

# Old Book for a New Day

## Seminar on the Bible book of Daniel - #8

### Daniel 7 - *Identification of the Little Horn*

#### I. Review of the Identifying Marks of the Little Horn - vs.8,20-22,24,25

##### A. **The Terrible Beast and the Ten Horns** - 10 kings who arise out of the 4th kingdom (v.24)

##### B. **Another Horn** (v.8) - 13 identifying factors

1. Another kingdom (v.24)
2. A small one, coming up (v.8)
3. Coming up among them (v.8)
4. Shall rise after them (v.24)
5. Plucked up three horns by the roots (v.8)
  - Subdue three kings (v.24)
  - Before which three fell (v.21)
6. Eyes like a man (vs.8,20)
7. A mouth speaking pompous words...against the Most High (vs.8,20,25)
8. Appearance greater than his fellows (v.20)
9. Making war against the saints and prevailing (v.21) and persecuting (v.25)
10. Different from the first *horns* (v.24)
11. Intend to change times and law (v.25)
12. Saints given into his hand for a time [1] and times [2] and half a time [ $\frac{1}{2}$ ] (v.25)
13. Until the time of judgment when the saints receive the kingdom (v.22)

##### B. **Summary:** We must look for a unique political-religious entity which came into power after the division of the Roman Empire (476 AD), among the nations of Western Europe, displaced three nations in its rise, ultimately ruled supreme over those nations, which claims and acts against God, His faithful people, and His law, inflicting an extended time of persecution.

The proper identity of the "little horn" power must satisfy all 13 of the identifying marks listed above. God's prophecies require a perfect fit.

#### II. Parallel New Testament Prophecies

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

1. Is coming - Future
2. Is now already here - Present
3. Those who deny Jesus is the Messiah - Denying the Father and the Son

##### B. Paul - The Apostasy

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10 - The man of sin
  - a. A man claiming the prerogatives of God - Usurping God's position on earth
  - b. Is coming - Prior to Jesus 2nd coming
  - c. Already beginning to work
  - d. Will continue to expand until destroyed at the coming of Christ
2. Acts 20:17,29,30 - Savage wolves
  - a. To begin after Paul's death
  - b. To arise from among the church leaders

### III. Historical Survey of Apostasy in the Early Church

- A. Three key areas of departure from truth
  - 1. Pagan Customs infiltrate Christianity
  - 2. Power Struggle among the Bishops - "Who is the greatest"
  - 3. Pagan Philosophy distort Christian Teachings
- B. Political connections - The OUTLAW church becomes the OFFICIAL church
  - 1. Constantine used Bishop of Rome to consolidate his political power - Edict of Milan (313)
  - 2. Bishop of Rome used Constantine to consolidate his ecclesiastical power - "Universal" church
  - 3. Church and State united - A "New Theocracy" - Persecution of heretics
  - 4. Constantine moved east and built Constantinople, leaving Bishop of Rome to rule in the west
- C. Arian heresy - The teaching that Jesus was created and not eternally coexistent with God
  - 1. Taught to the barbarian tribes who came to control Italy
  - 2. Prevented the Bishop of Rome from exercising total spiritual and political control.
- D. Emperor Justinian - Tipped Balance of Power in favor of Roman Bishops
  - 1. Three "Arian" nations prevented Roman control - Heruli, Ostrogoths, Vandals
    - a. Heruli - AD 476 - Invaded and conquered Italy and Rome
    - b. Ostrogoths - AD 493 - Conquered and destroyed Heruli
      - 1) Urged on by Emperor and Bishop of Rome who hoped they could manipulate them
      - 2) Proved to be stronger and less cooperative than the Heruli
    - c. Vandals - Conquered and controlled North Africa - Italy's breadbasket
  - 2. New Law Codes - 533 - Codified letters re-establish the authority of the Bishop of Rome
    - a. Required the ousting of the Ostrogoths and Vandals in order to go into effect
    - b. Belesarius - 534 - Destroyed Vandals in North Africa
    - c. Imperial army entered Rome - March of 537 - Besieged by Ostrogoths for one year
    - d. March 538 - Reinforcements arrived and cut the Ostrogoth's supply lines - Abandoned siege
    - e. Their capital, Ravenna, soon fell. The Ostrogoth's power was broken - Soon disappeared
- E. 538 - Marks the turning of the tide. Imperial law assured the rise of the medieval Church/State religio/-political system of the Bishop of Rome - the Papacy - to supremacy in the west.

