? To combat Protestantism, as a side issue, but the main issue, to keep intact the whole Roman empire which is after all, only a political movement. The encyclopedia tells us that there are five thousand Jesuit priests in America and about sixty thousand laymen. These laymen are the secret police for the Jesuits. They control everything. They get their men into the Protestant ministry and everywhere to gain their ends. The head of this people now is Ledochowski. You will notice he has a Polish name but he is a mixture of races and creeds, and answers the description of the 13th chapter of Revelation.

When I was a boy I read in my First Reader the fable of a certain man who was standing beside a tree and as he looked at it he just laughed and laughed. They asked him what he was laughing about and he said, “I have been thinking that if all the trees became one tree and all their woodsmen became one woodsman and all the axes one axe and all the rivers one river, and then if the great big woodsman should come to the great big tree, and it should fall into that great big river, wouldn’t it make a great big splash?” And this is exactly what will happen today. All the grocery stores are becoming one grocery store; all the banks are becoming one big bank, and all the governments are rapidly becoming one government. All the kingdoms are becoming one kingdom; all churches are becoming one church. The Church of England has already adopted the confessional in their new prayer book. I know Parliament protested against it but they are using it in spite of the protest. They are already worshiping relics. I have a picture of an Episcopal minister holding a silk pillow and on the pillow is a gold box. As he walks by, the faithful are kneeling and worshiping something in that box and what do you think it is? Two hairs of St. Alban’s whiskers. Think of that in a Protestant church!

What did Bishop Stewart say at a coronation service? He said, “Protestantism is on the verge of bankruptcy and unless we come to the fountain head we will be bankrupt.” Do you know what he meant by the fountain head? The Pope. How about the Federal Council of Churches? I do not know how it is in this city but I know of some places where you cannot build a church unless you have permission from the Federal Council of Churches. A Quaker minister friend of mine in Portland, Oregon, told me that they were crowded out of their former church; they got the money together and decided to build. He had purchased the lot and then went to the Building Committee to get the permit. The Building Inspector said, “You go to the Council of Churches.” “But what I have to do with them? I do not belong to them nor do I need their help,” the minister said. But he was told to go so he went. They asked him where he wanted to build and when he told them they said, “No, you cannot build on that corner. There are three churches near there now,” and they proceeded to designate a location where they would grant him permission to build his church. He said, “But I don’t own any property there and I have no members there. It is not suitable.” They said, “Build there or you don’t build at all.” And he didn’t build. Yes, all churches are becoming one church. We will all be united and then there will appear one great big woodsman who will swallow up all the churches, all the banks, all the grocery stores and all the manufactories. He will be a great man—the Antichrist, and when he is revealed there will be trouble. We shall have tribulation such as the world has never seen. I shiver at the thought of it. I read of the Spanish Inquisition, of a man who refused to accept the eucharist. They forced it upon him, but he pushed it away and knocked it down. The first thing they did then was to cut off his right arm; then they put a chain around his neck and built a fire; they burned some pincher to red heat and with these pincher they plucked his flesh. We are told that in the tribulation we will have trouble such as the world has never known. I read that they put a person into a box with the lid screwed on tightly and through a little hole they would let the water drip, drip by drip, until the victim would go mad. But the tribulation days will bring worse trouble than that. I understand there are ten thousand Baptist ministers languishing in the jails of Russia today. Fourteen Jewish rabbi’s were arrested and condemned to be shot but because of strong protest they changed the sentence to life imprisonment, just for daring to pray. In Russia today, it is a crime to say prayers in the presence of your children. I have a clipping from a Russian newspaper, offering prizes to any boy who will report his parents for eating unleavened bread or praying in the presence of the children; the boys will get prizes and the fathers will go to jail.

You people here think you are having a hard time when you are sneered at for your religious convictions. Brother, Sister, you haven’t seen anything yet. You know nothing about persecution or hardships. But it is coming. Listen in over your radio. I know there are some good programs but you listen to your representatives of the Federal Council of Churches. Who are they? Dr. Cadman and Mr. Fosdick, and men of that type. I listened to Mr. Fosdick’s speech two years ago on Christmas day and he said, “I don’t care whether Christ was born or not.” He said, “I want the people to fall in love with goodness, honesty, purity, kindness, etc. And so I call this Christ, but you can call it anything you want. I simply call it Christ to give it a name.” I was in Toledo some time ago at the invitation of the Toledo Council of Churches. A prominent divine got up and said, “We do not believe in angels any more. You know we did away with the devil and now to keep the angels and that the devil wouldn’t be fair so we don’t believe in angels either and what we need to do now is to do away with the magic of the Cross.” I said, “What do you mean?” “Well,” he said, “Pagans used to sacrifice to the sun and the Jews sacrificed to a lamb. Then came St. Paul and made Jesus the Son of God to please the pagans, and the Lamb of God to please the Jews, and they used to teach that when you kneel at the Cross your desires and your life are magically changed. But we will get rid of that magic for we do not believe in it anymore.” I faced him right on that platform and said I would answer him the following Sunday afternoon, adding, “I am glad there are still some who believe in the magic of the Cross.” We walked out of that church and rented a large Coliseum and widely advertised the coming meeting and there I preached to them on the faith of our fathers, living still. Praise God for those who still believe in the magic of the Cross. How about the others? Bishop McConnell says that to believe in the virgin birth is paganism and
not Christianity. Let me tell you the time is coming when you will be persecuted for trying to be a Christian. Will we give in and let them have their way? They will have their way for that is scriptural but as for me I will not compromise: I will not bow down to the Antichrist nor to his image.

You ask, "When will all this take place?" I believe it will be soon but I want to tell you something: I have some good news for you. Before the Antichrist gets too strong, before the persecutions become too severe, before the enemy gets complete control of this earth I believe a shout will be heard from heaven and the dead in Christ shall receive a shout will be heard from heaven, we will be changed and be caught up to be with the Lord. But each issue presents salvation. Healing through prayer and confession of sins, the baptism in the Spirit, both strengths Full Gospel writers and Bibles. A directory of assemblies and missionary news. A children's story, where the Full Gospel is preached.