

Identifying the Real Anti-Christ of Bible Prophecy

Part 2 -In the Book of Revelation-

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**Remember to pray for wisdom before you begin*

PART 2 INTRODUCTION: On this second part we will be looking again at the same anti-Christ power as described in the book of Revelation. We will look at some of the statements that some of the Protestant Reformers made about the Pope and the Catholic Church and how they knew beyond a doubt that the Papal See was in fact the fulfillment of Bible Prophecy. The book of Revelation deals quite a bit about this anti-Christ system throughout its pages. One of the reasons there is so much misunderstanding about the book of Revelation in these modern times is that many of the Protestant denominations have been derailed by another distracting, fascinating theory and futuristic interpretation of an “end-time” anti-Christ along with a seven-year tribulation and secret snatching away of the saints of God; none of which are even Biblical. If a person’s foundation is based on a false teaching, then all the rest of those interpretations are based on that false premise. Also presented in this study will be some statements of Papal Rome’s blasphemous claims to infallibility and to be in the place of God Himself. May you be inspired and drink in all the knowledge of truth that you can, so that you may not be deceived by the delusions that take most of the world captive!

- 1.) What amazing scene does the Apostle John see in vision with a beast coming up out of the sea? Revelation 13:1** *And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a _____ rise up out of the sea, having seven _____ and ten _____, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of _____.* **NOTE: Again, we see a beast coming up out of the sea, a power or kingdom coming out of a populated area of the earth. As we continue on in this passage we will immediately see that this is talking about the same anti-Christ power (little horn power) we saw in Daniel 7.**
- 2.) What similarities do we see in Revelation 13:2 that was also seen in Daniel 7?** *And the beast which I saw was like unto a _____, and his feet were as the feet of a _____, and his mouth as the mouth of a _____: and the _____ gave him his _____, and his _____, and great _____.* **NOTE: Where did we see these same beasts? -In chapter 7 of Daniel. This anti-Christ power would have some of the characteristics of all these 4 kingdoms before it –many of these would have pagan-like traits that it would inherit from these worldly kingdoms. Take note of the last part of the verse above “. . . And the dragon gave him [Roman Papacy] his power, and his seat and great authority. This is exactly what happened when the dragon-like beast which represented pagan secular Rome, started to disintegrate near the end of its reign, the weakened Roman government handed over its authority, its seat (throne) and its power over to the Bishop of Rome. “To the succession of the Caesars came the succession of the Pontiffs of Rome. When Constantine left Rome, he gave his seat to the Pontiff.” “The Popes filled the place of the vacant emperors at Rome, inheriting their power,**

prestige, titles from paganism . . . Constantine left all to the Bishop of Rome. . . The Papacy is but the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon its grave. Pagan Rome gave its authority to Papal Rome." *Stanley's History, pg 40* By this time Christianity had grown tremendously, but a portion of it had also deteriorated into a worldly and ritualistic formalism; hence, the official beginnings of the Roman Catholic Church. When Pagan Rome came to an end, the Papal church took over power and basically ruled many centuries over much of Europe. This is why we have the iron mixed with potter's clay. A union of church and state became the ruling power. The iron represents that some of the aspects of Roman power and culture still hung on. The dragon can also represent Satan who worked through the secular government of Rome.

- 3.) Again, how long did the Catholic Papacy rule from its official establishment in 538 A.D. to its temporary ending? Revelation 13: 5b and power was given unto him to continue _____ and _____ months. Note: **Forty-two months as we have seen in part 1 turns out to be 1,260 days and in Bible prophecy a day symbolizes a year. So, the papacy in its main phase officially rules 1,260 years. Three small kingdoms stood in its way and when the Ostrogoths were defeated, it was officially given its seat and power on 538 A.D. If you add 1,260 years onto that -it takes you to the year 1798 A.D. Guess what happened in 1798? See next question below.**
- 4.) What does Revelation say happened to the Papacy at the end of the 1260 years? Revelation 13:10 He that _____ into captivity shall go into _____: he that _____ with the _____ must be _____ with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. 3 And I saw one of his _____ as it were _____ to death; and his deadly wound was _____: and _____ the world wondered after the _____. **NOTE: The Papacy DID receive a deadly wound in exactly 1798. Napoleon's General Berthier invaded the Vatican, took the pope prisoner and later the pope died in prison. France dealt a deadly blow to the Papacy and it seemed for many years that to all intents and purposes the life of the Church of Rome was pretty much over. This church/state power took many into terrible captivity and killed untold millions, then eventually received the same treatment back as verse 10 says above. But what happened next? The deadly wound eventually began to heal and today is almost completely healed! This prophecy has (almost) been completely fulfilled!!**
- 5.) Today how much of the world gives respect and admiration to the Pope of Rome? Revelation 13:3b and his _____ wound was _____: and _____ the _____ wondered after the beast. **NOTE: Absolutely amazing how this has been fulfilled!! Remember just a few years ago how Pope Francis came to the United States and actually spoke to the United States Congress? Then he had a massive gathering in Philadelphia, and from there went to address the United Nations assembly? It dominated much of the news and wherever he would go, mass crowds would greet him. "And all the world wondered after the beast." The same phenomena seemed to follow Pope Benedict as well**

