

Who is the Antichrist? – <http://www.who-is-the-antichrist.org>

An internet search today on “who is the antichrist” will reveal anything from the star of the Baywatch TV series to the president of the USA. God’s Word does not instruct us to make ridiculous wild guesses or any guesses for that matter as to what we think Bible prophecy says, in fact we are specifically told in **2 Peter 1:20** “...that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” One good key to understanding Bible prophecy is laid out in the principle of the following verse: **Isaiah 28:10** “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:”

In this document we are going to do something totally different to the majority. We are going to discover truth using the Word of God and support it with many sound historical quotes. None of what we cover will be speculation and none will be private interpretation. When you finally realize how to understand the symbols of Prophecy and how to comprehend it, you will be surprised how simply it comes together.

The contents of this document contain some of my own writings as well as many excerpts from the works and writings of the late Christian Edwardson. He is a much respected author with his work well supported by scripture and historical quotes for credibility. All the sections in “gray” are his writings.

The Basic prophetic timeline

Understanding how Daniel and Revelation work together is a crucial part of understanding Bible prophecy and in the following studies you will see how Daniel helps unlock the book of Revelation. It would be advisable to read Daniel 2 before beginning as this gives the basic prophetic timeline from Babylon to the second coming of Christ. In the book of Daniel, the principle of repetition and enlargement is used. Daniel 2 gives the whole basic prophetic timeline of history in brief and then each chapter enlarges with more detail and information etc. Unlocking Daniel’s symbols makes the prophecies of Revelation’s come clear.

In Daniel 2, we find a king that dreamed of world events that spanned over 2,500 years. Those events have come to pass with such precision that only the hand of God could have been involved. It is a prophecy that’s almost been totally fulfilled. **Daniel 2:1** says: “*In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.*”

This was the king who ruled the great Babylonian Empire 600 years before Christ and who built the Hanging Gardens which is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which seemed of great significance, but when he awoke, he could not remember what he had dreamt. So he called his wise men who claimed to see into the future and asked them to tell what he had dreamt. When they admitted that they could not, Nebuchadnezzar condemned them to death.

Young Daniel, though a prisoner in Babylon, was counted among the “wise men” for his gifted intelligence and understanding. When the king’s captain came to execute Daniel, he asked for time to pray for God to reveal the dream which of course God did. Then Daniel taking no credit to himself, went before Nebuchadnezzar and told the king that no mortal man could reveal the dream. “*But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has revealed ... what will be in the latter days.*” **Daniel 2:28**. The dream starts with Nebuchadnezzar and marches through history to God’s final kingdom.



So Daniel told the king what he had dreamed: “*You, O king, were watching: and behold, a great image! This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*” **Daniel 2:31-35**.

The King was excited. “That’s exactly what I saw! But Daniel, what does it mean?” Daniel continued: “*You, O King ... are this head of GOLD.*” **Daniel 2:37-38**. The Babylonian Empire of Nebuchadnezzar (which made more lavish use of gold than any kingdom since) was secure as the dominant world power from 605 B.C. to 538 B.C.,



but he was to be overthrown by a kingdom represented in Daniel 2:32 as “*the breast and arms of SILVER.*” In Daniel 5:28, the next world ruling power is named, the joint empire of the Medes and the Persians. Again a fitting symbol, the two arms joined at the chest to show two kingdoms being the Medes and Persians. They ruled the world for two centuries, from 538 B.C. to 331 B.C., but they also were overthrown by a third kingdom.



This third kingdom, depicted in verse 32 as the “*belly and thighs of BRONZE,*” was the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great which was taken over by his four Generals after he died. And what did Alexander’s men wear into battle? Bronze - Bronze breastplates, bronze helmets, bronze shields, bronze swords. Once again, God chose a fitting symbol to describe the kingdom that would rule the world from 331 B.C. to 168 B.C.





But history doesn't end with this third kingdom. Greece did not rule the world forever, for there was a fourth metal after the gold of Babylon and the silver of the Medes and Persians and the bronze of Greece. The next kingdom is represented by IRON. Daniel 2:40 says, "The fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron." The iron monarchy of Rome was the last world kingdom, which in 168 B.C. overthrew the Greeks. Just as legs form the longest part of the body, Rome had the longest reign of any other of the world powers. For more than 500 years, half a millennium, Rome was invincible. But what did the Bible predict would happen next? Daniel 2:41-43 says, "Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom."



History confirms that this seemingly unconquerable Roman Empire crumbled from within and without. From within wealth poured into Rome through taxes collected from all over the world and the simple Roman life was replaced with luxury and pomp. The political world brewed with corruption, crime infiltrated the streets, the work ethic was lost, sexual immorality was rampant. And as the mighty Roman Empire weakened from within, Rome was attacked from without and divided into ten smaller kingdoms.



Today we are we living right down in the toenails of history! Every part of this prophecy has come to pass except one. Daniel told the king in verses 34 and 44, "You watched while a STONE was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ... The God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. ... It shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." That Rock cut out without hands symbolizes Jesus Christ who will come to establish His everlasting kingdom.

God through the prophet Daniel foretold the break up of the Roman Empire into ten toes of the Image, representing the ten kingdoms into which Rome was divided when barbarian tribes carved up the empire.

The Ten Barbarian tribes and there modern day names					
Anglo-Saxons:	England	Lombards:	Italy	Heruli:	Destroyed
Alamanni:	Germany	Suevi:	Portugal	Vandals:	Destroyed
Burgundians:	Switzerland	Visigoths:	Spain	Ostrogoths:	Destroyed
Franks:	France				

These last three have no modern names for they originally took over parts of the Roman Empire but were eventually destroyed, "plucked up by the roots" as Daniel 7:8, 20, and 24 foretold. Daniel 2:41-43 says, ten toes, ten kingdoms, and just as IRON and CLAY won't mix together, so the ten kingdoms will not be joined. No matter how many battles are fought, no matter how many Hitler's or Napoleons or Charlemagne's seek to conquer, the Bible says the world will never be united under one ruler again.

Only one kingdom is left to be established. Soon Jesus Christ, the Rock of Ages, who paid a remarkable visit to this planet 2000 years ago, is going to pay us another visit. Jesus is going to make quite an entrance the second time. The heavens will rumble with a great shout as the trumpet blasts and angels sing. Then Jesus and the angelic host will swoop down in a cloud of glory to gather all His faithful ones!

Daniel 7 enlarges on Daniel 2

How do we know this? Remember that Daniel 2 gives us the whole basic time line from Babylon to beyond the second coming of Christ. Keeping that in mind, Daniel 2 informs us the fourth kingdom is the legs and feet of IRON with ten toes (divided Europe) and Daniel 7 says the fourth beast has IRON teeth and ten horns (divided Europe). In both chapters we have a consistent theme and we are most significantly told that these represent the "fourth kingdom" on earth and that they both "break in pieces." The Bible is not inconsistent and therefore this fourth kingdom is one and the same. Starting with the iron legs:

Daniel 2:40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."

Daniel 7:7 "...and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns."

Daniel 7:23 "...The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."

So inescapably did Daniel's prophetic portrayal correspond to its historical fulfilment that the great English historian Edward Gibbon, though not a Christian or Bible believer himself, wittingly or unwittingly used Scriptural language in his monumental History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire when he wrote: "The images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the IRON monarchy of Rome." Historians mark 168 B.C. as the starting point of the "IRON Monarchy of Rome." On June 22 at the battle of Pydna, the Greeks fell to the Romans who ruled the then known world to about 476 A.D. Let's give one more example using the first kingdom.

Since [Daniel 7:23](#) tells us "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth" and [Daniel 7:17](#) says "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings...", then the first beast is of course the first kingdom which [Daniel 7:4](#) says, "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings..." In [Daniel 2:37-38](#), speaking of the metal man, Daniel says to Nebuchadnezzar, "You, O King...are this head of GOLD." This lion on the Ishtar gate from the ancient ruins of Babylon is one of many and is not coincidence. The evidence is overwhelming from both the Bible and history that Daniel 7 is indeed enlarging on Daniel 2 and so on.



So what does this all tell us?

Again using the principle of repetition and enlargement, we now know from [Daniel 2:37-38](#) that Babylon is the first kingdom. "You, O King...are this head of GOLD." From [Daniel 5:28](#); [8:1-7](#), [8:20](#), we know that Medo-Persia conquered Babylon. [Daniel 5:28](#) "Your kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." [Daniel 8:20](#) "The ram which you sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia."

From [Daniel 8:1-7](#), [21](#) we know Greece conquered Medo-Persia. [Daniel 8:21](#) "And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king." God did not name the fourth kingdom directly as He knew the Bible would be in the hands of a very powerful Church for a very long period of time and would be prone to editing if they knew that they were described in these prophetic books of the Bible. However, there is no mistaking that history reveals Rome conquered Greece and is the fourth kingdom and is described as having IRON legs ([Daniel 2:33](#)), IRON teeth ([Daniel 7:7](#)) and that Rome is known as the IRON monarchy that fell and was divided into ten kingdoms. ([Daniel 7:23-24](#))

Brief overview on who is the Antichrist

Let's start with a brief summary of points that establish what and who is the Antichrist and then steadily go into more detail while using a large number of historical quotes to corroborate what is presented here. Some are surprised to know that the word antichrist does not appear even once in the whole book of Revelation. The word Antichrist occurs only five times and only in the books of 1st and 2nd John.

- 1 John 2:18-22 - He is antichrist that denies Jesus is Christ. In John's time there were many antichrists and he says they went out from them (the Church) but were not of them or they would have continued with them. This tells us the Antichrist came from God's true Church but they went out on their own.
- 1 John 4:1-3 - Test the Spirits. Every spirit that denies Jesus came in the flesh is the spirit of antichrist.
- 2 John 1-11 - Those that deny Jesus came in the flesh are a deceiver and antichrist.
- Antichrist = "against or in place of Christ", attacking Christ's character (Gnosticism), specifically with regard to love expressed in obedience to God's Ten Commandments.

What is one method Satan uses to "deny" Christ?

- 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15 - Appear as "apostles of Christ" but preach a "different Jesus"

Does the Bible give us a way to identify the Antichrist power?

Review [Daniel 2](#) to get a prophetic blueprint of history: Babylon --> Medo-Persia --> Greece --> Rome --> 10 Divisions of Rome --> Kingdom of the Stone.

Now apply the principle of repetition and enlargement to Daniel's next vision.

Prophecy Symbols:

- Beasts - Kings/kingdoms (political powers). [Daniel 7:17](#), [23](#)
- Horns/heads - Subdivisions of political powers. [Daniel 7:24](#), [8:22](#)
- Wings - Speed or swiftness.
- Winds - War/Strife. [Jeremiah 49:35-37](#)
- Sea - Multitudes of people. [Revelation 17:1](#), [15](#)

Daniel 7:1-8 - Daniel's vision of four beasts

- The Lion - Babylon. Wings represent conquering speed. King Nebuchadnezzar.
- The Bear - Medo Persia. One shoulder raised above the other represents the dominance of the Medes over the Persians. The three ribs represent the three kingdoms overthrown by this kingdom - Egypt, Lydia, and Babylon. ([Daniel 8:20](#))
- The Leopard - Greece. Four wings representing great conquering speed. The four heads represent Alexander the Great's four generals who ruled Greece after his death - Seleucus, Ptolemy, Lysimachus and Cassander. ([Daniel 8:21-22](#))



- The different beast - Rome. The ten horns - the divisions of Rome (Same as the toes of Chapter 2). The ten horns are the 10 divisions of the Roman Empire as it fell apart. These were the Anglo Saxons (England), Alemanni (Germany), Heruli (x493AD), Vandals (x534AD), Ostrogoths (x538AD), Visigoths (Spain), Suevi (Portugal), Lombard's (Italy), Burgundians (Swiss) and the Franks (France).



What 9 characteristics help us to identify the little horn power?

- 1) Location: out of 4th beast and among the ten horns (v.8) - The Papacy arose out of Rome among the ten tribal divisions of Rome
- 2) Timing: after the ten were established (v.8) - the Papacy became a political power by decree of the Roman emperor Justinian in AD 538 which was after the emergence of the ten tribal divisions that emerged as the Roman Empire fell apart in AD 476.
- 3) Uprooted three of the ten horns (v.8) - As the Papacy came to prominence, it influenced Pagan Roman armies to destroy three of the tribes which opposed its Christian doctrines. These three were the Vandals, Ostrogoths, and Heruli. The last of these was destroyed in AD 538 when Justinian's decree went into effect.
- 4) Eyes and mouth of a man (v.8) - the Papacy has a man as its visible head.
- 5) Persecutes the saints (v.21, 25) - Ever hear of the Papal persecution during the dark ages - Inquisition, etc. More than 50 million Protestant Christians tortured and killed by the Catholic Church.
- 6) Different than the other ten horns (v.24) - the Papacy was a religio-political entity different from the kingdoms before it.
- 7) Speak out against the God (v.8, 11, 20, 25) - Verse 8 says it will utter boastful or blasphemous things. One quote of many like it from Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica Juridicia Moralis Theologica appearing in the Catholic Encyclopedia Volume VI, pp. 25-29, "*The Pope is of so great dignity, and so exalted, that he is not a mere man, but as it were, God and the Vicar of God. The Pope is, as it were, God on earth, chief king of kings, having plenitude of power.*"
- 8) Little Horn attempts to change God's times and laws (v.25) - The Papacy deleted the second commandment of the Decalogue on idolatry, changed the Sabbath to Sunday in favour of sun worship and divided the tenth commandment on coveting into two parts to get back to Ten Commandments.
- 9) Have power for a time, times, and half a time (or three and a half years, forty two months, or 1260 days - see Revelation 12:6, 14) (v.25) - Applying the prophetic day for year principle established in Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6 that equals 1260 years. The Papacy lasted in primary power from AD 538 to 1798 in which year Napoleon's general Berthier marched into Rome, deposed the Pope, and carried him into exile where he died.

How does Daniel's vision compare with John's vision in Revelation 13?

The table below demonstrates how Daniel 7 unlocks Revelation 13. A lot of Bible prophecy can be understood by comparing Revelation with the Old Testament and the book of Daniel in particular. Almost two thirds of Revelation can be found in the Old Testament and this is a key for unlocking Bible prophecy.

Antichrist Power - Daniel 7	Antichrist Power - Revelation 13
Four beasts from the Sea. vs.3	Four Beasts in one from sea. vs.1
Lion. vs.4	Lion vs.2
Bear. vs.5	Bear. vs.2
Leopard. vs.6	Leopard. vs.2
Ten horned beast vs.7	Ten horned beast. vs.1
Mouth Speaking great things. vs.8	Mouth Speaking great things. vs.5
Make war with the Saints. vs.21	Make war with the Saints. vs.7
Power for 3.5 years = 42 Months. vs.25	Power for 42 Months. vs.5

These perfect parallels are not coincidental. God deliberately concealed many things like this so that they would not be seen until the time of the end. This applies to most prophecies involving the book of Daniel.

Daniel 12:4 "*But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*"

History reveals only one power that has persecuted Christians for 1260 years and only one power that had the privilege of taking out three of the ten kingdoms from the collapse of the Roman Empire. It can be no other than the Papacy on these two points alone, and as we have seen there are far more identifying points. The enemy will always have someone he can find to dispute truth and this is no exception so further into this document we will cover the history in greater detail with a large number of historical quotes proving in fact that the Papacy did rule for this very significant 1260 year period from 538 to 1798 and uprooted three of the ten kingdoms from the collapse of the Roman empire that opposed them.

The 1260 years of Persecution

A very important rule for understanding symbolic Bible prophecy is what is known as the day for a year rule. This is a well proven and established rule by the fact that all symbolic prophecy that uses this rule is proven by the evidence that when applied, the Prophecy concerned lines up with history perfectly in all cases. Here are three scriptures that gave light to this rule in understanding prophetic time periods.

Ezekiel 4:6 "*And when you have accomplished them, lie again on your right side, and you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed you each day for a year.*"

Numbers 14:34 "After the number of the days in which you searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall you bear your iniquities, even forty years, and you shall know my breach of promise."

Luke 13:32-33 "And he said unto them, Go you, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. **33** Nevertheless I must walk to day, and tomorrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem."

The most significant time period in Bible Prophecy is the dark ages where God's true Church was persecuted for 1260 years. An estimated 50-100 million Christians were tortured and murdered as heretics falsely. Most historians agree this period is from 538AD to 1798AD which = 1260 years. During this period, God's hand was over the Church, preserving it from total extinction. When prophecy is symbolic the day for a year principle is applied so 1260 days = 1260 years. This is a very significant time period as you can see from the verses below that all refer to the same period of time.

42 Months = 3.5 Years or 1260 Days (Jewish calendar = 360 days, Lunar month = 30 days)

Revelation 11:2 "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months.**"

Revelation 13:5 "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months.**"

1260 Days = 3.5 Years or 42 Months

Revelation 11:3 "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a **thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sackcloth."

Revelation 12:6 "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a **thousand two hundred and threescore days.**"

Time = 1 Year, times = 2 Years and half a time = .5 Year = total 3.5 Years which = 42 Months or 1260 Days

Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a **time and times and the dividing of time.**"

Daniel 12:7 "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a **time, times, and an half**; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

Revelation 12:14 "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and **times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent."

Other important Symbols

Beast = Kingdom/Government/Political power. **Daniel 7:23** "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth..." And the third beast would be the third kingdom and the second beast the second kingdom etc. **Daniel 7:17** "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth."

Dragon = Satan or his agency. **Ezekiel 29:3** "Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which has said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself." See also Jeremiah 51:34

Serpent/Dragon = Satan. **Revelation 12:9** "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." **Revelation 20:2** "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,"

The story so far (brief overview)

In Daniel 7:3, Daniel sees "four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another." These four beasts were like a lion (Babylon), a bear (Medo-Persia), a leopard (Greece) with four heads (Alexander's four generals that took over when he died suddenly) and some dreadful, terrible beast (Rome) with iron teeth and ten horns. Verse 23 says, "The fourth beast (Rome) shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces." Verse 24 tells us that "the ten horns out of this kingdom (Rome) are ten kings (divided Europe) that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings." The king that subdued three kingdoms is called the little horn in verse 8 and it destroyed the Vandals the Heruli and the Ostrogoths. Verse 25 says this little horn power would "speak great words against the most High" (God) and oppress God's people and states that he will "think to change times and laws."





