

ceremonies of old polytheism. Christianity not only conquered Rome, but Rome conquered Christianity. It is not a matter of great surprise, therefore, to find that from the first to the fourth century the Church had undergone many changes." Alexander Clarence Flick, *The Rise of the Medieval Church*, 1959, p. 148,149.

2. It received a deadly wound. Berthier, French general under Napoleon, invaded Vatican in 1798 and took pope captive, ending the temporal sovereignty of pope.
3. Deadly wound was healed in 1929 when Mussolini restored pope to Vatican as separate government. The headline in the San Francisco Chronicle read: "Mussolini and Gasparri Sign Historic Roman Pact...Heal Wound of Many Years." Today the U.S. even sends an ambassador to Vatican.
4. People worship this power.
5. Number adds up to 666
  - a. Need to count to get number
  - b. Name or title of head of church during Dark Ages was VICARIOUS FILII DEI—adds up to 666

#### IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Daniel predicted that the Christian church would go into apostasy and mix elements of paganism with the worship of God. History attests that this has happened through the religio-political system that developed in the Dark Ages. The church of the Dark Ages meets every one of Daniel's specifications of the little horn.
- B. Revelation predicts that the same kind of apostasy will again rear its ugly head in the very last days. It will be similar to the Dark Ages apostasy, but greater and larger. Since religion became so intermixed with paganism during the Dark Ages, we need to question every teaching to be sure it is in agreement with Scripture and that it is not something introduced from paganism during the Dark Ages.
- C. This revelation of the little horn greatly troubled Daniel (Dan. 7:28). Likewise, it should greatly trouble us. Religious deceptions can be the very worst of deceptions. The important thing to remember is to place our faith on God's Word alone.

As we enter the last days of human history, we need to be certain that our faith is built solidly on Scripture, not tradition. Deception is in the very air we breathe. Let us be certain of the foundations of our faith. We must not accept paganistic belief as Christianity, but must be certain our faith has strong Biblical roots, so we will not be deceived by the final great apostasy.

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## DANIEL'S LITTLE HORN

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Apostasy. It seems impossible. How can a person who has known the truth about Jesus and experienced His saving grace turn from Him? Yet it happens all the time. People slip into apostasy. It doesn't happen overnight; it slowly creeps in.

What happens to individuals also happens to churches. We wonder how a church that once had the great light of Christ's truth could depart from it. Yet the sad history of Christianity has shown that the church indeed has lost the truth about Jesus too many times.

Tonight we want to look at Daniel's prediction of apostasy in the church. In so doing we are not demeaning any particular church, but the general apostasy that affected the entire Christian church during a period of great darkness. During this time, as Daniel predicted, the church in general turned away from the truth about Jesus. What can we learn from the sad history of apostasy? Very simply, we need to learn to test everything by God's Word.

#### I. REVIEW

- A. Babylon
  1. Ancient Babylon came into remembrance before God when it mixed paganism with the worship of God. Dan. 5.
  2. Likewise, spiritual Babylon will come into remembrance before God when it mixes paganism with the worship of God.
- B. Three Babylons
  1. Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar's day.
  2. Dan. 7 predicted that Babylon would introduce apostasy into Christianity.
  3. Babylon in the last days. It's apostasy will be so great, it will bring down God's final wrath at Christ's second coming.
- C. Dan. 2—Image of Gold, Silver, Brass, Iron, and Feet of Iron and Clay, Representing Kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and Divided Europe. Dan. 7 Covers the Same Ground with Added Details—The Details of the Power That Introduces Apostasy Into the Church.

## II. THE OUTLINE OF DAN. 7

- A. The Four Beasts—Dan. 7:1-3
  - 1. Seas represent people—Rev. 17:15
  - 2. Beasts represent kingdoms—Dan. 7:17,23
  - 3. The first beast, a lion (Dan. 7:4), represents Babylon
  - 4. The second beast, a bear (Dan. 7:5), represents Medo-Persia
  - 5. The third beast, a leopard (Dan 7:6), represents Greece. The four heads of the leopard represent four generals of Alexander: Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus.
  - 6. The fourth beast, an iron-toothed dragon (Dan. 7:7), represents Rome. Its ten horns represent the ten divisions of the Roman empire.
  - 7. The little horn (Dan. 7:8).
- B. Identification Marks of the Little Horn
  - 1. Dan. 7:8—Came up among the ten horns. Rome divided into ten parts in 476 A.D., so it must become a major power after breakup of Roman Empire.
  - 2. Dan. 7:8—plucked up three horns. Only seven of the original ten still exist in Europe today. Some power has eliminated three horns. Thus the little horn has already arisen.
  - 3. Dan. 7:8—Had the eyes of a man—man at the head of this power.
  - 4. Dan. 7:8,25—Had mouth speaking great things—blasphemous. Belshazzar blasphemed God when he mixed paganism and worship of God. This power would also blaspheme by doing the same to the Christian church.
  - 5. Dan. 7:21,25—Made war with saints—persecutes.
  - 6. Dan. 7:25—Think to change times and laws.
  - 7. Dan. 7:25—Reign for time, times, dividing of time
    - a. Rev. 12:14—Time, times, and half a time.
    - b. Rev. 13:4—Reigns for 42 months.
    - c. Rev. 12:6—Reigns for 1260 days.
    - d. Since day in prophecy stands for a year—reigns for 1260 years.
- C. Identification Marks of the Beast of Rev. 13
  - 1. Rev. 13:1—Source of his power is Satan, the dragon
  - 2. Rev. 13:3—One of heads wounded to death
  - 3. Rev. 13:3—Deadly wound healed and all the world wondered after him
  - 4. Rev. 13:4—Worshipped the beast
  - 5. Rev. 13:5,6—Speaks great things and blasphemes.
  - 6. Rev. 13:5—Continues 42 months
  - 7. Rev. 13:7—Makes war with the saints

- 8. Rev. 13:8—Whole world worships him
- 9. Rev. 13:18—His number is 666

## III. WHO IS THE LITTLE HORN?

- A. Identity of This Power
  - 1. While this is primarily a prediction of the Roman Church during the Dark Ages, let us not blame the present Roman Church. We will see later that the final Babylon is much larger than the Roman Church.
  - 2. Daniel would have us look at the church of the Dark Ages, so we can better understand and be prepared for the apostasy of the last days.
  - 3. Remember, there were sincere Christians during the Dark Ages. We must not judge the individuals, but the system that led the people into apostasy. The people failed because they were so easily duped.
- B. Dark Ages Church Fulfills Daniel's Little Horn
  - 1. It arose among the ten divisions of the Roman Empire
  - 2. It plucked up three horns: Heruli, Vandals, Ostrogoths—last one destroyed in 538 A.D.
  - 3. It had eyes like a man. The head of the church was a man at that time.
  - 4. It had a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies.
    - a. Blasphemy is to mix paganism and Christianity. (Dan. 5)
    - b. Blasphemy is for a man to claim that he can forgive sin (Mark 2:7).
    - c. Blasphemy is to claim the prerogatives of God (John 10:33).
  - 5. Makes war with the saints—over 50 million people killed by the church during the Dark Ages.
  - 6. Thinks to change times and laws
  - 7. To reign for 1260 years—538 to 1798.
- C. Dark Ages Church Fulfills Revelation's Prediction
  - 1. Church received its power from the pagan Roman Empire: "The mighty Catholic Church was little more than the Roman Empire baptized. Rome was transformed as well as converted. 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...Even the Roman language has remained the official language of the Roman Catholic Church down through the ages. Christianity could not grow up through Roman civilization and paganism, however, without in turn being coloured and influenced by the rites, festivities, and