as Pope John Paul II. Keep in mind the Bible says very clearly that the vast majority of the world would be deceived! We are there!

6.) What does it mean when it says this beast (church/state) entity would speak great blasphemies against God, His name, and His tabernacle (the heavenly Sanctuary)?

Revelation 13:5 *And there was given unto him a _____ speaking _____ things and _____; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy _____ God, to blaspheme his _____, and his _____, and them that dwell in heaven. NOTE: We already saw in lesson Part 1 that the Bible defines blasphemy as claiming to be God or in place of God and claiming the privilege of being able to forgive sins. When faithful Catholics go to confession, who are they confessing their sins to? It's to a mere human priest, right? Jesus ascended to heaven to minister as our great High Priest first in the Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary or Tabernacle then later in the end times He went into the Most Holy Place. Hebrews 4:14* *Seeing then that we have a great _____ that is passed into the _____, _____ the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. Then when the 2300 day/year came to an end in 1844 where the Sanctuary was to be cleansed (Day of Atonement), Jesus as our Priest intercedes in our behalf. When the Roman Catholic Church practices the Mass, it in effect directs souls away from God's Tabernacle in Heaven where Jesus receives their prayers and intercedes in their behalf. [See study on "The Sanctuary According to the Heavenly Pattern."] Let's take look at some actual statements considered blasphemy made about Popes and Priests from their own documents. These are shocking!!*

*"The priest holds the place of the Savior Himself when he absolves from sin." *Liguori, Duties and dignities of the Priest pg 34**

*"Does the priest truly forgive the sins, or does he only declare that they are remitted? The priest does really and truly forgive the sins in virtue of the power given to him by Christ." *A Complete Catechism of the Catholic Religion (New York: Schwartz, Kirwin & Fauss, 1924), p 279**

*"And God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priest." *Ibid, p 27**

*"We [the Popes] hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." *The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII, p. 304**

*"The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but He is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh." *Catholic National, July 1895**

NOTE: Keep in mind that these statements not only violate the Third Commandment in taking God's name in vain but, as we saw in our study ["God's Perfect Law of Liberty"] worshiping something or someone as in the place of God or as God directly violates the 2nd Commandment as well. Could this be one of the reasons why the Church of Rome tried to eliminate that commandment? No wonder the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit called this power that was still to come after his time the "man of sin."

7.) Was the Roman Papacy a persecuting power? Revelation 13:7a *And it was given unto him to make _____ with the saints, and to _____ them: NOTE: This is*

undoubtedly one of the plainest fulfillments of prophecy in the fact of the immense numbers of people who were persecuted and put to death, even in the cruelest ways. History is very plain about this! Let's look at some statements made in the documents of history. "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 the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe -Vol. 2, pg 40

"The Catholic Church... has a horror of blood. Nevertheless, when confronted by heresy ... she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture. She creates tribunals like the inquisition. She calls the laws of the state to do her aid. ...Especially did she act thus in the 16th Century with regards to Protestants. ... In France, under Francis I and Henry II, in England under Mary Tudor, she tortured the heretics" (The Catholic Church, The Renaissance and Protestantism pp. 182-184)

8.) How much influence does the Vatican City have over the nations of the earth? Revelation 13:7b and _____ was given him over all _____, and tongues, and

_____ . 17:18 And the _____ [woman in Bible prophecy represents a church] which thou sawest is that great _____, which reigneth over the kings of the _____.

NOTE: This has been incredibly fulfilled! Around 183 countries out of about 195 have some type of diplomatic relations with the Vatican. When the pope speaks especially at the United Nations assembly, they listen up. The Papacy sways a huge influence over the world community. Conditions are falling into place for the enforcement of the coming Mark of the Beast. We are truly in the end times! There is little time left!

9.) What other major passage in the book of Revelation do we see significant reference to Anti-Christ power? Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven _____ which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great _____ that sitteth upon many _____: NOTE: Waters represent populated area with many people as we've seen in Part 1. The Papacy or Vatican is situated in a very populated area of Europe and specifically in the area of Rome, Italy.