Remember that the image from Daniel 2 represents the same time line as the four beasts. The head of gold the lion, chest of silver the bear, belly and thighs of brass the leopard, legs of iron the bizarre beast with iron teeth and the ten toes the ten horns which represent divided Europe. As we have seen, this is the principle of repetition and enlargement and occurs right through the book of Daniel.

In Revelation chapter 13, John is shown exactly the same thing that Daniel saw in his vision as a composite beast. Note the perfect parallel to Daniel chapter seven. It says that a beast (*kingdom government or political power*) with *seven heads* and *ten horns* rises out of the *sea* with a crown upon each horn (*ten kings*) and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. The crowns now being upon the horns indicates that the kings of divided Europe are now ruling. See Revelation 12:3. Verse 2 states the

beast was like unto a *leopard*, had the feet of a *bear*, and the mouth of a *lion* (*same four beasts*) and that the dragon (*Satan/Pagan Rome*) gave this beast his power, his throne, and his great authority. **Revelation 17:15** explains the meaning of the sea from which the beast emerges, "*And he saith unto me, The waters which you sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*"

Verses 3 to 6 then states that one of the seven heads (*the Papacy head*) received a fatal wound (*causing death*) but his deadly wound was healed and all the world would wonder after the beast and they worshipped the dragon which gave power to the beast and they worshipped the beast also. The beast was allowed to make proud claims which were blasphemous to God, and it was permitted to have authority for 42 months. Daniel 7:25 says, "*a time (1 year) and times (2 years) and the dividing of time (half a year = total 3.5 years * 12 Months = 42 months)*" which of course is the same period of time. (*Bible time works in lunar months which = 30 days * 42 months = 1260 days and using the day for a year rule = 1260 years*). It opened its mouth and uttered *blasphemies against God* and blasphemed his name and his residence, that is, those who are living in heaven. Verse 7 states that it was also allowed to fight against God's people and defeat them, and it was given authority over every tribe, nation, language and race.

Every criteria mentioned in the Bible is met by this Antichrist power. The Bible says that this beast would receive a deadly wound to one of its heads (the Papacy head). The Pope took over Rome and rose to power in 538 A.D. The Bible says he would have power for 1260 years which takes us to 1798. What happened in 1798? Precisely on time as prophesied in the Bible, in 1798 Napoleon's General Berthier was sent down to Rome to kidnap the Pope and exiled and imprisoned him in France. The Encyclopaedia Americana, 1941 edition says. "*In 1798 he (Berthier) made his entrance into Rome, ABOLISHED THE PAPAL GOVERNMENT and established a secular one.*" In 1799 the Pope got sick and died. For a while there was no head of the Roman Church but the Bible says the deadly head wound would be healed and in 1800 they elected a new Pope and the healing of the deadly wound began.

However, this new Pope had no real power until 1929. At that time a man in Italy called Benito Mussolini signed a concordat in Rome giving back to the Pope, not the whole city but about 108 acres called the Vatican and so the deadly wound begins to be healed even further. As a result, the Bible says, "*the whole world wondered after the beast*" (vs. 3). In this picture, Benito Mussolini reads his credentials prior to signing the Lateran Treaty on behalf of King Victor Emmanuel III. Cardinal Gasparri (seated), signed on behalf of Pope Pius XI. American Presidents have bowed before the Pope but they have never bowed before the head of any other Church.



Verses 5 and 6 stress this Antichrist power makes blasphemous claims which the Pope does firstly by declaring to be God on Earth and therefore also puts himself in place of Christ which matches the definition of antichrist; against or in place of. Here are some quotes made by the Roman Catholic Church.

"*The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ, Himself, hidden under the veil of human flesh.*" — Catholic National, July 1895

"*The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth.*" — Pope Pius V, quoted in Barclay, Chapter XXVII, p. 218, "Cities Petrus Bertanous."

"*We hold upon this earth the place of God almighty.*" — Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter, June 20, 1894

Please note that what is written here is not intended to offend anyone and applies to the Papal system and not the many wonderful Christians in this Church. Verse 7 says "*it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them.*" The Catholic Church murdered an estimated 50 and 100 million saints as heretics. Below is what they say they can do to anyone they consider a heretic, which is anyone not in their Church. They demonstrated this for 1260 years by burning millions of innocent Christians.

"*The church may by divine right confiscate the property of heretics, imprison their person, and condemn them to flames. In our age, the right to inflict the severest penalties, even death, belongs to the church. There is no graver offense than heresy, therefore it must be rooted out.*" — Public Eccliaistical, Vol. 2, p.142

Claiming to be God on earth is not the only criteria for blasphemy. [Luke 5:21](#) reads, "And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" Today the Roman Catholic Church still alleges that every Priest can forgive sins.

"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*, page 78.

"To pardon a single sin requires all the omnipotence of God...The Jews justly said: 'Who can forgive sins but God alone?' But what only GOD can do by His omnipotence, the PRIEST can ALSO do by saying 'Ego te absolvo a peccatis tuis' [I absolve you from your sin]." — Alphonsus de Liguori, *Dignity and Duties of the Priest*, pages 34-35.

As for power, besides the persecution of the saints, (vs. 5) Elizabeth I defied the Pope and he sent word to all Catholics in England not to obey the Queen. Henry of Germany offended the Pope and he had to stand barefoot in the snow for three days to pay pennants to the Pope before he would forgive him.

Table showing common elements that identify who is the Antichrist:

Characteristics	The Little Horn (Daniel 7)	The Man of Sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3)	The Sea Beast (Revelation 13)	Woman on Beast (Revelation 17-18)
Source	Comes out of the head of the 10 horned fourth beast (Rome)	Owes his rise to removal of a hindering power	Comes from the "sea" meaning many people (densely populated Europe)	Arises in a city with seven hills (Rome) and rules over many waters (peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues)
Time of Origin	Comes up among 10 horns (the divided successors of the Pagan Roman Empire)	Revealed only after the fall of the Hindering Pagan Roman Empire	Receives power, seat and authority from the Dragon (Satan working through Pagan Rome)	Arises among the ten horns (divisions of Rome) that will hate her
Religio-political Church-State Power	Diverse power, blasphemes God, exercises authority over the saints, changes times and laws of the most high	Political characteristics not mentioned, but demands and receives worship	Composite of Daniel's beasts, which are kingdoms, and wear crowns, that demands and receives worship	The woman is an apostate church the beast is the power of the state hence this is a religio-political power having a priest-king ruler
Blasphemous Presumption	In this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things and words against the most high	Exalts himself above God.	Has a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies	Full of names of blasphemy
Time of Dominance	Given power over the saints for a time, times and a dividing of time. (1260 years)	---	Given power forty and two months (1260 years)	---
Warring against God's people	Made war with the saints and prevailed against them	---	Makes war with the saints and overcomes them	This woman (apostate church) is drunk with the blood of the saints - in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.
Great Power	Looks more stout than his fellows	Has all power, signs and lying wonders	Who is able to make war with him?	The woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.
Demands Divine Homage	Sets himself over the saints, times, and laws of the most high	Sets himself up as God, above all that is worshipped	Causes multitudes to worship him	This woman is the apostate "mother" of harlot churches
End	They shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end (the second coming)	The Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:	Cast into the lake of fire	Utterly burned with fire

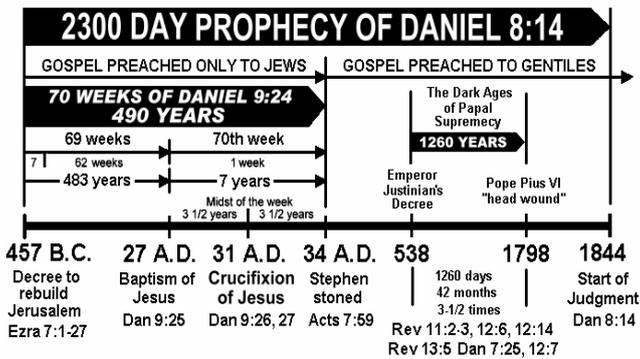
The Empires of Daniel and Revelation

As already demonstrated, Bible prophecy quite often uses the principle of repetition and enlargement. This is a very simple principle that so many do not understand which is why Satan succeeds in having so many interpretations of Bible prophecy in the world. You can see from the table below that interpretations are not required. Besides the fact that history shows the order of kingdoms to be Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece, we are also told directly in Daniel 8 that Medo-Persia conquered Babylon and Greece them.

Empire	Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Revelation 13
BABYLON Until 539 B.C.	Head of Gold vs. 32, 38	Lion from Sea vs. 4, 17	---	Mouth of a Lion v. 2
MEDO - PERSIA Until 331 B.C.	Chest of Silver vs. 32, 39	Bear from Sea vs. 5, 17	Ram vs. 3, 20	Feet of a Bear v. 2
GREECE Until 168 B.C.	Belly of Brass vs. 32, 39	Leopard from Sea vs. 6, 17	He-Goat vs. 5, 21	Body like a Leopard v. 2
PAGAN ROME Until 476 A.D.	Legs of Iron vs. 33, 40	4 th Diverse Beast from Sea, Iron Teeth vs. 7, 17	---	World power of John's time Rome / Dragon v.2
Europe Divided (Ten Kingdoms)	10 Toes (kingdoms) Iron & Clay vs. 33, 41	10 Horns (kingdoms) vs. 20, 24	---	10 Horns (kingdoms) Beast from the Sea v. 1
PAPAL ROME Begins 538 A.D. Head Wound 1798 A.D.	Clay & Iron Church & State Jeremiah. 18:1-6	Diverse Little Horn vs. 8, 11, 24-25	Little Horn vs. 9-12, 23-25	Composite of previous Empires headed 10 horned Beast from the Sea vs. 1-3
JUDGMENT BEGINS 1844 A.D.	---	Judgment scene vs. 9-10, 22, 26	Sanctuary Cleansed v. 14	---
UNITED STATES	---	---	---	Lamb-like 2 Horned Land Beast v. 11
PAPAL Head Wound Healed Lateran Treaty 1929	---	---	---	Head Wound to Sea Beast Healed vs. 3,12
GOD'S KINGDOM	Stone - Mountain vs. 35, 44	God's Kingdom vs. 13-14, 27	---	---

Daniels Prophecy proves the Day for a Year Rule.

The following is another example that shows the day for a year rule is correct when prophecy is symbolic. The Book of Daniel was written while the Jews were in Babylon in exile because of their sins. Daniel 9:24-27 contains a prophecy from the angel Gabriel to encourage the Jewish people that they would be given a "second chance" to return to Jerusalem, rebuild their temple and ultimately receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Thus we have a prophecy of "seventy weeks." Gabriel subdivides the period into three smaller periods of seven weeks (verse 25), sixty-two weeks (verse 25), and one week (verse 27). $7+62+1=70$. Seventy weeks = 490 days and on the day for a year rule is actually 490 years. The prophecy starts with



a "commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" (verse 25) after the Babylonian captivity and reaches down to the first coming of Jesus Christ. After 69 weeks (483 years), "shall Messiah be cut off" (verse 26), i.e. the Messiah would die. So after the 69 weeks and in this final week it says "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease" (verse 27.) The sacrifices and offerings ceased of course when Jesus became the final perfect sacrifice for us. Here we see the day for a year rule fits history absolutely perfectly. If we did not apply this rule, Jerusalem would have been rebuilt

in 49 days (impossible) instead of the true 49 years and Jesus' ministry would have been 3.5 days instead of the true 3.5 years. Daniel was told to seal up the 2300 day prophecy as it applied to a long time in the future which the angel called the "time of the end" (Daniel 8:17; 12:4, 9) and 2300 days into the future would not have even made 400 BC. Hardly what one could call the "time of the end" in which we now live.

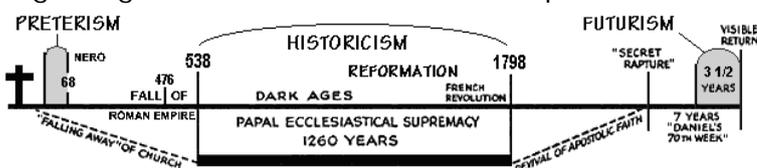
The Counter Reformation

With the arrival of the printing press in the 15th century and the resulting explosion of Bibles accessible in the common language from Protestant sources, it became readily apparent to those who could now study the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation in particular, that Bible prophecy identified by symbols a persecuting apostate entity generally known as Antichrist. If we list the main characteristics of Antichrist, the following becomes readily apparent and who is the antichrist becomes unmistakable fact.

- 1) It will rise to be a great power after the fall of the pagan Roman Empire (after 476 AD)
- 2) It would uproot three of the ten kingdoms the Roman Empire collapsed into
- 3) It will be a geographically small nation (a little horn)
- 4) It will rule over many people, nations and tongues (it will be universal)
- 5) It will be headquartered in the city of seven hills, Rome
- 6) It will be a religio-political entity - a political city-state ruled by a priest-king
- 7) Its priest-king will make great and blasphemous claims
- 8) It will claim authority over all kings
- 9) It will claim its power to change the holy times and laws of God as its mark of authority
- 10) It will be an apostate Church that makes the nations drink her cup of apostate doctrine
- 11) It will be a "mother" Church, with apostate daughters coming from her
- 12) It will be a persecuting power, killing the faithful saints of Jesus Christ as heretics
- 13) It will hold power and authority for 1260 years following the fall of pagan Rome
- 14) It will suffer a deadly wound that will end 1260 years of dominance and persecution
- 15) It will be revived after the deadly wound, and all the world would wonder at its revival

In this the "Historical" interpretation, the Antichrist was clearly not merely a single individual, it was a system of apostasy and persecution that would hold control for over twelve centuries. The inevitable conclusion of those who studied these prophecies in scripture, before and during the Protestant Reformation, was that there was only one entity that fit all these characteristics and perfectly: the Papal dynasty of the Roman Catholic Church. Is it any wonder that the Catholic Church was so violently opposed to the scriptures being available for everyone to read for themselves? There was such a stir created during the reformation that the Fifth Lateran Council (1512-17 A.D.) resorted to strictly forbidding anyone to publish a book without prior censorship, and also prohibited anyone from preaching on the subject of antichrist. The intent of both Futurism and Preterism was to be diversionary, to counter or offset the Protestant Historical interpretation, and present alternatives, no matter how implausible they might be.

The result is evident from the following chart, which illustrates the three schools of interpretation regarding antichrist. Ribera's futurism puts the antichrist into a future three and one-half literal years.



Alcazar's preterism identifies the antichrist as Nero. Both of them put antichrist outside the middle Ages and the reformation period, identified by Protestant Historicists as Antichrist's dark reign of 1260 prophetic years.

Now the truly amazing part of all this is that the Futurist theory dominates Protestant teaching today. About all you hear or read about today is the yet to appear Antichrist, who will be unveiled in the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week, when he declares himself to be God in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. That scenario, as you can now see, is directly traceable back to the pen of the Jesuit Francisco Ribera who manufactured this theory for the sole purpose of diverting attention from the Papacy. Note what one Protestant writer had to say over one hundred years ago:

"Accordingly, towards the close of the century of the Reformation, two of her most learned doctors set themselves to the task, each endeavouring by different means to accomplish the same end, namely, that of diverting men's minds from perceiving the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Antichrist in the Papal system. The Jesuit Alcasar devoted himself to bring into prominence the Preterist method of interpretation, which we have already briefly noticed, and thus endeavouring to show that the prophecies of Antichrist were fulfilled before the Popes ever ruled in Rome, and therefore could not apply to the Papacy. On the other hand the Jesuit Ribera tried to set aside the application of these prophecies to the Papal Power by bringing out the Futurist system, which asserts that these prophecies refer properly not to the career of the Papacy, but to that of some future supernatural individual, who is yet to appear, and to continue in power for three and a half years. Thus, as Alford says, the Jesuit Ribera, about A.D. 1580, may be regarded as the Founder of the Futurist system in modern times."

"It is a matter for deep regret that those who hold and advocate the Futurist system at the present day, Protestants as they are for the most part, are thus really playing into the hands of Rome, and helping to screen the Papacy from detection as the Antichrist. It has been well said that 'Futurism tends to obliterate the brand put by the Holy Spirit upon Popery.' More especially is this to be deplored at a time when the Papal Antichrist seems to be making an expiring effort to regain his former hold on men's minds." — From Daniel and the Revelation: The Chart of Prophecy and Our Place In It, A Study of the Historical and Futurist Interpretation, by Joseph Tanner, published in London by Hodder and Stoughton, 1898, pages 16, 17.



In what could only be described as a stunning reversal, Protestants have over time actually become the Papacy's greatest ally by spreading its Jesuit spawned propaganda. What irony that Protestants, who originally broke away from what they clearly recognized to be the mother of all harlots who is the antichrist led Church of prophecy, now champion the Futurist interpretation from high profile ministries. Futurism has without doubt, been successful beyond the wildest dreams of its Jesuit authors. The same applies to the Preterist interpretation of Luis De Alcasar, although to a lesser degree. Satan of course is the catalyst of these perpetuated lies.

Most of you have probably heard of a supposed seven year tribulation period and a secret rapture. It should totally shock you to know that there is no scripture that specifically mentions seven years of tribulation! It simply does not exist. This was part of the Counter Reformation from the Papacy and was manufactured by the Jesuit Francisco Ribera who was responsible for the futurist view just explained. For more information, read "[Secret Rapture.](#)"

We must without failure check everything taught against scripture and where relevant history also. Do not use biased Christian sources. They must be unprejudiced, unbiased historical sources or the enemy can and will deceive us. For example, Satan has many counter deceptions out there to come against truth including the lie that the Ten Horns of the beast of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 are ten consecutive kings. This is all it would take to throw you from the real truth of these Bible passages. The Ten horns are ten kings and

this is Bible truth as we have already seen and is unmistakably clear from the scripture below.

Daniel 7:24 *"The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings."*

But as for them being ten consecutive kings, here is just one Biblical reason why this is just not possible.

Daniel 7:8 *"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully."*

You will note that the verse says, "a little one, which came up among them." In order for another kingdom to come up AMONG them, they all have to exist at the same time. This matches history perfectly. Again as we have already seen, the Papacy uprooted the Vandals, Heruli and the Ostrogoths as they opposed them from coming into full power. None of these kingdoms or equivalents exists now today as a result.

