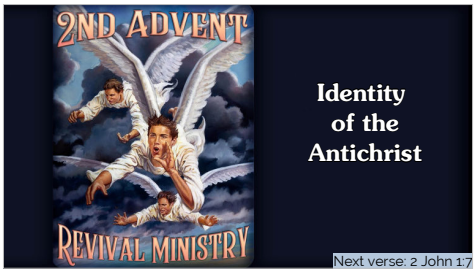


## Identity of the Antichrist 1



### Identity of the Antichrist

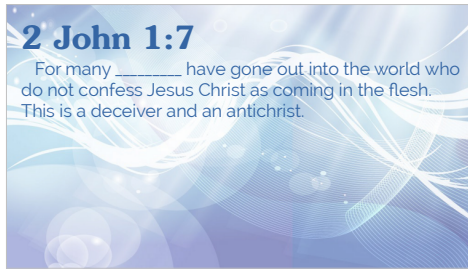
Next verse: 2 John 1:7

Welcome to our Bible study on the Identity of the Antichrist! This lesson builds on the prophecy of world history in Daniel 2.

(For background, please study lesson 4 - Prophecy of World History - before proceeding to this topic.)

**What does the Bible say about the antichrist?**

## Identity of the Antichrist 2



### 2 John 1:7

For many **deceivers** have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

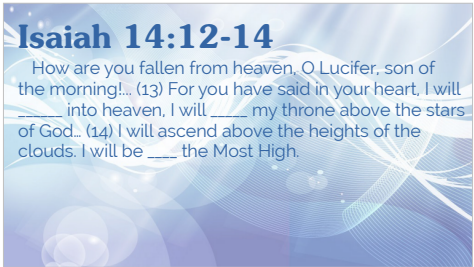
## Identity of the Antichrist 3



The term "antichrist" as used in the Bible denotes a false teacher, or one who perverts the truth. Antichrist will *oppose*, or *try to take the place of*, Christ. The great deception of the last days will result in the beast deceiving "*all the world*";<sup>1</sup> and he does this through a misrepresentation of God...a *counterfeit*, or *substitution*, of Christ. It is the same thing Lucifer desired in heaven—to take the place of Christ.

**What did Lucifer aspire to do in heaven?**

## Identity of the Antichrist 4



### Isaiah 14:12-14

How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!... (13) For you have said in your heart, I will **ascend** into heaven, I will **exalt** my throne above the stars of God... (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will be **like** the Most High.

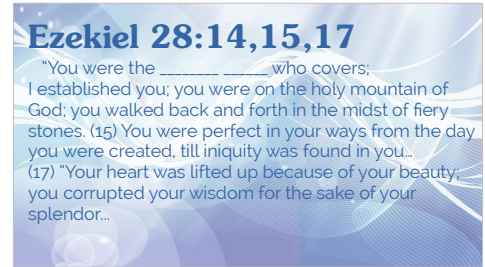
## Identity of the Antichrist 5



The spirit of anarchy, lawlessness, and rebellion originated in the heart of Lucifer, the most beautiful and highest of all the angels God had created. (*see study on The Great Controversy*). In the presence of inexpressible glory, he coveted the homage due to God alone. He wanted to exalt himself above the heights of the clouds; to be like the Most High.

**What position did Lucifer have in heaven?**

## Identity of the Antichrist 6



### Ezekiel 28:14,15,17

"You were the **anointed cherub** who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. (15) You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you... (17) "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor..."

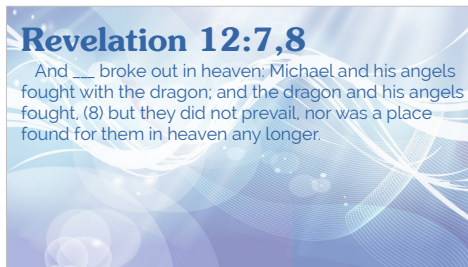
## Identity of the Antichrist 7



Lucifer in heaven was "*the anointed cherub who covers*"<sup>2</sup>, next in honor to Christ. The covering cherubs stood over the ark, which held the sacred law of God. But instead of protecting the law of God and revealing God's character and purposes to the universe, Lucifer chose to rebel against his Creator, subtly worked through deception to undermine God and His law. His efforts to overthrow the government of God were subtle and deceptive. It took time for him to be unmasked as the evil deceiver he is.

