

**A Brief History of The Antichrist**  
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## Introduction

### 1. Many Antichrists; Matthew 24:4-5; 1John 2:18

Shortly before Jesus died on the cross for our sins He warned His disciples of things to come. One of His warnings was that many would come and say, "I am Christ," Matthew 24:4-5. Later John proved that Jesus' prophecy was fulfilled when he wrote in the latter part of the first century, "even now are there many antichrists," 1John 2:18. Antichrist means one who takes the place of Christ or one who is instead of Christ. Anyone who declares that he is the Christ is seeking to take the place of Christ in some sense. He is an antichrist. Jesus prophesied that many false christs would come in the generation of the first century, Matthew 24:24, 34. Later John wrote that many antichrists were already in existence, 1John 2:18.

Alexander Souter in his lexicon for the New Testament says that "anti" means "instead of, in return for, in exchange for, as a substitute for," p. 25, A Pocket Lexicon of the Greek New Testament, Alexander Souter, Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 1949.

Dana and Mantey say, "There is conclusive proof now that the dominant meaning for anti in the first century was instead of. 'By far the commonest meaning of anti, is the simple instead of' (Moulton-Milligan: Voc. of the Gr. N.T.). This statement refers to the papyri usage," p. 100. A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament, H. E. Dana and Julius R. Mantey, The Macmillan Company, Toronto, Canada, 1957.

Some Bible scholars believe the word "antichrist" means "one who is against Christ." The reason for this is that before New Testament days the word "anti" meant "against" or "instead of." Also the word "anti" in composition might mean "against" or "instead of." For examples: "antibasileus" means "one who is instead of the king" and "antinomia" means "against law." However, in New Testament days the usual meaning for "anti" was "instead of" when used alone. In the New Testament the word "anti" when used alone is never translated "against" in the King James Version. "Anti" in composition with other words coined before New Testament times might be translated "against." But in the New Testament days the usual meaning for "anti" was "instead of." It is usually translated "for" in the King James Version. Some examples: "an eye for an eye," Matthew 5:38, which means "an eye instead of an eye." "Recompense to no man evil for evil," Romans 12:17, which means "Recompense to no man evil instead of evil."

These many antichrists would deceive many and have many followers, Matthew 24:5. Each of the antichrists would have a few followers and together there would be many deceived. The many antichrists would not necessarily teach the same thing but they all would claim to be Christ in some sense. History confirms that there were many antichrists in the first century and there have continued to be many more throughout the following nineteen hundred years.

### 2. The Antichrist; 1John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2John 7; 2Thessalonians 2:3-4

Since the word antichrist first appears in John's writings, where John uses it five times and he is the only one using it in the New Testament, it is thought he first coined the word. Thayer's Lexicon says, "The name ho antichristos was formed perhaps by John, the only writer in the N.T. who uses it, [five times];" p.51, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, Joseph Henry Thayer, American Book Company, New York, 1889.

Since it appears for certain this word "antichrist" first began in New Testament times either coined by John, the apostle, or some other person of that general time then it would mean "one who is instead of Christ." In New Testament times the usual meaning for "anti" is "instead of" therefore, we should accept that meaning as long as it makes sense. This principle would apply to new words coined in composition with "anti" in the New Testament days. Because of this it seems conclusive that the antichrist means "the one who is instead of Christ."

John uses the word antichrist 5 times, once in the plural in 1John 2:18 and 4 times in the singular in 1John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2John 7. The 4 times in the singular all have the definite article with them in the Greek text but none have the article translated into the English of the KJV. The 4 times in the singular all refer to "the antichrist" which was still to come in John's day.

Notice the first uses of the word antichrist in 1John 2:18. Taking the word anti according to its common meaning one would naturally expect it to mean "one who is instead of Christ." The verse teaches that there were many antichrists in John's day but the antichrist had not come at that time. He would come after John's day. "The antichrist" of 1John 2:18 which was future to John was the one who would be the antichrist of all antichrists. He would claim to be Christ.

1John 2:22 can be translated, "Who is the liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." The antichrist is the liar because he denys the truth that Jesus is the Christ in the way that the New Testament teaches which is the teaching of the Father and the Son. The one who seeks to take Christ's place denys Christ His place. Since there can only be one Christ, anyone claiming to take Christ's place is a hostile take over. He is also denying Jesus is the Christ in some sense. This is the negative aspect which is true of the antichrist and of all antichrists.

In 1John 4:1-4 the readers are urged to "try" that is test the spirits by God's Word. God's Spirit in His Word confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. Jesus Christ even though He is God yet He is truly a man, He came in the flesh. Every spirit who confesses not that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. In verse 3b the Greek says, "and this is the spirit of the antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." Notice that the definite article is with the words spirit and antichrist. Also notice that "it" appears twice and refers to the spirit of Satan. Even though "the antichrist" had not come in John's day yet the same spirit of Satan was already in the world when John wrote this, doing the same kind of things he would do when "the antichrist" would come and this spirit would guide him. This evil spirit does the same kind of things but not necessarily the very same things. Not to confess any true doctrine of the Word of God is the same kind of thing. To not confess justification by faith is the same kind of thing as the spirit in John's day did in not confessing Jesus' true humanity. The spirit of "the antichrist" does not confess either truth but "the antichrist" would not confess one of the two. A characteristic of antichrists and the antichrist is to blaspheme teachings of God's Word in some way. To deny a doctrine or not confess it to be true amounts to being against it. This is one of the marks of a person seeking to take the place of Christ. We should test the spirits by the Word of God which was inspired by the Holy Spirit. The antichrist is guided by the spirit of Satan who is against the teachings of the Bible.

In 2John 6-7 the word "antichrist" appears for the last time in the New Testament. The last part of verse 7 in the Greek says, "This is the deceiver and the antichrist." In the Greek we find "the" with both deceiver and antichrist. The definite article is left out of the English translation of the KJV before both words. The deceiver and the antichrist are two names for the same person. It is brought out in Matthew 24:4-5 that all antichrists deceive and the antichrist is of course the deceiver. The many deceivers of John's day were deceiving people then concerning the doctrine of God's Word relating to the true humanity of Christ when they would not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. So, the deceiver and the antichrist would deceive people when he would come concerning other doctrines of God's Word such as the doctrine of salvation, the church, the ordinances, etc.

Verse 7 can be translated, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is like the deceiver and the antichrist." The Greek

word "eimi" may be translated "is" or "is like" before "the deceiver and the antichrist." The context must determine which is best. Here "is like" is better. Concerning this verb Thayer writes, "eimi, as a copula, indicates that the subject is or is to be compared to the thing expressed by the predicate...yet yourselves are like a letter of recommendation for me, or ye serve as a substitute for a letter of recommendation, 2Cor. 3:2," page 176. A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament, Joseph Henry Thayer, American Book Company, New York, 1889.

In summary, antichrist means one who takes Christ's place. The antichrist does this when he claims to be Christ on earth and in doing so denies that Jesus is the Christ in the fullest meaning of the word. There were many antichrists in John the apostle's day and there have been many since then. Antichrists have varied a lot in what they have taught and in the degree they have sought to take the place of Jesus.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Christ now and forever, on earth and in heaven, in body and in soul, etc. To deny that Jesus is the Christ in any sense and then seeking to take His place in some sense is to be an antichrist. If one confesses not that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh then the one who did come in the flesh called Jesus is denied as Christ. And, someone else is the Christ. The one who teaches that Jesus is the Christ in heaven but he is the Christ on earth is the antichrist. Those who deny Jesus as the Christ in some sense, do so, that we might not listen to His commandments and teachings but to theirs. They seek to take the place of Christ.

Paul refers to the antichrist in 2Thessalonians 2:3-4 when he mentions one who was to come who would be the man of sin who claims to be God. Only Jesus Christ is man and God. Jesus Christ is unique because of this truth. Any man claiming to be God is claiming to be Christ. Another name for such a man is antichrist. And as Paul goes on to tell us more about this particular man it is clear that he is writing about the antichrist.