The rebuilt Jewish Temple - Fact or Fiction

Almost every one of our early Church fathers as well as the translators of the KJV Bible had no trouble understanding that the man of sin referred to in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 was none other than the Pope.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 *"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."*

It is from this verse that the conclusion comes that the Jewish temple must be rebuilt so that the Antichrist can sit in the temple of God. Well here comes some more shocking truth. This was part of Jesuit Francisco Ribera's manufactured prophecy to make us think that the Antichrist power was some individual at the end of time. The fact that this was manufactured as part of the Papacy's Counter Reformation and that all the early Church fathers knew this was referring to the Pope should be enough, but I will touch on it lightly. Again, large percentages of the Christian populous still believe this perpetuated lie.

The Greek word Paul used for temple in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 is "nah-os". Here are some other scriptures that use this same Greek word.

1 Corinthians 3:16 *"Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"*

We are the temple of God now. That is the Church. Here are two more using the same Greek word;

1 Corinthians 6:19 *"What? know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own?"*

Matthew 26:61 *"And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days."*

We know that it is not possible for Jesus to be talking about an earthly temple in the above verse. There are many other verses that could be quoted but this should be enough to see what Paul was speaking of here. Paul is a Christian Jew and knows that the temple is now the Church and if Paul were to call a rebuilt temple *"the temple of God"* then he would be denying what Jesus did on the cross. There is no way that someone like Paul would ever call a rebuilt temple the *"temple of God"* because it would never be God's temple! Observe what Jesus says in the following verses about the temple of God.

In **Matthew 21:13** Jesus expresses His anger to those for desecrating God's temple, *"And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves."*

But in **Matthew 23:38** Jesus now declares, *"Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."*

Why would Jesus assert it will soon be their house, i.e. no longer the temple of God?

Matthew 27:51 *"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;"*

Jesus ended the temple sacrifices when he became the final perfect sacrifice for us. At this point it ceased to be the temple of God as Jesus showed in Matthew 23:28. Paul received the Gospel by revelation knowledge (Galatians 1:11-12) and would never call this soon to be destroyed temple God's. Paul would know this better than anyone. We are the temple of God now! If Paul called it God's temple he would be declaring to God that Jesus' work on the cross was incomplete and further sacrifices were required.

The Pope will be seated [sitteth] in a position of power in the Church *"showing himself that he is God."* Remember the Pope claims to be God on earth now. All the early Church fathers and Protestants knew this and were not deceived by Ribera's manufactured writings because they knew who he was. Yet another truth that Satan has slowly drawn from the Church over the centuries. That is how he does it, slowly and subtly.

Even more Proof that the Antichrist is the Papal system

There are many that find it hard to imagine that the antichrist power could be the most powerful Church on earth, but with a quick look at some other chapters of Revelation we will see that the Antichrist system is in fact a Church and can be none other than a Church that ruled as Church and State for 1260 years called the dark ages. A study of history and the inquisition would also reveal who this persecuting Apostate Church is. A large percentage of Revelation deals with this power that persecutes the saints and God's resulting judgment. To help demonstrate this, it needs to be shown that a "Woman" in prophecy does represent a Church. It is very important to understand all this symbolism in order to understand the many references in Revelation and this Church's part also as mystery Babylon. You will also see solid evidence from the passage below that there were many Antichrists in John's time and that they came out of God's true Church and went out on their own. This was the beginning of the Church apostatizing.

1 John 2:18-19 *"Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there MANY ANTICHRISTS; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from US, but they were not of US; for if they had been of US, they would no doubt have continued with US: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of US."*

Understanding that a Woman in Bible prophecy represents a Church is an extremely important point that must not be overlooked as it proves that a "WOMAN" (includes [mystery Babylon](#)) has to be a "Church." God also refers to "Israel" as a "Woman" (HER) as it represents the Old Testament Church that brought forth the Man child (Jesus Christ) in Revelation 12. Do not miss that God called "Israel" a "Harlot" because she worshipped other gods and committed spiritual adultery. Which Church deleted the Commandment on idolatry and worshipped the SUN and has many pagan traditions? Which Church changed the Sabbath to SUNDAY in favour of SUN worship? Which Church has the statue of St Peter in St Peter's Cathedral which was originally the statue of the pagan god Jupiter? This statue has had its foot kissed away and replaced several times because of the multitude that have bowed down to this statue and kissed its foot.

When the Church apostatized it was compared with a corrupt Woman

This next verse refers to Israel's temporary ceremonial law. Note how God calls them HER sabbaths and HER feast days etc. Israel is frequently through the Old Testament referred to as a "Woman" (HER) as the Old Testament Church and when she worshipped other gods etc, she was called a "Harlot" and a "Whore."

[Hosea 2:11](#) "I will also cause all HER mirth to cease, HER feast days, HER new moons, and HER sabbaths, and all HER solemn feasts."

[Ezekiel 16:26-32](#) "You have also committed FORNICATION with the Egyptians your neighbours, great of flesh; and have increased your whoredoms, to provoke me to anger... 28 You have played the WHORE also with the Assyrians, because you were unsatiable; yes, you have played the HARLOT with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied. 29 You have moreover multiplied your FORNICATION in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet you were not satisfied herewith. 30 How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord God, seeing you doest all these things, the work of an imperious WHORISH WOMAN; 31 In that you buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and have not been as an HARLOT, in that you scornest hire; 32 But as a wife that committeth ADULTERY, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!"

[Jeremiah 3:1-25](#) "...If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? ...but you have played the HARLOT with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD. 2 ...you have polluted the land with your WHOREDOMS and with your wickedness. 3 ...you hadst a WHORE'S FOREHEAD, you refusedst to be ashamed... 6 The LORD said also unto me... Have you seen that which backsliding Israel has done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there has played the HARLOT... 8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the HARLOT also... 20 Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD."

[Revelation 17:1-5](#) "...I will show unto you the judgment of the great WHORE that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed FORNICATION, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 ...I saw a WOMAN sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the WOMAN was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON the great, the MOTHER of HARLOTS and abominations of the earth."

God's true Church is represented as a Woman

[Isaiah 54:5-6](#) "For your Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and your Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. 6 For the LORD has called you as a WOMAN forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when you were refused, saith your God."

[Jeremiah 6:2](#) "I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate WOMAN."

[2 Corinthians 11:2](#) "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

[Ephesians 5:31-32](#) "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

Christ is represented as the Bridegroom and the Church is the bride which of course is a Woman.

[Matthew 9:14-15](#) "Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but your disciples fast not? 15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast."

[Revelation 12:1](#) "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:"

[Revelation 19:7-8](#) "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his WIFE has made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

How much of Revelation references the Antichrist?

Revelation 12 shows God's true Church represented as a woman clothed with the sun and a crown with twelve stars that brings forth the man child Jesus. This woman represents the Old Testament Church as Israel and later in the chapter as the New Testament Church. First we see Satan trying to stop the Old Testament Church (Israel) bringing forth the man child being Jesus and then later Satan pursuing God's true Church through the Papal system shown also by the two references to the 1260 dark Papal years.

Revelation 13 We saw previously that the first composite beast represented the Papacy and was unlocked by Daniel 7 and revealed who is the antichrist that shed the blood of millions of innocent Christians which we will see mentioned many times. As we have also seen, this first beast received a deadly wound in 1798 but we are told that the wound will be healed and so the Catholic Church will be in full power once again. The second beast will give power back to the first beast and the mark of the beast will be enforced.

Revelation 14 The three angel's messages are given and we are told that we should worship God only and not the antichrist beast power. Those who worship the beast get their mark and incur the wrath of God and those that do not go through another time of tribulation under the Papal system as in the dark ages because they refused to worship the beast and they do this by keeping the Commandments of God by the faith of Jesus. Revelation 12:17. Here we see the first reference to the beast being referred to as Babylon.

Revelation 15 We see seven angels with the seven last plagues preparing to deal with the antichrist beast power, those that received their mark and the false prophet. We also see those that "*had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.*"

How Babylon Fell

Before going into the next chapter we must first study some Bible history about ancient Israel and literal Babylon. In 605 B.C., "*Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon*" came "*to Jerusalem, and besieged it*" **Daniel 1:1**. Jerusalem was conquered and Judah was taken captive for 70 years Daniel 9:2. After 70 years, an amazing set of circumstances occurred. The Euphrates was dried up, Babylon was conquered from the east and God's people were delivered. Ancient Babylon sat on the Euphrates River which ran through Babylon entering and exiting through two spiked gates whose bars reached down into the riverbed. When these twin gates were shut and all other entrances were closed, Babylon was virtually impregnable. In 538 B.C. when ancient Babylon fell, her king and subjects were drunk with wine (see Daniel 5) and so were the guards who forgot to fully close the double doors. Over 100 years earlier, God had predicted concerning Babylon and the Euphrates, "*I will dry up your rivers*" **Isaiah 44:27**. The Lord also spoke about "Cyrus" the man who conquered Babylon saying, "*I will...open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut*" **Isaiah 45:1**. Moreover God called Cyrus "*my shepherd*" and "*his anointed*" **Isaiah 44:28; 45:1**. Thus Cyrus was a type of Jesus Christ and he ALSO came "*from THE EAST*" **Isaiah 46:11**.

The Two Babylon's

The first kingdom in Daniel 2 is Babylon which Nebuchadnezzar built and was king. From this came Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. In the world today you can see the evidence of paganism and traditions from all these first four kingdoms which is why the beast power in Revelation 13 is a composite beast made up of all the beasts that represented these first four kingdoms shown by the same individual corresponding beasts found in Daniel 7. This first beast in Revelation 13 which is Papal system is the result of all the paganism and traditions that date right back to Babylon. In the Old Testament Babylon was a pagan nation who took God's people into captivity and defiled the Temple of God. They worshipped idols and their king, and trod the Word of God underfoot. This great city was finally destroyed just as the prophets predicted. This is going to happen again spiritually. As this Apostate Church has taken on all the paganism and traits of what came from literal Babylon, God refers to this Apostate Church also as "BABYLON."

Now, in **Revelation 16** the angels commence pouring out the punishment from God as we draw very close to the second coming of Christ. We are told that "*great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.*" The "*sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of THE EAST might be prepared.*" Remember there is a lot of symbolism and PARALLELS here to literal Babylon and so this is not the literal river Euphrates that Babylon was built upon which was dried up to defeat Babylon.

Revelation 17 shows "*the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.*" This "*woman is drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*" This is referring to spiritual Babylon. She also sits upon the river Euphrates that is dried up as mentioned in Revelation 16 but this is not referring to the literal river. Literal Babylon sat upon the literal river Euphrates but spiritual Babylon sits upon a spiritual or symbolic river Euphrates. We are not left to guess what this symbolic water represents. Verse 17 says that the water that spiritual Babylon sits upon represents "*peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*" So what is dried up is the support of the people for this antichrist Papal system. God opens people's eyes so that they realize they have been deceived and they "*shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.*" Literal Babylon was defeated by Cyrus drying up her literal water (the Euphrates) and spiritual mystery Babylon will be defeated by God drying up her symbolic water (the support of many people).

Revelation 18 We are told that Babylon is fallen that made "all nations drank nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of HER fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with HER." "In HER was found the **blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth**" through the dark ages. We also see a call for "God's PEOPLE" to come out of "HER" so they do not partake of HER sins or plagues. Revelation 18:2-4. God knows that there are many of His true children innocently caught up in this antichrist Papal system that do not understand what this Church is truly all about or has done.

Revelation 19 The punishment is complete and the Papacy is destroyed, "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he has judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and has avenged the **blood of his servants** at her hand... And her smoke rose up for ever and ever... And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

As you can see, the Papal system is the major theme in Revelation as well as Daniel because since not long after Christ, SHE has continued to have a massive impact on what truly does matter to God, i.e., His Church. She is the root of many false doctrines, has changed God's law and shed the blood of millions of innocent Christians they called heretics etc. Now for more evidence on who is the antichrist by proving the Beast power is also Mystery Babylon. When Israel committed spiritual adultery, God called His Old Testament Church a "WHORISH WOMAN", a "HARLOT" and a "WHORE" and accused her of "FORNICATION" and "ADULTERY." The Catholic Church is guilty of much worse than Israel. In a recent address to the nations, Pope Benedict caused a major uproar among many Churches as he referred to the Catholic Church as being the "MOTHER" Church and called for all the daughter Churches to come back to HER. A large percentage of the Churches today are called daughter Churches because they originally came from the Catholic Church, eg: Martin Luther, who had been a Catholic priest established the Lutheran Church. Sadly, many of the daughter Churches have also ignorantly inherited various false doctrines and this is why SHE is called the "MOTHER OF HARLOTS" as is Mystery Babylon.

God's True Church verses the False apostate Church

In Revelation 12, God's true Church is described as a "great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars" in strong contrast to the "great whore" of mystery Babylon; "the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication." **Revelation 17:4**. God likens His Church to a "wife" (woman) that "has made herself ready" for "the marriage supper of the Lamb." **Revelation 19:7-9**, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. ... 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." Here Christ is the bridegroom and the Church is the bride (woman). The Babylonian woman who has "fallen" (Revelation 14:8; 18:2) therefore has to signify that "Mystery Babylon" represents a globally supported Church that has "fallen" away from her true lover, Jesus Christ, and from Bible truth and God's law. The woman "clothed with the sun" (vs. 1) on the other hand is God's true Church bringing light into the world and still keeps God's Commandments (vs. 17) in loving obedience the same way the early Church did, hence the term remnant. Note how the 12 stars constitute the crown (vs. 1). The crown denotes rulership and organization. In the Old Testament you had 12 tribes of Israel and 12 judges and in the New Testament you had 12 Apostles and the final remnant Church that will be translated is symbolised by the number 144,000 which is a multiple of 12. Note God's true Church having to flee for the 1260 years from the same seven headed, ten horned beast described in Revelation 13 representing the Papacy. (vs. 6, 14)

As one can see from the above comparison, in Revelation 17 we have the absolute opposite to God's true Church. Here we find the WOMAN representing a Church described as the GREAT WHORE which is an apostate Church drunk on the blood of the saints and is absolutely and unquestionably the Papal Church.

Revelation 17:1-6 "...I will show unto you the judgment of the GREAT WHORE that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed FORNICATION, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a WOMAN sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, the MOTHER OF HARLOTS and abominations of the earth. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus..."



Make a note of the scripture below that informs us the colour blue represents God's Ten Commandment law and also remember that the Antichrist (little horn) would think to change God's law. Daniel 7:25

Numbers 15:38-39 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of **blue**: **39** And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that **you may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD**, and do them; and that you seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you use to go a whoring:"



Besides *blue*, the other colours of the garments that the priests were to wear had the colours *purple*, *scarlet* and *gold*. Remember that the *blue* represents God's law and that the Papacy thought to change God's law. Note in the picture here that the robes of the Catholic Priests are missing the colour *blue* as is the great whore, (Rev 17) who is the Papacy and has the same colours.

Exodus 28:3-6 "And you shall speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. **4** And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. **5** And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen. **6** And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work."

In John's vision in Revelation 17, we are shown the judgment that must come upon the mother of all Churches, Mystery Babylon. The judgement is because she thought to change God's law and has the blood of millions of Christians the Papacy called heretics on her hands etc. You will note many of the same identifying marks as the Antichrist beast power described in Revelation 13:1 being Papal Rome. Since a woman in Bible Prophecy represents a Church and a beast a kingdom, what we symbolically have is a woman riding and in control of a beast. This literally would be a Church in control of a kingdom or more specifically, a Church in control of state as was the Roman Catholic Church for 1260 dark years. This is why America had in their constitution that Church should remain separate from state so that such a dreadful thing as those 1260 years of Papal persecution could not happen again, but unfortunately the Bible tells us it will happen again with the Mark of the Beast issue. Note that the woman riding the beast, like the Catholic Priest robes, is missing the colour blue. Here is a Church in control of state that has forgotten and changed the Commandments of God, and any wonder when the dragon (Satan) gave her the power and great authority. The Papacy is especially famous for changing God's Sabbath and they say that it is a MARK of their authority that they could do this and have the whole protestant world follow her.

Giving full credibility to the above information

There are always those opposing truth as long as the deceiver is in this world. A thorough study of Bible prophecy reveals that the Antichrist can be none other than the Papacy even without the information provided below. But sceptics are not prepared to accept it unless it can be fully verified by history. For those who require more proof, here it is with all the historical quotes including those that prove the 538 AD to 1798 AD uninterrupted rule of the Papacy as Church and state. Be prepared for some good reading.

Defining the Name Antichrist

THE name "antichrist" is found in only two chapters of the Bible, and in every instance it was emphatically stated that he was already in the world. We read:

"Ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists. ... Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son." 1 John 2:18, 22. "This is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." 1 John 4:3. "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." 2 John 7. How can anyone, in the light of these plain texts, say that the antichrist here spoken of is not yet come, when the very texts declare that he is here already?

These texts also reveal the fact that the apostle did not believe antichrist to be only one individual, but rather an antichristian tendency in the church: an organization dominated by "the spirit of antichrist," having a man at its head, so that when he died another would take his place, and the antichristian system would continue. Thus there would be "many antichrists," as the apostle says, but only one system; and this system had already made such progress before the apostle died, that it was about to capture the church. Its leader would not accept the Apostle John, one leader "forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church." 3 John 9, 10. This accounts for the warnings in John's epistles against these "many antichrists." 1 John 2:18.

The Apostle Paul, during his last journey among the churches, gathered "the elders," or bishops, and warned them against the coming apostasy of the church, which was to be brought about by its leaders. He says: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after

them." Acts 20:29, 30. Later the apostle reminded the believers, that the day of Christ's return was not then at hand: "For that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God [the church, 1 Corinthians 3:10, 16], showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ... For the mystery of iniquity doth already work." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7

These prophecies point out clearly that the "elders" (later called bishops) would "draw away" the people from the truth of the Bible, to follow men, and that this "falling away," which had "already" begun in Paul's day, would develop, until a "man" would exalt himself to take the place of Christ in the church. Every thoughtful student of prophecy can see that this points unmistakably to the Papacy, and it accords exactly with the significance of the name "antichrist."

