



THE BLAZING TRAIL
VOLUME 6
Sketch of New Testament Times

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WELCOME



Welcome to Volume Six of *The Blazing Trail*. Fellow traveller, we are about to navigate the beginnings of the first Christian Church in AD 31, and journey onwards exploring New Testament times and places.

As we venture down the trail of centuries past, stay alert, for we shall encounter fierce spiritual warfare, raging between God's gospel of truth and Satan's counterfeit gospel of lies. We encounter corrupt political powers forming apostate church systems, and watch the unmasking of deceit before our very eyes. Thus a forewarning to all, the revealing content may seem controversial or even offensive to some travellers.

But please remember, the purpose of Volume Six is not to malign churches or nations, or disrespect individual lives. The purpose is to unmask Satan's evil agenda and present God's delivering truth. *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather expose them."* Ephesians 5:11

Thus as we expose the *"works of darkness"* in Volume Six, you will find historic quotes that align with fulfilled and fulfilling bible prophecy, ultimately allowing you dear reader, to choose your own destiny of spiritual belief. And because we shall encounter intense spiritual drama played out between the forces of good and the forces of evil, the blazing trail of Volume Six is divided into eight accessible parts:

Part 1 – The Trail of the First Christian Church

Part 2 – The Trail of Bible Prophecy

Part 3 – The Trinity Trail

Part 4 – The Trail of Spiritual Counterfeits

Part 5 – The Trail of Revealing Admissions

Part 6 – The Trail to Papal Power

Part 7 - The Trail of Papal Persecution

Part 8 – The Protestant's Blazing Trail

“Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.” Psalm 25:4-5 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

*“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? **For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.**” Isaiah 28:9-10*

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

A Brief Review of New Testament Beginnings

In Volume Three, Four, and Five of *The Blazing Trail* we discovered the early dawn of New Testament times. All begins with Jesus’ human conception, His birth in Bethlehem, childhood in Nazareth and His adult carpentry among the people.

Jesus’ life experience leads Him into His gospel mission, ministering to peoples of the middle eastern lands. Baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan and hearing His Father’s voice, *“This is my only begotten Son in whom I am well pleased...”* Matthew 3:17, Jesus is ordained to begin His ministry.

Now Jesus is an itinerate preacher and teacher. Flowing forth with compassionate love for the lost, Jesus heals the sick, casts out demons from possessed lives and uplifts the downcast in renewed spiritual life. And Jesus’ wonderful works of gospel ministry lead Him onward to the brutal crucifixion cross to free us from our imprisonment of sin. Taking our sins upon His sinless life, and offering Himself in our sinful place, Jesus’ sacrificial body is nailed upon Rome’s crucifixion cross, in sacrifice for our sin.

Gushing from His wounded flesh, Jesus’ delivering lifeblood pays the ultimate asking price to free our lives from sin. Thus He dies our everlasting death sentence in our place, so we might receive His victorious everlasting life.

*“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. **But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;** The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, **And by His stripes we are healed.** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; **And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.***

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation?”

“For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

“He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

“Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.” Isaiah 53:4–12

Having conquered the human grave of everlasting death, Jesus rises in resurrected life, and once again is seated at the right hand of his Father’s throne. Yet Jesus’ delivering works of salvation do not end upon earth’s liberating cross, but continue on in Heaven’s sacred temple.

For you see. entering God’s heavenly temple of salvation, Jesus becomes our heavenly High Priest, our advocate and mediator, spiritually connecting us to God our heavenly Father.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6 - “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7:25

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14–16

Now venturing from the dawn of New Testament times, our spiritual trail continues to unfold, even to our day.

PART ONE

The Trail of the First Christian Church



FORTY DAYS WITH JESUS' DISCIPLES

The spiritual birth of true Christianity begins when Jesus is raised from death and returns to heaven for a short while, to restore the divine glorification He had with His Father in ages past, glorified again as the only begotten Son. *"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, **with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**"* John 17:4-5

Now glorified in divine and human life, Jesus returns to Planet Earth *"Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."* John 20:19-20

Jesus spends forty precious days with His disciples *"...to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."* Acts 1:3

"Speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God..." Jesus lays the spiritual foundation of the New Testament Christian Church and commissions His disciples, now called apostles, to preach God's message of saving grace to the ends of our sin fallen world.

*"And He said to them, '**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no known means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.'" Mark 16:15-18 - "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, '**All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: **and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**"* Matthew 28:18-20 KJV

PROMISE OF SPIRITUAL POWER

Forty days of fellowship come to an end and Jesus leads His faithful followers through Jerusalem's city streets out to "...the mount called Olivet..." Gathered upon Olivet, Jesus assures his apostles they shall receive His Father's promise of spiritual power, to empower their gospel ministry.

