



**Living in the Earth's last days,
What does the future hold?**

THE FINAL CRISIS



A World in Crisis

Never before has our world faced such a time of turmoil and fear. The news is constantly overwhelming us with updates on COVID-19, the looming financial crisis, or the next in a long list of ever more frequent natural disasters. Scientists are sounding the alarm of a global climate emergency and calling for drastic changes in how we live to offset a catastrophic future. Today many are facing financial hardship and loss of employment. Murders, thefts, rape, and riots are all common news. Dark forces are using COVID-19 and the global climate emergency to introduce new systems and laws which will ultimately lead to what they are now calling the 'New World Order'. This will end in the fulfillment of the prophecy that states that the whole world will be forced to receive the mark of the beast or suffer persecution.

Sadly, humanity has persisted in pushing God away. When we reject God, we are by default accepting Satan as our master and give him power to rule over us. Satan uses this advantage to bring ever greater destruction upon us through natural disasters and global turmoil. In mercy, God allows Satan to go only so far, hoping that we might receive these signs as a warning that the far greater issue of our eternal destiny is at stake.



As God's children, He has a love for us that surpasses all understanding. He has not left us alone in our battle against darkness. In the beginning God created a perfect world. All was harmonious until sin marred His perfect creation. We are each born into this world with a sinful nature and we are each guilty of doing wrong. God's law calls for the death penalty to all who should break it. However, God has a solution to restore our world to harmony with heaven. The greatest gift God could bestow was given when He gave up His own Son to die in our place upon the cross of Calvary.

Jesus willingly laid down His life in our place. As He agonized in the garden of Gethsemane in the hours prior to His death, the history of the human race came up before Him. He saw that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He saw the helplessness of man, the power of sin, and the woes and cries of a doomed world. He beheld the world's impending fate and His decision was made. He would save us at any cost to Himself. Jesus saw the results of the travail of His soul and was satisfied. Looking into eternity, He beheld the happiness of those who through His humiliation had received pardon and everlasting life.

Even now God forbears with a world that has rejected Him. He suffers long with us to give us every opportunity to turn away from a life of sin and take hold upon the life He has provided through His Son. God has already won the victory in the battle against evil. He has revealed Satan's deceptions and destructive plans to us. Commencing in the book of Daniel, we will review key prophecies so that we can know what is soon to come upon the world.

Key Prophecies in Daniel

In the year 603 B.C., and recorded in Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, was given a dream by God which revealed the rise and fall of the major kingdoms in that part of the world. His dream was of a statue made from different metals, each representing the rise of a new kingdom. The vision begins with Babylon and ends in the second coming of Jesus. In Daniel 7 a parallel prophecy is given, but this time each reigning kingdom is represented by a beast which comes out of the sea (Dan 7:3). The purpose of this corresponding vision is to provide greater details to Nebuchadnezzar's dream, particularly around the events that should take place after the reign of the Roman Empire.



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Daniel 2	Daniel's Vision Daniel 7	Interpretation
Head of gold	Lion with wings of an eagle	Babylon 605 – 539 B.C.
Chest and arms of silver	Bear raised up on one side with 3 ribs in its mouth	Medo-Persia 539 – 331 B.C.
Waist and thighs of brass	Leopard beast with 4 heads and 4 wings of a fowl	Greece 331 – 168 B.C.
Legs of iron	Dreadful beast with iron teeth	Rome 168 B.C. – 476 A.D.
Feet of iron mixed with clay	10 horns	10 Kingdoms / Europe 476 A.D. - present
	Little Horn	Antichrist Comes to power after 476 A.D.
A great stone cut without hands	Everlasting Kingdom	Second coming of Jesus

“THOU [NEBUCHADNEZZAR] ART THIS HEAD OF GOLD. AND AFTER THEE SHALL ARISE ANOTHER KINGDOM INFERIOR TO THEE”

Daniel 2:38-39

You will note from these visions that we are quite literally living in the toenails of time!