Dr. James Strong says that "antichrist" comes from two Greek words, *antee* and *khristos*, and gives the following definition of *antee*: "Opposite, i.e. instead or because of ... for, in the room of. Often used in composition to denote ... substitution." - *Exhaustive Concordance, Greek Dictionary, entries Nos. 500, 473*. Thomas Sheldon Green says: "Anti, prep, over against; hence, in correspondence to; in place of ..." - *Greek-English Lexicon*, p. 14. Boston: 1896. The meaning, therefore, of "antichrist," as it is used in the New Testament, is a rival to Christ, or one who attempts to take the place of Christ as His "vicar." This significance of the prefix "anti" is also seen in the word "anti-pope." (For further information on this point see "The Papacy Is Antichrist," by J. A. Wylie, pp. 2-18. Edinburgh: George M'Gibbon.) We shall now see that this is exactly the position which Catholics claim for the pope, that he holds the place of Christ on earth. Rev. T. L. Kinkead says:

"Our Holy Father the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, is the vicar of Christ on earth and the visible head of the Church."

"'Vicar' - that is, one who holds another's place and acts in his name" - *"Explanation of the Baltimore Catechism," p. 130. Benziger Brothers. (Sanctioned by Cardinal Gibbons, five archbishops, nineteen bishops, and other dignitaries.)*

Rev. William Humphrey, S. J., says:

"A vicar is put in the place of him whom he represents. He is invested with his power, he is furnished with his authority. ... He personates his principal. ... The master, by his appointment of a vicar, binds himself to ratify his vicar's acts, and to recognize them as his own." - *"The Vicar of Christ," p. 4. New York: Benziger Brothers, 1892.*

Thomas Morell, D. D., and Prof. John Carey, LL.D., says:

"Vicarius, a, um. adj. That is in stead, or place of another; that supplies another's room; a deputy. ... One who performs the office, or duty, of another; a deputy, a substitute." - *An Abridgement of Ainsworth's Latin Dictionary, Designed for the Use of Schools, p. 604. London: 1826.*

When the force of this similarity between the antichrist of prophecy and the pope of Rome dawned upon the mind of Cardinal Newman, he declared:

"The gibe, 'If the Pope is not Antichrist, he has had bad luck to be so like him,' is really another argument in favour of the claims of the Pope; since Antichrist simulates Christ, and the Pope is an image of Christ, Antichrist must have some similarity to the Pope, if the latter be the true Vicar of Christ." - *Catholic Encyclopaedia, Vol. I, p. 561, art. "Antichrist."*

Thus it is claimed that the pope is the vicar of Christ on earth. But Christ left an altogether different Vicar, or Representative, in His place; namely, the Holy Spirit. (John 14:15-18; 16:7.) Of this Representative Christ says: "He shall teach you all things." "He will guide you into all truth!" John 14:26; 16:13. (Compare 1 John 2:20, 27.) The Holy Spirit, being the author of the Bible (2 Peter 1:21), certainly should be the proper interpreter of it. To this the Roman church answers:

"Nor can it be said that being a divinely inspired book, its prime Author, the Holy Spirit, will guide the reader to the right meaning.

"The Church which made the Bible, likewise interprets the Bible." - *"Things Catholics Are Asked About," Martin J. Scott, S. J., Litt. D., pp. 119, 120. N. Y.: Kenedy, 1927.*

Pope Leo XIII says: "But the supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself." - *"The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII," p. 193. New York: Benziger Bros., 1903. He further says:*

"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." - *Id., p. 304.*

We have now seen from authentic Catholic sources, that the pope arrogates to himself the "place of God Almighty," the office of Christ on earth, and the prerogative of the Holy Spirit, as sole teacher of the

faithful, and the interpreter of the Holy Scriptures. What more is needed to fulfil the prediction of 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, and the prophecies of the Antichrist?

All Agreed On Antichrist

Up to the close of the Reformation God's people were generally agreed that the Papacy was the Antichrist foretold in prophecy. The Waldenses taught it. (See page 122) About 1384 A. D. John Wycliffe wrote a book against the papal system entitled: "Of Antecrist and His Meynee." In fact, the English Reformers, - Tyndale, Cranmer, Latimer, and Ridley, - all agreed in pointing to the Papacy as the Antichrist. John Huss of Bohemia, in his "De Anatomia Antichristi," did the same. Turning to Germany we find Dr. Martin Luther strong in his convictions on this subject. He says:

"The Pope is ... the true Antichrist, of whom it is written, that he sitteth in the temple of God, among the people where Christ is worshiped...

"But Papists want to divert this passage from themselves, and they say that Christ and Paul speak about the temple at Jerusalem, and that Antichrist shall sit there and rule; that will not do. ... It cannot be understood otherwise than of the new spiritual temple, which he says we are.

"There shall the Pope sit and he honoured, not above God, but above all that is called God. ... So also we see it before our eyes, that many princes and the world regard his law higher and more than the commandments of God. ... Cannot this rightly be termed exalting and honouring Antichrist above God?" - *Luther's Church Postil, "Gospels," 25th Sunday after Trinity, par. 24, 25, Part 2, pp. 734, 735. Stavanger, Norway: 1862.*

Luther further declares:

"Therefore, let whosoever will doubt, God's word and the proper divine worship convinces me sufficiently that the Pope is the Antichrist, and the ecclesiastical orders are his disciples, which deceive the whole world." - *Id., Part 1, p. 379.*

"I hope that the last day is at the door. Things could not become worse than the Roman see makes it. It suppresses the commandments of God, it exalts its own commandments above God's. If this is not Antichrist, then some one else must tell what it is." - *"Luther's Reformatory Works," p. 280. Copenhagen: 1883.*

"The Pope is the real Antichrist." - *Id., p. 278.*

Dr. Charles H. H. Wright, in speaking of the Bible prophecy of "antichrist," says: "In all ages of the Church, from the days of Gregory the Great down to the present, men have pointed to the Papacy as the fulfilment of the prophecy. That interpretation is set forth in the Homilies of the Church of England and by all the Reformed Churches. The interpretation, however, has been ignored or rejected by critics, for reasons which need not be specified. It can, however, stand all the tests of criticism." - *"Daniel and His Prophecies," p. 168. London: 1906. (See also Catholic Encyclopaedia, Vol. 1, p. 561, art. "Antichrist.")*

Additional Quotes to this chapter (All agreed on Antichrist)

When the Bible hit the printing press, almost all the early Church fathers began to understand Bible Prophecy and in particular the one of the Antichrist. True Protestantism teaches salvation by grace through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8) and the supremacy of the Bible above the visible church, (2 Timothy 3:16) above traditions, pastors, priests, popes and kings. It also teaches the priesthood of all believers (2 Peter 2:9, 10) and that all people everywhere can be saved by coming directly to our loving heavenly Father through His only Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:6). [1 Timothy 2:5](#) states, "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."

The Protestant Reformation in the 1500's literally changed the course of history. It helped move Europe out of the Dark Ages and led to the rise of true religious freedom. Its original principles eventually found expression in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America which teaches that when it comes to religion, the governments of earth have no right to control the conscience. What did the major Protestant Reformers teach about the Antichrist? Here are some more comments presented by some of the most influential Christian leaders who have ever lived and what they believed about "the little horn" (Daniel 7:8), "the beast" (Revelation 13:1), and "the man of sin" (2 Thessalonians 2:3) and about Antichrist.

John Wesley (1703-1791) (Methodist): Speaking of the Papacy, John Wesley wrote, "He is in an emphatical sense, the Man of Sin, as he increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is, too, properly styled the Son of Perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his opposers and followers... He it is...that exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped...claiming the highest power, and highest honour...claiming the prerogatives which belong to God alone." — *Antichrist and His Ten Kingdoms*, by John Wesley, pg. 110.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) (Lutheran): "Luther ... proved, by the revelations of Daniel and St. John, by the epistles of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. Jude, that the reign of Antichrist, predicted and described in

the Bible, was the Papacy ... And all the people did say, Amen! A holy terror seized their souls. It was Antichrist whom they beheld seated on the pontifical throne. This new idea, which derived greater strength from the prophetic descriptions launched forth by Luther into the midst of his contemporaries, inflicted the most terrible blow on Rome." — Taken from J. H. Merle D'aubigne's *History of the Reformation of the Sixteen Century*, book vi, chapter xii, p. 215.

Based on prophetic studies, Martin Luther finally declared, "We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist." (Aug. 18, 1520). — Taken from *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, by LeRoy Froom. Vol. 2., pg. 121.

John Wycliffe "When the western church was divided for about 40 years between two rival popes, one in Rome and the other in Avignon, France, each pope called the other pope antichrist - and John Wycliffe is reputed to have regarded them as both being right: "two halves of Antichrist, making up the perfect Man of Sin between them." — Ibid

Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) (Anglican): "Whereof it followeth Rome to be the seat of antichrist, and the pope to be very antichrist himself. I could prove the same by many other scriptures, old writers, and strong reasons." (Referring to prophecies in Revelation and Daniel.) — *Works by Cranmer*, Vol. 1, pp. 6-7.

John Calvin (1509-1564) (Presbyterian): "Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman pontiff Antichrist. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself, after whom we speak and whose language we adopt... I shall briefly show that (Paul's words in II Thess. 2) are not capable of any other interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy." — Taken from *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, by John Calvin.

John Knox (1505-1572) (Scotch Presbyterian): John Knox sought to counteract "that tyranny which the pope himself has for so many ages exercised over the church." As with Luther, he finally concluded that the Papacy was "the very antichrist, and son of perdition, of whom Paul speaks." — *The Zurich Letters*, by John Knox, pg. 199.

Roger Williams (1603-1683) (First Baptist Pastor in America): Pastor Williams spoke of the Pope as "the pretended Vicar of Christ on earth, who sits as God over the Temple of God, exalting himself not only above all that is called God, but over the souls and consciences of all his vassals, yea over the Spirit of Christ, over the Holy Spirit, yea, and God himself...speaking against the God of heaven, thinking to change times and laws; but he is the son of perdition (II Thess. 2)." — *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, by Froom, Vol. 3, pg. 52.

The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647): "There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition that exalteth himself in the church against Christ and all that is called God." — Taken from Philip Schaff's, *The Creeds of Christendom, With a History and Critical Notes*, III, p. 658, 659, ch. 25, sec. 6.

Cotton Mather (1663-1728) (Congregational Theologian): "The oracles of God foretold the rising of an Antichrist in the Christian Church: and in the Pope of Rome, all the characteristics of that Antichrist are so marvelously answered that if any who read the Scriptures do not see it, there is a marvelous blindness upon them." — Taken from *The Fall of Babylon* by Cotton Mather in Froom's book, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, Vol. 3, pg. 113.

A Great Cloud of Witnesses: "Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther, Calvin, Cranmer; in the seventeenth century, Bunyan, the translators of the King James Bible and the men who published the Westminster and Baptist confessions of Faith; Sir Isaac Newton, Wesley, Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards; and more recently Spurgeon, Bishop J.C. Ryle and Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones; these men among countless others, all saw the office of the Papacy as the antichrist." — Taken from *All Roads Lead to Rome*, by Michael de Semlyen. Dorchester House Publications, p. 205. 1991.

Jesuits Undermine the Truth

The Rev. Joseph Tanner, B. A., says:

"So great hold did the conviction that the Papacy was the Antichrist gain upon the minds of men, that Rome at last saw she must bestir herself, and try, by putting forth other systems of interpretation, to counteract the identification of the Papacy with the Antichrist.

"Accordingly, towards the close of the century of the Reformation, two of her most learned doctors set themselves to the task, each endeavouring by different means to accomplish the same end; namely, that of diverting men's minds from perceiving the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Antichrist in the papal system. The Jesuit Alcasar devoted himself to bring into prominence the Preterist method of interpretation, ... that the prophecies of Antichrist were fulfilled before the Popes ever ruled at Rome, and therefore could not apply to the Papacy. On the other hand the Jesuit Ribera tried to set aside the application of these prophecies to the papal power by bringing out the Futurist system, which asserts that

these prophecies refer properly not to the career of the Papacy, but to that of some future supernatural individual, who is yet to appear, and to continue in power for three and a half years. Thus, as Alford says, the Jesuit Ribera, about A. D. 1580, may be regarded as the Founder of the Futurist system in modern times.

"It is a matter for deep regret that those who hold and advocate the Futurist system at the present day, Protestants as they are for the most part, are thus really playing into the hands of Rome, and helping to screen the Papacy from detection as the Antichrist. It has been well said that 'Futurism tends to obliterate the brand put by the Holy Spirit upon popery.' More especially is this to be deplored at a time when the papal Antichrist seems to make an expiring effort to regain his former hold on men's minds. Now once again, as at the Reformation, it is especially necessary that his true character should be recognized, by all who would be faithful to 'the testimony of Jesus.'" - *"Daniel and the Revelation," pp. 16, 17. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1898.*

To undermine the work of the Reformers, these Jesuits, Alcasar and Ribera, gathered a mass of material from the writings of the Church Fathers concerning Antichrist. This gave their works the appearance of scientific research, which appealed to many Protestant leaders. (An example of this can be seen in *Encyclopaedia Biblica*, art. "Antichrist.") But statements from the Church Fathers which speak of the coming of Antichrist as an event then in the future, could be no proof for Ribera's "futurist" theory, for the reign of the papal Antichrist was then still in the future. The 1260 years of papal persecution, called the Dark Ages, had not yet begun when these Fathers wrote. The theories of Ribera and Alcasar were diametrically opposed to each other, and yet both were taught as Catholic truths, taken from the Church Fathers. From this we see how untrustworthy are these sources. Dr. Adam Clarke is evidently right when he says of the Fathers:

"We may safely state, that there is not a truth in the most orthodox creed, that cannot be proven by their authority; nor a heresy that has disgraced the Romish Church that may not challenge them as its abettors. In points of doctrine, their authority is, with me, nothing. The Word of God alone contains my creed." - *Commentary on Proverbs 8.*

Bible Prophecy Of Antichrist Is Plain

The prophecies of the Bible regarding Antichrist are so plain that even Roman Catholics cannot evade them all. The seventh chapter of Daniel foretells the rise of four world empires, which the Douay Bible explains to be "the Chaldean, Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires." The Roman Empire was broken up into ten smaller kingdoms between the years 351 and 476 A. D. And among them there should grow up another power, symbolised by a "little horn." Of this the Douay Bible says: "*Another little horn. This is commonly understood of Antichrist.*" Daniel 7:7, 8. The Papacy is the only power that came up just at that time, and which fits all the specifications of the symbol.

We have seen on page 195 how clearly the Papacy is pointed out in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7. This prophecy states that the apostolic church would be gradually "falling away" until a "man" would exalt himself to take the place of God in the church. This "mystery of iniquity" was already at work in Paul's day, but something was holding it back. (Vs. 6, 7) As long as the Roman Empire was heathen, and persecuted the Christians, there was no incentive to join the church for worldly gain; but during the time of Constantine the church became popular, and the worldly ambitious struggled for the highest ecclesiastical offices, because of the great honour and emolument connected with them; and when finally the Roman State was abolished, the bishop of Rome seated himself upon the throne of the Caesars. It was therefore heathen Rome that had to "be taken out of the way," before the papal Antichrist could come into power. Speaking of this point the Catholic Encyclopaedia says: "The impediment is the Roman Empire; the main event impeded is the 'man of sin.'" - *Vol. 1, p. 560, art. "Antichrist."*

The Douay Bible says: "The Roman Empire. ... was first to be destroyed, before the coming of Antichrist." - *Note on 2 Thessalonians 2:3.*

Two Points Made Clear

There were two arguments used against the position taken by the Reformers which have puzzled many:

(1) It was claimed that the Apostle John used two distinctions: "an Antichrist" to designate the false teachers of his day, and "the Antichrist," referring to some superhuman monster of Jewish extraction that would appear just before Christ's second coming. But on this point Dr. C. H. H. Wright truthfully remarks: "St. John, the only New Testament writer who employs the term, makes no distinction whatever between 'an Antichrist' and 'the Antichrist.' That distinction was in the main an invention of the learned Jesuit interpreters." - *"Daniel and His Prophecies," p. 165. London: 1906.*

(2) The second objection was that while "the Antichrist" would deny the incarnation, for he would deny that "Christ is come in the flesh." (2 John 7), the pope does not deny this, therefore he cannot be the Antichrist. This argument has seemed so logical and conclusive that Protestants, to a large extent, have given up the Protestant doctrine that the Papacy is Antichrist, and have ceased to protest.

This argument, however, is based on a misunderstanding, caused by overlooking one word in the text. Antichrist was not to deny that Christ had come in flesh, but was to deny that He had "come in the flesh," in "the same" kind of flesh, as the human race He came to save. (See 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7, and Hebrews 2:14, 17) On this vital difference hinges the real "truth of the gospel." Did Christ come all the way down to make contact with the fallen race, or only part way, so that we must have saints, popes, and priests intercede for us with a Christ who is removed too far from fallen humanity and its needs to make direct contact with the individual sinner? Right here lies the great divide that parts Protestantism from Roman Catholicism. In order to understand this point clearly, let us briefly consider the gospel of Christ.

The Gospel of Christ Versus The Gospel Of Rome

Through sin man has separated himself from God, and his fallen nature is opposed to the divine will; therefore he cannot by his own effort live a godly life, nor can he change his own heart. (Isaiah 59:1; Romans 8:7; Jeremiah 13:23; John 15:5) Only through Christ, our Mediator, can man be rescued from sin, and again be brought into connection with the source of purity and power.

But in order to become such a connecting link Christ had to partake both of the divinity of God and of the humanity of man, so that He with His divine arm could encircle God, and with His human arm embrace man, thus connecting both in His own person. In this union of the human with the divine lies the "mystery" of the gospel, the secret of power to lift man from his degradation. "Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh." 1 Timothy 3:16. The "mystery," or secret of power to live a godly life in human flesh, was manifest in the life of Jesus Christ while on earth. (And "Christ in you" is the secret of power to conquer sin. Colossians 1:27.)

But mark! It was fallen man that was to be rescued from sin. And to make contact with him Christ had to condescend to take our nature upon Himself (not some higher kind of flesh). "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same. ... Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren." Hebrews 2:14, 17. This text is so worded that it cannot be misunderstood. Christ "took part of the same" flesh and blood as ours; He came in "the" flesh. To deny this is the mark of Antichrist. (1 John 4:3; 2 John 7.) To bridge the gulf that sin has made, Christ must be one with the Father in divinity, and one with man in humanity, and thus connect again earth with heaven.