### IV. Application of the 13 Identifiers of the Little Horn Power to the Medieval Church/State system

- 1. **Another kingdom** - Separate from the political divisions of the Roman Empire
- 2. **A small one, coming up** - A gentle, obscure beginning - An outlaw church in hiding
- 3. **Coming up among them** - Arose among the political powers of Western Europe
- 4. **Shall arise after them** - Rose to dominant power after AD 476
- 5. **Three...horns plucked out by the roots...**
  - 1. Heruli ----- Italy ----- 493
- Before which three fell...**
  - 2. Vandals ----- N Africa ----- 534
- Shall subdue three kings...**
  - 3. Ostrogoths -- Italy ----- 538

6. **Eyes like a man** - Headed by human intelligence - the Bishop of Rome  
See Acts 20:30 - Bishops and Elders would lead the way
7. **Speak pompous words...against the Most High** - Great claims against God
  - a. "The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God.... the very summit of all ranks of dignities.... He is likewise the divine monarch and supreme emperor, and king of kings...king of heaven and of earth...even over angels, than whom he is greater.... So that if...angels might err...they could be judged and excommunicated by the pope.... For he is of so great dignity and power that he forms one and the same tribunal with Christ.... As it were God on earth...to whom has been intrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom.... Whatever the Lord God himself, and the Redeemer, is said to do, that his vicar does...." Extracts from *Prompta Bibliotheca*, Vol. VI, 25-29.
  - b. "All the names which in Scripture are applied to Christ...are applied to the Pope." *On the Authority of Councils*, Bk.2, Chap.17, pg.226.
  - c. "For thou art the shepherd, thou art the director, thou art the husbandman, finally thou art another God on earth." From the Oration of Christopher Marcellus in the Fourth Session of the Fifth Lateran Council (an address to the People) *History of the Councils*, Vol. VII, Col. 109.
  - d. "We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." The Great Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIII, pg. 304.
8. **Appearance greater than his fellows** - Claiming pre-eminence and authority over other horns (nations).  
The previous statements and medieval history substantiate this.
9. **Making war against the saints - Prevailing against and persecuting the saints of the Most High**
  - a. Look up: Spanish Inquisition, Massacre of St. Bartholomew, Waldenses, Donatists, Huguenots, Albigenses; Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. VIII, p. 34; Fox's Book of Martyrs; History of the Reformation, by D'Aubigne
  - b. "If...criminals are justly delivered over to death forthwith by the secular authorities, much more can heretics...be not only forthwith excommunicated, but as surely put to death." Moral Theology, Thomas Aquinas.
  - c. "Both the spiritual and the material sword, therefore, are in the power of the church, the latter indeed to be used for the church, the former by the church, the one by the hand of the priest, the other by the hand of kings and soldiers, but by the will and sufferance of the priest. De Stabilitate et Progressu Dogmatis, Lepicier, pp. 211, 212, 194.
  - d. "The church has persecuted. Only a tyro in church history will deny that... Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with the full approval of the church authorities. We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots, and the Spanish Inquisition. Wherever and whenever there is honest Catholicity, there will be a clear distinction drawn between truth and error, and Catholicity and all forms of heresy. When she thinks it good to use physical force, she will use it.... But will the Catholic Church give bond that she will not persecute at all? Will she guarantee absolute freedom and equality of all churches and all faiths? The Catholic Church gives no bonds for her good behavior." The Western Watchman, Dec. 24, 1908.
  - e. "In Spain alone Llorente reckons as the sufferers of the Inquisition 31,912 burnt alive, and 291,450 so-called penitents forced into submission.... A million perished in the massacre of the Albigenses.  
"In the thirty years which followed the first institution of the Jesuits, 900,000 faithful Christians were slain. 36,000 were dispatched by the common executioner in the Netherlands, by the direction of the Duke of Alva, who boasted of the deed. 50,000 Flemings and Germans were hanged, burnt, or buried alive under Charles V." Key to the Apocalypse, pp. 92.

10. **Different from the first ones** - Unique from the others of the ten horns.  
While the nations of Western Europe were typical political entities ruling over a given territory or nationality, the Medieval Church claimed absolute political authority over these nations and infallible spiritual authority as a church.
11. **Intend to change times and laws** - Claim authority to change God's laws, including those dealing with time.  
- See Daniel 2:21
  - a. God's LAW will never change so long as heaven, earth, or God exist -  
Matthew 5:18,19; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 89:34
  - b. The Medieval Church modified the 2nd and 4th commandments by instituting image worship into the church and claiming that the change of the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday is by her authority alone. The success of these changes are held up as proof of her great authority.
  - c. "The [Bishop of Rome] is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws...since his power is not of man but of God...." Extracts from Prompta Bibliotheca, Vol. VI, pp. 25-29.
  - d. "But the Church of God has in her wisdom ordained that celebration of the Sabbath day should be transferred to 'the Lord's day'." Catechism of the Council of Trent, Donovan translation, 1829 ed., p. 358. This Catechism was written by order of the Council of Trent and published under the auspices of Pope Pius V.
  - e. 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 Council of Laodicea (AD 336) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.  
The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, by Rev. Peter Geirmann.
  - f. "The church....after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath, or seventh day of the week, to the first, made the third commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept holy as the Lord's day." The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. IV, p. 152.
  - g. "Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act. And the act is a mark of her authority in religious matters." Quoted from the Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons.
  - h. "But since Saturday, not Sunday, is specified in the Bible, isn't it curious that non-Catholics who profess to take their religion directly from the Bible and not from the church, observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course, it is inconsistent; but this change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born, and by that time the custom was universally observed. They have continued the custom, even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text in the Bible. The observance remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away...like a boy running away from home but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair." The Faith of Millions, p. 473.
12. **Saints shall be given into his hand for a time (singular), times (dual), and half a time** = 3½ times
  - a. Time - "*iddan*" - Appointed times - See Daniel 4:16,23,25,32 - Strong inference to "years"
  - b. To last from disintegration of Rome until the judgment at the End - Longer than 3½ literal years
  - c. Symbolic time unit - Based on familiar yearly cycle
    - 1) Jewish and Babylonian year based on Moon cycles - 12 lunar months of 29+ days
    - 2) Genesis 7:11,24; 8:4 - 5 months = 150 days = 30 day months
    - 3) 12 30-day months = 360 days
    - 4) 3½ 360-day years = 1260 days
    - 5) 3½ 12-month years = 42 months