### **3. The General Time of The Antichrist; Dan. 2; 7; 1John 2:18; 2Thess. 2:1-4**

The Thessalonian brethren were troubled because some false teachers had come to them teaching that the second coming and our gathering together to Christ is at hand and they had missed it. This Greek word in this verse translated "is at hand" means "is present." Also notice "our" before "gathering together unto Him." "Our" would include Paul, the Thessalonian brethren and all other believers. The very visible and personal nature for all believers concerning the truth of the second coming and our gathering to Christ or rapture was one proof that the second coming and rapture was not present. All believers will know when that takes place!

Other proofs that the false teachers were wrong were that certain events had to take place before the second coming and rapture and these events had not been fulfilled at the time Paul wrote to them. One of these events was the antichrist or man of sin had to come before the second coming and the rapture, 2Thessalonians 2:1-4.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians after Christ's first coming. This would place the coming of the antichrist between the first coming and the second coming and our rapture to Him. The Bible clearly teaches that the antichrist comes before the second coming of Christ and our rapture or gathering to Him.

Notice God's outline of history in Daniel 2 & 7 to see where the antichrist fits in God's outline. **1** represents 1st Coming; **x** represents the antichrist, **2** represents 2nd Coming and rapture.



take place in many churches so that one of these churches had a man sit in their church and claim he was God. This was the man of sin, the antichrist.

Notice the changes which took place in this period in some churches. Salvation was changed from no works of man for salvation, to man having to produce good works to earn his salvation. Baptism was changed from an ordinance to picture the salvation that a believer had, to a regenerating ceremony necessary for salvation. Unbelieving babies were given the ceremony to regenerate them. Church government was changed from each church governing themselves democratically under Christ's leadership revealed by the Bible and the Holy Spirit, to a group of churches organized together under a hierarchy of bishops making the decisions. This new kind of church was joined to the state as the official religion of the Western Roman Empire under the political leader, Caesar. These are only a few of the changes. There were changes in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, worship, prayer, service, etc.

The Bible is clear that we are not to change the teachings of the Bible, Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15; 1Corinthians 11:1-2; etc. There should not be a falling away but the Lord knew the heart of man and His plan and prophesied that there would be and the antichrist would come and sit in a church and claim to be God.

For the antichrist to come there must be first a falling away in doctrines in some churches. Also there must be a change in the Roman government. This is brought out in 2Thessalonians 2:5-8. All of the churches at the time Paul wrote were in the Roman Empire as far as the Bible tells us. Someone at that time was withholding or restraining the antichrist from coming to power in a church. That one was the Roman Caesar; he ruled the Roman Empire at that time and was the head of the political and religious affairs of the state. The one in that office was considered a god and was worshipped by many in the Roman Empire for many years in the history of the empire. Anyone claiming to be God with much of a following would be seen as a danger to Caesar. After the churches who fell away from the truth became the state religion of the Roman Empire, Caesar would still consider a person in some church claiming to be God with some following to be a threat. Caesar would be the head of the state religion of false Christianity. The office of Caesar and the one in it would withhold or restrain anyone claiming to be God in a church with much of a following. The office of Caesar and the one in the office had to be taken away before the antichrist could come. The last Caesar and the office came to an end in 476. The Germanic tribe of the Herules led by Odoacer removed the last Caesar in 476. Paul refers to Caesar as he did because if plainly stated, Caesar could cause Paul and other believers to suffer. Caesar would not like to hear that he was to be removed from power. Paul and other believers might be considered dangerous to his government.

## **2. The Antichrist Begins as a Religious Power, 492**

The Roman church under the Bishop of Rome or the Pope was the state religion of Rome and Caesar was over the Pope and his church after 395. But in 476 Caesar was removed. The head of the church in Rome called the Pope was not restrained any longer by Caesar from claiming to be God. The church in Rome had gone so far from the teachings of Christ that they would be in favor of permitting the Pope to claim to be Christ and God. A few years later in 492 Pope Gelasius came to power in the church of Rome and soon claimed to be Christ and God on earth. Since that time every Pope has claimed that he was Christ and God. The two necessary changes before the antichrist could come to power had been fulfilled. The Roman Caesar who had withheld the antichrist from coming to power up to 476 was gone and the falling away had taken place.

The one in the office of the Pope claims to be Christ on earth and this is the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. The Popes have claimed to be the Vicar of Christ since Pope Gelasius I, 492-496, took that title. "Vicar" means "in place of" or "instead of." "Vicar of Christ" means "the one in the place of Christ." "Vicar" is from the Latin and means the same as "anti" which is from the Greek. "Vicar of Christ" and "Antichrist" mean the same thing. This claim of the Pope is the basis of other claims. Since Christ is God and the prophet, the priest and the King of kings, the Pope has made those claims also.

The New York Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church claims: "The pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth...By divine right the pope has supreme and full power in faith and morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true Vicar of Christ, the head of the entire church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of and the judge of councils; the universal ruler of truth, the arbiter of the world, the supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one, God himself on earth." Notice what I have underlined.

For those who do not have access to this Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church, this quote can be found on p. 127 of Roman Catholicism, by Loraine Boettner, Baker Book House, 1979. This book is an excellent source for accurate information on the teachings of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church with documentation.

"Gelasius seized every opportunity of inculcating his conviction of the supremacy of the Roman see, and was the first pope known to have been saluted as 'vicar of Christ' (at the Roman synod of 13 May 495 which restored Misenus)." This quote is found on p. 48 of The Oxford Dictionary of Popes by J.N.D. Kelly, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1989.

Thomas Aquinas, 1225-74, one of the greatest Roman Catholic theologians wrote, "There is no difference between the Pope and Jesus Christ." XXXIV. Ed., Paris, xx., 549-580.

On April 30, 1922 Pope Pius XI said, "You know that I am the Holy Father, the representative of God on the earth, the Vicar of Christ, which means that I am God on the earth." The Bulwark, October 1922, p.104.

Pope Leo XIII stated concerning himself in his Apostolic Letter on June 20, 1894, "We hold the place of Almighty God on earth."

Pope Leo XIII applied John 10:27 to himself and said, "What Jesus Christ had said of Himself we may truly repeat of ourselves." In his Encyclical, De Unitate.

Pope Pius X who followed him said, "The Pope...is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh," "all must be subject to him."

All of the above material can be found in The Antichrist, by Baron Porcelli, 5th Ed.1943, Revised, Protestant Truth Society 3&4 St. Paul's Churchyard, E.C. 4. See pp. 25-85 for this material and much more with documentation. He also mentions the laws which were passed to keep believers from buying and selling and information about the persecutions by the Pope.

The antichrist is an office which is defined in the Bible; whoever is in that office is the antichrist. Another name for this office today is the Pope. Pope Gelasius I, 492-496, took the title of Vicar of Christ and all Popes have continued to take this title. Gelasius was not considered Christ on earth until he was put in the office of Pope and then he became Christ on earth according to their doctrine. This was true of every Pope after Gelasius. They were not Christ on earth until they were put into the office of Pope. Then they were the Vicar of Christ or the antichrist. Over the last 1,500 years many have held this office; whoever was in that office was the antichrist. There is one office of the antichrist but many have held that office. This

office and the last one holding it will be destroyed by Christ at His second coming after the rapture, 2Thessalonians 2:8.

Consider this illustration. The High Priest of Israel under the old covenant was an office which many individuals held throughout the history of Israel. The High Priest of Israel was the one in the office that one was speaking about at a particular time. There is only one office of High Priest in Israel under the old covenant but many have held this office. There is only one office of the antichrist but many have held it. Many offices have been established for different purposes. Some offices have only had one person whoever held the office. Some offices have had many persons to hold their office. Alexander the Great held the office of Emperor of the Grecian Empire but he died and his empire was divided up and no one held that office again. The office of Caesar was held by many in history. The context of the Bible must be studied to see if only one held an office or many. The Bible context indicates that many would hold the office of the antichrist and have.

The antichrist would deceive many using Satanic power to do signs and lying wonders and other unrighteous deceits. The Pope has done miracles or what has appeared to be miracles by Satan's power to convince people to believe his teachings and to follow him. Since he taught many lies the miracles were used to get people to believe these lies. These miracles are "lying wonders." Because the people deceived did not want to listen to the Bible, God would permit them to believe the lies of the antichrist, 2Thessalonians 2:9-12.