God revealed this truth to the Patriarch Jacob that lonely night at Bethel. When he feared that his sins had cut him off from heaven, God showed him that mystic Ladder, connecting earth with heaven, which Christ explained to be "the Son of man." (Genesis 28:12; John 1:51.) Modernism has tried to cut off the upper part of this ladder by denying Christ's divinity; while the Roman Catholic Church cuts off the lower rounds by teaching that the Virgin Mary was born without sin, and that therefore Christ did not take upon Himself our kind of flesh and blood, but holy flesh, so far above us that He does not make contact with our humanity. For this reason the poor sinner cannot come to Him directly, they say, but must come through Mary, saints, popes, and priests, who will mediate for him. This has opened the floodgate for all the idolatry of the Catholic Church. Here is this "dogma" presented in authentic Catholic works:

'We define that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first moment of her conception ... was preserved free from every taint of original sin.'

"Unlike the rest of the children of Adam, the soul of Mary was never subject to sin. *"Faith of Our Fathers,"* Cardinal Gibbons, pp. 203, 204. Baltimore: 1885.

The Sainted Doctor Alphonsus de Liguori says: "The merits of Jesus, shall be dispensed through the hands and by the intercession of Mary. *"Glories of Mary,"* p. 180, New Revised Edition. New York: P. J. Kenedy and Sons, 1888.

"God has chosen to bestow no grace upon us but by the hands of Mary." - *Id.*, p. 180.

"Whoever asks and wishes to obtain graces without the intercession of Mary, attempts to fly without wings." - *Id.*, p. 189.

"Mary is all the hope of our salvation." - *Id.*, p. 195.

"Thou art the only advocate of sinners." - *Id.*, p. 129.

"All those who are saved, are saved solely by means of this divine mother; ... the salvation of all depends upon preaching Mary" - *Id.*, pp. 19, 20.

"We ask many things of God and do not obtain them; we ask them from Mary and obtain them." - *Id.*, p. 150. Much more could be cited.

A Protestant may ask if the merits of Christ's sacrifice on the cross are not sufficient, so that we can receive grace directly from Him. To this the Catholic Church answers:

"The merits and virtue of the sacrifice of the cross are infinite; but that virtue and these merits must be applied, and this can only be done by certain means." - *"Doctrinal Catechism," S. Keenan, p. 129. New York: Kenedy and Sons, 1846.*

"The priest has the power of the keys, or the power of delivering sinners from hell, of making them worthy of paradise and of changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. And God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priests. ... 'The Sovereign Master of the universe only follows the servant by confirming in heaven all that the latter decides upon earth.'" - *"Dignity and Duties of the Priest," St. Alphonsus de Liguori, pp. 27, 28. New York: Benziger Brothers, 1888.*

We now have before us the only means of salvation in the Roman Catholic gospel, as presented by men of unquestionable authority among them. This throws light on the reason why the Catholic priest has such a hold on his people. They dare not oppose him, because he represents their only means of contact with heaven. Cut off from the church, they feel they are lost; for they do not know of a Christ who has come all the way down to the lost sinner's side, to whom they can come personally and receive forgiveness through grace alone. The divine ladder has been cut off, and Mary, saints, and priests have been substituted. But the Bible knows of only "one Mediator," Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 2:5; Psalm 49:7, 8)

But we have not yet gone to the depth of this substitute mystery." Let us now take the next step. Having removed the living Christ from contact with the sinner, they had to substitute something else to satisfy the longing of the human heart for the indwelling presence of Christ. And that substitute is the "Sacrifice of the Mass." The Roman church teaches that the priest in the mass changes the little wafer into the real Christ, which they then fall down and worship, after which they eat Him, believing that they become partakers of Christ and receive the forgiveness of sin. Thus they have substituted a man-made Christ for a living Christ. Liguori says:

"If the person of the Redeemer had not yet been in the world, the priest, by pronouncing the words of consecration, would produce this great person of a Man-God. 'O wonderful dignity of the priests,' cries out St. Augustine; 'in their hands, as in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, the Son of God becomes incarnate.' Hence priests are called the parents of Jesus Christ. ...

"Thus the priest may, in a certain manner, be called the creator of his Creator. 'He that created me without me is Himself created by me!'" - *"Dignity and Duty of the Priest," pp. 32, 33.*

"In obedience to the words of his priests - Hoc est Corpus Meum - God himself descends on the altar. ... he comes wherever they call him, and as often as they call him, and places himself in their hands. ... They may, if they wish, shut him up in the tabernacle; ... they may, if they choose, eat his flesh, and give him for the food of others.' - *Id., pp. 26, 27.*

Then priest and people worship the Christ thus created:

"Elevating a particle of the Blessed Sacrament, and turning towards the people, he [the priest] says: 'Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.'

"And then says three times: Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst enter under my roof; but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed. ...

"This pure and holy Sacrament. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen." - *"The Key of Heaven," Right Rev. J. Milner, D. A, approved by Cardinal Gibbons, pp. 126, 127. Baltimore: J. Murphy and Co., 1898.*

In the following quotation the Catholic Church explains why she believer, this worship of the wafer (host) is not idolatry:

"Now turn for a moment to the Catholic altar. The holy Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered up. The bell has given the signal that the most solemn and awful moment of consecration is at hand. As yet there is only bread in the hand of the priest, and wine in the chalice before him. To worship these lifeless elements would be the grossest idolatry. But suddenly, amid the silence of the breathless multitude, the priest utters the divine life-giving words of consecration; and that which was bread and wine, is bread and wine no longer, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Himself. It is that same Body that was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that died for us upon the cross, that was raised again to life, and that even now sits at the right hand of God the Father. ...

"Now in this mystery the power of the creation appears as much as in the mystery of the incarnation." - *"The Holy Mass: The Sacrifice for the Living and the Dead." M. Muller, pp. 174, 175. New York: 1876.*

Pastor Charles Chiniquy, a former Catholic priest, says:

"No words can give any idea of the pleasure I used to feel when alone, prostrated before the Christ I had made at the morning mass, I poured out my heart at His feet. ... I may say with truth, that the happiest hours I ever had, during the long years of darkness into which the Church of Rome had plunged me, were the hours I passed in adoring the Christ whom I had made with my own lips. ...

"In fact, the Roman Catholics have no other Saviour to whom they can betake themselves than the one made by the consecration of the wafer. He is the only Saviour who is not angry with them, and who does not require the mediation of virgins and saints to appease His wrath." - *"Fifty Years in the Church of Rome,"* chapter 17, pars. 29, 31.

In the thirty-sixth chapter of his book Pastor Chiniquy tells how he was led to question seriously this worship of Rome's wafer-god, the "host." In the spring of 1840 ... Father Daule [an old, blind priest, was residing with him at Beauport, Quebec.] One morning when the old priest was at the altar, saying his mass, [and had just changed the wafer into the real Christ, and was reaching for it, it was gone. He called to Chiniquy] with a shriek of distress: 'The Good God has disappeared from the altar. He is lost!' [Chiniquy, remembering how often rats had tried to get the wafer while he himself had officiated there, knew what had happened, and in his consternation replied:] 'Some rats have dragged and eaten the Good God!' [The sorrow of the old priest knew no bounds, but Chiniquy declared.] 'If I were God Almighty, and a miserable rat would come to eat me, I would surely strike him dead.'" - *Id.*, chapter 86, pars. 7, 18, 24.

But Catholics deny that the Papacy is Antichrist, for, say they, Antichrist is to come in the last days. To this we answer: It is true that both Paul and John speak of the activity of Antichrist at the time of Christ's second coming, but they also speak of its already having begun in their day. (1 John 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:7) There is a beautiful harmony in this when we look at it in the light of Revelation 13:3, 5, 10 and 17:8, where it is stated that this power will continue forty-two prophetic months, or twelve hundred sixty literal years, after which it is "wounded to death" and lies dormant for a time, till its deadly wound is healed, and all the world will again follow it in wonder and admiration, and finally it will be destroyed at Christ's second coming. So the Antichrist of the last days is simply the Papacy restored to power. See "Romanism and the Reformation," by H. Grattan Guinness, F. R. G. S., and "The Papacy," by Dr. J. A. Wylie.

"The Romanists themselves shame you in their clear sighted comprehension of the issues of this question. Cardinal Manning says, 'The Catholic Church is either the masterpiece of Satan or the kingdom of the Son of God.' Cardinal Newman says, 'A sacerdotal order is historically the essence of the Church of Rome; if not divinely appointed, it is doctrinally the essence of Antichrist. In both these statements the issue is clear, and it is the same. Rome herself admits, openly admits that if she is not the very kingdom of Christ, she is that of Antichrist. Rome declares she is one or the other. She herself propounds and urges this solemn alternative. You shrink from it, do you? I accept it. Conscience constrains me. History compels me. The past, the awful past, rises before me. I see THE GREAT APOSTASY, I see the desolation of Christendom, I see the smoking ruins, I see the reign of monsters; I see those vice-gods, that Gregory VII, that Innocent III, that Boniface VIII, that Alexander VI, that Gregory X111, that Pius IX; I see their long succession. I hear their insufferable blasphemies, I see their abominable lives. I see them worshiped by blinded generations, bestowing hollow benedictions, bartering lying indulgences, creating a paganized Christianity. I see their liveried slaves, their shaven priests, their celibate confessors; I see the infamous confessional, the ruined women, the murdered innocents; I hear the lying absolutions, the dying groans. I hear the cries of the victims; I hear the anathemas, the curses, the thunders of the interdicts; I see the racks, the dungeons, the stakes; I see that inhuman Inquisition, those fires of Smithfield, those butcheries of St. Bartholomew, that Spanish Armada, those unspeakable dragonnades, that endless train of wars, that dreadful multitude of massacres. I see it all, and in the name of the ruin it has wrought in the Church and in the world, in the name of the truth it has denied, the temple it has defiled, the God it has blasphemed. The souls it has destroyed; in the name of the millions it has deluded. The millions it has slaughtered, the millions it has damned; with holy confessors, with noble reformers, with innumerable martyrs, with the saints of ages, *I denounce it as the masterpiece of Satan, as the body and soul and essence of Antichrist.*" - *"Romanism and the Reformation,"* H. Grattan Guinness, pp. 158,159. London: 1891.

The Prophetic History of the World (The 1260 year evidence)

THE prophecies of the Bible are not difficult to understand, if we follow the rules laid down in Scripture for interpreting prophecy. These rules are few in number, and they are not complicated. When used in connection with prophetic symbols, "sea," or "waters," stand for "multitudes" of people (Revelation 17:15; Isaiah 8:7; 17:12; Jeremiah 6:23); "wind" stands for "war" (Jeremiah 4:12, 13; 25:31, 32); "beasts" stand for "kingdoms" (Daniel 7:23); and "days" for "years" (Ezekiel 4:6).

The prophet Daniel saw in vision four winds of war, which strove upon the great sea of people, and four great beasts, or kingdoms, came up one after the other. "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings." Daniel 7:2-4. In Jeremiah 49:19, 22, 28, a lion is used to symbolize the kingdom of Babylon (606-538 B. C.). The second beast was like a bear (Daniel 7:5), and denoted Medo-Persia, the next world empire (538-331 B. C.). The "three ribs in the mouth of it" were the three chief countries which it conquered, Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.

He next saw a leopard having four heads and four wings (v. 6), symbolizing the Grecian Empire (331-168 B. C.). A leopard is very alert, and adding to this symbol four wings would indicate that Grecia would make

rapid conquest, which was true. Alexander the Great marched his army 5,100 miles in eight years and conquered the then known civilised world. The four heads on the leopard denote the four divisions into which that empire was split up after the death of Alexander.

"The fourth beast," the angel explained, "shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth." V. 23. The fourth empire from Babylon was Rome (168 B. C. to 476 A. D). The angel also informs us that "the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise." V. 24. The Roman Empire was split up into just ten smaller kingdoms between the years 351 and 476 A. D. The following are their ancient and modern names:

1. Alemanni - Germany. 2. Franks - France. 3. Anglo-Saxons - England. 4. Burgundians - Switzerland. 5. Visigoths - Spain. 6. Suevi - Portugal. 7. Lombards - Italy. 8. Heruli. 9. Vandals. 10. Ostrogoths.

This prophecy is so plain, and the explanation so natural and easy to understand, that all commentators, both Protestant and Catholic, fully agree on it. (See Sir Isaac Newton's "Observations upon the Prophecies," pp. 157-159; Bishop Thomas Newton, "Dissertations on the Prophecies," pp. 201-221; Joseph Tanner on "Daniel and the Revelation," pp. 165-174; Martin Luther's "Introduction," pp. 32, 33, Frederikshald, 1853)

The Douay, or Catholic, version of the Bible has the following notes on Daniel 7:3, 7, 8. "Four great beasts. Viz., the Chaldean, Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires." "Ten horns. That is, ten kingdoms, (as Apoc. 17. 12) among which the empire of the fourth beast shall be parcelled." "*Another little horn*. This is commonly understood of Antichrist."

In regard to these ten kingdoms, Sir Isaac Newton says: "Whatever was their number afterwards, they are still called the Ten Kings from their first number." - "*Daniel and the Apocalypse*," p. 187; first printed, 1733; reprinted, London: 1922.

The Little Horn

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn." Daniel 7:8. Let us now consider all the characteristics this prophecy gives to the little horn, and we shall be forced by weight of evidence to settle on just one power as the fulfilment of these predictions.

(1) It was to come up "among" the ten European kingdoms into which the Roman Empire was split. (V. 8)
(2) It "shall rise" to power "after them." (V. 24) (3) "And he shall be diverse from the first" ten kingdoms; that is, different from ordinary, secular kingdoms. (V. 24) Any one acquainted with history knows that the Papacy is the only power that answers to all these specifications. It rose "among" the kingdoms of Western Rome, "after" they were established in A. D. 476, and it differed from a purely civil power. But the angel gives still another mark of identity to the little horn. (4) Before it "there were *three of the first horns plucked up by the roots*." (V. 8.) That is, in coming up it pushed out before it three of the former horns by the roots. Thus three kingdoms were to be plucked up to give place for the Papacy. This prediction found its exact fulfilment in the destruction of the three Arian kingdoms: the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths, as we now shall see. Rev. E. B. Elliott, M.A., says:

"I might cite three that were eradicated from before the Pope out of the list first given; viz., the Heruli under Odoacer, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths. "*Horae Apocalypticae*," Vol. III, p. 168, Note 1. London: 1862.

In former days crowns of conquered kings were placed on the head of the conqueror. (2 Samuel 12:30.) It is symbolically fitting, therefore, that the pope wears a triple crown. Bishop Thomas Newton, speaking of the power that destroyed the three horns, says: "And the pope hath in a manner pointed himself out for the person by wearing the triple crown. "*Dissertations on the Prophecies*," p. 220. London.

A brief statement of the political and religious conditions in the Roman world is necessary here in order that the reader may better grasp the real situation in which these three Arian kingdoms found themselves. After Constantine had removed the seat of the empire from Rome to Constantinople, the Roman people were (at intervals) ruled from that Eastern capital, until the pope had grown to power in Rome. While the Papacy was gradually gaining control over the people of the West, the Eastern emperors were courting the good will of the popes in order to hold their Western subjects.

From the time of Constantine to that of Justinian there was a deadly struggle between the two largest factions of the Church, the Catholics and the Arians. Often there was terrible strife, and even bloodshed. "The streets of Alexandria and of Constantinople were deluged with blood by the partisans of rival bishops." - "*History of Christianity*," H. H. Milman, Book III, chap. 5, par. 2, p. 410. New York: 2-vol. ed., 1881. Most of the barbarian nations into which the Roman Empire was now split had accepted the Catholic faith. But the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths were Arians.

While the emperors courted the help of the popes for political reasons, the popes sought the assistance of the emperors to destroy the Arians. Theodosius, the Emperor of the East, had already (380-395 A. D.) given "fifteen stern edicts against heresy, one on the average for every year of his reign. ... So began the campaign which ended in the virtual extinction of Arianism in the Roman world." - "*Italy and her Invaders*," Thomas Hodgkin, Vol. I, pp. 368, 369. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 8-vol. ed. of 1899.

In A. D. 380, the Emperor Theodosius issued an edict which said: "We order those who follow this law to assume the name of Catholic Christians: we pronounce all others to be mad and foolish, and we order that they bear the ignominious name of heretics. ... These are to be visited ... by the stroke of our own authority." - *Italy and her Invaders,* T. Hodgkin, Vol. I, p. 183. Two-vol. ed. of 1880.

"Thus did the reign and legislation of Theodosius mark out the lines of future relationship between Pope and Emperor." - *Id.*, p. 187.

Embassies passed continually between the pope of Rome and the emperor of Constantinople, and in 381 A. D. Theodosius arranged for a general council of the clergy at Constantinople, which finally established the Catholic doctrine. "To him also, at least as much as to Constantine, must be attributed the permanent alliance between the Church and the State." - *Id.*, pp. 182, 183.

The Heruli

The Heruli under Odoacer had established themselves in Italy, 476 A. D.; and while this Arian king ruled all his subjects impartially, he endeavoured to shield his people from the persecution inaugurated by the combined efforts of the pope and the emperor. Pasquale Villari, writing of the period between 468 and 483A. D., says:

At that time the Pope was morally, and even more than morally speaking, the most powerful personage in Italy. If Odoacer [Odoacer], as an Arian, had openly opposed him, Simplicius [the Pope] could have easily roused the whole country against him, and made it impossible for him to maintain his position in Italy." - *The Barbarian Invasion of Italy,* Vol. I, pp. 145, 146. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902.

And just such an opportunity soon presented itself:

"Pope Simplicius died on the 2nd of March, 483, whereupon Odoacer made a false move, of which he felt the consequences before long. Undoubtedly it was very important for him to control the choice of a new Pontiff. He sought not only to prevent the riots which had often caused bloodshed in the streets of Rome on similar occasions, but also desired a Pope well disposed to himself. Thus when the preliminary assembly failed to agree in the choice of a candidate, the Pretorian Prefect, Cecina Basilius, suddenly intervened in Odoacer's name, and declared that no election would be valid without the King's voice. ... A decree was likewise issued prohibiting the alienation of Church property and threatening anathema on all who failed to respect it. After this the Assembly was summoned to sanction the decree and decide the election, which resulted in favour of Felix II (483-492), the candidate recommended by Odoacer." - *Id.*, p. 146.

