

Britain and America in Prophecy: A Scriptural Analysis

written by Alfred Persson | November 10, 2025



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Introduction

The passage in Revelation 13:11 introduces a beast rising from the earth with “two horns like a lamb but speaking like a dragon.” This symbolic imagery, when read alongside the interpretive framework provided by Daniel 8:3-20, raises compelling possibilities for identifying modern dual-world powers, particularly Britain and the United States, in prophetic literature. By examining key scriptural passages, historical developments, and theological arguments, this analysis explores the plausibility of associating Britain and America with the “two-horned beast” in Revelation.

1. The Two-Horned Beast of Revelation 13:11

Textual Observation

- “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.” (Revelation 13:11, NKJV)

The description presents this beast as:

- Rising from the earth, suggesting a natural, established origin.
- Possessing two horns, akin to a lamb or ram.
- Speaking like a dragon, implying deceptive, satanic authority (cf. Revelation 12:9).

Linguistic Insights

The Greek term for lamb, ἀρνίον (*arnion*), is often rendered “lamb” in the New Testament. However, as the Louw-Nida Lexicon and idiomatic translations suggest, the term can denote any sheep-like animal, including a ram. This nuance links the imagery in Revelation 13:11 to Daniel 8:3’s “ram with two horns,” encouraging a comparison of the two passages.

2. The Two-Horned Ram in Daniel 8

Textual Reference

- “Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.” (Daniel 8:3, NKJV)

Interpretation

The angel Gabriel provides the interpretation:

- *“The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia.”* (Daniel 8:20, NKJV)

This ram symbolizes a dual-world power, the Medo-Persian empire, with one kingdom (Persia) surpassing the other in strength and prominence over time.

Key Parallels

- Duality of Power:** Two horns signify the alliance between two distinct nations or entities.
- Asymmetry in Strength:** One power becomes more dominant, as Persia did over Media. This parallels the U.S. surpassing Britain in global influence after World War II.
- Britain and America as the Two-Horned Beast**

Historical Context

- The Anglo-American Alliance:**
 - Britain and the United States share a “special relationship” built on common language, culture, and values. This relationship became prominent after the decline of the British Empire, which ceded global leadership to the U.S.
- Restoration of Israel:**
 - Both nations were instrumental in the establishment of modern Israel (1948), fulfilling significant prophetic expectations (cf. Isaiah 66:8; Ezekiel 36:24).
- Global Influence:**
 - Together, these nations have shaped world events through their military, economic, and cultural dominance, fitting the description of a global “beast” (Revelation 13:12).

4. Two Horns and Prophetic Symbolism

- Dual Leadership:**
 - Like the Medo-Persian alliance, Britain and America form a dual power bloc with distinct identities but shared goals.
 - The two horns signify cooperative governance in the global arena.
- Horns as Power:**
 - Horns consistently represent power and authority in biblical imagery (cf. Psalm 18:2; Daniel 7:7). Britain’s colonial legacy and America’s superpower status exemplify this symbolism.

5. Speaking Like a Dragon

The phrase “spoke like a dragon” in Revelation 13:11 indicates the exercise of satanic or deceptive power:

- *“The great dragon... that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan.”* (Revelation 12:9, NKJV)

Modern Application

1. Christian Heritage and Apostasy:

- Both nations were founded on Christian principles but have increasingly adopted secular and materialistic values.
- Their global influence is often exerted through military and economic coercion, aligning with the dragon's characteristics.

2. Technological Domination:

- Advances in technology and surveillance mirror Revelation 13:16-17's prophecy of a controlled economic system. The Anglo-American alliance could lead in implementing such systems.

6. The False Prophet

The “two-horned beast” later becomes synonymous with the False Prophet:

- *“Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.”* (Revelation 16:13, NKJV)

Role of the False Prophet

1. Spiritual Deception:

- The False Prophet promotes allegiance to the first beast (Revelation 13:12), paralleling how modern secular ideologies spread through Anglo-American influence.

2. End-Time Role:

- The False Prophet plays a central role in uniting nations under the Antichrist's rule (Revelation 19:20).

7. Conclusion: Britain and America in Prophecy

Drawing from the interpretive keys in Daniel and Revelation:

1. The “two-horned beast” symbolizes a dual-world power, comparable to the Medo-Persian empire.
2. Britain and America, as leading global powers with a shared heritage, align with this prophetic symbolism.
3. Their increasing secularism and global dominance reflect the beast's “dragon-like” nature.
4. As the prophetic timeline advances, this alliance may pave the way for the rise of the Antichrist and the implementation of a centralized, oppressive global system.