

the past and the Vatican was at peace with Italy. In affixing the autographs to the memorable document **healing the wound...** extreme cordiality was displayed on both sides." The Lateran Treaty gave the church status as a state again. Since 1929, the church can have official diplomatic relations with the world. The church was given money and 109 acres to form the Vatican. Today, the Vatican has diplomatic relations with most countries of the world. Never before have the nations of the world have such cordial relations with the Vatican as they do today.

Additional historical material concerning this subject:

Who else shared this prophetic interpretation of the identity of the antichrist power?

"Many of the great Christians of the Reformation and post Reformation times shared this view of prophetic truth and identified antichrist with the Roman Papacy. Among adherents of this interpretation were the Waldenses, the Hussites, Wycliff, Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Melancthon, the Baptist theologian John Gill, the martyrs - Cranmer, Tyndale, Latimer and Ridely." George Eldon Ladd. The Blessed Hope p. 33

From the book, *Martyn*, here is a statement from Martyn Luther concerning his position on the identification of the little horn or antichrist power:

"O, how much pain it has caused me, though I had the scriptures on my side... that I should dare to make a stand alone against the pope, and hold him forth as antichrist... Twas so I fought with myself and with Satan, till Christ, by His own infallible word, fortified my heart..." Martyn p. 372 - 373



We need to make a choice between the word of God and the word of man, between the traditions of man and a plain 'thus says the Lord.'

MY CHOICE: Because I love Jesus, I choose to serve Him and follow the teachings of the Bible above any other religious or political power.



### Lesson #13b. Who is the Impostor?

In our last lesson we were in the middle of discovering several identifying marks that God lays out for us in the Bible, specifically in Daniel and Revelation, which describe the antichrist power. Let's recap what we've learned so far in points one through five.

#### 1. Comes to power after 476 A.D. Daniel 7:8

We know from history that Rome fell in 476 A.D. and the Roman Empire dissolved into ten different divisions, which we call today Europe. We also noticed from *History of the Christian Church Vol. 3. p. 327*, that Papacy had her beginning in 538 A.D. when Emperor Justinian gave his seat to the Pontiff of Rome.

#### 2. Came up from the ten horns. Daniel 7:8

The ten horns on the beast in Daniel chapter 7 represent the ten divisions of Rome. This little horn, beast, or antichrist power would come from the ten horns or divided Europe. Needless to say, the Vatican is located in Europe.

#### 3. Uproots three kingdoms. Daniel 7:8, 24

On its way to political dominance, Rome, in its pagan phase (Rome as a political power only – Papal Rome refers to Rome led by Popery, which deals also in matters of religion) uprooted or wiped out three entire people groups: the Heruli in 493 A.D., the Vandals in 534 A.D., and the Ostrogoth's in 538 A.D.

#### 4. Man at the head. Daniel 7:8

"And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man..."



This point requires little commentary because it is common knowledge that Popes took the place of the Caesars of Rome.

#### 5. Is "diverse" Daniel 7:24-25, Revelation 13:4, 8

The other ten horns were only political powers. The little horn or antichrist power is both political and religious. Phrases like, "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High" and "Shall persecute the saints of the Most High," demonstrate that this is a church-state power. Now we are ready to move onto new information.

#### 6. Persecutes the saints. Daniel 7:25

"...and shall wear out the saints of the most High..."

The History of Romanism p. 541-542 by Dr. J. Dowling. "It is estimated by careful credible historians, that more than fifty millions of the human family have been **slaughtered** for the crime by popish persecutors, and average of more than forty thousand religious murders for every year of the existence of Popery."

#### 7. Blasphemes God. Daniel 7:25, 2Thessalonians 2:3-4

"...and he shall speak great words against the most High..."

How does the Bible define blasphemy?

##### 1. Man claiming to be God.

"The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we do not stone you; but for blasphemy; and because you, being a Man, make yourself God."

John 10:33

Crossing the Threshold of Hope, p. 3. by "His Holiness" John Paul II.

"Confronted with the Pope, one must make a choice. The leader of the Catholic Church is defined by the faith as the **Vicar of Jesus Christ** (and accepted as such by believers). The Pope is considered the man on earth who represents the Son of God, who "takes the place" of the Second person of the omnipotent God of the Trinity."

##### 2. Man claiming to forgive sin.

"Why does this man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Mark 2:7

The Catholic Priest pp. 78-79 by Michael Müller a prolific Catholic writer of the 19th century. "Seek where you will, through heaven and earth, and you will find but one created being who can forgive the sinner, who can free him from the chains of hell. That extraordinary being is the priest, the (Roman) Catholic Priest. Yes, beloved brethren, the priest not only declares the sinner is forgiven, but he really forgives him. The priest raises his hand, he pronounces the word of

absolution, and in an instant, quick as a flash of light the chains of hell are burst asunder, and the sinner becomes a child of God. So great is the power of the priest that the judgments of heaven itself are subject to his decision."

#### 8. Changes God's law. Daniel 7:25

"...and think to change times and laws..."

The Catholic Encyclopedia Vol. 4 p. 153. "The Church... after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath, or seventh day of the week, to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's day" Council of Laodicea CANON XXIX. 364 AD "Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honoring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ."

The Faith of Our Fathers p. 89 by James Cardinal Gibbons

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the Sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday."

#### 9. Rules for a time, times, and half a time. Daniel 7:25

"... and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Time is 1 year = 360 days, times is 2 Years = 720 Days, Half a Time is half a Year 180 = Days, for a TOTAL of 1260 days. These three time frames are all the same length, 1260 years (30 days per Jewish month).

History of the Christian Church Vol. 3 p. 327 "The Papacy's power became supreme in Christendom in 538 A.D." When we add 1,260 to 538 we get 1798. The question is: what happened in 1798? That leads us to the next point.

#### 10. Receives a deadly wound, which would be healed. Revelation 13:3

"And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast." How did the church receive a deadly wound? On February 15, 1798 the Pope was taken captive by Napoleon's general Berthier.

Church History p. 24 "The murder of a Frenchman in Rome in 1798 gave the French an excuse for occupying the Eternal City and putting an end to the Papal temporal power. The aged Pontiff himself was carried off into exile to Valence. The enemies of the Church rejoiced. The last Pope they declared had resigned and died in captivity." How and when would the wound be healed?

The San Francisco Chronicle Feb 11, 1929. "The Roman question was a thing of