There have been many churches who have fallen away from the truth of the Bible. But only one of any size has fallen away and went further when their Bishop claimed to be Christ and God on earth and they accepted him as such. That one was the church at Rome and their Bishop, the Pope. All that is said about the antichrist in the Bible is fulfilled by the Pope of Rome as we will see in the following pages except his destruction at the second coming.

## **II. The Religious Period Of The Antichrist, 492-756; Daniel 7**

### **1. Necessary Political Changes in Rome, 492-756**

Notice the political background of Rome. Daniel prophesied what would take place politically. The Times of the Gentiles began for Judah when the last king of the line of David with many Jews were taken into Babylonian captivity in 586 BC and the temple was destroyed. Then Babylon dominated Judah followed by Persia, Greece and then Rome. The temple was rebuilt in the time

of Persian domination. Early in the Roman period of domination Jesus came, taught, died, arose and ascended to heaven in about 30 AD. The New Testament churches began to carry out the great commission in all the world. Rome came and destroyed the temple in Jerusalem in 70AD and took many Jewish captives who were scattered in the world. Many New Testament churches were started throughout the Roman Empire. Some of these churches began to change the doctrines of salvation, baptism, church government, etc. By 492 many churches, but not all, had gone far away from the teachings of the Bible.

The Roman Empire was permanently divided into two parts in 395. Rome, which had ruled all the empire, now would only rule the Western Roman Empire. Constantinople would rule the Eastern Roman Empire. The barbarian tribes who were mainly Germanic invaded the Roman Empire after 395 to 476. There were ten tribes who invaded from the north and east and established kingdoms in the Western Roman Empire. The Anglo-Saxons and the Jutes started kingdoms in England. The Burgundians and Franks settled in France. The Visigoths and Suevi began kingdoms in Spain. The Vandals settled in north Africa. The Herules, Ostrogoths and

Lombards had kingdoms in Italy and north and northeast of Italy. All of the empire was taken from the Caesars by 476.

Odoacer and his people, the Herules, came to power in Rome and most of Italy in 476 when he removed the last Caesar, Romulus Augustulus. Another Germanic tribe, the Ostrogoths, with their leader, Theodoric, overcame and uprooted Odoacer and the Herules in about 493 and ruled in Rome. Gelasius I, 492-496, was Pope of the Roman Catholic Church which was the state religion of the Western Roman Empire. He knew the situation at that time and he felt safe in claiming to be Christ and God on earth and did so. All Popes have made the same claim since then.

Theodoric who ruled the Ostrogoths in Italy died in 526 and war broke out. Justinian the ruler of the Eastern Roman Empire defeated and uprooted the Ostrogoths in 555. Justinian controlled Italy for a few years. The Lombards led by Alboin invaded Italy in 568 and took control and established their kingdom. The Lombards were defeated and uprooted in central Italy by the Franks in 756. The Franks gave Rome and the territory around it to the Pope and he became a political ruler of what was called The Papal States. This was only a part of Italy. From 476 to 756 many political changes took place which greatly benefited the antichrist. These political changes and others previous to this time were necessary that Bible prophecy might be fulfilled. Rome and central Italy were controlled by three Germanic tribes during most of this period from 476 to 756. The antichrist went from a religious power to a political and religious power by the end of the period in 756. During these years other religious changes were also taking place. In 774 the Lombards were destroyed as a kingdom in northern Italy.

## **2. The Antichrist Begins as a Political Power & a Religious Power, 756**

The political history just summarized from Daniel's day in 586 BC to 756 AD was prophesied in Daniel 7 and other Scriptures. We particularly want to notice Daniel 7 next because of its prophecies concerning the antichrist and his rise to political power. Daniel 7 continues the history of the antichrist revealed in 2Thessalonians 2. After the last Caesar was put off his throne in 476 three Germanic tribes ruled Rome politically and part or all of Italy until the last one was defeated in 756 in central Italy. Then the Pope became the political ruler in Rome over a small territory in Italy..

Daniel prophesied more than twelve hundred years before of "a little horn" who would come to power in the time of Roman domination, Daniel 7:7-8. The "little horn" represented the antichrist who would become a political ruler in Rome. The antichrist or man of sin or Pope was already the religious power in Rome from 492 to 756 but after that he would be a political and a religious power. Every thing prophesied about the little horn of Rome in Daniel 7 has been fulfilled by the Pope but his destruction at the second coming of Christ.

This little horn of Rome should not be confused with another little horn who came before in the period of Greek domination, Daniel 8:8-9, 20-23. The Bible teaches that there would be four great political powers which would rule from Daniel's day to the second coming of Christ in the area around the land of Israel which would greatly affect Israel, believers and unbelievers. This area around the land of Israel is primarily the Near East and the Mediterranean Sea area..

Horns in the vision of Daniel 7 represent kings, Daniel 7:15-16, 23-24. The place of the little horn in Daniel 7 is the Western Roman Empire for he came to power on the fourth beast among the ten horns. The fourth beast represented the Roman Empire and the ten horns represented the Germanic tribes which divided up the Western Roman Empire for themselves. The three beasts that ruled in the Near East and the Mediterranean Sea area beginning in the time of Daniel were Babylon, Persia and Greece as the Bible makes clear, Daniel 2:31-45; 8:1-12, 20-

27. The only Empire to defeat Greece and rule after Greece was Rome. The ten kings represented the Germanic kings who led the Germanic tribes and divided up the Western Roman Empire and began to rule it. They didn't divide up the Eastern Roman Empire where Greece was. The context makes it clear that the little horn of Daniel 7 came to power among the ten Germanic tribes. The little horn of Greece in Daniel 8 came to power in a different place and in a different time than the little horn of Rome. The little horn of Greece came to power in the Grecian Empire about a thousand years before the little horn of Rome came to power in Rome, Daniel 8:1-12, 20-27. There are also other great differences between the two.

The general time when the little horn of Daniel 7 came to political power in the Western Roman Empire was after the Germanic tribes had invaded and took it over. This time would be after 476. The specific time would be after three of the ten horns had ruled their kingdoms and then were uprooted. That would be in 754-756, Daniel 7:7-8, 19-20, 23-24.

Daniel 7:7-8, 20, 23-24 answers the questions, where, and when. Where would the little horn be? The little horn would come to political power in the Roman Empire, the fourth beast.

When would the little horn come to power? He would come to power when the Roman Empire was dominating the nations and after the last Caesar was removed and the Germanic tribes, the ten horns, had taken over the Roman Empire. And he would come to power after three of the Germanic kingdoms had been uprooted from power before him.

Who is the little horn? He is a king who would rule a little kingdom which is not one of the Germanic kingdoms, Daniel 7:8, 24. He would also be a head of the Roman Empire after the Germanic tribes took over the Roman Empire which was then known as the Western Roman Empire. The little horn has eyes and a mouth, head features. The Roman Catholic Church became the only state religion of the Western Roman Empire after 395. Caesar was the head of it until removed as Caesar in 476. After that the Pope was the head of the state religion of the Western Roman Empire. With his mouth he made great claims one of which was that he was the head of the Western Roman Empire. He not only claimed to be over the religion of the empire, he also claimed he was its political head. But he was very weak as the last Caesars were in the fifth century. He was only a figure-head until about 1100-1300 when he became very strong and controlled the Western Roman Empire. After that he became just a figure-head again like the last Caesars, controlling only a very small territory in Italy.

Who is the little horn? This little horn has eyes and a mouth which show he is also a head. His eyes and his mouth also indicate he is a man and claims to be God. Notice that his eyes are the eyes of a man, Daniel 7:8. He is a man just like us. However with his mouth he makes great claims that he is much more than a man, Daniel 7:8, 11, 20, 25. These very great words are in contrast to him being a man. These words make him to look "more stout than his fellows." He was a king but he was much greater than his fellow kings, Daniel 7:20. He will "speak great words against the most High," Daniel 7:25. The Hebrew word translated "against" literally means "to the side." These words that he is greater than his fellows would bring him to the side of God in greatness. To claim that he is Christ and God on earth would bring him to the side of God in greatness. Since he is not Christ and God, such words would make him to be "against" God.