*"...He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."* Acts 1:4-5

*"But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

*"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.**" Acts 1:8-14*

JESUS - SPIRITUAL HEAD OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The company of people assembled in the upper room is the beginning of the first Christian Church.

Although Jesus is absent in body, His Spirit presence is in the midst of His fledgling Church, just as His spirit presence is in the midst of churches today, in large gatherings or small. *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."* Matthew 18:2

But some will question, why are there so many religions, so many Christian Churches in our world proclaiming to be the true spiritual way to receive salvation? Yet God beholds His Own and rest assured, Jesus remains the spiritual head of the true Christian Church, the spiritual body of true believers scattered throughout the world who live by God's knowledge of truth.

"...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding be-

ing enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him **to be head over all things to the church, which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:17-23

“And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And **He is the head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, **the firstborn** from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven...” Colossians 1:17-23

JESUS THE TRUE SPIRITUAL SHEPHERD

Indeed, Jesus is the spiritual head and ministering power of God’s true Church in the world. Yet for many Christians, the Church consists of church buildings and religious rituals performed through tradition and ceremony, “... **having a form of godliness but denying its power...**”

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power**. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**” 2 Timothy 3:1-7

But living in God’s true knowledge, God’s faithful Church enfolds a flock of humble, true believers with Jesus as their pastoral shepherd leading their lives day by day. Rising above the world’s clamouring noise, we hear Jesus’ shepherding voice speaking peace to our soul.

“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And

other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.” John 10:14-16 –

“You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you are men, and I am your God,’ says the Lord GOD.” Ezekiel 34:31 - **“For thus says the Lord GOD: “Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day.””** Ezekiel 34:11-12 - **“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.”** Isaiah 40:11

“A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.” Psalm 23: 1-6

OUTPOURING OF GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT

In the upper room “...about a hundred and twenty...” of Jesus’ close followers continue to pray for an outpouring of God’s spiritual power upon their lives. Days of soul searching and close bonding of spiritual fellowship flow by.

During this time of spiritual devotion on earth, preparations are being made in the heavenly temple for God the Father to anoint His only begotten Son as our ministering High Priest. **“So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was He who said to Him: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’*”** Hebrews 5:5

And with Jesus’ anointing as High priest, the appointed day of Pentecost power begins.

Ministering in the heavenly temple, Jesus pours forth His Father’s promise in the fullness of Their Holy Spirit. Manifesting flaming power, tongues of fire descend from heaven and rest upon each person gathered in the upper room.

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

“And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

“Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.’ So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘Whatever could this mean?’” Acts 2:1–12

Yes, what an amazing miraculous experience! People of many nations who speak multiple languages, hear and understand the gospel message in their own spoken language! This is the true experience and true meaning, of speaking in tongues. Thanks to God’s divine mercy, people can receive the gospel message of salvation in a way they can understand, to the saving of their souls.

But remember, Satan always produces a counterfeit to deceive Christians with false worship. And so believe it or not, to counterfeit the true speaking in tongues, demon spirits possess and control people’s minds, causing them to speak in babbling words of confusion, with no understanding of what is said. And this demonic babbling masquerades as the great power of God. *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1*

*“But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, **what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?***

“Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played?

*“For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? **So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.***

*“There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me. Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, **let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.**” 1 Corinthians 14:6–12*

THOUSANDS CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY

As people learn of God’s gospel message offering them freedom from sin, a great awakening begins in Jerusalem city and spreads to eastern nations beyond. Thus the fledgling Christian Church surges into a multitude with new Christian believers.

The apostle Peter, filled with God's Holy spirit of Pentecost power, preaches to the gathered multitude: "*Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*" Acts 2:22-24

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'

*"And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' **Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.***

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:36-47

MIRACULOUS HEALINGS AND SIGNS

As the outpouring of God's spirit continues with supernatural power, extraordinary healings occur "*...through the hands of the apostles.*"

"So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

*"Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, **so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.***

“Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

“Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

“But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ‘Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.’” Acts 5:11–20

INDIGNATION OF JUDEAN RULERS

During this phenomenal time of church history, those who believe and follow in Jesus Christ’s teachings are called Christians, meaning, “Christ’s ones”.

As the apostles fearlessly preach the gospel, promising deliverance from sin, Jewish leaders belonging to the religious system of Judaism are stirred with indignation and attempt to silence the apostles’ preaching.

“Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

“And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

“And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

“And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, ‘By what power or by what name have you done this?’ (“this” meaning healing of a man.)

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

*““This is the “stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.” Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.’ **Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.**” Acts 4:1–13*

RETURNING TO THE TEMPLE TO PREACH

Attempting to quieten “...*the boldness of Peter and John...*” the rulers hustle them back into prison but, “...*at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors...*” and the freed apostles return to the temple to preach.

“And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, saying, ‘Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!’

“Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. So one came and told them, saying, ‘Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!’ Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned.

