

# **IDENTITY OF THE LITTLE HORN**

The points of identification examined in this lesson (from Daniel 7 and Revelation 13) make it clear that this little horn power would arise in Western Europe after the ten divisions of the Roman Empire.

- 1. It would mix paganism with Christianity.
- 2. It would command people to worship it (therefore it would be a religious power).
- 3. It would persecute those who disagreed with it.
- 4. It would blaspheme the God of heaven.
- 5. It would reign for 1260 years.
- 6. It would receive a deadly wound, recover from it, and have all the world worship it once again.
- 7. Its boldest claim would be that it had changed the times and the law.

We can take these marks of identification, go to any encyclopaedia or history book, examine the history of the Dark Ages when the Bible said this power would arise, and we would discover that there is only one power that meets every one of these identifying marks. That power is the papacy. Please remember that we are not talking about people who belong to this system. We are talking about a system that has arisen in opposition to God. There are many good, sincere people in the papacy who love and serve Jesus. God loves them, and in mercy He has sent them this warning so that they might not be deceived by this power.

Let's re-examine the identifying marks of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and see how clearly the papacy has met every one of these marks of identification.

# DANIEL'S MARKS OF IDENTIFICATION

### A. It arose among the ten divisions

As the Roman Empire divided into ten divisions, another power emerged as the unifying power among all the ten divisions of the Roman Empire. That power was the papacy. No other such power arose among the ten divisions of the Roman Empire at that time.

# **B.** It plucks up three horns

As the Papal power emerged among the ten divisions of the Roman Empire, there were three powers that refused to submit to the bishop of Rome. They were the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths. To achieve full unity, the papacy encouraged armies to destroy these three powers. Indeed three horns were plucked up. The last of those powers was destroyed in A.D. 538.

### **C.** Eyes like the eyes of a man

At the head of the papacy sits a man, making the decisions that affect the lives and souls of thousands of people.

**D.** It had a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies

He committed blasphemy. According to Scripture, blasphemy consists of three things:

1. Daniel 5 indicated that it is blasphemy to mix together paganism and Christianity. As pagans came flooding into the church in those early centuries, the papacy changed the pure doctrines of early Christianity. It tried to make it easier for the pagans to adjust to Christianity by incorporating pagan practices into the Christian faith. For example, the pagans were use to worshipping gods and goddesses, whereas Christians worshipped only one God. Therefore, the church introduced the practice of praying to the saints. This took the place of the household gods of paganism, making it easier for these unconverted pagans who had entered the church to adjust to Christianity. In addition, Christianity had no female deity, so the papacy elevated Mary to take the place of Jesus Christ as the only mediator between God and man (I Timothy 2:5). There were many other pagan practices

~ NOTES ~				
, <del></del> _				

thousands of individuals.

- E. It spoke great words and blasphemy
- F. It was to reign for 42 months
- G. It made war with the saints
- H. All the world worships it today

For fulfilment of the above four marks of identification, see points D, E and G under Daniel 7 in this exhibit.

### I. It has a number that adds up to 666.

Notice that Revelation 13:18 does not say the number 666 is written out. Rather it says that to discover the number of the beast, one must count the number of the beast, or add it up. An ancient custom was to use the Roman numeral system on people's names, adding up the various totals of the letters. That would then be the person's number. The Bible says the beast has a number, and the numbers add up to 666. One of the official titles of the head of the Roman Church in Latin is Vicarius Filii Dei, meaning "Vicar of the Son of God." Please notice below that the numerical value of the letters of his name add up to the Biblical 666:

V - 5	F - 0	D -500	112
I - 1	I - 1	E - 0	53
I - 100	L - 50	I - <u>1</u>	<u>501</u>
A - 0	I - 1	501	666
R - 0	I - <u>1</u>		
I - 1	53		
U - 5			
S - <u>0</u>			
112			

So the Papacy fits the sixth point. . .

that Rome Christianised during this period.

"We are told in various ways by Eusebius, that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own. It is not necessary to go into a subject which the diligence of Protestant writers has made familiar to most of us. The use of temples, and these dedicated to particular saints, and ornamented on occasions with branches of trees, incense, lamps, and candles; votive offerings on recovery from illness, holy water; asylums; holydays and seasons, use of calendars, processions, blessings on the fields; sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure, the ring in marriage, turning to the East, images at a later date, perhaps the ecclesiastical chant, and the Kyrie Eleisen, are all of pagan origin, and sanctified by their adoption into the Church."