The Little Horn

The little horn is of key significance as it is the same figure that is described in Revelation 13. It is predicted the whole world will wonder after this power and many will receive its mark prior to Jesus' return. We have seen that we are living in the Earth's last days so it's important we know what this power is so that we can avoid receiving its mark. Daniel 7:20-25 gives us essential descriptors so that we can identify it without any confusion. To summarise:

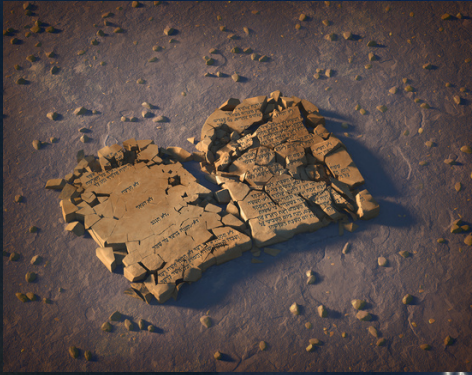


- 1.** It will come to power out of the initial ten divisions of the Roman Empire (after 476 A.D) but it will be different to the political powers before it.
- 2.** It will subdue three of these initial ten kingdoms.
- 3.** It will reign for a time (1 year), times (2 years), and the dividing of time (half a year). This is equivalent to 1260 days. In Bible prophecy one day represents one year (see Ezekiel 4:6 & Numbers 14:34). So we have a power than must reign for 1260 literal years.
- 4.** It will speak great words against the Most High (God).
- 5.** It will make war with the saints, and prevail against them.
- 6.** It will think to change times and laws.

WHAT POWER FITS THIS DESCRIPTION COMPLETELY?



History shows us that the Roman Catholic Church, also known as the Papacy, is the only power that fits all of these identifying marks. It rose to power during the time of the ten kingdoms and is different in that it is a religio-political power. The Papacy was instrumental in the downfall of the three Arian kingdoms; the Heruli (493 A.D.), the Vandals (534 A.D.), and finally the Ostrogoths who were the last to fall in 538 A.D. In this same year Justinian's decree also went forward giving supremacy to the Bishop of Rome and giving us a clear start date to the beginning of the Roman Church's political reign. During its rule millions of innocent Christians and protestant reformers lost their lives by being burnt at the stake or by hanging, and many others were fined or imprisoned. In 1798 A.D., exactly 1260 years later, the French General Berthier captured Pope Pius VI and abolished the Papal government. Pope Pius VI died shortly after. This marked the end of the reign of terror that occurred during the dark ages, and in Revelation 13:3 it is called the 'deadly wound'.



The fact that this power speaks words against the Most High confirms that it is a religious organisation. The Pope endeavours to take the place of God by claiming the divine ability to forgive sins, handing out indulgences, and taking the titles “Lord God the Pope” and “Holy Father”.

The final, yet most significant, identifier is that it thought to change times and laws. This relates to God’s times and laws. In 364 A.D. at the Council of Laodicea the Catholic Church intended to change the sanctity of the Sabbath (the law of time) from the 7th day (Saturday) to the 1st day (Sunday).

“Question - Which is the Sabbath day?

“Answer - Saturday is the Sabbath day.

“Question - Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

“Answer - We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 364), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”

Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, p. 50, 3rd edition, 1957.

This is why most Christians today attend church on Sunday and consider this day to be the Lord's Day. However, nowhere in the Bible are we instructed to do this.

I would like to mention at this point that although the Catholic Institution is identified in scripture as the antichrist, there are many faithful Christians within this organisation and God acknowledges them as His own. However, God is calling His faithful people, whom He loves dearly, to come out of these fallen churches (Rev 18:4).

Revelation 13

Now we come to prophecies which relate directly to us today. The first half of this chapter introduces us to a beast which carries the same descriptors as Daniel 7 (see Rev 13:1-8), so we know that it is the Catholic Church. The 42 months mentioned in Rev 13:5 is the equivalent of the 1260 days of Daniel 7 (42 months × 30 days = 1260 days). Anciently a Jewish year was 360 days, twelve months each with thirty days. If we fast-forward to the end of this chapter, we see that it is this beast whose dreaded mark will be placed upon all those that worship it or its image (vs 16).



We have all been introduced to the number 666, generally considered a bad omen, and globally understood to represent the Devil. Revelation 13 says that this is the number of the beast which we have identified as the Catholic Church. It also says that it is the number of a man. The Douay Bible comments that the 'numeral letters of his name shall make up this number.' If we take the Roman numerals of the title of the Pope, 'Vicarius Filii Dei' (Vicar of the Son of God) we can find the number 666. This may seem an odd thing to do but the practice of representing names as numbers was common in ancient times. Those letters which do not exist in Roman numerals are given the value of zero.