**What happened then?**

## Identity of the Antichrist 8



### Revelation 12:7,8

And **war** broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, (8) but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

## Identity of the Antichrist 9



War in heaven resulted in Lucifer and his angels being cast out.

**Where did they end up, and how does the Bible describe him after his fall?**



**Revelation 12:9**

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the \_\_\_\_\_, and his angels were cast out with him.

**Revelation 12:9**

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the **Devil** and **Satan**, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the **earth**, and his angels were cast out with him.



Next verse: Revelation 12:4

After his rebellion and fall from heaven, Lucifer became the Devil, and Satan, *"who deceives the whole world".*<sup>3</sup> Described in Revelation as a dragon, he continued his deceptive work against God on this earth. When Jesus came, he was filled with hatred.

**How did he try to destroy Christ's mission on earth?**

**Revelation 12:4**

His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as it was born.

**Revelation 12:4**

His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to **devour** her **Child** as soon as it was born.



Next verse: Matthew 2:16

In the Bible, a pure woman represents God's church, His people on earth. (see study on *Prophecy of Mystery Babylon*).

Satan stood ready to take the life of Jesus when He came to earth. When the wise men from the east came to worship the Christ child, Herod, worried about a rival king, cunningly asked them to let him know when they found Him, so he might worship him too. Of course Herod intended to put Him to death. Warned in a dream not to return to Herod, the wise man went home another way.<sup>4</sup>

**What did Herod do then?**

**Matthew 2:16**

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry, and he sent forth and put to \_\_\_\_\_ all the male \_\_\_\_\_ who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from \_\_\_\_\_ years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

**Matthew 2:16**

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to **death** all the male **children** who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from **two** years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.



Next verse: Matthew 27:21-23

Working through Herod, Satan tried to destroy Jesus soon after He was born, by killing all the babies of Bethlehem. Jesus was saved only because an angel warned Joseph, in a dream, to flee into Egypt.

Throughout His life on earth, Satan hounded Jesus' steps. He prompted the insult and mockery Jesus received all the way from the manger to Calvary.

**What action did Satan instigate at the trial of Jesus before Pilate?**

**Matthew 27:21-23**

The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" (22) Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be \_\_\_\_\_!" (23) Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

**Matthew 27:21-23**

The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" (22) Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be **crucified!**" (23) Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"



Next verse: Revelation 12:17

The whole world stands guilty for the rejection and murder of the Son of God. At Satan's instigation, the robber, Barabbas, was chosen to be released in place of Christ. Who was then crucified.

The spirit of antichrist is also behind the lawlessness prevailing in the world today. Satan manifests himself in those who, like him, exalt themselves above the will and work of God. Just as Jesus, the Savior of the world, was hated and killed, throughout the history of the world, antichrist has been revealed in hatred toward God in the person of His saints—those *"who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus"*<sup>5</sup>

**How does Revelation describe this?**

**Revelation 12:17**

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 12:17**

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.



The apostle John was shown the hatred Satan would have toward God's people. Only two classes exist in the world: those who have chosen the bloodstained banner of the Prince of life, reflecting His image, and those who stand in rebellion under the black banner of the prince of darkness. When the forces of evil unite with humans who have submitted to Satan's control, persecution for the followers of Jesus results. The conflict is between the powers of good and evil.

**What did Paul have to say about antichrist?**

**2 Thessalonians 2:3,4**

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of \_\_\_ is revealed, the son of perdition, (4) who \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as \_\_\_ in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God...

**2 Thessalonians 2:3,4**

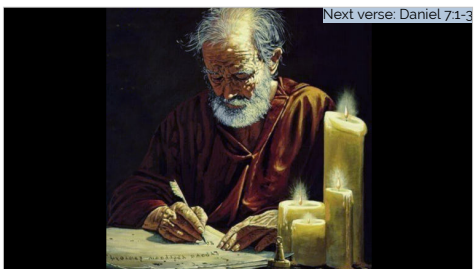
Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of **sin** is revealed, the son of perdition, (4) who **opposes** and **exalts** himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as **God** in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God...

**2 Thessalonians 2:9,10**

The coming of the \_\_\_\_\_ one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and \_\_\_\_\_ wonders, (10) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9,10**

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, (10) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.



