

UNMASKING THE ANTICHRIST

- Revelation 14:9,10** The most serious of all warnings found in the Bible.
- Revelation 13-20** The Beast power is mentioned many times in the book of Revelation making it of utmost importance that we correctly identify this power.
- Revelation 13:1-3** The Beast power is described here as a composite of other animals (kingdoms).
- Revelation 13:11-15** Satan uses other powers along with the beast to counterfeit the kingdom of God on earth.
- Revelation 17:15** The “waters” represent peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.

TO INTERPRET THIS BEAST, WE TURN TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL

- Daniel 7:2, 3** Four beasts come up.
- Daniel 7:2** “Winds” in Bible prophecy represent war and strife among the nations (Jer. 49:36, Rev. 7:1).
- Daniel 7:17, 23** Beasts are kings and their kingdoms.
- Daniel 7:4** The first beast here is likened to a lion representing Babylon (compare Dan. 2:39).
- Daniel 7:5** The second is like a bear representing Medo-Persia (compare Dan. 8:20).
- Daniel 7:6** The third is like a leopard representing Greece (compare Dan. 8:21).
- Daniel 7:7** The fourth is a dreadful and terrible beast representing Rome (compare Dan. 7:23).
- Daniel 7:8** Ten horns are ten kings and their kingdoms which would arise out of Rome (vs. 24). These ten kingdoms were the Alemanni (German), Visigoths (Spain), Franks (France), Suevi (Portugal), Burgundians (Swiss), Anglo Saxon (English), Lombards (Italy), Heruli (destroyed in 493), Vandals (destroyed in 534), Ostrogoths (destroyed in 538).
- Daniel 7:8** Another little horn or kingdom comes up among the other nations.

ELEVEN IDENTIFYING MARKS TO IDENTIFY THIS LITTLE HORN KINGDOM

1. It comes up “among” them or somewhere in Western Europe (vs. 8).
2. It comes up “after” the other horns which would be “after” 476 AD because the other ten kingdoms were not established until the final fall of Rome in 476 AD (vs. 24).
3. It would be a “little horn” or a “little kingdom” (vs. 8).
4. It uproots or destroys three kingdoms—Heruli, Vandals, Ostrogoths (vs. 8).

5. It has human authority or intelligence at its head who directs the church, rather than the Holy Spirit and the Word of God (vs. 8).
6. It is “diverse” or different from the other four preceding kingdoms (vs. 24)
7. It speaks great words or blasphemy (vs. 25; Rev. 13:5). The Bible definition of this is when:
 - a. John 10:30-33—A man puts himself in God’s place.
 - b. Mark 2:5-7—A man claims to forgive sins.
8. It would “wear out” or “persecute” God’s people (vs. 21, 25).
9. It would make an attempt at changing God’s law (vs. 25).
10. It would rule for a time, times and dividing of times. Compare Rev. 12:14; Rev. 12:6: time=1 year; times=2 years, dividing of time=a half year. The total equals 1260 prophetic days or 1260 years (Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:6).
11. It would be a world-wide religious power (Rev. 13:3, 4, 8).

THE VATICAN CITY OR PAPACY ALONE FITS THIS DESCRIPTION!

COMPARE THE LITTLE HORN OF DANIEL 7 WITH THE BEAST OF REVELATION 13:

- Revelation 13:5** It rules the same 1260-year period.
- Revelation 13:5** It also speaks blasphemous words against God.
- Revelation 13:7, 8** It persecutes the saints, and is world-wide.
- Revelation 13:1-3** It is made up of characteristics found in the four beasts of Daniel 7.
- Revelation 14:9, 10** We must be careful not to worship this power either directly or indirectly through following similar teachings or doctrines.

“The oracles of God foretold the rising of an Antichrist in the Christian Church: and in the Pope of Rome, all the characteristics of that Antichrist are so marvelously answered that if any who read the Scriptures do not see it, there is a marvelous blindness upon them.” *The Fall of Babylon*, Cotton Mather (1663-1728 Congregational Theologian), *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, Froom, Vol. 3, pg 113.

“O reader, this is a subject wherein we also are deeply concerned, and which must be treated, not as a point of curiosity, but as a solemn warning from God! The danger is near. Be armed both against force and fraud, even with the whole armor of God. Out of the Sea--that is, Europe. ... This beast is the Romish papacy, as it came to a point six hundred years since, stands now, and will for some time longer. To this, and no other power of earth, agrees the whole text, and every part of it in every point.” *Commentary on the Bible*, John Wesley, Chapter 13.

We must always remember that this study refers to the kingdom or organization that is known as the papacy or the Roman Catholic system of religion. It is not intended in any way to condemn individual people of that faith who love God and have a sincere desire to worship Him according to all that they know to be true. God desires to lead us all to truth (Jn. 16:13, 1 Tim. 2:3, 4).

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