V	5	F	0	D	500	
I	1	I	1	E	0	
C	100	L	50	I	1	
A	0	I	1			+501
R	0	I	1			
I	1					+53
U	5					
S	0					
<hr style="border: 1px solid white;"/>						
112						= 666

The Catholic Church has not been a world super power since its fall in 1798, however, in Rev 13:3 we are told that it's deadly wound would be healed and that the whole world will wonder after this beast again. Are we seeing this today? Is Pope Francis front and centre in our fight against climate change? Are religious and political leaders looking to him for moral guidance? The answer is yes. In 2015 Pope Francis released his Encyclical on Climate Change, 'Laudato Si', where he outlines the changes necessary to save the planet from catastrophe. This encyclical has now been presented to the U.N., the U.S. Congress, President Trump, and the Paris Summit for which he has received much praise as a 'moral authority' on the matter.

“The timing of the commemorative global “Laudato Si’ Week” (16–24 May) couldn’t be more fitting for those of us promoting an economic recovery from COVID-19 that tackles unemployment, rebuilds a resilient economy and addresses climate change, all at the same time. The reminder of this historic encyclical adds Francis’s moral authority to the case made by concerned Australian economists regarding how this practically can be done.”

Thea Ormerod, *Laudato Si'*: Pope Francis's encyclical offers a vital contribution to the post-COVID-19 recovery. ABC Religion and Ethics. May 18, 2020.

The Pope has been calling nations, faiths, and religions to unity for the sake of the 'common good.' This was reflected to a great degree in his most recent encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti', which was release on October 4, 2020. In this encyclical he essentially outlines the tenets of Catholic Social Doctrine, which, at its core, promotes the removal of individual rights wherever the powers that be deem them to be in conflict with the 'common good.' This is a global socialist agenda, not unlike 'The Great Reset' which is being promoted by the World Economic Forum for the sake of the common good of our planet. Like 'Laudato Si', 'Fratelli Tutti' has received just as much praise from world leaders.

“We really must listen to His Holiness as we go forward.”

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Commenting on Laudato Si, 2015



In addition to this, he has signed unity agreements with the protestant churches and other religions in recent years to strengthen unity across faiths. On October 31, 2016 the Lutheran Church signed a joint declaration with the Catholic Church putting an end to the reformation that was started by Martin Luther almost 500 years beforehand when he nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany. In February of 2019, Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar (a leader of Sunni Islam) signed a declaration of fraternity, calling for greater peace and unity between these religions and peoples. These are all a direct fulfillment of Revelation 13. The whole world is coming together to wonder after the beast and we can expect his influence to continue to grow as his wound continues to heal.



**“Pope Francis:
‘I share the
impatience’ to bring
about Christian
unity”**

The Jesuit Review,
May 25, 2020

The Mark of the Beast

This mark is not a barcode or microchip, neither is it physical and observable, but rather an invisible representation of whom we choose to worship. Having already identified the beast, working out its mark is much easier as the Catholic Church openly states what its mark is.

On November 11, 1895, in answer to a letter regarding the change of the Sabbath from the 7th day (Saturday) to the 1st day (Sunday), H. F Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons wrote:

“Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything, in matters spiritual, ecclesiastical and religious without her. This act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters.”

(Emphasis added)



Sunday observance, when it is enforced by law, is the mark of the beast. The time is soon coming when the whole world will be forced to worship on Sunday. Any who refuse will lose their ability to buy or sell (Rev 13:16) and ultimately face death (Rev 13:15). Those who obey the edict will receive the mark of the beast. Already Sunday rest laws have been introduced in eleven countries as a means of combating COVID-19. A global rest day is being urged by many as a positive step forward in reducing greenhouse emissions to offset global warming, as well as to provide rest, family and worship time.

Pope Francis's 'Laudato Si' emphasises the need for a global day of rest on Sunday,

“And so the day of rest, centred on Eucharist, sheds it’s light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.”

POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI, 2015

Rest laws will likely be the first step toward global Sunday worship laws. The Bible has not missed a beat in its prophecies so far, even now prophecies are fulfilling all around us. With this track record we can expect these yet unfulfilled prophecies to eventually take place. Many of the things Pope Francis is suggesting are beneficial, but there is a deeper unspoken agenda which God has revealed to us.