The New York Catechism repeats the claims of the Pope when it teaches: "The pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth...By divine right the pope has supreme and full power in faith and morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true Vicar of Christ, the head of the entire church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of and the judge of councils; the universal ruler of truth, the

arbiter of the world, the supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one, God himself on earth." These are very great words which bring the Pope to the side of God and since they are not true these words are against God. Notice again these words and others on pages 6-7.

Only the Pope, the man of sin and the antichrist of 2Thessalonians, fulfills this. The Pope was a religious power in Rome under the Caesar in 395 when the Germanic tribes began to take over the Western Roman Empire. The Pope became the head of the state religion after the last Caesar was removed and claimed to be Christ on earth. Three of the ten Germanic tribes were uprooted from power between 476 and 756, Daniel 7:7-8, 19-25. The Germanic tribe of the Franks defeated the last of the three Germanic tribes and handed its kingdom in central Italy over to the Pope in 754-756. He was then a political and religious power.

What would the little horn do? He would make war against the true New Testament churches and the believers in them. He had them tortured and put to death in large numbers. He sought to undermine the truth they taught and misrepresented them, Daniel 7:21, 25.

He would change the times and laws of God. The times and laws of the Bible were changed by the Pope of Rome. Instead of keeping what God taught he changed many things by redefining words, adding to and taking away from God's teachings, Daniel 7:25. Notice these examples. The Bible teaches that when a person believes on Christ as his Saviour all of his sins are forgiven and he will go to heaven at death. The Pope changed the time when all of a believer's sins are forgiven by teaching one must go to purgatory at death and suffer to pay for his remaining sins and then later go to heaven. The Bible teaches that a person should be baptized after he believes on Christ as his Saviour. The Pope taught that babies were to be baptized before they believe. The times and laws or principles of God were changed concerning other teachings also.

The last Pope and his office would be destroyed by Christ at His second coming, Daniel 7:11, 26. This truth is brought out in 2Thessalonians 2:8 and in Revelation 19:11-21. The antichrist is to continue until the second coming and then he will be destroyed as prophesied in the preceding Scriptures. He began in 492 and has continued for over 1,500 years and will continue until Christ comes again.

No one knows the time of that great event. We know the relative time but not the absolute time. We know that certain events must take place before the antichrist comes to religious power. We also know that certain events must take place before the antichrist comes to political and religious power. This gives us the relative time to other events but not the absolute time in years or days or hours. As far as they knew in the first century AD these events could take place in their day but no one knew the year or the day or the hour except God. Believers should watch for Jesus' coming in every generation.

In summary the Pope who was already a religious power and the antichrist now became a political and a religious power. The territory given to the Pope to rule in 754-756 was little compared to most other kingdoms. It has gotten smaller during the last twelve hundred and fifty years. Today the Pope's kingdom is only a few acres but it is a separate kingdom ruled by the Pope alone. During most of this kingdom's history it was called The Papal States. Today it is called the Vatican.

Daniel 7 is a foretelling of the continuation of the history of the antichrist from his beginning in 492 to 756 when he became a religious and political power. All of this has been fulfilled by the Pope of Rome who is the antichrist.

### **III. The Political & Religious Period Of The Antichrist, 756-?; Rev. 13; 17-19**

#### **1. Political Power of The Antichrist Dominates, 756-1305**

The Pope who is the antichrist became a political and religious power in 756. He has continued to be a political and religious power to our day. This period can be divided into two parts. In the first part his political power dominates over his religious power from 756 to 1305. In the second part his religious power dominates over his political power from 1305 to the second coming of Christ.

In Revelation 13 the first part seems to be mainly portrayed. The two beasts represent the political power and the religious power of the antichrist. The first beast represents the antichrist's political power. The world at that time marvels and are amazed at his political power, Revelation 13:3-4. The second beast, the religious power of the antichrist, seeks to glorify the first beast, the antichrist's political power, Revelation 13:11-18. The first beast dominates over the second beast at this time. In the early years of the first part from 756 to 1048 the antichrist's political power is dominant over his religious power but is still relatively weak in his world and very corrupt. From 1049 to 1305 the Pope's political power reaches its height and is strong in the world.

The political background of the antichrist is given first in 13:1-2. The first beast came out of the sea which pictured disorganized humanity at the time of the Tower of Babel, Revelation 17:15; Genesis 11. This beast had the characteristics of the four beasts in Daniel 7. It also had seven heads representing seven great nations which would come to power after the Tower of Babel to lead the beast through their rulers. These nations would dominate other nations because of their power one after another. These nations or heads led Satan's visible kingdom, the first beast which comes out of the sea. These nations in order are: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome under the Caesars and Rome under the Popes. Daniel reveals who the last five heads represent as he was taught by the Lord about the future from his day until the second coming. These last five were predicted by Daniel in the vision in Daniel 7. The first two were revealed in the inspired history of the Old Testament before Daniel's day. This beast received his power, seat or throne and authority from the dragon or Satan, Revelation 13:1-2; 12:9. This was Satan's visible kingdom.

The last head, the 7th, is Rome under the Pope which is the Little Horn of Rome in Daniel 7, the antichrist. He was a little horn or kingdom but also a head of an empire because in the horn were eyes and a mouth. The falling away of some from the true teachings of the Bible took place in the Roman Empire under the Caesars, the 6th head of the beast. This false Christianity was made a state religion of the Roman Empire in the days of the Caesar Constantine and then made the state Religion of the Roman Empire in 395 by the Caesar Theodosius. It continued as the state religion of Rome under the headship of Caesar until the last Caesar and then continued under the headship of the Pope after 476. The Pope became the Man of Sin when he claimed he was Christ and God in 492. When the Man of Sin in 756 became the Little Horn of Rome, the 7th head of the beast, he became a political power. He was already the head of the state religion of Rome and would continue in that capacity until the second coming when this religion will be destroyed along with the last Pope. The Pope still has political power today but he is weak compared to what he was in the middle ages. He still is the head of the religion of the Roman Empire and it is still very strong having about a billion followers. The first beast in the days of its last head who is the Little Horn of Rome or the Pope will be destroyed by Christ at the second coming, Revelation 19:20; Daniel 7:11, 26.

One head died politically and after some time lived again, 13:3a. Which head was this? It was the sixth. Rome under the Caesars died in 476 but Rome under the Popes as a political power lived again in 756, Revelation 13:3b. The first five heads died but never lived again. But the sixth head, Rome under Caesar died and lived again as a dominating kingdom over many. Rome under the Caesars were weak at times and then very powerful and Rome under the Popes were weak at times and then very powerful. The Caesars have claimed to be a god and received worship and the Popes have claimed to be God on earth and received worship. They both were the head of the same state religion but at different times. This state religion was a Christianity which had fallen away from the teachings of Christ revealed in the New Testament.

The seventh head is the revived Roman ruler or Pope and his Empire. After telling about this revival in Revelation 13:3b we are told more about his actions in Revelation 13:3c-10. The world wondered after the beast when it was revived as the seventh head in Revelation 13:3b and then we are told more about his evil works.

First, the world worshipped Satan and the Pope, the seventh head, 13:4. The Pope who claims to be God on earth does not correct the world but receives its worship and encourages it. Since Satan is behind the Pope and his religion those who worship the Pope also are worshipping Satan.

Second, in 13:5-6 the Pope blasphemed God by his false teachings until the end of the 42 months. The 42 months is 3 and 1/2 years or 1260 days which is used to symbolize the Times of the Gentiles, Revelation 12:6, 14. The Times of the Gentiles is also called "a time and times and half a time." The Last Time of the Times of the Gentiles is the time that Rome dominates on the earth. During this time Rome has two heads, the 6th and 7th heads of the beast. The first head of Rome, the sixth head, died in 476. In 756 the second head of Rome revived which is the 7th head of the beast. The antichrist comes to religious power and political power in the Time of Rome and would continue his false teachings until the second coming of Christ which is the end of the Times of the Gentiles or the 42 months.

The Times of the Gentiles began with Babylon dominating Judah and the nations in about the middle of the time that Babylon had already dominated other nations. This is symbolized as a half a time or 6 months. Persia and Greece the next two dominating nations each had a time to dominate which is symbolized as 2 years or 24 months. Then the last time began which was the time of Rome's domination. It is symbolized as a year or 12 months.