As we study Bible prophecy, we can trace the emergence and working of the antichrist power as Paul described. Just like the devil tried to do in heaven, he opposes and exalts himself above God, sits in the place of God, and works with power, signs, and lying wonders to deceive. We will also see this entity as a blasphemous and persecuting power, shedding the blood of God's faithful followers.

Building on the foundation of the prophecy of world history in Daniel 2, the pieces come together as we look at the prophecy in Daniel 7.

**In this vision, what did Daniel observe emerging from the sea?**

**Daniel 7:1-3**

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. (2) Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. (3) And \_\_\_ great \_\_\_ came up from the sea, each different from the other.

**Daniel 7:1-3**

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. (2) Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. (3) And **four** great **beasts** came up from the sea, each different from the other.



As he watched in amazement, Daniel saw four unusual and distinct beasts rise in succession as the wind blew on the stormy sea.

In this fascinating dream, God repeated the history of the world empires (given in Daniel 2), with more detail on how these powers would relate to God's people.

**In Bible prophecy, what do beasts represent?**

**Daniel 7:17,23**

(17) Those great beasts, which are four, are four \_\_\_\_\_ which arise out of the earth... (23) Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth \_\_\_\_\_ on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.

**Daniel 7:17,23**

(17) Those great beasts, which are four, are four **kings** which arise out of the earth... (23) Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth **kingdom** on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.



In Bible prophecy, a beast represents a kingdom. As we will see, the kingdoms, or political powers, represented by these beasts paralleled those symbolized by the image of Daniel 2.

Daniel sees the beasts come up out of the sea.

**What do waters represent in Bible prophecy?**

**Revelation 17:15**

Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

**Revelation 17:15**

Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are **peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.**"





Next verse: Daniel 7:4

In Bible prophecy, the waters represent multitudes of people, nations, and tongues. Winds are a symbol of strife. The winds of heaven striving on the great sea symbolized the scenes of conquest and revolution that birthed these kingdoms as they rose to power, one after another.

What was the first beast that Daniel saw?



**Daniel 7:4**

The first was like a \_\_\_\_\_, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

**Daniel 7:4**

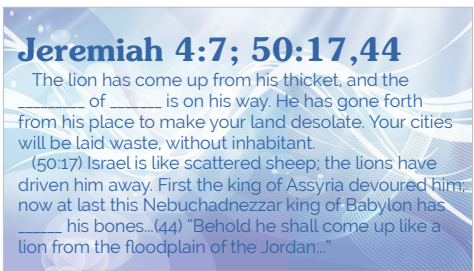
The first was like a **lion**, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.



Next verse: Jeremiah 4:7, 50:17,44

This first beast paralleled the kingdom of Babylon, ruling from 605—539 BC. (See study on *Prophecy of World History*).

How was the lion a fitting symbol of Babylon?



**Jeremiah 4:7; 50:17,44**

The lion has come up from his thicket, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is on his way. He has gone forth from his place to make your land desolate. Your cities will be laid waste, without inhabitant. (50:17) Israel is like scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away. First the king of Assyria devoured him; now at last this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has \_\_\_\_\_ his bones...(44) "Behold he shall come up like a lion from the floodplain of the Jordan..."

**Jeremiah 4:7; 50:17,44**

The lion has come up from his thicket, and the **destroyer of nations** is on his way. He has gone forth from his place to make your land desolate. Your cities will be laid waste, without inhabitant.

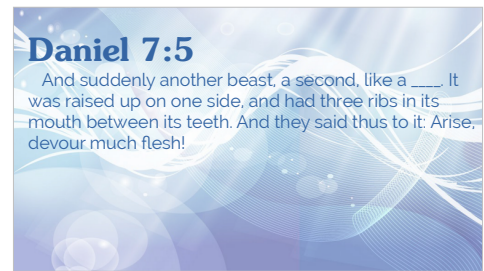
(50:17) Israel is like scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away. First the king of Assyria devoured him; now at last this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has **broken his bones**...(44) "Behold he shall come up like a lion from the floodplain of the Jordan..."



Next verse: Daniel 7:5

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, is described as a lion, and the *"destroyer of nations"*.<sup>6</sup> Strong and powerful, Babylon was preeminent in the then-known world. The wings symbolized the swiftness of its conquests, flying *"as the eagle that hastens to eat"*.<sup>7</sup>

What was the next beast Daniel saw come out of the sea?