"His interference in the Papal election has cast into the Roman Church the seed of a deep and threatening distrust towards him." - *Id.*, p. 147.

Rome could never forgive such an affront, and through its faithful ally, the emperor, another barbarian nation, the Ostrogoths, were called in to destroy the hated Heruli. Niccolo Machiavelli relates how the popes used such a method. He says:

"Nearly all the wars which the northern barbarians carried on in Italy, it may be here remarked, were occasioned by the pontiffs; and the hordes, with which the country was inundated, were generally called in by them. The same mode of proceeding still continued, and kept Italy weak and unsettled." - *History of Florence,* p. 13. Washington and London: Universal Classics Library, 1901.

Villari says that Theodoric at the head of the Ostrogothic hordes entered Italy in the autumn of 488, backed by the authority of the emperor and the Church. Because the discord that had now broken out between Odoacer and the pope had weakened the former and consequently made him less formidable, after two disastrous battles he retreated toward the city of Rome for safety from the Ostrogoths, but "the gates of Rome were shut in his face, and the inhabitants of Italy began to show him marked hostility; partly on account of his recent conflict with the Church, partly for the increased deeds of spoliation. ... The Church had taken advantage of all these causes of discontent in order to excite the populace against him; and before long it was openly said that the clergy had organized a general conspiracy against him somewhat, it would seem, in the style of the Sicilian Vespers." - *The Barbarian Invasion of Italy,* 2-vol. ed. of 1880. Vol. I, pp. 153-156.

John Henry Cardinal Newman, D. D., says:

"Odoacer was sinking before Theodoric, and the Pope was changing one Arian master for another." - *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine,* Part II, p. 320. London: 1878.

Villari continues: "On the 5th of March, 493, Theodoric entered Ravenna in triumph, all the clergy coming forth to meet him, chanting Psalms, and with the Archbishop at the head of the procession." - *The Barbarian Invasion of Italy,* Vol. I, p. 158. Ten days later Odoacer was murdered in cold blood.

Hodgkin points out that this coming of the archbishop to meet the Ostrogoths was staged so as to "impress vividly on the minds both of Italians and Ostrogoths that Theodoric came as the friend of the Catholic Church." - *Italy and Her Invaders,* 8-vol. ed., Vol. III, book 4, pp. 234, 235. Hodgkin further

states that the Roman clergy were privy to a terrible secret plot of murdering the followers of Odovacar all over Italy. (Id., pp. 225, 226.)

The Heruli disappeared from history. Thus the first of the three horns of Daniel 7:8 was "plucked up by the roots," and history leaves no room for doubt but that the Papacy through its allies engineered this act because of its opposition to Arianism.

The Emperor Justinian

Before passing to the next power destroyed by the Papacy we shall briefly state the condition of the Roman Empire at this time. Justinian had finally ascended the throne of Constantinople as the Emperor of the East, 527A. D. He was a shrewd politician, and in his effort to extend his rule over the whole of the Roman Empire he realized his need of securing the cooperation of the highly organized Catholic Church, for it was directed by a single head (the pope), and worked as a unit all over the empire, while the Arian nations stood separately, without any central organization, and hence they were weak. Then too, the Arians were very wealthy, and if Justinian could conquer them in the name of "the true Church," he could confiscate their property and thus secure means to carry on his many wars. We read:

"Justinian (527). . . already meditated . . . the conquest of Italy and Africa." - *"Decline and Fall," Edward Gibbon, chap. 89, par. 17.*

"Justinian felt that the support of the Pope is as necessary in his reconquering of the West. *"History of Medieval Europe," L. Thorndike, Ph. D., p. 133. Cambridge, Mass.: 1918.*

"Justinian spared nothing in his efforts to conciliate the Roman Church, and we find inserted with evident satisfaction in Justinian's Code pontifical letters, which praised his efforts to maintain 'the peace of the church and the unity of religion.'" - *"Cambridge Medieval History," Bury, Gwatkin, and Whitney, Vol. II, p. 44. New York: 1913.*

Procopius, the historian who followed Justinian's armies, says:

"In his zeal to gather all men into one Christian doctrine, he recklessly killed all who dissented, and this too he did in the name of piety. For he did not call it homicide, when those who perished happened to be of a belief that was different from his own." - *"Secret History of the Court of Justinian," pp. 188, 189. Chicago: P. Covici, 1927.*

"Now the churches of these so-called heretics, especially those belonging to the Arian dissenters, were almost incredibly wealthy." - *Id., p. 121.*

"Agents were sent everywhere to force whomever they chanced upon to renounce the faith of their fathers Thus many perished at the hands of the persecuting faction; . . . but most of them by far quitted the land of their fathers, and fled the country . . . and thenceforth the whole Roman Empire was a scene of massacre and flight." - *Id., p. 122.*

Dom John Chapman (Roman Catholic) says of Justinian:

"He felt himself to be the Vicegerent of the Almighty to rule the world and bring it all to the service of Christ. His wars were holy wars. In later centuries a Byzantine battle began like a church ceremony. Even in the sixth century every enterprise was consecrated by religion.

"He was well aware that judicious persecution is a great help towards conversion! . . . He strengthened the existing laws against pagans, Jews, and heretics. . . . Many were burnt at Constantinople after the Emperor had made vain attempts to convert them. John of Ephesus . . . was employed in this apostolate. He boasts that in 546 he gained 70,000 pagans in Asia Minor, including nobles and rhetoricians and physicians, and many in Constantinople. Tortures discovered these men, and scourgings and imprisonment induced them to accept instruction and baptism. A Patricius, named Phocus, hearing that he had been denounced, took poison. The Emperor ordered that he should be buried as an ass is buried. The pious Emperor paid all the expenses of this Christian mission, and gave to each of the 70,000 Asiatics the white garments for their baptism and a piece of money."

"Other heretics were given three months grace. All magistrates and soldiers had to swear that they were Catholics." - *"Studies in the Early Papacy," Dom John Chapman, p. 222. London: Sheed and Ward, 1928. New York: Benziger Brothers.*

The Vandals

"Justinian's cherished aim was the reconquest of Italy by the Empire; but in order to succeed in this it was necessary to secure his rear by overthrowing the Vandals and resuming possession of Africa." - *"The Barbarian Invasion of Italy," P. Villari, Vol. I, p. 197.*

A pretext for breaking his oath of peace with the Arian Vandals soon presented itself. The Vandal government had oppressed the Roman Catholics just as the emperor, under the influence of the Papacy, had oppressed the Arians. But when Hilderic came to the Vandal throne he, through the influence of his Catholic wife, had restored the Roman clergy to their ancient privileges, and this had so displeased the

Vandal leaders that Gelimer, a zealous Arian, had dethroned and imprisoned him, and reigned in his place. "A strong appeal was thus made to the piety [?] of the Emperor to deliver the true Catholic Church of the West out of the hands of the barbarian heretics." - *"Medieval and Modern History," P. V. N. Myers, p. 62. Boston: 1897.*

Justinian wavered for a time, fearing to attack these warlike Vandals, but a Catholic bishop assured him of victory, claiming "he had seen a vision, in which God commanded that the war should be immediately undertaken. 'It is the will of Heaven, O Emperor!' exclaimed the bishop." - *Id., p. 63.*

Treachery, which with Rome and her allies has always been a justifiable weapon, was here used in the service of the church by her dutiful son. Justinian sent an army of 200,000 trained men under the leadership of Belisarius to conquer the Vandals, without declaring war, and unbeknown to Gelimer, their king. Villari says:

"Belisarius landed on the African coast, nine days march from Carthage [the Vandal capital]. He did not assume the attitude of a conqueror, but came, he said, as the deliverer of the Catholics and Romans, the clergy and lay proprietors, who were all equally oppressed by those foreign barbarians, the heretic Vandals." - *"The Barbarian Invasion of Italy," Vol. I, p. 198.*

Thus Belisarius won the enthusiastic support of a large part of the population. To undermine the zeal of the Vandal leaders for their king he sent the "leading men of the Vandals" a letter from Justinian, stating that he intended only to dethrone the usurping king, who was tyrannizing over them, and to give them back their liberty. The letter reads:

"'It is not our purpose to go to war with the Vandals, nor are we breaking our treaty with Gaiseric. We are only attempting to overthrow your tyrant, who making light of Gaiseric's testament keeps your king a prisoner. ... Therefore join us in freeing yourselves from a tyranny so wicked, that you may enjoy peace and liberty. We give you pledge in the name of God that we will give you these blessings.' The overseer of the public post deserted and delivered all the horses to Belisarius." - *"History of the Later Roman Empire," J. B. Bury, Vol. II, p. 130. London: The Macmillan Co., 1925.*

But Justinian never intended to keep his solemn oath to grant them liberty, and the people soon found Rome the severest of tyrants.

"In 533 the Byzantine general, Belisarius (q.v.) landed in Africa. The Vandals were several times defeated, and Carthage was entered on Sept. 15, 533. ... In the next year Africa, Sardinia, and Corsica were restored to the Roman Empire. As a nation, the Vandals soon ceased to exist." - *Nelson's Encyclopaedia, Vol, XII, art. "Vandals," pp. 380, 881. New York: 1907.*

"Religious intolerance accompanied the imperial restoration in the West. In Africa, as in Italy, Arians were spoiled for the benefit of Catholics, their churches were destroyed or ruined, and their lands confiscated." - *"Cambridge Medieval History," Bury, Gwatkin, and Whitney, Vol. II, p. 44. New York: 1913.*

"The Arian heresy was proscribed, and the race of these remarkable conquerors was in a short time exterminated. ... There are few instances in history of a nation disappearing so rapidly and so completely as the Vandals of Africa." - *"A History of Greece Under the Romans," George Finlay, P. 234. London and New York: J. M. Dent, ed., 1856.*

"Africa, subdued by the arms of Belisarius, returned at once under the dominion of the empire and of Catholicism. ... One imperial edict was sufficient (A. D. 533) to restore all the churches to the Catholic worship." - *"Latin Christianity," H. H. Milman, Book 3, chap. 4, P. 455. New York. Crowell & Co., 1881.* Thus the second horn of Daniel 7:8 was "plucked up by the roots."

Here we have one sample out of many in history as to what kind of religious liberty Rome grants wherever she obtains the power.

The Ostrogoths

Theodoric, king of the Ostrogothic nation of Italy, maintained complete religious liberty for all classes and creeds. He wrote to Justin, Emperor of the East, who was persecuting the Arians:

"To pretend to a domination over the conscience, is to usurp the prerogative of God; by the nature of things the power of sovereigns is confined to political government; they have no right of punishment but over those who disturb the public peace; the most dangerous heresy is that of a sovereign who separates himself from part of his subjects, because they believe not according to his belief." - *"History of Latin Christianity," H. H. Milman, Vol. I, Book III, chap. 3, P. 439. New York: 1860.*

The wars of the migrating barbarians on the one side, and the persecutions of heathen, Jews, and Arians by the Catholic Church on the other, had kept Italy in constant turmoil. Agricultural pursuits were neglected, people crowded into the cities, and want and starvation faced the population. But Theodoric's wise and firm rule, and the strict religious liberty he established in Italy, brought peace, prosperity, and happiness to all classes. J. G. Sheppard, D. D., says:

"Theodoric deserves the highest praise; for, during the thirty-eight years he reigned in Italy, he brought the country to such a state of greatness, that her previous sufferings were no longer recognizable.' ... What then prevented this man, with so great a genius for government, and so splendid an opportunity for its exercise, from organizing a Germanic empire, equal in extent and power to that which obeyed the sceptre of the old Roman Caesars? Or why did he fail, when Charlemagne, with a greater complication of interests to deal with, for a time at least, succeeded?"

"The causes were mainly these; causes ... very similar, at all times, in their operation. In the first place, Theodoric was an Arian, and there was a power antagonistic to Arianism growing up already on the banks of the Tiber, stronger than the statesmen's policy or the soldier's sword - the spiritual power of the church of Rome. ... Such a power was necessarily altogether incompatible with the existence of an Arian empire. And it proved mightier than its rival. *"Fall of Rome," John G. Sheppard, D. D., pp. 301, 802. London: 1861.*

In order to give the reader a better understanding of the means used by the Papacy to destroy these Arian kingdoms, we shall quote from Thomas Hodgkin a few brief statements. He states that Theodoric, the Ostrogothic king, endeavoured to have it a close league for mutual defence formed between the four great Arian and Teutonic monarchies, the Visigothic, the Burgundian, the Ostrogothic, and the Vandal." But "diplomatists were wanting [who could act] as their skilful and eloquent representatives, travelling like Epiphanius from court to court, and bringing the barbarian sovereigns to understand each other, to sink their petty grievances, and to work together harmoniously for one common end. Precisely these men were the Catholic prelates of the Mediterranean lands to whom it was all-important that no such Arian league should be formed. ... All over the Roman world there was a serried array of Catholic bishops and presbyters, taking their orders from a single centre, Rome, feeling the interest of each one to be the interests of all, in lively and constant intercourse with one another, quick to discover, quick to disclose the slightest weak place in the organization of the new heretical kingdoms. Of all this there was not the slightest trace on the other side. The Arian bishops ... stood apart from one another in stupid and ignorant isolation." - *"Italy and Her Invaders," Thomas Hodgkin, (8-vol. ed.) Vol. III, Book 4, PP. 381-383. Oxford: 1899.*

This same principle was clearly stated by the Catholic bishop Avitus, when the Arian king Gundobad appealed to him not to allow the Catholic king Clovis to overrun his country. Avitus answered: "If Gundobad would reconcile himself to the Church, the Church would guarantee his safety from the attacks of Clovis." - Id., p. 384.

The religious liberty, with its attendant blessings to the country, which Theodoric had inaugurated, did not satisfy the Catholic bishops; for Rome does not want religious liberty for other churches, but sole domination for herself.

"The religious toleration which Theodoric had the glory of introducing into the Christian world, was painful and offensive to the orthodox zeal of the Italian" - *"Decline and Fall," Edward Gibbon, chap. 39, par. 17.*

"Theodoric, ... being an Arian, could not long remain on harmonious terms with a Pope and [an] Emperor of the Orthodox creed, [who were] necessarily bound to combine against him sooner or later." - *"The Barbarian Invasion of Italy," P. Villari, Vol. 1, p. 178. London: 1913; New York: Scribner, 1902.*

This was only natural. The fundamental principles of the church of Rome are such that she can never concede to any other denomination the equal right to exist and to carry on its worship. Urged on by the pope and his bishops, Emperor Justin had enacted severe laws against Arians (524 A. D.), and Justinian began his reign in 527 by making laws still more severe.

"Theodoric, the King of Italy, at first maintained something of his usual calm moderation; he declined all retaliation, to which he had been incessantly urged, on the orthodox of the West." - *"Latin Christianity," H. H. Milman, D. D., Vol. I, Book III, chap. 3, p. 440.*

But the concerted efforts of pope and emperor, by fire, sword, and exile, to exterminate "Arianism" at last "awakened the just resentment of Theodoric, who claimed for his distressed brethren of the East the same indulgence which he had so long granted to the Catholics of his dominions. ... And a mandate was prepared in Italy, to prohibit, after a stated day, the exercise of the Catholic worship. By the bigotry of his subjects and enemies, the most tolerant of princes was driven to the brink of persecution." - *"Decline and Fall," chap. 89, par. 17.*

"In Italy, Theodoric's prolonged toleration had reconciled no one to him, and his ultimate severity exasperated his Roman subjects. A dumb agitation held sway in the West, and the coming of the Emperor's soldiers was eagerly awaited and desired." - *"Cambridge Medieval History," Bury, Gwatkin, and Whitney, Vol. II, p. 10. Chicago: The Macmillan Company, 1913.*

"And truly the chief men of Rome were suspected, at this very time, of carrying on a treasonable correspondence with the Court of Constantinople, and machinating the ruin of the Gothic empire in Italy" - *"History of the Popes," A. Bower, Vol. II, p. 421. Dublin: 1749.*

In the summer of 535 Belisarius started with 7,500 men besides his own guards to conquer Italy and destroy the Arian heretics. This he could do only by the assistance of the Roman Catholics.

