

AN APOSTATE POWER

In this lesson, we will be dealing with a very sensitive, yet important and crucial subject. We will let the Bible identify for us a great apostate system that has mixed paganism and Christianity together. Some

who study this lesson may be hurt by learning this identity. Please remember, there is no malice intended to anyone belonging to any religious system. God is not speaking about individuals, but this system itself. Truth can be painful at times, but deception is even more painful in the end. With eternity at stake, our only safety is to rely not on what man says, but on what God says in His Holy Word, the Bible. He wants to show His people the true and the false systems of worship. The books of Daniel and Revelation warn of the influence of this power.



HIS WORD SAYS

1. How many great beasts did Daniel see coming up out of the sea? Daniel 7:1-3.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

“Therefore when you see the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place, (whoever reads, let him understand),” Matthew 24: 15.

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

2. What does the sea represent in Bible prophecy? Revelation 17:15.

Waters represent well populated areas. In the instance of the beasts seen by Daniel, their rising from the sea shows that these powers are being established out of already established and populated areas. As we will see soon, this is a reference to the already developing Europe.

3. What do the four beasts represent? Daniel 7:17,23.

Daniel 7 is the parallel prophecy of Daniel 2. In Daniel 2, four kings/kingdoms are represented by the various metals of a great image: the head of gold, Babylon; the breast and arms of silver, Medo-Persia; the belly and thighs of brass, Greece; the legs of iron, Rome; the feet and toes, part of iron and part of clay, the ten divisions of the Roman Empire. Daniel 7 builds on what Daniel 2 revealed, using different creature symbols to portray the same four world empires and adding details about the behaviour of each of these powers. Another new power, the little horn, is also introduced in Daniel 7.

4. What beast did God choose to represent the first kingdom of Babylon? Daniel 7:4.

Babylon had, at its main entrance, the Ishtah gate, two huge glazed three dimensional lions, now displayed at the Berlin museum in their original state.



5. What animal represents the second world empire of Medo-Persia? Daniel 7:5.

Medo Persia was made up of a coalition of two nations, the Medes and the Persians, one stronger than the other, thus the bear was raised up on one side, and they conquered three nations, the three ribs in its mouth. These three nations were Egypt, Lydia, and Babylon. Each of these three nations were especially oppressed by Medo-Persia.

6. What animal represents the third kingdom, Greece? Daniel 7:6.

Wings represent speed and swiftness (Deuteronomy 28:49). Greece under Alexander the Great was swift in its conquest of nations right down to India, thus the wings on the leopard.

7. How many heads did the leopard have? Daniel 7:6.

Alexander died at a young age and left his kingdom to the strongest, thus his four generals took over and divided the empire into four areas: north, south, east and west, hence the four heads.

8. The fourth beast, representing pagan Rome, is identified by having what kind of teeth? Daniel 7:7.

This was the first kingdom to use iron weaponry and was merciless in its conquests.



9. How many horns did the fourth beast have? Daniel 7:7

The Roman empire was never conquered by another nation, but divided into 10 nations, represented by the ten horns, which we still see today.

10. What did Daniel see arising in the midst the ten horns? Daniel 7:8.

This next power is to be taken very seriously so let us list the identifying marks of the little horn as they appear throughout Daniel 7. We will see that this is a persecuting religious power that rose after Rome divided, which influences worship to lead people astray from the Word of God from the time it arose to power right down to the last day when Jesus comes for us.

11. A “There came up among the ten horns, (vs 8) after the ten (vs 24) and was greater than and different to the ten” (vs 24).

The Roman Empire divided into ten parts by A.D.476. Since the little horn emerges into greatness among those ten divisions, it would have to become a major influential power after the breakup of the Roman Empire. Thus we should look for the rise of the little horn after A.D.476.

B: The little horn plucked up three other horns (vs 8, 20, 24)

Since three of the original ten divisions of the Roman Empire were Arian, they were subdued by this little horn power. They were the Vandals, Heruli and Ostrogoths.

C: “He had eyes like the eyes of a man” (vs 8)

D: “He had a mouth speaking great words against the most High (vs 8, 25)

Belshazzar blasphemed God when he mixed paganism with the worship of God. (Daniel 5: 23) Obviously, this power would likewise blaspheme God by mixing paganism with the worship of God. As pagans came into the church this power changed pure doctrines of

the Apostolic Church to make it acceptable for pagans to adjust to Christianity by incorporating pagan practices.

1 Paganism – many gods & goddesses. (eg prayer to saints with another being as mediator between God and man.) . Christians – one God, one mediator (1Tim 2:5)

2 It was blasphemy for a man to claim to forgive sins (Mark 2:7)

3 Claims the prerogatives of God (John 10:33). They call the leader “God on earth” “father” and “incapable of sinning.”

E: He “was making war against the saints” (vs 21, 25)

Just like ancient Babylon , the little horn would persecute those who disagree with its presumptuous claims. It would attempt to destroy the saints of God who kept His commandments. More people were killed by this power during the Dark Ages than by both of the World Wars: Read history books on or search the internet for the “Spanish Inquisition”

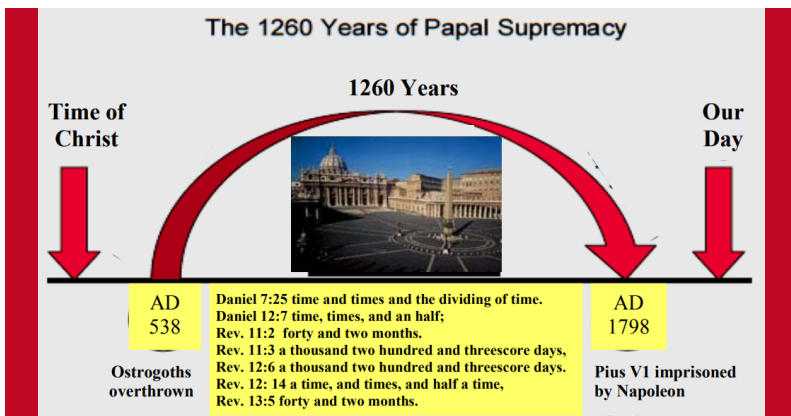
F: He “shall think or intend to change times and law” (vs 25)

Changing God’s law is unthinkable, and yet this great power has and is trying to actually enforce their change to God’s law, and the prophetic event times and God’s day of worship world wide. (Check out “The Sunday Alliance” on the internet.)

G: “The saints...shall be given unto his hand for a time and times and half a time (vs25)”

In bible prophesy a day represents a year see Ezekiel 4:6. Numbers 14:34. Time times and half a time represents 3 and 1/2 years or 1260 days which in prophesy represents 1260 years. This time period was fulfilled exactly by this power. From its victory over the three Arian nations in 538 A.D. to its defeat by Napoleon in 1798 A.D.

This power is none other than the Catholic Church (Papacy), different because it is both Political and Religious. No other power fits these claims. This study is vitally important to enable us to understand the next studies with clarity and certainty.



Daniel 7:25

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



LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

____ I am thankful that God has revealed the future through the Bible.

____ It is now clear to me who the little horn power is and I am thankful God has not let me be deceived.

____ I would like a more detailed study on this topic before I can be sure of the identity of the little horn.

____ Other _____