The name of God was blasphemed when the Pope claimed the names of God and Christ on earth. The tabernacle of God represents God's plan of salvation which was also blasphemed when changed by the Pope. He also blasphemed some believers in heaven by teaching people to pray to them and to worship them. These believers are the apostles, Mary, etc.

Third, in 13:7-8 the Pope persecuted and killed many believers because they would not follow his evil teachings. But, unbelievers in the world worshipped the Pope in spite of his evil ways.

But the Lord comforts His people in 13:9-10. Those who arrested believers for standing for the truth will in time be arrested by God and those who killed believers for standing for the truth will be punished by God with the second death. God's promise of justice to His people cause them to believe and be patient.

The second beast comes up out of the earth which had fallen in sin, Genesis 3. The actions of this beast reveal that its origin is from Satan. This beast did not come from heaven and God as the Pope claims but from a sinful world, Revelation 13:11a.

This beast represents the religious aspect of the Pope whereas the first beast represents

the political aspect of the Pope. The second beast is like a lamb having two horns. He appears gentle and harmless yet he is very dangerous because he leads people to follow a way that leads to destruction in hell. The two horns on the beast represent the two kinds of workers or leaders who aid the Pope, the priests and the monks. The second beast speaks like a dragon or Satan; he teaches false doctrine, Revelation 13:11b.

The second beast exercises all the power of the first beast in the days of the seventh head. This indicates that the first beast in the time of the seventh head is the second beast. Each represents a different aspect of the Pope, the political and the religious. The Pope is the head of a political organization which carries out his wishes and he is the head of a religious organization which carries out his wishes. He is not alone but he is the head of his kingdom and most responsible. He is also part of a larger organization which is led by Satan in the first six heads and goes back in history to the Tower of Babel. However, the emphasis here is upon the 7th head of the first beast, the Pope and his organization in his political aspect. The second beast represents the Pope and his organization in his religious aspect, Revelation 13:12a. .

The evil works of the second beast is pointed out in Revelation 13:12b-18. By his religious teaching that the Pope is Christ on earth, he causes people to worship the first beast in the days of the 7th head. The deadly wound of the 6th head which took place in 476 when the last Caesar of Rome was put off his throne and lost his political power was healed in 756 when the 7th head, the Pope, received political power in Rome and has ruled since then, Revelation 13:12b.

He claims to do great miracles like the fire which came down from heaven in the day of Elijah, 1Kings 18:36-39. His greatest miracle is changing the bread and wine into the literal body and blood of Christ with His full humanity and deity. This miracle is claimed every time the Pope and his priests conduct a mass. He and his priests cannot do it but this miracle is claimed every day. Some other miracles claimed may be fakes and others may be real miracles done by Satan's power, Revelation 13:13-14a.

He urges people to make an image to or for the first beast. The Pope and his priests teach people to make many things idols and cause people to worship them such as Mary, the apostles, etc. The most common image is the bread of the mass. The mass is a corruption of the Bible's teaching on the Lord's Supper. The Pope claims that the priest, bishop or Pope who conducts the mass has the power to turn the bread and wine into Jesus Christ literally, His humanity and His deity. They teach them to worship the bread which is done in every mass. They say it has the appearance of bread and wine but it is literally Jesus; they have made the bread and wine to live as Christ. The Pope is said to be Christ on earth and the bread is made into an image or idol of Christ for the benefit of the Pope. Many believe this and worship a piece of bread. Some claim that they have heard the bread to speak. The Pope and his priests claim to speak for Christ telling what He wants said. Either way they cause the bread to speak, Revelation 13:14b-15a..

Those who have not worshipped the bread at times in the past have been put to death on the authority of the Pope or his priests who claim Christ's authority, Revelation 13:15b.

The second beast teaches that their followers should show that they belong to the Pope and his religion by having his mark. His mark shows they belong to him. His mark on the forehead represents believing in their mind his teachings therefore they belong to him. His mark on their right hand represents that their power belongs to him and they use their power to do what he says, Revelation 13:16.

His mark is shown in two ways. One is his name and the other is his number. His name is blasphemy, Revelation 13:1b; to follow the second beast's teaching is to blaspheme God. His

number is 666 which is the number of a man. The indefinite article can be left out since it is not in the Greek. Man was made on the sixth day of creation week. Six represents man and three sixes would represent man glorifying himself. The Pope is only a man but by his claims to be Christ he glorifies himself. For a person to believe and practice the blasphemy taught by the second beast is to have the Pope's name indicating that he belongs to him. For a person to believe and practice the teachings that glorify man is to have the number of the Pope indicating that the person belongs to him.. The first "or" in 13:17 is better translated "either." Those that did not give their minds to believe and their hands to do could not literally buy or sell at times in past history, Revelation 13:17-18.

In history followers of the Pope have literally put marks on their foreheads and right hands but we do not think this is what is being taught here. In the very next verse in this context, 14:1, the 144,000 are said to have the Father's name in their forehead. This is not literal; it is teaching by signs that they are the Father's property and belong to Him. In the same verse the lamb is not literal it is a sign that represents Christ as the believer's sacrifice, Revelation 1:1-2.

## **2. Religious Power of The Antichrist Dominates, 1305-?**

In Revelation 17 the second part of this period is revealed. From 1305 to the second coming the religious power of the antichrist dominates over his political power as revealed in Revelation 17. We see this for the Great Whore the religious aspect of the antichrist sits on the first beast the political aspect of the antichrist. She dominates as the rider of a horse dominates and controls his horse. She dominates the people by sitting on them also, Revelation 17:1-3, 15.

The political power of the Pope is present but also greatly reduced by outside forces. In 1305 the Pope was forced to move to France for about seventy years. The Pope was forced to move to France where he could be controlled by the French king. He would lose power in the Reformation period when countries in northern Europe and England would reject the Roman Catholic Church as their state church and establish a different church to be their state church. After the Reformation the Pope would lose more power when some governments would cease to be monarchies and become other types of government. This would weaken his political influence.

Religious power would also be weakened during this time because of the Reformation and other types of governments coming to power in some nations. But the religious power would grow because of exploration and colonization around the world in sixteenth and following centuries and the missionary work she would do. The Pope's religious power would dominate over the Pope's political power.

The Great Whore represents the religious aspect of the Little Horn of Rome, the antichrist. The Great Whore represents the same thing as the Second Beast of Revelation 13 and also the False Prophet in Revelation 19:20 and also the man of sin in 2Thessalonians 2:3.

The judgment of the Great Whore in Revelation 17:1 is explained in Revelation 17:1-19:4. In Revelation 17 the one to be judged and the sins to be judged which would be committed in the first tribulation are explained. In Revelation 18:1-5 believers who are still connected with her in

some way will be raptured at the second coming before the punishment of her judgment comes. In Revelation 18:6-19:4 the judgment she deserves in the second tribulation will come upon her and her followers after the rapture and the second coming of Jesus.

Fornication is being unfaithful to one's spouse; spiritual fornication is being unfaithful to God. The Great Whore is unfaithful to God and leads kings and others to be unfaithful by her

teachings, Revelation 17:2. She sits on a beast full of names of blasphemy which is the First Beast of Revelation 13; she is very rich; she has killed many believers, Revelation 17:3-6. Her name "Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth" indicates her teachings and practices go back to the Tower of Babel. She has taught many to be unfaithful to God and become spiritual harlots and to commit many abominations. Everything said in Revelation 17:1-6a is fulfilled by the Pope and his religion in the days of the 7th head of the First Beast.

In Revelation 17:6b-7 the words translated "wondered," "admiration" and "marvel" are all basically the same word in the Greek and would be better translated "wondered," "wonderment" and "wonder." John wondered; he didn't understand the signs so the angel proceeded to explain them in the rest of the chapter.