The Lamblike Beast (Rev 13:11-16)



Revelation 13 also introduces a second lamblike beast which comes out of the earth (vs 11). This lamblike beast is said to speak as a dragon and exercise all the power of the beast (Catholic Church) that came before it. The lamb is a symbol for Jesus (John 1:29) and the dragon is Satan (Rev 12:9). So this kingdom will appear to represent Christian principles but will ultimately speak like Satan. In prophecy seas represent populous places (Rev 17:15) so the earth, from where this beast comes, represents a relatively unpopulated part of the world. In Revelation 12:14-16 we read that the earth would help the woman (God's people - 2 Cor 11:2) who was fleeing from the persecution of the Roman Church toward the end of the 1260 yrs. Pulling this together we have a nation that is founded just prior to 1798, appears to be based on Christian principles, and which arose in a part of the world that was not so heavily populated. If it is to force the world to receive the mark of the beast it must have considerable power to enforce its dictates. There is only one power that fulfils this criteria and it is the United States of America.

If we tie this together now with the mark of the beast, we see that it is the USA which will ultimately lead in the enforcement of Sunday worship laws.

The democratic nature of the USA is reflected in vs 14 where we are told that the government will tell the people to set up the image to the beast. As time progresses we can expect to see further developments leading toward the unity of church and state in the USA. Even now this is starting to take place.

This certainly does beg the question of how we could get from where we are now to the world being forced into religious worship. We are given clues into how this will develop in vs 13 & 14 where it says that we will see great wonders, miracles, and even fire coming down from heaven. Jesus warned us about false Christ's and false prophets that would come working wonders (Mat 24:24). We shouldn't believe everything we see as not all miracles or supernatural occurrences are from God. The crowning act in Satan's deception will be when he personates Jesus' second coming (2 Cor 11:14) and tries to convince the world of a change of the Sabbath commandment to Sunday worship in support of the Catholic and fallen Protestant Churches. Despite his efforts, Satan will not be allowed to mimic Jesus coming fully. It's important we know how Jesus will appear the second time so that we are not deceived.



The Seal of God

The opposite to the mark of the beast is the seal of God. This seal will be placed upon all who follow Christ. The Bible identifies God's people as those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus (Rev 14:12). God has said, "bind up the testimony, SEAL the LAW among my disciples" (Isa 8:16). If the mark of the beast is Sunday observance, then it makes sense for the seal of God to be in His law; specifically the commandment to remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy (Exo 20:8-11). Indeed, we do find God's seal here. A monarch's seal contains three key identifiers: their name, title, and dominion. The only place in the Bible that we find these three items as they relate to God is in the 4th commandment.



“For in six days the LORD (name) made (title = Creator) heaven and earth (dominion), the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Exodus 20:11

In short, the conflict between Christ and Satan is one of worship. Satan desires to be like God, receiving honour and worship (Isa 14:13, 14). To do this he has created a false system of worship and will enforce his own laws above the law of God. We must decide whether we will worship God and keep His commandments, or worship Satan and keep his false Sabbath (Sunday). God is now giving everyone an opportunity to make an intelligent decision as to who they will give their allegiance. We know God wins this battle, so we have nothing to gain by batting for a losing team.

The Final Scene of Prophecy

The final scene of prophecy is the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ. His first advent to our world was as a servant, to reveal to us the love of God and reconcile us to Heaven. When He comes again, it is as King of kings, and Lord of lords. To all who have put their faith in Him this is the blessed hope. Jesus second coming marks the end of sin, suffering and death.

It is at Earth's darkest hour that Christ will return to receive His people. As the lightning flashes from the east even to the west so shall Christ's coming be (Matt 24:27). Every eye will see Him (Rev 1:7). All of the angels will be with Him (Matt 25:31). The whole world will shake at His presence (Rev 6:14). There is nothing secret about His coming and no secret rapture will take place before this time. His voice will echo throughout the Earth and call forth His sleeping saints from their dusty graves (1 Thes 4:16). Families and friends will be eternally reunited. The living who have put their trust in Him will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from mortal bodies to that of immortal health and youth (1 Cor 15:51-53). Together they will meet Jesus in the air and return with Him to the place He has prepared for them in Heaven (1 Thes 4:17).



“But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

Heaven is a tangible place and we cannot even begin to imagine the activities that we will be doing there. Never will we grow bored or disinterested in the infinite wonders God has created for our enjoyment.

However, those who have rejected Jesus will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming (2 Thes 2:8). Eternal death will be the final reward of those who deny God's grace. No eternal hell fire awaits them. The wages of sin is death, not eternal life in hell (Rom 6:23). The concept of an eternally burning hell is a false doctrine that has its origins in paganism. It is Satan's desire to misrepresent the character of God, to blame Him for the evils in the world, and to represent Him as harsh and unjust in order to turn people away from Him, and to justify his own rebellion in the sight of an unfallen universe. There is no reason for God to torment anyone in hell for eternity. God will cleanse the universe from all sin and sinners. There will be nothing in existence that could upset the perfect peace that will exist there.