"But with great shrewdness he had quickly won their good will, by announcing that he came to deliver them from the barbarian yoke, and from the Arian persecution, and also for the purpose of restoring Rome to her ancient grandeur." - *"The Barbarian Invasion of Italy," P. Villari, Vol. 1, p. 201.*

Witigis [Vitiges] was now the king of the Ostrogoths, and Rome was continuing its usual policy. Professor J. B. Bury says:

"In the meantime Belisarius had left Naples and was marching northward. The Romans, warned by the experiences of Naples, and urged by the Pope, who had no scruples in breaking his oath with Witigis, sent a messenger inviting him to come. He ... entered Rome on December 9, A. D. 536." - *"History of the Later Roman Empire," Vol. II, pp. 179, 180.*

"Such, then, was the Pope Silverius ... who, having sworn a solemn oath of fealty to Witigis, now, near the end of 536, sent messengers to Belisarius to offer the peaceful surrender of the city of Rome." - *"Italy and Her Invaders," T. Hodgkin (8-vol. ed.), Vol. IV, Book 5, p. 93. 1885.*

"Rome betrayed. The Catholics, on the first approach of the emperor's army, boldly raised the cry that the apostolic throne (!) should no longer be profaned by the triumph or toleration of Arianism, nor the tombs of the Caesars trampled by the savages of the North; and deputies of the pope and clergy, and of what is called the senate and people, waited upon the approaching army to whom they threw open the gates of the city; and the Catholics were rewarded for their treason by the apparent respect of Belisarius for the pope." - *"History of the Christian Church," N. Summerbell, page 340, third edition. Cincinnati: 1873.*

Witigis then besieged the city of Rome from March, 537, to March, 538, when he raised the siege, after losing the flower of his army, and retired to Ravenna, his capital. T. Hodgkin says:

"With heavy hearts the barbarians must have thought, as they turned them northwards, upon the many graves of gallant men which they were leaving on that fatal plain. Some of them must have suspected the melancholy truth that they had dug one grave, deeper and wider than all, the grave of the Gothic monarchy in Italy" - *"Italy and Her Invaders," (8-vol. ed.) Vol. IV, p. 285.*

A deathblow was thus given to the Ostrogoths in 538 A. D., and their attempts to re-establish themselves after this were but the last flicker of a lamp being extinguished. Belisarius followed them this same year to their "last stronghold of power. Ravenna was soon entered by the troops of the empire, and with it fell the great kingdom of the Ostrogoths." - *"Fall of Rome" J. G. Sheppard, p. 306. London: 1892.*

"Then occurred a singular phenomenon, - the annihilation and disappearance of a great and powerful people from the world's history." - *Id., p. 307.*

But let all remember, that "the success of Justinian's invasion was due to the clergy in the ruin they brought upon their country, and the relentless tyranny they drew upon themselves, they had their reward." - *"History of the Intellectual Development of Europe," J. W. Draper, M. D., LL. D., Vol. I, p. 355. New York: Harper Brothers., 1889.*

The last of the three Arian "horns" of Daniel 7:8 had passed away, and with it passed also the liberty of the common people. Dr. N. Summerbell truthfully says:

"The Dark Ages, introduced by the persecution of an enlightened Church in the sanguinary wars of Justinian to exalt the Catholics, continued up to the fourteenth century. It was a long, dark night, when ignorance, bigotry, and cruelty reigned, and truth, purity, and justice were crushed out." - *"History of the Christian Church," p. 342.*

A Time, and Times, and Half a Time

THE little horn of Daniel 7:8, 25, was to reign for "a time and times and the dividing of time." This same "time, and times, and half a time" is also mentioned in Revelation 12:14, and in the sixth verse it is said to be "a thousand two hundred and threescore days." In prophecy a day always stands for a year. (Ezekiel 4:6) This prophetic period is therefore 1260 literal years. We shall now show that these 1260 years began in 538 A. D., and invite the reader to notice the four great changes that took place that year:

1. We have already seen that the little horn symbolised the Papacy, and that three Arian kingdoms, which stood in its way, were plucked up by the roots, and that the last of these received its deathblow in 538 A. D. through the efforts of Justinian, the faithful son of the church of Rome.

2. History states that the work of Justin and Justinian in elevating the Papacy to power brought on a new era, introducing the Middle Ages:

"Accordingly, the religious and political tendencies of the Empire now took so different a direction as to positively constitute the dawn of a new era. ... Thus at last Rome had triumphed, after fighting so long with unflinching vigour and without yielding a single point. *"The Barbarian Invasion of Italy," P. Villari, Vol. I, pp. 177, 178.*

"The reign of Justinian is more remarkable as a portion of the history of mankind, than as a chapter in the annals of the Roman Empire or of the Greek nation. The changes of centuries pass in rapid succession before the eyes of one generation. ...

"With the conquest of Rome by Belisarius, the history of the ancient city may be considered as terminating; and with his defence against Witigis [A. D. 538], commences the history of the Middle Ages. *"Greece Under the Romans," George Finlay, pp. 198, 240, Dent edition, revised by author, 1877.*

3. Even the Papacy itself changed, so there was a new order of popes after 538 A. D. History relates:

"Down to the sixth century all popes are declared saints in the martyrologies. Vigillius (537-555) is the first of a series of popes who no longer bear this title, which is henceforth sparingly conferred. From this time on the popes, more and more enveloped in worldly events, no longer belong solely to the church; they are men of the state, and then rulers of the state." *"Medieval Europe," Belmont and Monod (revised by George Burton Adams), p. 120. New York: H. Holt & Co., 1902.*

In the foregoing quotation the date of Vigillius should be 538 instead of 537 for the following reason:

"Vigillius having been thus ordained in the year 537. ... and the death of Silverius having been certainly not earlier than 20 June, A. D. 538, it is evident that for at least seven months his position was that of an unlawful anti-pope, his predecessor never having been canonically deposed." - *Dictionary of Christian Biography, Drs. Smith and Wace, Vol. IV, art. "Vigillius," P. 1144. London: 1887.*

For this reason A. Bower says:

"From the death of Silverius the Roman Catholic writers date the Episcopacy of Vigillius, reckoning him thenceforth among the lawful popes." - *"History of the Popes," Vol. II, p. 488, under the year "538." Dublin: 1751.*

"His [Silverius'] death happened on the 20th of June ... 538." - *Id., p. 488.*

Dr. Philip Schaff says:

"Vigillius, a pliant creature of Theodora, ascended the papal chair under the military protection of Belisarius (538-555)." *"History of the Christian Church" (7-vol. ed.), Vol. III, p. 827. New, York: Scribner's, 1893. See also "General History of the Catholic Church," M. l'Abbe J. E. Darras, Vol. II, pp. 146, 147 (New York: 1866), and "The Official Catholic Directory" for 1933, "List of Roman Pontiffs" on page 7.*

4. Dr. Summerbell gives still another reason why we should date the beginning of the papal supremacy from 538. He says: Justinian ... enriched himself with the property of all 'heretics'- that is non-Catholics, and gave all their churches to the Catholics., published edicts in 538 compelling all to join the Catholic Church in ninety days or leave the empire, and confiscated all their goods. *"History of The Christian Church," pp. 310, 311. Cincinatti: 1873.* The same is stated by Samuel Chandler in *"History of Persecution," pp. 142, 143;* and by Edward Gibbon, in *"Decline and Fall," chap. 47, par. 24.*

The State Religion

Thus we see that Roman Catholicism was made the state religion in 538, and all other religions were forbidden. What gave special significance to these edicts of Justinian was the fact that he had already in 533 declared the bishop of Rome to be the head of the universal church, and had subjected all the priests even of the East under the see of Rome. This fact he wrote to Pope John II on March 15, 533, in the following language:

"With honour to the Apostolic See. ... We hasten to bring to the knowledge of Your Holiness everything relating to the condition of the Church, as we have always had great desire to preserve the unity of your Apostolic See, amid the condition of the Holy Churches of God, as they exist at the present time, that they may remain without disturbance or opposition. Therefore, We have exerted Ourselves to unite all the priests of the East and subject them to the See of Your Holiness. ... For we do not suffer anything which has reference to the state of the Church, even though what causes the difficulty may be clear and free from doubt, to be discussed without being brought to the notice of Your Holiness, because you are the head of all Holy Churches, for we shall exert Ourselves in every way (as has already been stated), to increase the honour and authority of your see. ...

"Therefore we request your paternal affection, that you, by your letters, inform Us and the Most Holy Bishop of this Fair City, and your brother the Patriarch, who himself has written by the same messengers to Your Holiness, eager in all things to follow the Apostolic See of your Blessedness, in order that you may make it clear to Us that Your Holiness acknowledges all the matters which have been set forth above." - *"The Civil Law of Justinian," translated by S. P. Scott, A. M. (in 17 volumes), Book 12, pp. 11-13.*

To this letter Pope John II answered: "John, Bishop of the City of Rome, to his most Illustrious and Merciful Son Justinian.

"Among the conspicuous reasons for praising your wisdom and gentleness, Most Christian of Emperors, and one which radiates light as a star, is the fact that through love of the Faith, and actuated by zeal for charity, you, learned in ecclesiastical discipline, have preserved reverence for the See of Rome, and have subjected all things to his authority, and have given it unity. ...

"This See is indeed the head of all Churches, as the rules of the Fathers and the decrees of Emperors assert, and the words of your most reverent piety testify. ...

"We have received with all due respect the evidences of your serenity, through Hypatius and Demetrius, most holy men, my brothers and fellow bishops, from whose statements we have learned that you have promulgated an Edict addressed to your faithful people, and dictated by your love of the faith, for the purpose of overthrowing the designs of heretics, which is in accordance with the evangelical tenets, and which we have confirmed by our authority with the consent of our brethren and fellow bishops, for the reason that it is in conformity with the apostolic doctrine. ...

"Therefore, it is opportune to cry out with a prophetic voice, 'Heaven will rejoice with You, and pour out its blessing upon You, and the mountains will rejoice, and the hills be glad with exceeding joy.' ...

"The favour of Our Lord remain forever with you, Most Pious Son, Amen. ...

"Given at Rome, on the eighth of the Kalends of April, during the Consulate of Emperor Justinian, Consul for the fourth time." - *Id.*, pp. 10-15.

Both of these letters appear in the "Code of Justinian," as well as the following law:

"Concerning the Precedence of Patriarchs:

"Hence, in accordance with the provisions of those Councils, we order that the Most Holy Pope of Ancient Rome shall hold the first rank of all the Pontiffs, but the Most Blessed Archbishop of Constantinople, or New Rome, shall occupy the second place after the Holy Apostolic See of Ancient Rome, which shall take precedence over all other sees." - *Id.*, Vol. XVII, p. 125. (*"Constitutions of Justinian," Vol. XVII, 9th Collection, Title 14, chapter 2*)

Under date of March 25, 533, Justinian, writing to Epiphanius, Patriarch of Constantinople, stating that he had written the above letter to the pope, "repeats his decision, that all affairs touching the Church shall be referred to the Pope, 'Head of all bishops, and the true and effective corrector of heretics.'" *"The Apocalypse of St. John," George Croly, A. M., p. 170, second edition. London: 1828.*

"The epistle which was addressed to the Pope, and another to the Patriarch of Constantinople, were inserted in the volume of the civil law; thus the sentiments contained in them obtained the sanction of the supreme legislative authority of the empire. ...

"The answer of the Pope to the imperial epistle was also published with the other documents; and it is equally important, inasmuch as it shows that he understood the reference that had been made to him, as being a formal recognition of the supremacy of the see of Rome." - *"A Dissertation on the Seals and Trumpets of the Apocalypse," William Cuninghame, pp. 185, 186. London: 1848; cited in "Source Book," pp. 383, 384, ed. of 1922.*

"The recognition of the Roman see as the highest ecclesiastical authority (cf. Novellae, cxxxi) remained the cornerstone of his [Justinian's] policy in relation to the West." - *New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopaedia, Vol. VI, art. "Justinian," p. 286.* Thus we see that the way had been prepared in 533, in anticipation of the three final acts which were to occur in 538, when the Arian powers were destroyed, Catholicism made the state religion, and the Papacy placed under the protection of the state, which gave rise to the long struggle between church and state as to which should be supreme.

Close Of The 1260 Years

Having now seen that the 1260 years of papal supremacy began in 538 A. D., it is an easy matter to find their close. Adding the 1260 years to 538 brings us to the year 1798. And if we have given the right application to this prophecy, history must record an event in 1798 that would appear like a death stroke to the Papacy. Turning to history we find just such an event recorded:

The Encyclopaedia Americana, 1941 edition says about the French General: "In 1798 he (Berthier) made his entrance into Rome, ABOLISHED THE PAPAL GOVERNMENT and established a secular one."

The Catholic Encyclopedia: Pope Pius VI says: "In an attempt to revolutionize Rome the French General Duphot was shot and killed, whereupon the French took Rome on 10 Feb., 1798, and proclaimed the Roman Republic on 15 Feb. Because the pope refused to submit, he was forcibly taken from Rome on the night of 20 Feb., and brought first to Siena and then to Florence. At the end of March, 1799, though seriously ill, ... he succumbed to his sufferings before he could be brought further."

The official Swedish newspaper, Slockholms Postlidning, for March 29, 1798, has the following news item:

"Rome, the 21st of Feb. [1798], Pope Pius VI, has occupied the papal chair for all of twenty-eight years, but the 15th inst. his government in the Papal States was abolished, and five days later, guarded by one hundred French soldiers, he was taken away from his palace and his capital. ...

"His ... property was sold by the French, and among it were seven hundred head of cattle, one hundred fifty horses, and eight hundred cords of wood. ...

"Poor Pius! He must have felt very sad as he left Rome to go into captivity. When he departed his tear-filled eyes were turned heavenward."

Rev. E. B. Elliott, A. M., says of these events:

"In the years 1796, 1797, French dominion being established by Bonaparte's victories in Northern Italy, ... the French armies [urged] their march onward to the Papal Capital. ... The aged Pope himself, now left mere nominal master of some few remaining shreds of the Patrimony of Peter, experienced soon after in person the bitterness of the prevailing anti-papal spirit. ...

"On pretence of an insult to the French Ambassador there, a French corps d'armee under Berthier, having in February, 1798, crossed the Apennines from Ancona, and entered Rome, the tricolour flag was displayed from the Capitol, amidst the shouts of the populace, the Pope's temporal reign declared at an end, and the Roman Republic proclaimed, in strict alliance fraternization with the French. Then, in the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican, the ante-hall to which has a fresco painted by Papal order commemorative of the Protestant massacre on St. Bartholomew's day, (might not the scene have served as a memento of God's retributive justice?) there, while seated on his throne, and receiving the gratulations of his cardinals on the anniversary of his election to the Popedom, he was arrested by the French military, the ring of his marriage with the Church Catholic torn from his finger, his palace rifled, and himself carried prisoner into France, only to die there in exile shortly after." - *"Horae Apocalypticae," Rev. E. B. Elliott, A. M., Vol. III, pp. 400, 401. London: 1862.*

Arthur R. Pennington, M. A., F. R. Hist. Soc., says of this event: "One day the Pope was sitting on his throne in a chapel of the Vatican, surrounded by his cardinals who had assembled for the purpose of offering him their congratulations on his elevation to his high dignity. On a sudden, the shouts of an angry multitude penetrated to the conclave, intermingled with the strokes of axes and hammers on the doors. Very soon a band of soldiers burst into the hall, who tore away from his finger his pontifical ring, and hurried him off, a prisoner, through a hall, the walls of which, were adorned with a fresco, representing the armed satellites of the Papacy, on St. Bartholomew's day, as bathing their swords in the blood of unoffending women and helpless children. Thus it might seem as if he were to be reminded that the same God who visits the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation, had made him the victim of His retributive justice for a deed of atrocity which had long been crying aloud to Him for vengeance." - *"Epochs of the Papacy," pp. 449, 450. London: 1881.*

Rev. Joseph Rickaby, an English Jesuit, writes:

"When, in 1797, Pope Pius VI fell grievously ill, Napoleon gave orders that in the event of his death no successor should be elected to his office, and that the Papacy should be discontinued.

"But the Pope recovered. The peace was soon broken; Berthier entered Rome on the 10th February, 1798, and proclaimed a republic. The aged Pontiff refused to violate his oath by recognizing it, and was hurried from prison to prison in France. ... 'No wonder that half Europe thought Napoleon's veto would be obeyed, and that with the Pope the Papacy was dead.'" - *"The Modern Papacy," p. 1. London: Catholic Truth Society.*

Rev. George Trevor, Canon of York, writes of this eventful year:

"The object of the French Directory was the destruction of the pontifical government, as the irreconcilable enemy of the republic. ... The aged pope was summoned to surrender the temporal government; on his refusal, he was dragged from the altar. ... His rings were torn from his fingers, and finally, after declaring the temporal power abolished, the victors carried the pope prisoner into Tuscany, whence he never returned (1798)."

"The Papal States, converted into the Roman Republic, were declared to be in perpetual alliance with France, but the French general was the real master of Rome. ... The territorial possessions of the clergy and monks were declared national property, and their former owners cast into prison. The Papacy was extinct: not a vesticle of its existence remained; and among all the Roman Catholic powers not a finger was stirred in its defence. The Eternal City had no longer prince or pontiff; its bishop was a dying captive in foreign lands; and the decree was already announced that no successor would be allowed in his place." - *"Rome: From the Fall of the Western Empire," pp. 439, 440. London: 1868.*

An English secular writer, John Adolphus, says of 1798:

"The downfall of the papal government, by whatever means effected, excited perhaps less sympathy than that of any other in Europe: the errors, the oppressions, the tyranny of Rome over the whole Christian world, were remembered with bitterness., many rejoiced, through religious antipathy, in the overthrow of

a church which they considered as idolatrous, though attended with the immediate triumph of infidelity; and many saw in these events the accomplishment of prophecies, and the exhibition of signs promised in the most mystical parts of the Holy Scriptures. *"History of France from 1790-1802," Vol. II, p. 879. London: 1803.*

God's prophetic clock had set the year 1798 as the end of the papal supremacy, and when that hour struck, the mighty ruler on the Tiber, before whose anathemas the kings and emperors of Europe had so long trembled, went "into captivity" (Revelation 13:10), and his government in the Papal States was abolished. Thus the historical events fit exactly into the mold of prophecy, and establish the fact that "we have also a more sure word of prophecy; where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn." 2 Peter 1:19. But prophecy foretells that this "deadly wound" would be healed, and that the world once more, for a brief moment, would follow the papal power. (Revelation 13:3) In the following chapter we shall consider the other specifications of this remarkable prophecy.

Other Marks of Identity

"He Shall Speak Great Words"

THE little horn was to "speak great words against the Most High." Daniel 7:25. We shall now quote a few extracts from authentic Roman Catholic sources showing the fulfilment of this prophetic utterance: Pope Leo XIII in his "Great Encyclical Letters" says: "We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." - p. 304. In this encyclical the pope has capitalized all pronouns referring to himself and to God.

In a large, authentic work by F. Lucii Ferraris, called "Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica Juridica Moralis Theologica," printed at Rome, 1890, and sanctioned by the Catholic Encyclopaedia (Vol. VI, p. 48), we find the following statements regarding the power of the pope:

"The Pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God. ...

"Hence the Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions...

"So that if it were possible that the angels might err in the faith, or might think contrary to the faith, they could be judged and excommunicated by the Pope. ...