**Daniel 7:5**

And suddenly another beast, a second, like a \_\_\_\_\_. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: Arise, devour much flesh!

**Daniel 7:5**

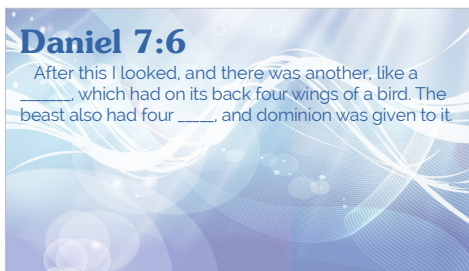
And suddenly another beast, a second, like a **bear**. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: Arise, devour much flesh!



Next verse: Daniel 7:6

This kingdom was composed of two nationalities, the Medes and the Persians, ruling from 539—331 B.C. Medo-Persia fell short of Babylon in wealth, magnificence, and brilliance. Just as the silver of the chest and arms of the image was inferior to the golden head, so the bear is not as strong as the lion. The character of this kingdom was cruel and ruthless. The three ribs are symbolic of the three provinces of Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt, which they especially oppressed.

What did Daniel see next?



**Daniel 7:6**

After this I looked, and there was another, like a \_\_\_\_\_, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four \_\_\_\_\_, and dominion was given to it.

**Daniel 7:6**

After this I looked, and there was another, like a **leopard**, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four **heads**, and dominion was given to it.



Next verse: Daniel 7:7

Greece ruled from 331—168 B.C. The leopard is a very swift-footed beast, and the swiftness of the military conquests of Greece, under Alexander the Great was also represented by four wings. The four heads denote the divisions of his empire, to his four leading generals, after his death.

How did Daniel describe the fourth beast in his vision?



**Daniel 7:7**

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and \_\_\_\_\_, exceedingly \_\_\_\_\_. It had huge iron \_\_\_\_; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the other beasts that were before it, and it had ten \_\_\_\_\_.

**Daniel 7:7**

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and **terrible**, exceedingly **strong**. It had huge iron **teeth**; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the other beasts that were before it, and it had ten **horns**.



How accurately Rome was described by this dreadful beast that devoured as with iron teeth anything in its way! The long rule of this empire lasted from 168 B.C—476 A.D.



Rome ruled the world when Jesus was on earth.



Jesus healed the son of a Roman centurion.  
It was Roman soldiers that put Jesus on the cross.



The apostle Paul lived under the Roman empire and was martyred by emperor Nero.



During the first centuries, Christians suffered great persecution. They were accused of dreadful crimes and considered to be the cause of calamities: famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. Informers, seeking gain, betrayed them. They were thrown to wild beasts or burned alive while multitudes assembled to enjoy the sight.  
**What effect did this have on the early Christian church?**

**Hebrews 11:35,36**

...Others were tortured, not \_\_\_\_\_ deliverance, that they might \_\_\_\_\_ a better resurrection. (36) Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

**Hebrews 11:35,36**

...Others were tortured, not **accepting** deliverance, that they might **obtain** a better resurrection. (36) Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.



Under the fiercest persecution, the early Christians remained true to their faith. When they were persecuted for Christ's sake, they remembered the words of Jesus, that they were to be *"exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven."*<sup>8</sup> God's words to them were, *"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."*<sup>9</sup> The more they were destroyed, the more they increased; the blood of Christians was like seed. But when violence failed to destroy the followers of Jesus, Satan resorted to other means.



Compromise and concessions induced pagans and Christians to unite. Idolaters substituted images of Mary and the saints for their objects of worship. Pagans brought in superstitious rites. Unsound doctrines threatened *"the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints"*<sup>10</sup>.  
A profession of belief in Jesus unified many who had no conviction of sin and saw no need for repentance or change. The requirements of God were abandoned for human theories and traditions. The purity and power of the church was corrupted.  
**How had Scripture foretold this apostasy?**



**2 Thessalonians 2:3,4**

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes \_\_\_\_\_, and the man of sin is \_\_\_\_\_, the son of perdition, (4) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God...

**2 Thessalonians 2:3,4**

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes **first**, and the man of sin is **revealed**, the son of perdition, (4) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God...