The Beast she rides was led by six heads without a break and then at the end of the rule of the sixth head, the last Roman Caesar, he was put off the throne and there was no head in the Roman Empire. This was in 476. After about 280 years a new head was put in power in Rome who claimed to be the Roman Emperor. This was in 756. This was when the Pope began to rule as a political king over the Papal States in Rome and to claim he was the head of the Roman Empire. At times his power was very weak just as the Caesars before him were at times very weak. But at times he had great power and controlled kings in the Empire by telling them what they must do. He has continued to this day and will until the second coming of Christ. Since the last Roman Caesar came to an end in 476 and the Roman political ruler, the Pope, began again in 756 this fulfills the language of the prophecy.

Notice that in Revelation 17:8 it says, "The Beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." When Revelation was written none of this was fulfilled but the was and then in about 376 years later in 476 the is not was fulfilled and then the beginning again of a ruler in Rome over the Empire was fulfilled about 280 years later in 756. This revived state of the empire has continued until now and will until the second coming when the last Pope will be put off the throne and destroyed by Christ. He comes from the bottomless pit or Satan since that is Satan's headquarters now and he will be imprisoned there during the millennium. This is a unique characteristic of the 7th head; he is a revival of the Roman Caesar, the 6th head. The 7th head would be like the 6th head was when he died. He was little then in 476 and would be when he was revived in 756. He was revived as a small political power and a religious power over many.

The seven heads are explained in Revelation 17:9-10 and are a sign of two facts. First fact, 17:9, the seven heads represent seven mountains or hills where the Great Whore would have her headquarters; her headquarters was in Rome which was built on seven mountains or hills. In Revelation 17:18 it is prophesied that her headquarters would be in the city that was ruling over the kings of John's day which was Rome.

Second fact, 17:10 states that the seven heads represent seven kings or offices of kings which rule Satan's empire on earth from shortly after the Tower of Babel to Christ's second coming when Jesus will destroy it. Five of these kings had already ruled by John's day. These five are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece. The one ruling in John's day was Rome under the Caesar. The one that was still to come in John's day would be Rome under the Pope. This one would come after a period of time after the last Caesar was put off his throne which time is from 476 to 756 then the first Pope would rule as a king. This has been fulfilled now but

wasn't when John wrote. The last head or the office of the Pope would rule a short time. Compared to eternity it is very short. All of the future prophesies in Revelation were to come shortly. John writes that the different events and Christ would come shortly or quickly, Revelation 1:1-3; 22:6-7.

In Revelation 17:11a it teaches that the beast was in existence in the first six heads then ceased to exist for a time which was from 476 to 756 and then began to exist again in the days of Rome under the Pope. When the beast would begin to exist again he is said to be the eighth and is of the seven, Revelation 17:11b. When the last head began to rule the beast it was the 7th head. The Little Horn is the seventh head for he has eyes and a mouth. This head was also the Little Horn which would be the eighth horn for three of the ten horns would be uprooted before him leaving seven horns and the Little Horn would be the eighth, Daniel 7:7-8. This head who is also a horn will be destroyed at the second coming.

In Revelation 17:12-14 the ten horns are 10 offices of kings which would invade the Roman Empire and divide it up. These were the Germanic tribes which hadn't come in John's day. They would have power for a short time with the beast. Again this is relatively speaking from a believer's point of view who has eternal life. They will be unified with the Beast on certain matters and use their power to carry out the purposes of the Beast. The Germanic tribes used their power to help the Popes persecute believers and carry out other wishes of the Popes. At the second coming, Christ will destroy them.

The waters upon which the Great Whore sat represent the peoples of the world that the Pope and his religion dominates, Revelation 17:1, 15. The Great Whore sits on The Beast with seven heads which is standing upon the waters. In this way The Great Whore sits on the waters and the Beast. She, the religious aspect of the Pope, would dominate in some ways both the people and the political aspect of the Pope for some time when the 7th head would lead the Beast.

The ten horns will not only cooperate in unity with the Great Whore in some matters but will fight against her in other matters and do her great damage. This happened a number of times during the Middle Ages and the Reformation Period. God used their wickedness to accomplish His will, Revelation 17:16-17; Acts 2:22-24.

In summary The Great Whore represents the religious aspect of the Pope. The Beast in the days of 7th head represents the Little Horn of Rome which is the Pope's political aspect. The Beast with seven heads and ten horns represent the visible kingdom of Satan from the Tower of Babel to the second coming of Christ. The seven heads represent each government which led the beast from Egypt to Rome under the Popes. The Pope is the 7th head. The ten horns are the Germanic tribes which rule within the Western Roman Empire during the period from the last days of the Caesars until the second coming.

The Great Whore is called Babylon the Great, Revelation 17:5; 18:2. The time of her judgment was about to come at Christ's second coming when the Lord calls His people to come out of her or come away from her. She is sitting on them, Revelation 17:15. At the time of the second coming there will still be some who have been saved in her church in spite of the false doctrine taught. At the second coming they will be raptured to Christ in the clouds along with all of the saved, Revelation 18:1-5. Then all of the saved will be in heaven until the end of the second tribulation when they will return with the Lord, Revelation 19:5-10.

As soon as all of the saved are caught up to Christ at the second coming, the wrath of the second tribulation comes upon the Great Whore and all the lost. They are destroyed by fire with this earth. In Revelation 18:6-19:4 this judgment of fire upon her is described. At the very

end of this tribulation the Great Whore or False Prophet, the religious power, along with the Beast, the political power, are cast into the Lake of Fire, Revelation 19:11-21.

## Conclusion

### 1. Charts and a Summary of A Brief History of The Antichrist

#### Chart of the Roman Time of Domination

168 BC	476	?
D2 [ Iron ]	Iron & Clay	I
D7 [ Terrible Beast ]	10 Horns	I
Ex [ Rome Unified ]	Rome Divided	I
[ The Last Time ]		I
[ 1st Tribulation ]		I
1stC		2ndC
30		?

#### Chart of A Brief History of The Antichrist

1stC		2ndC
[ 1st Tribulation ]		I
[ A Brief History of The Antichrist ]		I
[ 1st P A ]	I [ 2nd P A ]	I [ 3rd P A ]
30	492	756
		?

#### Key to the Charts:

**D2** represents the prophecy in Daniel 2:40-44 of the 4th kingdom which is Rome. It comes after the 3rd kingdom which was Greece and ends at the 2nd Coming.

**D7** represents the prophecy in Daniel 7:7, 23-24a of the 4th kingdom which is Rome.

**Ex** represents the explanation of the symbols of Daniel 2 and 7.

**The Last Time** is the name given in the Bible for the time of Rome's domination, 1John 2:18. The Times of the Gentiles is the name for the period from Babylon's domination through Rome's domination, Luke 21:24. The Last Time of this period is the Time of Rome. This period called The Times of the Gentiles is also called "a time and times and the dividing of time," Daniel 7:25b; 12:7; Revelation 12:14. The period from Babylon through Rome is referred to symbolically as 42 months or 1,260 days, Revelation 11:2-3; etc. The first coming of Christ took place in the early part of The Last Time ending in about 30 AD. His second coming will take place at the end of The Last Time and none but God knows that date.

**1st Tribulation** is a name given to the period beginning immediately after the first coming of Christ which is represented by **1stC** and ending when Christ comes a second time and raptures believers which is represented by **2ndC**. This tribulation consists of wars, earthquakes, persecutions of believers, etc., Matthew 24; etc. There have been many tribulations throughout history. Since this tribulation is the first one after the first coming of Christ we call it the **1st Tribulation**. This one is also named thus to distinguish it from another tribulation which begins after the rapture. We call this tribulation the **2nd Tribulation**. In this tribulation this world will be destroyed by fire and remade into a perfect world, 2Thessalonians 1:3-10; 2Peter 3:10-13; etc.

**A Brief History of The Antichrist** is divided into three periods designated as **1st P A**, **2nd P A**, **3rd P A**. **P A** represents Period of the Antichrist. In the first period events take place to prepare for the antichrist. There is a falling away in doctrine and Caesar is removed during the period of 30-492. The last Caesar is removed in 476; a few years later Gelasius became the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church in 492 and soon declared that he was God on earth. He claimed to be a man and God which is to be Christ. He claimed to take the place of Christ on earth which is to be the antichrist. All of the Popes after that time have made the same claims. Anyone in the office of the Pope is the antichrist or Vicar of Christ.