10.) What does a woman symbolize in Bible Prophecy? Jeremiah 6:2 I have likened the _____ of _____ to a comely and delicate woman. 2Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have _____ you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste _____ to Christ. Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the _____, even _____ Christ is the head of the _____: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore _____ the _____ is subject unto Christ, so let the _____ be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 _____, love your wives, even _____ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might _____ and cleanse it with the washing of water by the _____, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious _____, not having spot, or wrinkle, or _____ such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. NOTE: Scripture defines God's people or His church as to a woman.

11.) If a woman symbolizes a church in Bible prophecy, then a whore or corrupt woman represents a corrupt and impure church. What does it mean for the kings of the earth to commit fornication with the harlot? Revelation 17:2a *With whom the _____ of the earth have committed _____*, **NOTE: It's very simple. The leaders, presidents, prime-ministers, or kings have unlawful relationship with the "Holy See." The reason it is unlawful is because a church/religion has no business meddling in the affairs of government. We have ample Biblical examples as well as history to see that whenever church and state wed together; persecution inevitably results! As we have been seeing, the Catholic Church used the power of the state to enforce her decrees with deadly results! It will happen again before Christ returns but with the motivational force of the Protestants. [See study on "The United States in Bible Prophecy," & "The Seal of God Vs. Mark of the Beast"]**

12.) What does it mean in Revelation 17:2 that "the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication? What does wine represent? Proverbs 12:22 _____ lips are _____ to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight. **NOTE: Wine is put to the lips and if these lips declare lies, it is an abomination. What are these abominations that are in her cup? Revelation 17:4b having a golden _____ in her hand full of _____ and _____ of her fornication: NOTE: The wine in this cup is the false teachings and doctrines of Babylon –many of which come from pagan, heathen sources. When people imbibe of these errors, they become confused and often unable to discern the real truth when it's presented. Let's take a look at some of these false teachings that have even infiltrated much of Christendom.**

- a) *The Ten Commandments are no longer binding*
- b) *False prophetic teachings*
- c) *The secret rapture*
- d) *Sunday sacredness*
- e) *Immortality of the soul*
- f) *Eternal torment in hell*
- g) *Confessing your sins to an earthly priest*
- h) *Counterfeit baptism*
- i) *Confusion of tongues*

Unfortunately, many people become drunk with these false doctrines and are unable to see, comprehend or even desire the truth.

13.) What other descriptions are given of this whore (church)? Revelation 17:4a *And the _____ was arrayed in _____ and _____ colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls*, **NOTE: Ever look at a picture or video of an assembly of Cardinals and Bishops inside one of the Vatican's cathedrals? Guess what color the Cardinals were wearing? It is Scarlet or bright red. What color did the Bishops wear? It's purple. As we can see, every description that the Bible gives, there is incredible fulfillment! God in His mercy has not left us in the dark concerning the anti-Christ power!**

He has warned us about it. As far as the precious stones, gold and pearls, anyone who has been inside the Vatican say there is incredible wealth with all the material decorations displayed there!

- 14.) What is written on the apostate woman's forehead? Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, _____ THE GREAT, THE _____ OF HARLOTS AND _____ OF THE EARTH. NOTE: This anti-Christ power is also known as Babylon the Great and notice she has daughters because it calls her mother. Guess what the Catholic Church refers to as her daughters even to this day? The various Protestant churches that broke away from her. They have retained a number of her doctrines and false teachings. If each of these Protestant churches had continued to study God's Word and follow Jesus in all His teachings they would have come to the full truth and wouldn't be "harlot daughters."**
- 15.) Again, as we have seen before what does verse 6 say about the harm this power has done to God's faithful followers? Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman _____ with the _____ of the saints, and with the _____ of the _____ of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. NOTE: The Protestants that broke away from Papal Rome were severely persecuted and at that time were faithfully studying God's Word and living according to the light they knew. Even though they had errors in their beliefs, God accepted them where they were and He does the same for us as we grow more and more into the knowledge of His will and truth. The problem is -when we don't keep surrendered and don't continue to grow! Then we're held accountable!**
- 16.) Let's now look at what some of the Protestant reformers had to say about the Church of Rome being the anti-Christ of Bible prophecy in their time. As you will be able to see, something has really changed in many of the modern Protestant and Evangelical churches nowadays.**
- Martin Luther [1483-1546] "We are of the conviction that the Papacy is the seat of the true and real Anti-Christ." *Sammtliche Schriften vol 15 p* quoted in *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers vol. 2 p. 256***
- Roger Williams -First Baptist pastor in America [1603-1683] "The pretended Vicar of Christ on earth...speaking against the God of heaven, thinking to change times and laws, but he is the son of perdition." *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers vol. 3 p. 52***
- John Calvin -Presbyterian [1509-1564] "Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman pontiff Anti-Christ. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge against Paul himself, after whom we speak" *Institutes of the Christian Religion -vol. 2, 1561 ed, p. 410***
- John Wesley -Methodist [1703-1791] Speaking of the Papacy he wrote, "He is in the emphatic sense, the Man of Sin...and he is too properly styled the Son of Perdition...claiming the prerogatives which belong to God alone." - *Anti-Christ and His Ten Kingdoms p. 110***
- John Knox -Scotch Presbyterian [1505-1572] The Papacy is "the very Anti-Christ, and son of perdition, of whom Paul speaks." *The Zurich Letters p. 199***

