If Any Man Worship the Beast and His Image…

God has always seen it fit to reveal things unto His people for this specific reason: He loves us. He has not seen in His wisdom to place us on the earth as persons destined to perish, in fact, it's quite the opposite. He desires that none should perish but that ALL should come to repentance (See 2 Peter 3:9). Unfortunately, not all will be saved, but He is patient for the precious fruit of the earth before He reaps the harvest (Revelation 14:14-20).

The repetitions of history are so profound that sometimes it is almost inconceivable. The Bible does not simply contain interesting stories; they are microcosm prophecies laid out for us to understand to be better prepared for the final conflicts at the end of time.

**Microcosms**

- **Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-15)**
  - There is one faithful with one unfaithful worshipper. Faithful persecuted unto death. Mark upon the unfaithful
- **Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25-33)**
  - Apostate king sets up his own religious system, keeping people away from where God wanted them to be—Jerusalem in this case—He set up his own priesthood, his own feast day, his own god (golden calf)
- **Elijah (1 Kings 17-18)**
  - An unfaithful king married to a pagan woman which has her own priesthood seeks to persecute the faithful minority which was hiding in the wilderness for 3½ years, or 1260 days
- **Daniel 3 & 6**
  - Church and state are united preparing world-wide laws void of religious liberty. The faithful minority if persecuted unto ‘death’
- **John the Baptist (Mark 6:17-28)**
  - Political leader committed fornication with an unfaithful woman (harlot). The faithful minority denounced the unholy relationship based on the Commandments of God. Harlot wanted revenge and waited for the right time. On a “convenient day” (I wonder if it was a Sunday) where political leaders were gathered, the harlot’s daughter danced charismatically before the political leaders. Political leader made a promise of up to half his kingdom (unity of church and state). Daughter asked harlot mother what she should request. Harlot mother said without reserve, “The head of” the faithful minority. Harlot daughter went “straightway with haste unto the” political leader (as the last movements will be rapid ones) and asked for persecution unto death toward the minority. Political leader was unhappy but due to peer pressure and pride fulfilled the harlot daughter’s request “immediately.” Harlot daughter received John’s head in a charger and she gave it to her harlot mother.
- **Dark Ages**
  - Everything in the previous stories all happened again.
“Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

What about Leadership?
Political leaders are not always against God’s people…
- Potiphar wasn’t too sure that Joseph was guilty else he would have killed him immediately in Genesis 39
- Nebuchadnezzar didn’t really want to kill the three Hebrews, else he wouldn’t have given them another chance in before being thrown in the fiery furnace in Daniel 3
- Darius fasted, wouldn’t listen to music and lost sleep in Daniel 6
- Herod “feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly… “the king was exceeding sorry…” in Mark 6
- Pilate would rather have given Barabbas than Christ in Matthew 27

A Reflection of the 144,000
Daniel is portrayed as the minority with an “excellent spirit.” There was no “error or fault found in him” because he was “faithful.” This seems to reflect the 144,000 at the end of time who “are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” (Revelation 14:4-5).

“Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD?
Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?
Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right,
speaking the truth from sincere hearts.
Those who refuse to gossip
or harm their neighbors
or speak evil of their friends.
Those who despise flagrant sinners,
and honor the faithful followers of the LORD,
and keep their promises even when it hurts.
Those who lend money without charging interest,
and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent.
Such people will stand firm forever” (Psalm 15:1-5, NLT)

The political leaders will not find anything against the faithful minority at the end of time “except [they] find it against [them] concerning the Law of [their] God” (Daniel 6:5).
The Political / Religious Agenda

In this chapter, viewing it in light of our future we see that the majority (vs. 7), in deceptive unity (vs. 7), will establish unjust laws that are contrary to religious liberty (vs. 7), as a world-wide movement (vs. 7), will focus worship earthward (vs. 7), bringing persecution upon those that will not submit to their authority (vs. 7), while having one man at the head of their system (vs. 8), while claiming infallibility (vs. 8), and are united in church and state (vs. 9). A very solemn parallel to what we know will be the outcome of Revelation 13’s second beast.

Infallibility

- “(In the Roman Catholic Church) the doctrine that in specified circumstances the pope is incapable of error in pronouncing dogma” (Google Dictionary online, August 23, 2014).
- “It is well further to explain: that infallibility means more than exemption from actual error; it means exemption from the possibility of error; that it does not require holiness of life, much less imply impeccability in its organs; sinful and wicked men may be God's agents in defining infallibly” (NewAdvent.org, “Infallibility”—The Catholic Encyclopedia, August 23, 2014)

Daniel was a prayer warrior (Daniel 6:10), a Bible student (Daniel 9:1-2), and was a witness to those around him (Daniel 6:16, 20). These show him fulfilling practically the ‘daily’ (tamiyd) experience of the holy place while on earth (the ‘daily’ can be found in Daniel 8:11).

Daniel was a health reformer (1), a student of prophecy and waiting for the coming of the Messiah (2), a commandment keeper and worshipped differently (3), had the spirit of prophecy (4), he dressed differently and gave the straight testimony (5), a faultless as a witness (6), taught the pre-advent judgment (7).

After being a type of Christ by going into a pit with a stone rolled over it and a seal being put on it, Daniel, just like Christ, came out alive! (Matthew 27:60, 66, 28:6)

Daniel was able to say, “Before [God] innocency was found in me” (Daniel 6:22) ?? How? “He believed in his God” (6:23). RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH!

“Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the third angel's message, in verity."”--The Review and Herald, April 1, 1890. (1SM 372.2)

Verse 24 shows the enemy being destroyed with the very plot they had against God’s faithful.

This story is a microcosm of the time of Christ until the second coming of Christ. Verses 1-5 can illustrate the establishment of God’s faith on the earth through a dedicated minority. Verses 6-24 can illustrate the dark ages when God’s people were suffering because of the unity of church and state with persecution against them. They came out alive with the blessed truth of righteousness by faith. Verses 25-27 can illustrate the last day message to “fear” God going to all “people, nations, and languages…”
We will be faced with many, many, trials before the end of time. We must NOW allow ourselves to be found of God (Isaiah 55:6, Acts 17:27). There will be powers and people trying our faith in the word of God, and just as in Daniel’s day, our loyalty to God and His commandments. The Savior says, “IF you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Finally, and again, we see that the issue at the end of time will be the commandments of God. Read the third Angel’s message, and do not leave out vs. 12 in Revelation 14. These are the people who will stand. These will have the victory. “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”—the faith of Jesus (1 John 5:4). Faith brings victory, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Please study Revelation 14:7 and 12 in the light of the 10 commandments, and really concentrate on how it is that God is asking of you to be more in harmony with His will. Let us receive the blessing that is pronounced on the faithful in Revelation 22:14 (KJV).