In the second period the antichrist has religious power but events transpire which enable him to have political power also by the end this period in 756. It is prophesied that three of the ten horns or kingdoms in the Western Roman Empire would rule for awhile in Rome and then be uprooted before him so that Rome and a territory around it would become a little kingdom ruled by the Pope or the antichrist. This little kingdom was called The Papal States. Today it is even smaller and called The Vatican. This prophecy was fulfilled in 756.

In the third period the antichrist has political and religious power from 756 to the second coming of Christ when He will destroy this world and the antichrist by fire. In the first part of this period the political power of the antichrist is dominant over his religious power. This is from 756 to 1305. In the last part his religious power is dominant over his political power from 1305 to the second coming.

## **A Summary of the Key Events in A Brief History of The Antichrist**

### **I. The Developing Period 30-492**

1. Falling away in doctrine begins after Christ ascends to heaven in about 30 AD.
2. Persecutions of Christians were local from 30 to 249 by Jews in first few years and then by the Romans and other Gentiles. Persecutions were here and there.
3. Universal persecution by the Emperor Decius, 249-251.
4. Universal persecution by Emperor Diocletian, 284-305.
5. Monasticism begins in about 250.
6. Emperor Constantine professes Christianity and makes Christianity a state religion, 313.
7. Falling away in doctrine becomes greater.
8. Many profess Christianity because it was approved by Constantine and popular.
9. Ecumenical Councils begin with the Council of Nicaea, 325.
10. Emperor Theodosius, 378-395, makes Christianity the only state religion.
11. The Roman Empire is permanently divided into the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire in 395.
12. The Germanic tribes invade and take over the Western Roman Empire, 395-476.
13. Pope Leo I, 440-461, claimed to be the Lord of the whole church. He said to resist him was a sure way to hell and heresy should receive the death penalty.
14. The last Caesar, Romulus Augustulus, was put off his throne in 476.
15. Pope Gelasius I, 492-496, claimed to be God and Christ on earth, the Vicar of Christ.

### **II. The Religious Period 492-756**

1. Gelasius I rules as Vicar of Christ or the antichrist from 492. All of the Popes have taken that title, Vicar of Christ, since then.
2. The Herules ruled politically in Rome and part of Italy after the last Caesar in 476. They were uprooted by the Ostrogoths in 493.

3. The Ostrogoths ruled in Italy until 555 when they were uprooted by the Eastern Roman Empire.

4. The Lombards took part of Italy about 568 and continued until 756 when they were uprooted in Rome and the area around Rome by the Franks. .

5. Gregory I, 590-604, ruled as Pope. He was a talented leader who sought to increase his church by missionary activities.

6. Falling away in doctrine continues.

### **III. The Political & Religious Period 756-?**

1. When the Franks under Pepin defeated the Lombards in 754 he gave Rome and part of Italy to Pope Stephen, 752-57. But, the Lombards didn't give up the land and the Franks returned and made them give up the land, 756. This is called the Donation of Pepin and the land given, The Papal States. From that time until now, the Pope has had political and religious power. About this time a document called the Donation of Constantine came to light which helped the Pope's political power. It stated that the Pope healed Constantine of leprosy and because of that and knowing who the Pope was he gave him the Western Roman Empire to rule and he moved to Constantinople to rule the Eastern Roman Empire. This document was used until proved to be a forgery in about 1450.

2. The kings of the Franks helped the Popes at this time and later, particularly Charlemagne, 771-814, to keep and increase their power.

3. Pope Nicolas I, 858-867, wore a crown and claimed universal authority. A book came to light about 857 with a number of documents which were said to go back as far as the fourth century. These documents were used to increase the power of the Pope. Years later in about 1450 these records were found to be forgeries. For this reason they are called Pseudo-Isidorian Decretals.

4. Most of the Popes from 867-1048 lived and ruled like ungodly, immoral, secular rulers.

5. The religious division between the Greek Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church became permanent in 1054.

6. Hildebrand controled the Papacy and sought to reform and to strengthen its political and religious power, 1049-1085. He was the chief administrator of the Popes from 1049 to 1073. After that he was Pope Gregory VII from 1073 to 1085.

7. The Crusades to regain the Holy Land from the Mohammedans began in 1095 and went to 1272. Pope Urban II began the 1st Crusade. The Crusades enhanced the power of the Pope.

8. During this period the Popes became the greatest political ruler in the Western Roman Empire, 1049-1305. Kings bowed before them and obeyed them.

9. The height of Papal power was reached by Pope Innocent III, 1198-1216. He claimed all things in heaven, earth and hell was under him. He claimed the right to depose Kings and

Princes. Almost all the kings in Europe obeyed him, even the Eastern Roman Empire. He decreed the doctrine of Transubstantiation and confirmed Auricular Confession. He declared that Popes couldn't be wrong. He claimed Papal Infallibility. He forbid the reading of the Bible in the vernacular. He ordered the extermination of all heretics. He began the Inquisition called the "Holy Office" which continued in power for five hundred years. Many were tortured and put to death because of him.

10. Pope Boniface VIII, 1294-1303, gave the bull, official document, "Unam Sanctam." It states, "We declare, affirm, define and pronounce that it is altogether necessary for

Salvation that every creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff."

11. Philip the Fair, King of France, opposed the Papacy and became the leading king in Europe. His conflict with the Papacy began with Pope Boniface VIII over the taxation of the French clergy. The conflict continued until he forced Pope Clement V to move his headquarters to Avignon, France where he could keep his eye on him in 1305. The Popes after him continued in France until 1377. This is called the "Babylonian Captivity" of the Papacy.
12. There were two Popes from 1377-1417, one in Rome and one Avignon, each claiming to be the Vicar of Christ.
13. This Papal Schism was healed when Pope Martin V, 1417-1431, became Pope.
14. The Popes from 1447 to 1513 were very corrupt and immoral.
15. From about 1500 to about 1700 there was a time of exploration and missionary activity which helped the Popes to grow in religious power around the world.
16. The Reformation began with Luther in 1517. Luther and the reformers after him caused the Pope to lose religious power and more political power. Many followed the reformers.
17. The Popes countered with the Jesuits and the Inquisition.
18. The Council of Trent, 1545-1563, sought to stop the loss of power of the Pope.
19. The Vatican Council, 1870, stated the Pope's infallibility. Popes had declared this for years.
20. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy took over the Papal States in 1870 and the Pope lost control of the Papal States politically for a few years. The Pope was allowed to keep the land.
21. The Dictator Mussolini came to power in Italy and restored the political control of the Pope's country to him in 1929. It was much smaller and was called The Vatican.

### **Sources for Historical Events Mentioned**

#### **The World Powers from Daniel's Day until the Second Coming Daniel 2; 7; 8.**

1. These world powers and the order they came upon the historical scene are revealed in The New Columbia Encyclopedia, Edited by William H. Harris & Judith S. Levey, Columbia University Press, New York, 1975. Notice these articles: Babylonia, Babylonian Captivity, Persia, Greece, Rome, Germans, Papacy.

2. There were ten Germanic tribes which first took over the Western Roman Empire. The Jutes and Anglo-Saxons established two kingdoms in England. The Saxons joined by some Angles established the one kingdom. Later other Saxons and Angles came to England. The Suevi also called Alemanni by some and the Visigoths established two kingdoms in Spain. The Vandals established a kingdom in North Africa. The Franks and Burgundians began kingdoms in France. The Herules, Ostrogoths and Lombards established kingdoms in the empire and in time each ruled in Italy. There were other tribes which entered the empire but for various reasons did not establish kingdoms. Some tribes or parts of tribes joined with others to establish a kingdom; for example the Alans joined the Suevi to establish a kingdom in Spain. Only parts of some tribes moved to a place in the empire while the rest of the tribe remained where they had been and then some of them also moved throughout the empire. See History of England for Beginners, Arabella B. Buckley, The Macmillan Co., London, 1897, pp. 10-11. History of

England, Third Edition, W. E. Lunt, Harper Brothers, New York, 1945, p. 31. Dictionary of the Middle Ages, Joseph R. Strayer, Editor in Chief, Vol. 7, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1986, pp. 654-658, Lombards, Kingdom of. The New Columbia Encyclopedia, See articles: Germans, France, Spain, Franks, Visigoths, Burgundy, Vandals, Great Britain, Ostrogoths, Lombards.