John Henry Cardinal Newman, An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine, Longmans, Green & Company, London, 1920. P. 373.

- **2.** Blasphemy is for a man to claim that he can forgive sins. Mark 2:7. Notice the claim of the papacy to be able to forgive men of their sins:
  - **a.** "And God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priest and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse to give absolution, provided the penitent is capable of it." Duties and Dignities of the Priest by Liguori, p. 27.
  - **b.** "Were the Redeemer to descend into a church, and sit in a confessional to administer the sacrament of penance, and a priest to sit in a confessional, Jesus would say over each penitent: 'Ego te absolvo', the priest would likewise say over each of his penitents, 'Ego te absolvo', and the penitents of each would be equally absolved." Ibid., p. 34
  - **c.** "The priest holds the place of the Saviour himself, when, by saying `Ego te absolvo', he absolves from sin." Ibid.
- **3.** Blasphemy is to claim the prerogatives of God. (John 10:33)
  - **a.** "Hence priests are called the parents of Jesus Christ: such is the title that St. Bernard gives them, for they are the active cause by which he is made to exist really in the consecrated Host."-Ibid., p.32.

- **b.** 'Thus the priest may, in a certain manner be called the creator of his Creator, since by saying the words of consecration, he creates as it were, Jesus in the sacrament." Ibid.
- **c.** "All names which in the Scripture are applied to Christ, by virtue of which it is established that he is over the church, all the same names are applied to the Pope." On the Authority of Councils, 1619 ed., book 2, ch. 17.
- **d.** "We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo, XIII, page 304.
- **e.** "Thou art the shepherd, thou art the physician, thou are the director, thou art the husbandman; finally, thou art another god on earth." Christopher Marcellus Oration in the Fifth Lateran Council, Session IV (1512) in Mansi SC, Vol. 32, Col. 761 (Latin).

When one examines the Roman Catholic quotations cited, there can be no question that the papacy has spoken great words against the Most High, blasphemed God, and combined paganism with Christianity.

#### E. Makes war with the saints

More people were killed by the papacy during the Dark Ages than by Hitler in World War II:

"That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history." History of the Rise and Influence of Rationalism in Europe. Vol. 2. page 32, W.E.H. Lecky, author.

# F. Think to change times and laws

The next two lessons will detail how the Roman Church has accomplished this.

# G. To reign for 1260 years

The Papacy had established its power in A.D. 538 when the last of the three powers was subdued. The decree of Justinian making the popes head of the church and corrector of heretics, issued in A.D. 533, took effect in 538, when no power stood in the way of the Pope

having full supremacy. Exactly 1260 years later, in 1798, Berthier, the French general under Napoleon invaded the Vatican and took the pope prisoner ending the temporal sovereignty of the Pope. His long reign lasted exactly 1260 years.

### IDENTIFICATION MARKS FROM REVELATION

### A. It received its power, seat and great authority from the Dragon

The dragon primarily represents Satan (Revelation 12:9). However, the devil works through various agencies, in this case, pagan Rome. The Roman emperors moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Constantinople, thereby leaving the Pope the chief power in the West. They put the power of the Caesars behind the Bishop of Rome, thereby elevating him above all the other bishops in Christianity. Truly Pagan Rome gave the Papacy his power, seat, and great authority.

### B. It received a deadly wound

When Berthier, the French general, took the Pope prisoner in 1798, he inflicted the deadly wound. Many thought the Papacy had come to its end and could never recover. Indeed it had received a deadly wound.

# C. The deadly wound was healed

In 1929 Mussolini once again restored the Vatican to the Pope, making him again a secular as well as a religious ruler. Today the Vatican is recognized by many governments on earth. Even the United States of America sends an ambassador to the Vatican, recognizing the Vatican State as a secular as well as a religious state. As one observes the developing Papacy today, one sees indeed the whole world wondering after this power.

# D. People worshipped this power

One only has to watch the acts of obeisance that people pay to the head of the papacy to know that this power is an object of reverence and worship. During his 1260 year reign, few earthly governments dared defy this power. He held the keys to life and death for