"The Pope is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief king of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom." - *Quoted in "Source Book," (Revised Edition) pp. 409, 410. Washington, D. C.: 1927.*

The Catholic Encyclopaedia says of the pope:

"The sentences which he gives are to be forthwith ratified in heaven." - *Vol. XII, art. "Pope," p. 265.*

"We hold upon this earth the place of God almighty." - *Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter, June 20, 1894.*

"The (Catholic) Church is the entrance to life; all others are thieves and robbers. On this account we are bound to avoid them....Resist them in defense of the only true and life giving faith, which the Church has received from the Apostles and imparted to her sons." *St. Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book III, (quoted in article "The Perennial Understanding of the Church", by Saint Benedict Center).*

"Even if the Pope were Satan incarnate, we ought not to raise up our heads against him, but calmly lie down to rest on his bosom. He who rebels against our Father is condemned to death, for that which we do to him we do to Christ: we honor Christ if we honor the Pope; we dishonor Christ if we dishonor the Pope. I know very well that many defend themselves by boasting: "They are so corrupt, and work all manner of evil!" But God has commanded that, even if the priests, the pastors, and Christ-on-earth were incarnate devils, we be obedient and subject to them, not for their sakes, but for the sake of God, and out of obedience to Him." *St. Catherine of Siena, SCS, p. 201-202, p. 222, (quoted in Apostolic Digest, by Michael Malone, Book 5: "The Book of Obedience", Chapter 1: "There is No Salvation Without Personal Submission to the Pope").*

"Unless therefore they receive saving baptism in the Catholic Church, which is one, they cannot be saved, but will be condemned with the carnal in the judgment of the Lord Christ." *Catholic Bishop Nemesianus of Thubunae, The Seventh Council of Carthage Under Cyprian, Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. V.*

"When we say that faith is necessary for the remission of sins, we mean to speak of the Catholic faith, not heretical faith. Without the habit of this faith, no man is justified." *St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori, (quoted in Apostolic Digest, by Michael Malone, Book 3: "The Book of Faith", Chapter 1, "There is No Salvation Except in the Catholic Faith").*

"It is absolutely necessary that the Christian community be subject in all things to the Sovereign Pontiff if it wishes to be a part of the divinely-established society founded by our Redeemer." *Pope Pius XII, Orientalis Ecclesiae, quoted in "Acta Apostolicae Sedis", 36:129, Rome: Vatican Press, (quoted in*

Apostolic Digest, by Michael Malone, Book 4: "The Book of Christians", Chapter 4: "There is No Allegiance to Christ Without Submission to the Pope").

"The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ, Himself, hidden under the veil of human flesh." *Catholic National, July 1895.*

"And God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priest and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse to give absolution, provided the penitent is capable of it." *St. Alphonsus De Liguori, in The Dignity of the Priesthood, p. 27.*

"The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth." *Pope Pius V, quoted in Barclay, Chapter XXVII, p. 218, "Cities Petrus Bertanous".*

Pope Leo XIII says:

"But the supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself." - *"The Great Encyclical Letters," p. 193.*

We leave it with the reader to decide whether or not these are "great words." St. Alphonstis de Liguori, a sainted doctor of the Roman church, claims the same power for the Roman priests. He says:

"The priest has the power of the keys, or the power of delivering sinners from hell, of making them worthy of paradise, and of changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. And God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priests. ... The Sovereign Master of the universe only follows the servant by confirming in heaven all that the latter decides upon earth. *"Dignity and Duties of the Priest," pp. 27, 28. New York: Benziger Brothers., Printers to the Holy Apostolic See, 1888.*

"Innocent III has written: 'Indeed, it is not too much to say that in view of the sublimity of their offices the priests are so many gods.' - *Id., p. 86.*

These must truly be called "great words.

A Persecuting Power

The little horn was also to "wear out the saints of the Most High." Daniel 7:25. That is, it was to persecute them till they were literally worn out. Has the Papacy fulfilled this part of the prophecy? In order to do Roman Catholics no injustice, we shall quote from unquestioned authorities among them. And, since they persecute people for "heresy," we must first let them define what they mean by "heresy." In the New Catholic Dictionary, published by the Universal Knowledge Foundation, a Roman Catholic institution, New York, 1929, we read:

"Heresy (Gr., *hairesis*, choice), deciding for oneself what one shall believe and practise." *Art. "Heresy," p. 440.*

According to this definition any one who will not blindly submit to papal authority, but will read the Bible, deciding for himself what he shall believe, is a "heretic." What official stand has the Catholic Church taken in regard to such heretics? This we find stated in the Catholic Encyclopaedia in the following words:

"In the Bull 'Ad extirpanda' (1252) Innocent IV says: 'When those adjudged guilty of heresy have been given up to the civil power by the bishop or his representative, or the Inquisition, the podesta or chief magistrate of the city shall take them at once, and shall, within five days at the most, execute the laws made against them.' ... Nor could any doubt remain as to what civil regulations were meant, for the passages which ordered the burning of impenitent heretics were inserted in the papal decretals from the imperial constitutions 'Commissis nobis' and 'Inconsutibilem tunicam.' The aforesaid Bull 'Ad extirpanda' remained thenceforth a fundamental document of the Inquisition, renewed or reinforced by several popes, Alexander IV (1254-61), Clement IV (1265-68), Nicolas IV (1288-92), Boniface VIII (1294-1303), and others. The civil authorities, therefore, were enjoined by the popes, under pain of excommunication to execute the legal sentences that condemned impenitent heretics to the stake. It is to be noted that excommunication itself was no trifle, for, if the person excommunicated did not free himself from excommunication within a year, he was held by the legislation of that period to be a heretic, and incurred all the penalties that affected heresy." - *Vol. VIII, p. 34. See also "Dictionary of the Inquisition," in "Illustrations of Popery," J. P. Challender, pp. 377-386, New York, 1838; and "History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages, H. C. Lea, Vol. 1. pp. 337-338, New York. 1888.*

This Encyclopaedia was printed in 1910, and bears the sanction of the Catholic authorities, and of their "censor," so that here is up-to-date authority showing that the Roman church sanctions persecution. The Roman church here acknowledges, that, when she was in power, she forced the civil government to burn those whom she termed heretics, and the government officials who failed to execute her laws, became heretics by that neglect, and suffered the punishment of heretics. Professor Alfred Baudrillart, a Roman Catholic scholar in France, who is now a Catholic Cardinal, says:

"The Catholic Church is a respecter of conscience and of liberty. ... She has, and she loudly proclaims that she has, a 'horror of blood.' Nevertheless when confronted by heresy she does not content herself with

persuasion; arguments of an intellectual and moral order appear to her insufficient, and she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture. She creates tribunals like those of the Inquisition, she calls the laws of the State to her aid, if necessary she encourages a crusade, or a religious war and all her 'horror of blood' practically culminates into urging the secular power to shed it, which proceeding is almost more odious - for it is less frank - than shedding it herself. Especially did she act thus in the sixteenth century with regard to Protestants. Not content to reform morally, to preach by example, to convert people by eloquent and holy missionaries, she lit in Italy, in the Low Countries, and above all in Spain, the funeral piles of the Inquisition. In France under Francis I and Henry II, in England under Mary Tudor, she tortured the heretics, whilst both in France and Germany during the second half of the sixteenth and the first half of the seventeenth century if she did not actually begin, at any rate she encouraged and actively aided, the religious wars. No one will deny that we have here a great scandal to our contemporaries. ...

"Indeed, even among our friends and our brothers we find those who dare not look this problem in the face. They ask permission from the Church to ignore or even deny all those acts and institutions in the past which have made orthodoxy compulsory. [*This explains why some Catholic authors deny that their church ever persecuted.*] "*The Catholic Church, the Renaissance, and Protestantism,*" pp. 182-184. London: 1908. This book bears the sanction of the Roman Catholic authorities, and of their "censor."

Andrew Steinmetz says:

"Catholics easily account for their devotion to the Holy See, in spite of its historical abominations, which, however, very few of them are aware of their accredited histories in common use, 'with permission of authority,' veiling the subject with painful dexterity." - "*History of the Jesuits,*" Vol. I, p. 13. London: 1848.

Dr. C. H. Lea says:

"In view of the unvarying policy of the Church during the three centuries under consideration, and for a century and a half later, there is a typical instance of the manner in which history is written to order, in the quiet assertion of the latest Catholic historian of the Inquisition that 'the Church took no part in the corporal punishment of heretics.'" - "*History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages,*" Vol. I, p. 540. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1888.

Pope Gregory IX (1227-1241) made the following decree for the destruction of all heretics, which is binding on civil rulers:

"Temporal princes shall be reminded and exhorted, and if needs be, compelled by spiritual censures, to discharge every one of their functions: and that, as they desire to be reckoned and held faithful, so, for the defence of the faith, let them publicly make oath that they will endeavour, bona fide with all their might, to extirpate from their territories all heretics marked by the Church; so that when anyone is about to assume any authority, whether spiritual or temporal, he shall be held bound to confirm his title by this oath. And if a temporal prince, being required and admonished by the Church, shall neglect to purge his kingdom from this heretical pravity, the metropolitan and other provincial bishops shall bind him in fetters of excommunication; and if he obstinately refuse to make satisfaction this shall be notified within a year to the Supreme Pontiff, that then he may declare his subjects absolved from their allegiance, and leave their lands to be occupied by Catholics, who, the heretics being exterminated, may possess them unchallenged, and preserve them in the purity of the faith." - "*Decretalium Gregorii Papae Noni Conpilatio;*" Liber V, Titulus VII, Capitulum XIII, (A Collection of the Decretals of Gregory IX, Book 5, Title 7, Chapter 13), dated April 20, 1619.

The sainted Catholic doctor, Thornas Aquinas, says:

"If counterfeiters of money or other criminals are justly delivered over to death forthwith by the secular authorities, much more can heretics, after they are convicted of heresy, be not only forthwith excommunicated, but as surely put to death. "*Summa Theologica,*" 2a, 2ae, qu. xi, art. iii.

That this principle is sanctioned by modern Catholic priests, we can see from the following statement:

"The church has persecuted. Only a tyro in church history will deny that. ... Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with the full approval of the church authorities. We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots, and the Spanish Inquisition." - "*Western Watchman,*" official organ of Father Phelan. St. Louis, Mo.: Dec. 24, 1908.

We have now seen from the "decretals" of popes, from sainted doctors of the Roman church, and from authentic Catholic books, that they sanction and defend persecution, and history amply bears out the fact. Dr. J. Dowling says:

"From the birth of Popery in 606, to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty millions of the human family, have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors, an average of more than forty thousand religious murders for every year of the existence of Popery." - "*History of Romanism,*" pp. 541, 542. New York: 1871.

W. E. H. Leeky says:

"That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history. The memorials, indeed, of many of her persecutions are now so scanty, that it is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no power of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings." - *"History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe," Vol. II, p. 32. London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1910.*

John Lothrop Motley, speaking of papal persecution in the Netherlands, says:

"Upon February 16, 1568, a sentence of the Holy Office [the Inquisition] condemned all the inhabitants of the Netherlands to death as heretics. ... A proclamation of the king, dated ten days later, confirmed this decree of the Inquisition, and ordered it to be carried into instant execution. ... This is probably the most concise death warrant that was ever framed. Three millions of people, men, women, and children, were sentenced to the scaffold in three lines." - *"The Rise of the Dutch Republic," (2-vol. ed.) Vol. I, p. 626. New York.*

Many Roman Catholic authors today have tried to prove that their church does not sanction persecution, but facts of history are too plain to be denied. Eternity alone will reveal what God's dear children suffered during the Dark Ages. Accordingly as the Papacy attained to power, the common people became more oppressed, until "the noon of the Papacy was the midnight of the world." - *"History of Protestantism," J. A. Wylie, LL.D., Vol. I, p. 16. London.*

"He is a heretic who does not believe what the Roman Hierarchy teaches." *The American Textbook of Popery, p 164 (quoting from the "Directory for the Inquisitors").*

"The church may by divine right confiscate the property of heretics, imprison their person, and condemn them to flames. In our age, the right to inflict the severest penalties, even death, belongs to the church. There is no graver offense than heresy, therefore it must be rooted out." *Public Ecclesiastical, Vol. 2, p.142.*

"When confronted with heresy, she (Catholic Church) does not content herself with persuasion, arguments of an intellectual and moral order appear to her insufficient, and she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture." *The Rector of the Catholic Institute of Paris, H.M.A. Baudrillart, quoted in The Catholic Church, The Renaissance, and Protestantism, p 182-183.*

"Heretics (those who are not members of the Catholic Church or who do not hold to Catholic doctrine) worship a God who is a liar, and a Christ who is a liar." *St. Augustine, (quoted in "Patrologiae Cursus Completus: Series Graca", by Fr. J. P. Migne, Paris: 1866, 42:207).*

"A heretic merits the pains of fire....By the Gospel, the canons, civil law, and custom, heretics must be burned." *The American Textbook of Popery, p 164 (quoting from the "Directory for the Inquisitors").*

Think To Change Times And Law

But Daniel 7:25 has still another prediction concerning the "little horn"; namely, that it should "think to change times and laws," or as the Revised Version has it: "times and the law." James Moffatt's translation reads: "He shall plan to alter the sacred seasons and the law." Now, as the two preceding statements in this verse depict what the Papacy should do against the Most High, we must conclude that it is also the "times and the law" of the Most High which the Papacy should attempt to change. This could not refer to the ceremonial laws of the Jews, which were abolished at the cross (Ephesians:2:15; Hebrews 9:9,10), but to the Ten Commandments, which are binding in the Christian era, to which dispensation this prophecy applies. (Matthew 5:17-19; 19:16-19; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:31; 7:7, 12, 14; James 2:10, 11.) From the prophecy of Daniel 7:25 it is therefore evident that the Papacy would attempt to make some changes in the moral law.

After the worship of images had crept into the church during the fourth to the sixth centuries, its leaders finally removed the second commandment from their doctrinal books, because it forbids us to bow down to images (Exodus 20:4, 5), and they divided the tenth, so as to retain ten in number. Thus the Catholic Church has two commandments against coveting, while Paul six times speaks of it as only one "commandment." (Romans 7:7-13) Then, too, the Lord has purposely reversed the order of the supposed ninth and tenth commandments in Deuteronomy 5:21 to what they are in Exodus 20:17, so that the Catholics, following Deuteronomy 5:21, have "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife" as their ninth commandment, while the Lutherans, following Exodus 20:17, have it as part of their tenth commandment, and their ninth command is: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house." Thus we see how people get themselves into trouble when they attempt to change the law of God.

The Papacy was also to change times. But the only commandment of the ten that has to do with time is the fourth, which commands us to keep holy the seventh day, on which God rested at creation. (Exodus 20:10,11; Genesis 2:1-3) It is a remarkable fact that Christ, His apostles, and their followers kept the seventh day in common with the Jews (Mark 6:2,3; Luke 4:16, 31; 23:52-56; Acts 13:42,44; 16:12,13; 17:2; 18:1-4), and that the New Testament is entirely silent in regard to any change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. This would be natural enough if the original Sabbath, which they

were then keeping, should continue. But if a new day was to take its place in the Christian church, its Founder would certainly have given explicit directions for its observance. Yet not a word was spoken by Christ or His apostles, either before or after His resurrection, as to such a change. . It is another remarkable fact that Sunday is never called by any sacred title in the New Testament, but always referred to as a weekday, never as a holy day. It is classed as one of the weekdays, being called "the first day of the week."

And yet we find the Christian world generally keeping it. Who made this change, when it is not recorded in the Bible? When, how, and why was it made? Who dared to lay hands on Jehovah's law, and change His Holy Sabbath, without any warrant of Scripture?

All Protestant denominations disclaim any part in this crime. But the Roman Catholic Church boasts of having made this change, and even points to it as an evidence of its authority to act in Christ's stead upon earth. We shall therefore ask her two pointed questions: 1. Men did you change the Sabbath? 2. Why did you do it? Here are her answers:

"The first proposition needs little proof. The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her Divine mission changed the day from Saturday to Sunday." - *"The Christian Sabbath," p. 29. Baltimore, Md.: "Catholic Mirror," Sept. 23, 1898.*

"We confess that the Pope has power of changing Scripture and of adding to it, and taking from it, according to his will." *Roman Catholic Confessions for Protestants Oath, Article XI, (Confessio Romano-Catholica in Hungaria Evangelicis publice praescripta te proposita, editi a Streitwolf), as recorded in Congressional Record of the U.S.A., House Bill 1523, Contested election case of Eugene C. Bonniwell, against Thos. S. Butler, Feb. 15, 1913.*

"We may according to the fullness of our power, dispose of the law and dispense above the law. Those whom the Pope of Rome doth separate, it is not a man that separates them but God. For the Pope holdeth place on earth, not simply of a man but of the true God....dissolves, not by human but rather by divine authority....I am in all and above all, so that God Himself and I, the vicar of God, hath both one consistory, and I am able to do almost all that God can do...Wherefore, no marvel, if it be in my power to dispense with all things, yea with the precepts of Christ." *Decretales Domini Gregori ix Translatione Episcoporum, (on the Transference of Bishops), title 7, chapter 3; Corpus Juris Canonice (2nd Leipzig ed., 1881), col. 99; (Paris, 1612), tom. 2, Decretales, col. 205 (while Innocent III was Pope).*

"The Pope is of great authority and power, that he is able to modify, declare, or interpret even divine laws. The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth..." *Lucius Ferraris, in "Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica, Juridica, Moralis, Theologica, Ascetica, Polemica, Rubristica, Historica", Volume V, article on "Papa, Article II", titled "Concerning the extent of Papal dignity, authority, or dominion and infallibility", #30, published in Petit-Montrouge (Paris) by J. P. Migne, 1858 edition.*

"Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. The Roman Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian worship from the biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday, and that to try to argue that the change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority. If Protestantism wants to base its teachings only on the Bible, it should worship on Saturday." *Rome's Challenge www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline December 2003*

"*Ques.* - Which is the Sabbath day? *Ans.* - Saturday is the Sabbath day.

"*Ques.* - Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? *Ans.* - We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the council of Laodicea (A. D. 336), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. ...

"The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plenitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her. "The Convert's Catechism of Christian Doctrine," *Rev. Peter Geiermann, C. SS. R., p. 50. St. Louis, Mo.: 1934.* (This work received the "apostolic blessing" of Pope Pius X Jan. 25, 1910.)

"The Church ... took the pagan Sunday and made it the Christian Sunday And thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder, became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus." - *"Catholic World," (New York), March, 1894, p. 809.*

As one can see, there are ample identifying marks for the Antichrist power and many of these points can only be fulfilled by one single power and in every case this is the Papal Church. We could stop on these points alone and know the identity of the Antichrist power beyond doubt.

However, the many other points that need to be met to meet the criteria for being this Antichrist power are also fulfilled by them 100% perfectly also. There is no other power on earth that can have fulfilled some of these points yet alone all of them and so we are not dealing with any degree of speculation whatsoever but cold hard Biblical and historical facts. The Antichrist power can be none other than this Antichrist Papal Church system.