

## Antichrist Unmasked

### Little Horn (Dan.7)

1. Rises Among 10 horns
2. Speaks great words
3. Time, times, ½ time
4. Defiles God's tabernacle
5. Persecuting God's saints

### The Beast (Rev.13)

1. Ten horns
2. Great Things/Blasphemy
3. Rules 42 Months
4. Defiles God's tabernacle
5. Persecutes God's saints

### **Who is the only power of earthly that can fit the biblical description of the antichrist?**

It is none other than the Roman Papal Church State. Now I want to be very clear that God is not at war with His children. Catholics can be saved! It is very easy to misinterpret this subject completely. I have many good catholic friends who I believe loves Jesus and there are many sincere Catholic men and women that have fallen asleep in Jesus that I believe lived up to all of the truth that they had and will be in heaven. However, this subject is not about mere individuals but rather about an apostate system and church that has completely abandoned the word of God and replaced it with the traditions of men just as Bible prophecy predicted. That being said, I think it is of utmost paramount importance to note that I am not the only one who has believed this. In fact, most protestants reformers and protestants including the founders of some of the mainline protestant churches believed this and taught this at one time. Below are a few significant examples of founders of the protestant churches and what they believed regarding the antichrist topic.

**Martin Luther** (Founder of the Lutheran Church)- "We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real antichrist... personally I declare that I owe the pope no other obedience than that to antichrist." -**The prophetic faith of our fathers, vol. 2, pg 121(Aug. 1520)**

**John Wesley** (Founder of the Methodist Church) in speaking of the Pope stated, "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**

**John Knox** (Founder of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland) - "That tyranny which the pope himself has for so many ages exercised over the church" and that the pope should be recognized as "the very Antichrist, and Son of perdition, of whom Paul speaks." -**The Zurich Letters, pg 199**

**John Calvin** (Founder of Calvinism)- “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.” -**Institutes by John Calvin**

**Roger Williams** (Founder of the First Baptist Church in North America) in speaking of the Pope stated, “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.”- **The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers by Froom, Vol. 3, pg 52**

**Charles Spurgeon**- “It is the bounden duty of every Christian to pray against Antichrist and as to what Antichrist is no sane man ought to raise a question. If it be not the popery in the church of Rome, there is nothing in the world that can be called by that name... It wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of His glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of His atonement... And lifts a piece of bread into the place of the Savior and a few drops of water into the place of the Holy Spirit and puts a mere fallible man like ourselves up as the Vicar of Christ on earth. If we pray against it, because it is against Him, we shall love the persons though we hate their errors; We shall love their souls though we loathe and detest their dogmas.”- **Charles Spurgeon 1834 – 1892**

What powerful words by brother Spurgeon and the other protestant reformers! As you can see, there were millions who once held true to this view of the identity of the antichrist power. Unfortunately, Satan has been working overtime to deceive and divert the minds of God’s children away from the truth to wonder after the beast in these last days. But I praise God that His truth is still being proclaimed. Now we are going to go through these 10 identifications from our last presentation and show just how the Roman Catholic Church is the only power of earthly authority that meets the identifications perfectly.

1. **Small (Religious) Kingdom**- The Roman Catholic Church is not only the most influential religion in the world today it is also the smallest nation in the world today. In our previous study, we learned that horns represent kings or kingdoms according to Daniel 7:24. The Little Horn in Daniel chapter 7 is the antichrist power as we have previously shown. Since a horn represents a kingdom we know that the antichrist power would grow into a small kingdom which is exactly what the Roman Catholic church became meeting our first identification perfectly.

2. **Rises among other horns in Europe-** In our study titled, "Earth's Final Hour" we explained how Rome became divided Europe after 476 A.D. In Daniel 7:8, Daniel sees a little horn rising up among the other 10 horns/nations in Europe. This is key in correctly identifying the antichrist power because this is clear that the antichrist system would be located somewhere in Europe. Seeing that the Roman Catholic Church is located in Europe they meet this identification perfectly.
3. **Rises After them (After 476 AD)-** Remember, the little horn rose after Rome became divided Europe and the other 10 nations were established. Rome divided in 476AD. Daniel saw the little horn rise up among the other horns which means the antichrist power will become a nation sometime after 476 A.D. It was in 538 AD that the papacy became the head of the state. This was the amalgamation of church and state that eventually led to the dark ages.

A.C. Flick in his book titled, 'The Rise Of The Medieval Church' said the following on page 168, "The Bishop of Rome, in the seat of the Caesars, was now the greatest man in the west, and was soon forced to become the political as well as the spiritual head." So again, we see the papacy meeting another identification perfectly.

