

Antichrist 2 – Who is the Antichrist?

Purpose: To identify the Antichrist.

Focus: We need to follow Jesus' Word above human tradition.

Introduction IE: Smuggling wheelbarrows

In Daniel 7 we find a clear description of the Antichrist in the form of a little horn...

Dan 7:1-7 What did Daniel see in his vision?

We must allow the Bible to be its own interpreter about these symbols...

Dan 7:17, 23 What do the beasts represent? Compare with Daniel 2.

Lion = Babylon (Jer 4:6-7, 13, 50:17) IE: Winged lions on Ishtar Gate

Bear = Medo-Persia (539-331 BC) 3 ribs = Babylon, Lydia & Egypt

Leopard = Greece (331-168 BC) 4 heads = Cassander (Macedon), Lysimachus (Thracia), Seleucus (Syria), Ptolemy (Egypt)

Dragon = Rome (168 BC – 476 AD) IE: Teeth of iron

How many horns did it have? IE: Compare with toes in Daniel 2.

What do the horns represent?

Dan 7:24 10 horns = Franks, Anglo-Saxons, Alemanni, Burgundians, Suevi, Lombards, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Vandals & Heruli = The European powers.

Let's see what happens next...

Dan 7:8 What comes up among the ten horns? This is the Antichrist!

IE: Detectives. Let us pick out some clues from the text:

1. It is a kingdom, a small one (A little horn)
2. It rises up in Europe (Among the ten horns)
3. It uproots three of the other kingdoms as it rises
4. It blasphemes and speaks pompous words (compare **Rev 13:5**)

What was the understanding of blasphemy in Bible times?

Mark 2:5-7 Answer: It is blasphemy if a mere man claims to forgive sins. IE: Forgive others.

There is also another aspect of blasphemy in the Bible...

John 10:33 Jesus was God, but if a mere man claims to be God on earth this is blasphemy.

Let's look at three more clues about the Antichrist...

- Dan 7:25**
5. It makes war on God's people (the saints)
 6. It changes holy times and laws
 7. It rules for 1260 years (3 ½ times)

From where did I get 1260 years? From 3 ½ times. Let's go to Rev. to understand this time period...

Rev 12:6, 14, 13:5 How many days are 3 ½ times/years? IE: 3 ½ years = 42 months = 1260 days.

In Bible prophecy a day equals a year...

Ezek 4:6 IE: Map. In the Biblical prophecy map 1 day = 1 year (**Num 14:34**)

What is the only power that fits these 7 characteristics?

Dan 7:8, 25 IE: Detective, Ask eyewitnesses: [Luther quote]

IE: Not the people, but the system (**Rev 18:4**).

1. The Papacy is a small kingdom with a big influence.
2. It arose in Europe.
3. They came into power as the Heruli, Vandals and Ostrogoths were defeated.
4. Claims to be God on earth and to have the ability to forgive sins.
5. 50+ million martyrs. IE: Crusades, Inquisition, Heretics, Waldensians.
6. Removed 2nd commandment and divided the 10th commandment.
7. 538 (Ostrogoths defeated by Justinian) – 1798 (Pope captured by Napoleon).

The greatest problem with the Papacy is that they place the Church's tradition above the Bible.

Mark 7:7-8, 13 What does Jesus say about such worship?

APPEAL Is it your desire to put God's Word above human traditions in your life?

APPENDIX

"Luther ... proved, by the revelations of Daniel and St. John, by the epistles of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. Jude, that the reign of Antichrist, predicted and described in the Bible, was the Papacy" (J. H. Merle D'aubigne, *History of the Reformation of the Sixteen Century*, book vi, chapter xii, p. 215)

"O, how much pain it has caused me, though I had the Scriptures on my side... that I should dare to make a stand alone against the pope, and hold him forth as antichrist" (William Martyn, *The Life and Times of Luther*, p. 372, 373)

BLASPHEMES

"Confronted with the Pope, one must make a choice. The leader of the Catholic Church is defined by the faith as the Vicar of Jesus Christ (and is accepted as such by believers). The Pope is considered the man on earth who represents the Son of God, who "takes the place" of the Second Person of the omnipotent God of the Trinity." (John Paul II, "*Crossing the threshold of hope*", p. 13 [1994])

"God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priest, and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse or give absolution.... The sentence of the priest precedes, and God subscribes to it." (Alphonsus Liguori, *Dignities and Duties of the Priest*, p.9 [1889])

CHANGE LAWS

"The Pope is of great authority and power, that he is able to modify, declare, or interpret even divine laws. The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth..." (Lucii Ferraris, *Prompta Bibliotheca*, Art "Papa", Band 5)

PERSECUTE THE SAINTS

"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." (W.E.H. Lecky, *History and Influence of Rationalism in Europe*, p. 16, 1865)

"it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty millions of the human family, have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors, an average of more than forty thousand religious murders for every year of the existence of Popery." (John Dowling, *The History of Romanism*, book 8, chapt 1, pp. 542, 543 [1845])

RULED FOR 1260 YEARS

"Justinian next chose Belisarius to begin the reconquest of the western Roman territories occupied by Germanic peoples. In 533 he was sent with a small force to attack the Vandals in North Africa. In two stunning victories he shattered the Vandal kingdom within a few months. Returning to Constantinople, he was granted a triumphal celebration. The recovery of Italy from the Ostrogoths began in 535. Belisarius quickly took Sicily and moved steadily northward on the mainland, seizing Naples by storm and occupying Rome. Revitalized under their new king, Witigis, the Goths besieged Rome in 537–538, but Belisarius held out there brilliantly." (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Belisarius")

"Vigilius, a pliant creature of Theodora, ascended the papal chair under the military protection of Belisarius (538–554)." (Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, vol. 3 p. 327)

"For this expedition for Berthier's entry into Rome and the proclamation of the Roman Republic (10-15 February, 1798), and for the captivity of Pius VI, who was carried off a prisoner to Valence, see PIUS VI" (Catholic Encyclopedia – "Napoleon I")