Now, according to this Scripture, the stage is set for the "man of sin" to be revealed. Going back to the prophetic symbols, we see the counterpart of the ten toes of the image in the ten horns of the fourth beast that rises from the sea.

**What do these ten horns represent?**

**Daniel 7:24**

The ten horns are ten \_\_\_\_\_ who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the ones, and shall subdue three kings.

**Daniel 7:24**

The ten horns are ten **kings** who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the ones, and shall subdue three kings.



These horns represent the ten kingdoms into which pagan Rome was eventually split, what is now called Western Europe. But now Daniel sees another horn emerge, "different" from the others.

**What are its unique characteristics?**

**Daniel 7:8**

I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a \_\_\_\_\_ one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a \_\_\_\_\_, and a mouth speaking \_\_\_\_\_ words.

(25) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall \_\_\_\_\_ the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

**Daniel 7:8**

I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a **little** one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a **man**, and a mouth speaking **pompous** words...

(25) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall **persecute** the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change **times** and **law**. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.



We can identify this little horn power from the description given.

- It comes up "among" the others; and emerges from the fourth beast (pagan Rome)
- It is "little", and "different" than the others
- It plucks out three of the other horns
- It has a man at its head speaking for it
- It would rule for a time and times and half a time
- It would persecute God's people—"the saints"
- It speaks "pompous words" of blasphemy against God.
- It would "intend to change times and laws"

**There is only one power in history that fits all these points: the Holy Roman Catholic Church, the papacy. Can we see this from the criteria given?**



The Papacy came up among the nations of Western Europe, in a population-dense area of the "Great Sea"<sup>11</sup> (the Mediterranean).

Described as a "little"<sup>12</sup> horn, Vatican City is the smallest country in the world, measuring just 0.2 square miles.

It emerged from the fourth kingdom—pagan Rome. "The mighty Catholic Church was little more than the Roman Empire [baptized]. ...The very capital of the old Empire became the capital of the Christian Empire. The office of Pontifex Maximus was continued in that of Pope."<sup>13</sup>

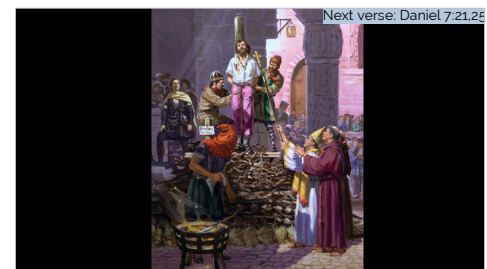


Paganism gave way to the papacy, and in the 6<sup>th</sup> century it was firmly established.

The papacy was (and still is) "different"<sup>14</sup> from the other kingdoms, as it came on the scene as a *religious* power in contrast to the secular nature of the other kingdoms.

The pontiffs claimed the right to depose emperors and kings. The papacy uprooted three of the other "horns", or kingdoms<sup>15</sup>: the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths, who did not support their doctrines.

It has one man at its head who speaks for it<sup>16</sup>, namely the pope.



It made war with and persecuted the saints of the Most High.<sup>17</sup> The papacy admits that it persecuted "heretics", especially during the Dark Ages and the Spanish Inquisition. Historians estimate that the papacy has killed at least 50 million people over matters of faith. "Babylon the great" was "drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus".<sup>18</sup> Rome's policy was to expunge all record of her cruelty toward dissenters, but the history of God's people during this time is written in heaven.

**How long did this persecution continue?**



**Daniel 7:21,25**

I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them. (25) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ a \_\_\_

**Daniel 7:21,25**

I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them. (25) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a **time** and **times** and **half a time**.



This time period is mentioned seven times in the Bible. In the original language, Aramaic, a "time" is designated as a complete cycle of the seasons: one year; "times" is a pair of years, and "half a time" is half of a year. The Amplified Bible thus translates it: "three and one-half years". The same time period is also stated as forty-two months, and 1260 days (based on the 30-day lunar calendar used by the Jewish people with 360 days in a year. A prophetic day in prophecy equals one literal year.<sup>39</sup> Thus the "little horn" was to have power over the saints for 1260 years, from 538, when the Roman emperor Justinian gave civil power to Rome, to 1798, when Pope Pius VI was taken captive & imprisoned by Napoleon's general, Berthier.