- d. Parallel Time Prophecies - All dealing with the same "little horn" issues
    - 1) Daniel 12:7                      3½ times
    - 2) Revelation 11:2                42 months
    - 3) Revelation 11:3                1260 days
    - 4) Revelation 12:6                1260 days
    - 5) Revelation 12:14               3½ times
    - 6) Revelation 13:5                42 months
  - e. Principle of Interpretation - One prophetic day = One literal year
    - 1) Numbers 14:34
    - 2) Ezekiel 4:6
    - 3) The proof lies in whether the prophecies and history mesh perfectly when this principle is applied.
  - f. If 3 ½ Times = 1260 years —
 

538	Medieval Church came to power
+1260	Prophesied length of its reign
1798	Medieval Church power should end
  - g. 1798 - Napoleon's general Berthier took the Bishop of Rome captive ending the political supremacy of the Medieval Church, an event known in history as "the deadly wound" - See Revelation 13:3
13. **Until the time of judgment when the saints receive the kingdom** - Judgment comes AFTER 1798
- a. Infers that we may actually live during the time of judgement leading up to the final execution when the Saints will receive the kingdom
  - b. Daniel 12 will further clarify this, calling this time the "Time of the End" when "all these things will be finished"
  - c. Revelation puts it all together, revealing the various aspects of investigation and execution of judgment on the system of evil and the vindication and deliverance of God's faithful people.

## V. The Saints and the Eternal Kingdom

- A. Aspects of judgment
  - 1. Investigation of evil little horn - Verdict pronounced - Execution (vs.9-12)
  - 2. Judgment IN FAVOR of the Saints (v.22)
  - 3. Inauguration of the Kingdom of Christ (vs.13,14)
  - 4. Kingdom given to the Saints (vs.22,27)
- B. How do the saints receive the kingdom?
  - 1. Not gained by human power or political might - That is the "little horn's" method
    - a. Beasts conquer by FORCE
    - b. Saints conquer by FAITH
  - 2. The coming kingdom of Christ is a "stone cut out without hands" (2:34)
  - 3. It is GIVEN to the Saints - A gift
- C. Practical warning - "Little Horn" corruption can be individual or corporate
  - 1. Personal victory - By FAITH or by WORKS?
  - 2. Corporate methods - God's way or human ways?
- D. Call to patience - Revelation 14:12
  - 1. Walk by faith - Endure to the end - Wait until God delivers the kingdom to us
  - 2. Any kingdom gained by any other means will be destroyed

## VI. Summery

- A. This study is not a condemnation of any specific church as it stands today in society. The power pointed out clearly in Daniel 7 is a power which is involved in controlling the consciences and spiritual lives of mankind through political legislation and power on a multi-national level. This is not the case with any "Christian" church at this time. Daniel 7 is pointing to the oppressive Church/State system as it existed during the middle ages. There is no direct parallel to that situation in our world at this time.
- B. This study is a candid look at what the Scripture says about the degeneration that would, and did, happen to the Apostolic Church in the centuries after the cross. This degeneration was slow and progressive, and not necessarily the work of "bad" people. Rather the degeneration of the church was the result of the failure to carefully weigh each decision according to Scripture. The church is to be in the world, but there are problems when the world sneaks into the church. A boat in the water is as it should be, but when water gets into the boat there can be big trouble. The church took on a lot of water during the middle ages. For the last few centuries godly men and women have sought to man the pumps and right the ship.
- C. Many apply this prophecy to the future. And they are not entirely incorrect. Daniel 11 predicts a revival of this type of oppressive church/state power in the end time, and Revelation develops the concept to absolute clarity. But a solid historical interpretation lays the foundation for an accurate, reliable future application, as we will see.
- D. This chapter serves as solemn warning concerning the demonstrated results of any uniting of Church and State on either the personal or public level. When the individual or the church reaches away from Holy Spirit power to the arm of human or civil/political power as the means of reaching its goals, prophecy and history concur that oppression, persecution and spiritual degeneration are the inevitable results. And yet many, even today, rush blindly in that direction.
- E. God loves people of all religious persuasions equally. Each person is responsible for what he knows and for his opportunities to learn - See Acts 17:30; James 4:17. To each person He extends the call to follow him wherever he leads; to update your experience as you search the Word; to change your direction in accordance with new discoveries of truth. Jesus IS truth. To draw close to Jesus is to draw close to truth -- the Truth sets you free.