4. **Destroys Three Nations-** After the papacy was established as a political head in 538 AD, they were dealing with three barbaric tribes that were not willing to yield to the papacy's rule. Therefore, the three nations of the Ostrogoths, Vandals, and the Heruli were wiped off the face of the earth by Justinian's armies from the command of the papacy. This is why Daniel mentioned three of the first horns being plucked up by the roots at the rise of the little horn in Daniel 7:8.
5. **Face of a man-** It is certainly no secret that at the head of every kingdom there is a leader or king. The papacy's leader's down through the ages of their history has always been the popes. The current pope, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, you better well know him as pope Francis is the active leader of the Papacy and the first ever Jesuit Pope. Of course, we will talk more about just who the Jesuit's are later in our next presentation. Jesus stated in Matthew 7:20, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." When you look at the fruits of the papacy and their leaders it is followed by 1,260 years of persecution during the dark ages. It is also no secret that the popes through history have accepted worship from their members. You can stop what you are doing now and google many images of the popes through history allowing people to bow down before them to kiss their ring as if they are God. The Catholic church actually claims that Peter is their first pope. However in Acts the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter when Cornelius meets Peter he began to worship him and bow down unto him and Peter rejects his actions and commands him to stand up saying, "I myself am also a man". Not to mention all of their doctrines that is not supported in the Holy Bible. Surely, a church that is not teaching truth could not have the Holy Spirit leading and guiding them. These erroneous and fallible doctrines have been stamped by a seal of approval by the leaders of the Catholic Church, the Pope. Therefore, the fruit of the papacy has shown that they are not of the Holy Bible

but rather the traditions of men. It is sad to see a movement that has over 1 billion followers lead so many people astray, but I praise God for His love and mercy because there is still Hope!

**Some Doctrines of the Papacy not supported in Scripture-** Purgatory, limbo, celibacy, auricular confession, eternally burning hell, lent, processions, relics, canonization of saints, the mass, bowing before images, immaculate conception, the rosary, the assumption of Mary, baptism of infants, novenas, Sunday sanctity, and a lot more that I could mention but I think you get the point.

6. **Speaking Great Words/Blasphemy-** The Beast power that has a mark in Revelation 13 and the little horn in Daniel 7 are the same power. Those two powers are none other than the papacy. In Daniel 7 the little horn power speaks great words but in Revelation 13 the beast commits blasphemy. These two sins are one in the same; therefore, the question stands, what is the great words or blasphemy that the papacy speaks. In order to understand this, we have to find a biblical definition for blasphemy. What is blasphemy? Blasphemy is assuming the authority of God in the form of claiming to have power to forgive sins according to Mark 2:7 and claiming to be God according to John 10:33. In the following quotes from the Catholic Church themselves, you will see that they clearly meet this biblical description.

### **Blasphemous Quotes of the Catholic Church**

“Were the redeemer to descend into a church , and sit into a confessional to administer the sacrament of penance, and a priest to sit in a confessional,... Jesus would say over each penitent: ‘Ego te absolvo’, the priest would likewise say over each of his penitents, ‘Ego te absolvo’, and the penitence of each would be equally absolved.” - **Liguori, Dignities and Duties of the Priest, pg 34**

“The Bishop of Rome is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ himself hidden under the veil of the flesh. Does the bishop of Rome speak? It is Jesus Christ who speaks.” - **Archbishop of Venice, prior to becoming pope pius X**

“We hold upon this earth, the place of God Almighty.” - **Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII, pg 66**

“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.” - **Ferraris’ Ecclesiastical Dictionary**

“We, moreover, proclaim, declare and pronounce that it is altogether necessary to salvation for every human being to be subject to the Roman pontiff.” - **Pope Boniface VIII, Bull Unam Sanctum, November 18, 1302**

“... 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.” - **Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter: Sapientiae Christianae January 10, 1890**

“The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ himself, hidden under the veil of flesh.” - **The Catholic National, July 1895**

“God himself is obliged to abide by the judgement of his priest, and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse or give absolution... The sentence of the priest precedes, and God subscribes to it.” - **Dignity and Duties of the Priest, Vol. 12, pg 2**

“The pope is the supreme judge of the law of the land. ... He is the vicegerent of Christ, and is not only a priest forever, but also king of King of kings and Lord of lords.” - **La Civiltà Cattolica, March 18, 1871.**

God’s word has warned us of this deception of the antichrist power and how and where he would come. We perhaps do not get the warning any clearer in any part of the bible than the book of 2 Thessalonians.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4- Let no man deceive you by any means: 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 worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

God’s work communicates plainly that the antichrist power would come from within the church and show himself that he is God. Beloved, there is no other power on earth that fits this biblical description more than the Roman Catholic Church.

- 7. Persecutes-** It is certainly no mystery that the Roman Catholic Church has a long history of persecution ever since the amalgamation of church in state beginning in 538AD. A wonderful book that covers many of the details of this persecution is “The Great Controversy” by Ellen White. However, some other historical quotes are listed below from other books detailing the effects of their persecution.