**What does Revelation say about God's church during this time?**

**Revelation 12:6,14**

Then the woman \_\_\_ into the \_\_\_, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (14) But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

**Revelation 12:6,14**

Then the woman **fled** into the **wilderness**, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (14) But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.



The Waldenses, taking the Bible as the sole authority on doctrine, rejected the Roman Catholic teachings on purgatory, infant baptism, transubstantiation, indulgences, image worship, and confession to an earthly priest. They also kept the true Bible Sabbath on the seventh day. In deep caverns they laboriously wrote out Scripture by torchlight. They taught their children to endure hardship and poverty, training some to be merchants while secret missionaries and evangelists. For centuries these faithful Christians found refuge in the seclusion of the mountains.



Even in their Alpine valleys and mountain strongholds, the Waldensian Christians were pursued and massacred. Their crops, humble homes, chapels, and writings were destroyed. An honest, peaceable, quiet people, they were hunted to death, yet their witness and their distribution of the Scriptures planted the seeds of the Reformation.



Century after century persecution continued, and Christians were forced to either yield their faith and freedom of conscience, accepting the papal ceremonies and worship, or bear the consequences. Many wore away their lives in dungeons or suffered cruel deaths by the rack, stake, or guillotine. It was a dark time for the world and the followers of Jesus.

**How does the Bible describe the words of the "little horn"?**

**Daniel 7:25**

He shall speak \_\_\_ words against the Most High...

**Revelation 13:5-7**

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (6) Then he opened his mouth in \_\_\_ against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. (7) It was granted to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

**Daniel 7:25**

He shall speak **pompous** words against the Most High...

**Revelation 13:5-7**

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (6) Then he opened his mouth in **blasphemy** against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. (7) It was granted to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.



The "little horn" (and the beast of Revelation 13, parallel symbol for the same power, as we will see in the study on *Prophecy of Mystery Babylon*), speaks "pompous words" of "blasphemy" against God.

**How does the Bible define blasphemy?**

**Mark 2:5-7**

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." (6) And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, (7) "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can \_\_\_ but God alone?"

**Mark 2:5-7**

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." (6) And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, (7) "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can **forgive sins** but God alone?"



**Identity of the Antichrist 64**



Next verse: Hebrews 3:1; 8:1,2; 1 Timothy 2:5

The Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy because He claimed to forgive sins.

Does the papacy claim to forgive sins? Here are their own words:

*"Does the Priest truly remit (forgive) sins, or does he only declare they are remitted? The priest does really and truly remit the sin in virtue of the power given him by Christ."*<sup>20</sup>

In the papal confessionals, where people reveal their sins to a priest and are then "pardoned" and assigned penance, these men are putting themselves in the place of God.

**Who alone is our High Priest and only Mediator?**

**Identity of the Antichrist 65**

**Hebrews 3:1; 8:1,2**

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

(8:1) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a \_\_\_\_\_, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.

**1 Timothy 2:5**

For there is one God and \_\_\_\_\_ between God and men, the Man \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hebrews 3:1; 8:1,2**

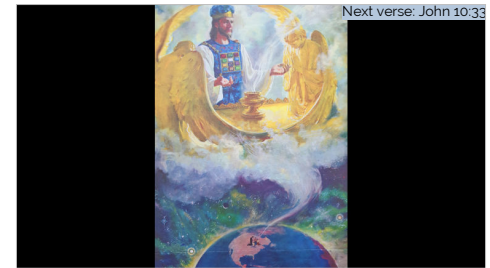
Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

(8:1) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a **High Priest**, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

**1 Timothy 2:5**

For there is one God and **one Mediator** between God and men, the Man **Christ Jesus**,

**Identity of the Antichrist 66**



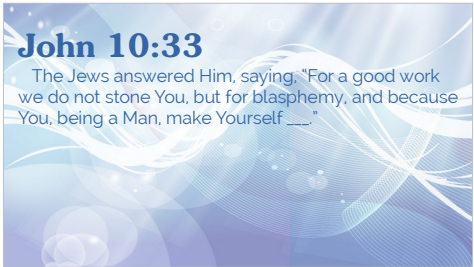
Next verse: John 10:33

Jesus, our High Priest, "is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."<sup>21</sup>

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."<sup>22</sup>

**What is the other Biblical definition of blasphemy?**

**Identity of the Antichrist 67**



**John 10:33**

The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself \_\_\_\_\_."