The Solution

When, through deception, humanity sided with Satan, we joined with him in his rebellion against heaven. By so doing we took upon ourselves the curse of sin with all its guilt, misery, and woe. Today millions are suffering either as a result of their own sin, or the sin of others. Sin is a law of selfishness and self-gratification, that ultimately leads to self-destruction. Sin began with Satan's desire to be worshiped as God and has been the condition of humanity since it first entered the world. Sin does not fit into God's perfect universe.

As with any kingdom, Heaven has a law. The Ten Commandments form the foundation of the Heavenly government. They outline our duty toward one another, as well as toward God. At the very heart of the law is the command to love. This law of love is an expression of the very character of God Himself. We are all familiar with the 'golden rule' and heaven is a place where this is perfectly expressed. God understands that true happiness is only found in obedience to His law of love.

In His life of service, Jesus manifested the grace and love of God. He revealed to us the values of His kingdom; love, joy and peace. He also revealed to us the life we can live through Him; a life of power, love, and victory. The infinite sacrifice that our Heavenly Father made in giving His Son to die for us, should give us exalted conceptions of what we may become through Christ. Through faith, the wayward children of Adam, bruised and broken by sin, may become the children of God.

However, as we are now, sick with sin, we cannot enter heaven. If we reject the gift of salvation and refuse obedience to Heaven's law, God has no choice but to do the most merciful thing He can and blot us from existence. To those who hold onto sin, the purity and holiness of heaven would be torture, and the glory of God a consuming fire. God is also not willing to allow sin, with all its misery, to continue on forever. God desires to restore all things to their original, perfect condition. As a result, the law places the death penalty upon all who would break it.



“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”

1 JOHN 3:1

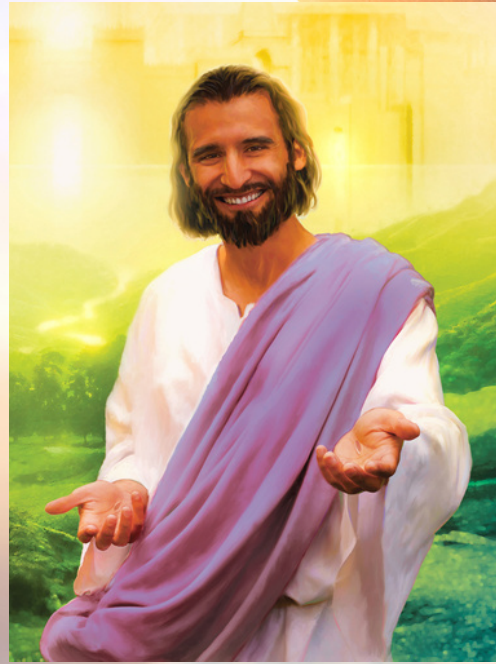
God values us with a love as great as he has for His own dear Son. He does not want a single soul to perish. Instead He has a dream for our redemption; to rescue us from evil, restore us to His own perfect image, and receive us again into heaven. This desire compelled Him to give up the most precious thing to Him.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

JOHN 3:16

To meet the claims of a broken law, God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place. As One with the Father, Christ alone could give up His life to meet the requirements of the law for our sake, and this He did willingly. Jesus took all of our guilt and shame upon Himself. He suffered the terrible results of sin on behalf of the entire world. None of us can for a moment comprehend the anguish of His soul in the moment He did this for us. The story of Gethsemane, where the suffering of our Saviour caused Him to sweat great drops of blood, is but a small testament to the pain He endured on our behalf. His perfect soul was crushed under the weight of our sin. The cross did not kill Jesus, a broken heart did. It was the heart of infinite love that paid the price of our redemption.

God is to us an ever present help in time of need. We have nothing to fear of the future if we keep Him close by our side. Where things appear impossible to us, whether through difficult circumstances or destructive habits, Christ provides power for us to overcome. Will we take hold of the power He provides? Will we allow Him to restore us to His perfect image? Will we accept the gift of eternal life that is freely offered to us? I hope that as we see prophecy fulfilling, we will see the reality of our need for Jesus and use the time we still have to develop a relationship with Him. May we all look with joy towards the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

REVELATION 3:20

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