“That the Roman church – state 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.” -**Weh Lecky, History of the Rise and Influence of Rationalism in Europe Vol. 2, pg 32**

“Great numbers were driven from their habitations with their wives and children, stripped and naked... Many of them inhumanely massacred.” -**The History of the Popes, Vol. 2, pg 334**

Another reason why it was called the “Dark Ages” was not only because of the extensive persecution that spanned over a thousand years, but it was also due to the burning of the Bibles and banning of the word of God. In psalm 119:105 it says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Therefore, the Dark Ages was Satan’s failed attempt to destroy God’s word and His people. I praise God that He has always preserved a faithful people to stand the test of persecution!

8. **Thinks to change times & laws-** In Daniel 7:25, it states that the little horn power would think to change times and laws. Of course, the antichrist power cannot literally change God’s laws, but it thinks to do so by deceiving the masses about God’s law. We will discuss more about what laws the Catholic church tried to change in a future lesson. Here are some quotes from the Catholic church stating that they have the power to change God’s divine laws.

“The Bishop of Rome is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws... The Bishop of Rome can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent (representative) of God upon earth.” -**Lucius Ferraris, Prompta Bibliotheca, “Papa” II, Vol. VI, pg 29**

“The pope has the power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ.” -**Decretal De Translat, Episcopo. Cap.**

9. **Rules For Time, Times, ½ of Time-** In Bible prophecy, a time is equivalent to a year, times is equivalent to two years and a half of time is a half a year. It’s important to note that a biblical year is 360 days. There was only 30 days in each of the 12 months on the Jewish calendar.

#### Rules For Time

Time = One (1) year

Times = Two (2) years

Half a time = Half (1/2) a year

1 Year = 360 days

2 years = 720 days

½ Year = 180 days

360+720+180= 1,260 days

After adding up the days of the 3-and-a-half-year time slot that the little horn power would rule supreme you get the 1,260 days. However, there is an important principle that we must

remember in order to be correct in our time line of configuring the papacy's reign. And that is the day for a year principle established in Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34. Therefore, we are not talking about the papacy ruling supreme for just 1,260 literal days but literal years. It is amazing as to how accurate bible prophecy is because the papacy ruled supreme exactly for 1,260 years just as the book of Daniel and Revelation predicted. Remember, the papacy became the head of the state in 538AD making them the supreme ruler in all of Europe. Well, we have the starting date; therefore, all we have to do is count 1,260 years from 538AD and you will come to the fall of the papacy in 1798 AD by the hand of Napoleon Bonaparte's general. Below you will see a historical marker clarifying the papacy's ascendancy into statehood.

"The Roman church – state power became supreme in Christendom in 538 AD due to the letter of the Roman Emperor Justinian's decree, which set up and acknowledged the Bishop of Rome as the head of all churches." -**History of Christian Church, Vol. 3, pg 327**

In Fact, the 1,260-year time frame of the papacy's ruling was not just prophesied in the book of Daniel but also in the book of Revelation as well. The beast power in Revelation 13 (the papacy) that is rising up out of the sea was said to rule for 42 months in Revelation 13:5. Well figuring this time frame out is not difficult. We know we are dealing with bible time. Therefore, all we need to know is how many days are in each month. Well, there are 30 days in each month in the biblical calendar. That being said, all we have to do is multiply 42months by 30 days and you get 1,260 days. Which we know would translate to 1,260 years because of the day for a year principle used in dealing with bible prophecy. So, there you have it, Daniel and Revelation literally coincide together and are perfectly harmonious in helping us to identify the antichrist power of bible prophecy.

"In 1798 Napoleon's general (Berthier),... made his entrance into Rome, abolished the papal government and established a secular one."- **The Encyclopedia, 1941 Edition**

10. **Dominant World Power-** This brings us to our last identification of the antichrist power in this lesson. Of course, this power would have to be a dominant world power to have the money and influence to deceive all the nations and their rulers in the last days. We know that Revelation 13:3 tells us that the deadly wound was healed, and all the world wondered after the beast. The wound that was given to the papacy by Napoleon in 1798AD was the dethroning the papacy to no longer be recognized as a statehood. However, 1929 the papacy was recognized as a statehood once more by Mussolini and this began the healing of a wound that would continue in a silent but most efficacious way to destroy the nations in the world. The popularity of Catholicism is growing day by day with over a 70% approval rate and 1 billion Catholics in the world today. In Daniel 8:25 God's word is clear as to how this little horn power will try to deceive the nations.

**Daniel 8:25 – And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.**

Notice that the little horn power (the papacy) would destroy many by peace. This is exactly how the pope today is working to establish trust in the world today much like Judas did the disciples before they knew he was of the wicked one. The apostle Paul warned us of such peace talks and how they would come.

**1 Thessalonians 5:3- For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.**

**Romans 13:11- And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**