**John 10:33**

The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself **God**."

**Identity of the Antichrist 68**



The papacy also claims to be God:

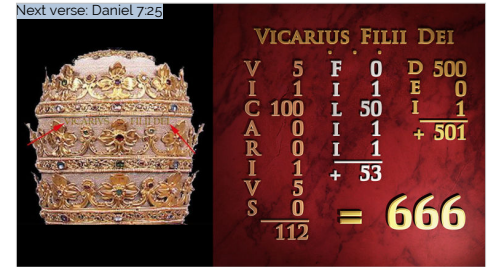
*"The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under veil of the flesh."*<sup>23</sup>

*"The Pope is supreme judge of the law of the land...He is the vicegerent of Christ, and is not only a priest forever, but is **King of kings and Lord of lords**."*<sup>24</sup>

*"The pope is crowned with a triple crown as **king of heaven, and earth**, and purgatory."*<sup>25</sup>

*"The Pope is considered the man on earth who **takes the place**" of the Second Person of the omnipotent God of the Trinity."<sup>26</sup>*

**Identity of the Antichrist 69**



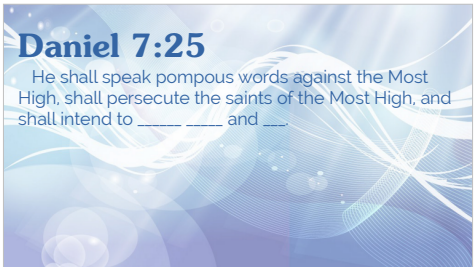
Next verse: Daniel 7:25

The pope has appropriated the very titles of deity; he has styled himself "Lord God the Pope"<sup>27</sup> and is titled, *Vicarius Filii Dei*, Latin for "substitute for the Son of God."

He claims infallibility, and demands the homage of all men. This doctrine of papal supremacy is in opposition to the Word of God, which says, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve."<sup>28</sup>

**What characteristic of the papacy has to do with God's law?**

**Identity of the Antichrist 70**



**Daniel 7:25**

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Daniel 7:25**

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to **change times and law**.

**Identity of the Antichrist 71**



Men change their laws all the time, but the "times and laws" referred to in Daniel 7 belong to **God Himself**—the Ten Commandments, written with His own finger on tables of stone.

The papacy dared to change the fourth commandment, to authorize the first instead of the seventh day as the Sabbath. The ancient Sabbath, which God had sanctified and blessed as His memorial of creation, was set aside in deference to the festival observed by the heathen as "the venerable day of the sun."

**Identity of the Antichrist 72**



This daring act the papacy claims as a **mark** of their authority. The Bible calls it the **mark of the beast**.

Quoting from the Catholic Catechism:

Q: Which is the Sabbath day?

A: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."<sup>29</sup>

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act..., and the act is a **mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters**."<sup>30</sup>



**Identity of the Antichrist 73**



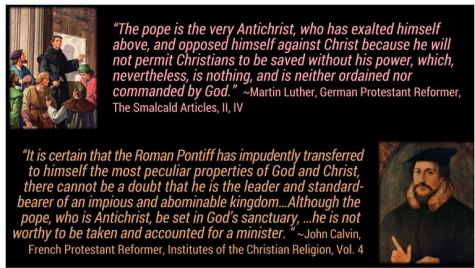
The papacy changed the only precept of the divine law that unmistakably directs our worship and allegiance to the true and living God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

They also expunged from the law of God the second commandment, which forbids worship of images. In order to still have ten, they then divided the tenth commandment.

Now the great apostate had succeeded in exalting himself *"above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."*<sup>32</sup>

**How did the Reformers define antichrist?**

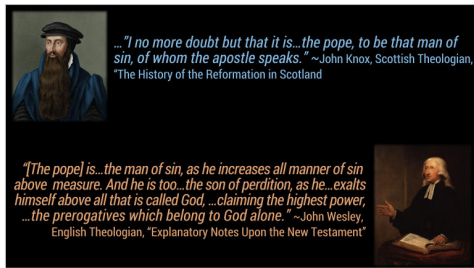
**Identity of the Antichrist 74**



"The pope is the very Antichrist, who has exalted himself above, and opposed himself against Christ because he will not permit Christians to be saved without his power, which, nevertheless, is nothing, and is neither ordained nor commanded by God."<sup>32</sup>