Cotton Mather –Congregational theologian [1663–1728] “The oracles of God foretold the rising of an Anti- Christ in the Christian Church, and in the Pope of Rome all the characteristics of that Anti-Christ 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*, pp. 18, 19

The Westminster Confession of Faith [1647] “There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof; but is that Anti-Christ, that man of sin and son of perdition that exalteth himself in the church against Christ and all that is called God” *Phillip Schaff, The Creeds of Christendom With a History and Critical Notes*, vol. 3 pp 658, 659

SPECIAL NOTE: When Daniel’s prophecy says this power would think to change “Times” and Laws, it indeed tried to change the prophetic “Times.” When the Catholic Church started losing massive numbers of her adherents, she knew she would have to do something drastic. One of the things she did was form the Jesuit Order. These individuals were like the Navy Seals and the CIA of the Catholic Church. They took extreme oaths practically to sacrificing their lives for the sake of the Church of Rome. Two of these were commissioned by Rome at the Council of Trent to come up with two different alternative interpretations of prophecy so that the focus and attention would be turned away from the Papacy to some other type of anti-Christ power. The popular view –futurism was deceptively but skillfully composed by Jesuit scholar Francisco Ribera (1537 – 1591). He came up with the theory of a secret rapture, chopping off the last 7 years from the 70-week time prophecy and placing it way down to the very end of time as the 7-year tribulation, a future infidel anti-Christ, and the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem with animal sacrifices restarted. Also, the 3 and ½ years or 1,260 day/year prophecy under these theories were made literal days. To make a long story short, amazingly over a lengthy period of time several protestant scholars learned about these theories and started incorporating them into their books and influence. The authors Tim LaHaye & Jerry Jenkins in their series “Left Behind” helped popularize these unbiblical theories. WHAT IS SO SCARY, IS THAT MUCH OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD HAS BOUGHT INTO THIS SYSTEM OF INTERPRETATION WITHOUT CAREFULLY COMPARING IT WITH THE WORD OF GOD!

17.) What did Jesus warn about most of the world being deceived and lost? Matthew 7:13
Enter ye in at the strait gate: for _____ is the gate, and _____ is the way, that leadeth to _____, and _____ there be which go in thereat: **14** Because strait is the gate, and _____ is the way, which leadeth unto _____, and _____ there be that find it. **15** Beware of _____ prophets, which come to you in _____ clothing, but inwardly they are ravening _____. **NOTE: The narrow way will always have few going that way because it’s not popular, not attractive and it causes death to self which few want to give up. False prophets are many and false teachings by these false prophets are everywhere! Who do you want to follow?? We hope and pray that you follow Jesus and the strict teachings of His Word!**

Brief Quiz

CIRCLE ONE

- 1.) **True/False** – Pagan secular Rome handed over its authority and power to the head Bishop of Rome which became the beginnings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- 2.) **True/False** – The Papacy received a deadly wound in 1798 by Napoleon's General Berthier when he came to the Vatican and took the Pope captive.
- 3.) **True/False** – The Church of Rome has been dead and inactive ever since.
- 4.) **True/False** – The Pope claims to be in the place of God Himself.
- 5.) **True/False** – The early Protestants didn't recognize the Papacy as the anti-Christ.
- 6.) **True/False** – The Roman Catholic Church did very little persecution towards Protestants.
- 7.) **True/False** – The two main colors that the Papal dignitaries use are purple and scarlet.
- 8.) **True/False** – The system of worship used by the Church of Rome takes people's eyes of faith away from what Jesus is doing now in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

My Response

My eyes have been opened to who the real anti-Christ power really is in these end times. I desire to keep studying God's Word so I can escape deception in these last days! I desire to draw close to Jesus and go directly to Him for forgiveness and cleansing of sin.

Signed _____