

HOPE through Prophecy



Lesson 7 – The Rise of Antichrist

1. How many beasts did Daniel see come up out of the sea? Dan. 7:1-7
2. What did these beasts represent? Dan. 7:17, 23
3. What was symbolized by the horns on the head of the fourth beast? Dan. 7:7, 24
4. What arose among the ten horns and uprooted three of them? Dan. 7:8
5. What did the apostle Paul say must happen before Christ's return? 2 Thes. 2:3

Note: The phrase "falling away" comes from the Greek word "apostasia," which means "a falling away, defection, apostasy from the truth." It is the feminine counterpart of the Greek word "apostasion," which means "a divorce."

6. What other name given to the antichrist power reveals that infiltrates from the inside of Christianity rather than attacking from the outside? 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Jn. 17:12
7. Were the apostles of Christ looking for a future antichrist? 2 Thes. 2:7; 1 Jn. 4:3
8. What ten clues does the Bible give us to identify this power?
 - (1) He proceeds from Rome (he came up from the fourth beast – Dan. 7:7-8, 24; the dragon gave him his power, throne and authority – Rev. 13:2)
 - (2) He arose after 476 A.D., the breakup of Rome (he came up among the ten horns – Dan. 7:8; after they came up – Dan. 7:24)
 - (3) He speaks blasphemy against God (Dan. 7:8, 25; Rev. 13:5)

Note: the Bible defines blasphemy as a man claiming to be God (Jn. 10:33) and a man claiming to forgive sins (Mk. 2:5-7). See "Quotes" page.

- (4) He persecutes God's people (Dan. 7:21, 25; Rev. 13:7).

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 complete knowledge of history." – Lecky, History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe, vol. 2, p. 35. (See also Foxe's Book of Martyrs, A Woman Rides the Beast by Dave Hunt, History of the Waldenses by J.A. Wylie – that is, if you have a strong stomach).

- (5) He reigns for 1260 years, or 1260 prophetic days (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:5; also Rev. 12:6 compared w/ 12:14)

"The Papacy's power became supreme in Christendom in 538 A.D. due to a letter of the Roman Emperor Justinian known as Justinian's Decree, which set up and acknowledged the Bishop of Rome as the head of all churches. It gave the papacy political power - civil power - as well as ecclesiastical power. This letter became part of Justinian's Code, the fundamental law of the empire, and that year Pope Vigilius ascended the throne under the military protection of Belisarius". – Dr. Philip Schaff, Church History, Vol. 3, p. 327.

"Berthier entered Rome on the 10th of February, 1798, and proclaimed a republic." – The Modern Papacy, p. 1, London: Catholic Truth Society.

- (6) He is a strong political power (Rev. 13:7 says he is given authority over every tribe, tongue and nation)

"This was one of the great secret alliances of all time... Step by reluctant step, the 3 Soviets and the communist government of Poland bowed to the moral, economic and political pressure imposed by the Pope and the President... The American President and the head of the Roman Catholic Church met for the first time in June 1982, and agreed to undertake a clandestine campaign to hasten the end of the communist empire." – Time Magazine, Feb. 24, 1992.

- (7) He is a universal religious power (Rev. 13:3-4, 8 say "all the world" will marvel and follow him; the word "Catholic" means "universal")
- (8) He receives a fatal wound (Rev. 13:3, 14)

"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 in Valence... The enemies of the church rejoiced. The last pope, they declared, had resigned." – Dr. Philip Schaff, Church History, Vol. 4 (?), p. 24.

- (9) He has a mysterious number 666

"The title of the Pope of Rome is vicarius filii dei and if you take the letters of his title which represent Latin numerals(Printed large) and add them together they come to 666." - Our Sunday Visitor (a publication written by Catholic authorities), Nov. 15, 1914

- (10) His Deadly wound is healed

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

"Since his election, Pope John Paul II has emerged as the greatest religious leader of the modern world, and one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of this century ... The Pope came [to America] as a statesman and a pastor, but I believe he also sees himself coming as an evangelist. ... " – Billy Graham, Saturday Evening Post, Jan.-Feb. 1980.