3. There were three horns, the Germanic tribes of the Herules, Ostrogoths and Lombards, which ruled in Italy between 476 and 756 which were defeated and lost their kingdoms in Italy before the little horn of the Papacy became a little kingdom in the Roman Empire. See The New Columbia Encyclopedia, Articles: Odoacer, Theodoric the Great, Justinian I, Alboin, Pepin the Short, Papal States, Vatican.

4. Other books which also give information mentioned in this book about the history, the Popes and the Roman Catholic Church are the following: An Encyclopedia of World History, Editor, William L. Langer, 4th Edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1968. A Summary of Christian History, Robert A. Baker, Broadman Press, Nashville, Tenn. 1959.

5. Some books used have already been mentioned in the body of this book.

## **2. Fulfilled Prophecy Concerning The Antichrist**

### **Summary of Fulfilled Prophecy**

#### **The Time**

1. He begins as a great religious power after a falling away in doctrine by many professed Christians. 2 Thess.2:3

2. He begins as a great religious power after the one who hindered him is taken away. The Roman Emperors hindered him. Constantine, the Roman Ruler, moved from Rome to a new capital, Constantinople, in 330. He had hindered the Bishop of Rome from becoming a great religious power as well as the Emperors before him. The Roman Emperors were the head of all political and religious affairs in the Empire. The last Roman Emperor lost his power and throne in 476; the Pope was then completely free of all restraint by the Emperors or Caesars, politically and religiously. 2Thess. 2:6-7

3. He begins as a political power in the time of Rome's domination. Daniel 7:7-8, 19-20.

4. He begins as a political power in the time when the Germanic tribes control the Roman Empire. Daniel 7:7-8,19-20

5. He begins after 3 of the 10 Germanic tribes are uprooted. These 3 are the Herules, the Ostrogoths and the Lombards. This was in 756 when the Pope became a political ruler and began to rule The Papal States. Daniel 7:7-8, 19-20

6. He continues as a political and religious power until the 2nd coming. Daniel 7:11, 25, 26; 2 Thess. 2:8, etc.

#### **The Place**

1. He is in the Roman Empire because he comes to power on the fourth beast. Daniel 7:7-8

2. He has his headquarters in a city of 7 mountains or hills which is Rome. Rev. 17:9

3. He has his headquarters in the city that reigned over the kings of John's day. This was Rome. Rev. 17:18

4. He sits in a church which fell away from the truth and claims to be God on earth. This is in Rome. 2Thess. 2:3-4

#### **The Position**

1. He is a little horn. A small kingdom. The Papal States and Vatican are small. Daniel 7:8
2. He has eyes and a mouth. He is a head, the 7th head of the beast in the days of the 10 horns. They work with him but hate him at times. Daniel 7:8; Rev. 17:12-16
3. He is the revived head of the Roman Empire. Daniel 7:20; Rev.13:3,12,14; 17:8,11
4. He has a mouth speaking great things. He claims to be the Vicar of Christ on earth. This means the same as Antichrist. He claims to be Christ on earth. Daniel 7:8,11,20,25
5. He looks more stout, more important, greater than the other horns. Daniel 7:20
6. He sits as God. He receives worship. He acts as God in words and deeds. 2 Thess.2:4; Rev.13:4,8
7. He is Satan's representative. He has historical ties to Babylon. Rev. 17:5; 18:2; 13:2,11
8. He is diverse from the other horns. He is a religious and political power over many peoples. He is the head of a Roman Empire divided into many parts. He is one with the other horns and yet is their head. Daniel 7:24.
9. He is the man of sin and son of perdition. He is just a man but speaks great words against God and His Word. The wicked immoral lives of many who have held the office show he is the man of sin as well as the wicked claims of all in the office. 2Thess. 2:3,8; Rev. 13:18
10. He is like a lamb, kind and gentle. Yet, he is a beast, dangerous, destructive, deceiving. Rev.13:1, 11
11. He is very rich. Rev. 17:4; 18:11-19

#### **The Work**

1. He blasphemes God. Daniel 7:25; Rev. 13:5,6
2. He makes war against Christians, hot and cold war. He uses the 10 horns to help him. The 10 horns hate him and fight against him. Daniel 7:21,25; Rev. 13:7a, 15-17; 17:6, 12-17
3. He changes laws and times. He has sought to change laws and times in many nations and has been able to do it many times by his teaching contrary to the Bible. Daniel 7:25
4. He controls people around the world. He does this through his teachings on confession, purgatory, the mass, etc. Daniel 7:25; Rev. 13:7b-8
5. He is a miracle worker, personally and through those who act for him. 2Thess. 2:7; Rev. 13:13-14
6. He promotes image worship, many images. His most important image is the bread and the wine of the Mass. Rev.13:14b-15
7. He deceives many to believe his teachings by false miracles and false claims. 2Thess. 2:9-12. The Papacy alone fulfills all of this. Every prophecy concerning the little horn of Rome, the man of sin, the antichrist, etc., is fulfilled in him but the one concerning his destruction by Christ at the second coming. These prophecies were made many many years before the antichrist came to power.

### **3. The Purposes of This Book**

The first purpose of this book is to correctly interpret the Bible and history and to accurately write it. The Bible teaches that we should be faithful to God and His Word and truthful concerning all things. There are sincere scholars who teach that the antichrist came in the first century AD and was one of the Caesars. Other sincere scholars believe that the antichrist will come after the second coming and the rapture. But the explanations given earlier disprove these interpretations. The antichrist has come and is still here and will continue until the second coming and rapture and then he will be destroyed by the Lord. He is the Pope of Rome who fulfills all of the prophecies concerning the antichrist but his destruction at the second

coming.

The second purpose is to warn all readers, believers and unbelievers. The Bible warns us of many dangers to our lives and one of the greatest dangers is the antichrist. This purpose is not to hurt anyone but to help all to see the danger and to flee from it, even those who have already been deceived by him. We would desire that the antichrist and his hierarchy repent and turn to God for mercy and be saved. We are thankful that throughout history many members of the Roman Catholic Church and even many among the priests have seen the danger and been saved and come out of this church.

To think that a man would claim to be God and Christ on earth and would misrepresent clear teachings of the true Christ is astounding and dangerous to all. But there is such a man who is the Pope of Rome. He fulfills all prophesied about the antichrist. The Bible teaches that there is only one way to be saved forever and that is by faith in Christ alone. It is not by man's works in any way. There are various plans to be saved by man's works but the Bible teaches that they all end in everlasting destruction. The antichrist teaches a salvation by man's works. He has changed baptism which was given to picture the true salvation to a ceremony to save or help save. He has changed completely what a church of Christ should be. He has changed many other teachings of the Bible. But Christ taught us in the Bible not to add to or take away from what He taught. We are urged to keep what He taught as He taught them. True love for Christ will move us to keep all that He taught.

The antichrist deceives as prophesied. The antichrist and those who work with him deceive by sincerity, kindness, works of charity, great ability, etc. Rather than look at the Bible to see what the true Christ taught and follow it; those deceived look at actions of leaders with good reputations and follow them rather than follow Christ and the Bible. Perhaps the antichrist and his workers seem very sincere and perhaps some are but that does not change their teachings which are contrary to the Bible and the true Christ. Many of them have been deceived by Satan to believe his false teachings and they deceive others. The deceiving by kindness and works of charity makes the antichrist and his teachings even more dangerous. Sincerity and kindness doesn't make evil right.

The third purpose is to give assurance that the Bible and its teachings are true. The prophecies given by God through Daniel, Paul and John have all been fulfilled concerning the antichrist except his destruction by Christ at the second coming. All of these prophecies were clearly given before they were fulfilled. Many of them were given hundreds of years before they were fulfilled.

This should convince every unbeliever that the Bible is truly God's Word and all true. It should encourage the unbeliever to believe on Christ as his Saviour from sin and to then follow the teachings of the Bible and not the contrary teachings of men. This should reassure the believer of the truthfulness of the Bible and encourage him to keep following Christ faithfully.