"It is certain that the Roman Pontiff has impudently transferred to himself the most peculiar properties of God and Christ, there cannot be a doubt that he is the leader and standard-bearer of an impious and abominable kingdom... Although the pope, who is Antichrist, be set in God's sanctuary, ...he is not worthy to be taken and accounted for a minister."<sup>33</sup>

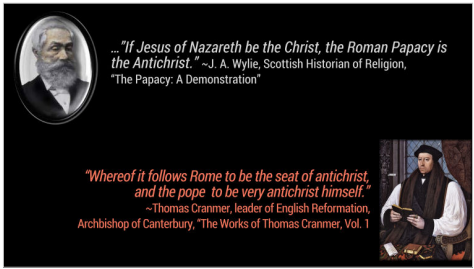
**Identity of the Antichrist 75**



"...I no more doubt but that it is...the pope, to be that man of sin, of whom the apostle speaks."<sup>34</sup>

"[The pope] is...the man of sin, as he increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is too...the son of perdition, as he...exalts himself above all that is called God, ...claiming the highest power, ...the prerogatives which belong to God alone."<sup>35</sup>

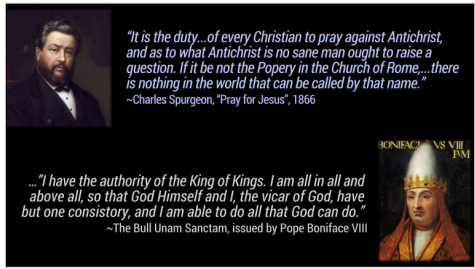
**Identity of the Antichrist 76**



"...If Jesus of Nazareth be the Christ, the Roman Papacy is the Antichrist."<sup>36</sup>

"Whereof it follows Rome to be the seat of antichrist, and the pope to be very antichrist himself."<sup>37</sup>

**Identity of the Antichrist 77**



"It is the duty...of every Christian to pray against Antichrist, and as to what Antichrist is no sane man ought to raise a question. If it be not the Popery in the Church of Rome, ...there is nothing in the world that can be called by that name."<sup>38</sup>

"...I have the authority of the King of Kings. I am all in all and above all, so that God Himself and I, the vicar of God, have but one consistory, and I am able to do all that God can do."<sup>39</sup>

**Identity of the Antichrist 78**



During the reformation, two missionaries from England arrived in Prague, capital of Bohemia, to share truth. Silenced by the authorities, they used their skill as artists to preach a silent sermon. In a public area they drew two pictures. The first showed Jesus, humbly riding into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey, followed by his disciples in travel-worn garments and with naked feet.

**Identity of the Antichrist 79**



The second picture portrayed a papal procession with the pope arrayed in his triple crown and rich robes, mounted on a magnificently adorned horse, preceded by trumpeters and followed by cardinals and prelates in dazzling array.

The crowds who gathered to view the paintings could not fail to see the obvious contrast between the meek and lowly Jesus and the pride and arrogance of His supposed successor. Many were led to a deeper study of the Word of God.

**Identity of the Antichrist 80**



The Bible says that "all the world wondered after the beast" and "authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him" EXCEPT those whose names have been "written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."<sup>40</sup>

But this is not the end of the story.

**Identity of the Antichrist 81**



The promise given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15 will be fulfilled. Jesus will crush the head of that *"serpent of old, called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world"*.<sup>41</sup> Antichrist, unmasked as the deceiver, will be destroyed forever. Rejoicing will be heard as *"the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*<sup>42</sup>

**Will you choose Him today and be part of His kingdom?**



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- 3) Revelation 12:9
- 4) Matthew 2
- 5) Revelation 1:12
- 6) Jeremiah 47
- 7) Habakkuk 1:8
- 8) Matthew 5:12
- 9) Revelation 2:10
- 10) Jude 3
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- 12) Daniel 7:8
- 13) Alexander Flick, *The Rise of the Medieval Church and its Influence on the Civilisation of Western Europe.*
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- 15) Daniel 7:8,24
- 16) Daniel 7:8
- 17) Daniel 7:25, Rev. 13:7

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- 21) Hebrews 7:25
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- 24) *La Civiltà Cattolica*, March 18, 1871
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- 41) Revelation 12:6
- 42) Revelation 11:15

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