*“And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, ‘Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!’ But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘**We ought to obey God rather than men.** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.’ **When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.**” Acts 5:21–33*

STEPHEN’S APPOINTMENT IN THE CHURCH

“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

“Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’

“And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

*“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, **and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.***

*“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. **And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.***

“Then they secretly induced men to say, ‘We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.’ And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council.

*“They also set up false witnesses who said, ‘This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.’ And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, **saw his face as the face of an angel.**” Acts 6:1–15*

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR

Now filled with God’s Spirit of cutting power, Stephen preaches his last message to the Judean nation and becomes the first believing martyr of the established Christian Church.

“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute?

“And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.’

“When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’

*“Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. **And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.**” Acts 7:51–60*

JESUS WEEPS OVER LOST JERUSALEM

Guilty of Stephen's brutal murder, the Jewish leaders of Judaism have filled their cup of genocide to overflowing. Once called as God's chosen nation, tragically their probation time expires forever.

Now we understand Jesus' sorrowful words resounding over Jerusalem city to our day. Rejected as the promised Messiah, and anticipating His brutal death on the cross, Jesus beholds the lost nation of Israel, and His lost people *"...saying, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.'"* Luke 19:42-44

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! See! **Your house is left to you desolate...**"* Luke 13:34-35

*"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.**"* John 1:10-11

MANY JEWS CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY

Yet for the many Jews who shouted loudly at Jesus' trial, *"...crucify Him crucify Him..."* there remains a shining beacon of delivering hope.

For heeding the apostles' soul searching preaching, Jews from all walks of life, even of the priests, are convicted in heart of their murderous guilt. Repenting of sin they forsake the misleading teachings of Judaism.

Now converted to Christianity, many Jews become faithful, fearless Christians even to a martyr's death. *"Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith."* Acts 6:7

SAUL BECOMES PAUL

Now continuing our Christian trail, we return to the murder scene of Stephen. Here we meet an ambitious young man called Saul, an exalted Pharisee of the Pharisees who consented to the murder of Stephen. And those who cast the stones of death *"...laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul..."*

"Now Saul was consenting to his (Stephen's) death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout

the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” Acts 8:1-4 - But Saul’s persecuting life, breathing threats of murder and imprisoning innocent Christians is about to become Paul, the life-converting apostle among the Gentile people.

“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

“So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’ And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

“Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

*“Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ So the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.’ Then Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.’ But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for **he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.** For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.” Acts 9:1-16*

And so by God’s miracle converting power the persecuting “...Saul of Tarsus...” becomes the great “...apostle Paul...” God’s chosen minister to the Gentiles. In the Bible, Gentiles are people of other nations who are not of Jewish decent.

On his missionary journeys, Paul preaches and teaches, converting Gentiles to Christianity, zealously raising up churches throughout Middle Eastern lands. Although he endures much tribulation of mind, body, and soul, Paul’s love and spiritual concern for the churches never wanes, but grows stronger in zealous labour.

“...I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

*Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: **my deep concern for all the churches.**” 2 Corinthians 11:23–28*

Many books and letters of New Testament writings are written by the apostle Paul, delivered to the scattered churches of his spiritual times. You see, every new Christian Church began with the pure teachings of Jesus. But Paul knew sooner or later false teachings of every sort would seep into each church, and there would be a falling away from the pure faith. As you read each of Paul’s letters to the various churches you can glimpse the struggles the churches are experiencing.

Eventually Paul is executed by Rome’s persecuting power and so his faithful gospel labours come to an end. And yet Paul’s teachings continue to encircle our world with spiritual power, flowing through human times and lives. Paul’s inspired words speak to us this very day.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” Philippians 4:4–8

You can read about Paul’s heroic missionary journeys in the Bible’s New Testament book, *The Acts of the Apostles*.

JERUSALEM TEMPLE DESTINED FOR DESTRUCTION

In bitter defiance against the promised Messiah, the hierarchal leaders of Judaism continue in their misguided religion of pomp, ceremony and traditions. Tragically, the rebellious leaders have sealed their fate of coming doom. Foretold and forewarned by Jesus, Jerusalem’s temple is destined for utter destruction.

“Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.’” Matthew 24:1–2

FIRST SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

Now in the year AD 66 Jerusalem's world-renowned marble temple faces destruction, just as Jesus forecast.

A Roman army under the command of Cestius, governor over Syria, sets out to besiege Jerusalem. As the Roman legions push towards their conquest of Jerusalem city, Jewish rebels, known as "zealots" mount fierce opposition, rising up against the Roman rule.

Quote: "He (Cestius) was a civil administrator, with no battlefield experience historians are aware of; apparently Nero had only recently appointed him commander of the legions in Syria succeeding the general Corbulo. His inexperience showed in a number of mistakes he made in the attack on Judea that led to the destruction of the Twelfth Legion." Accessed from josephus.org/warChronology2.htm 26 July 2024 "A War Chronology – Part 2. The Campaign of Cestius Gallus and the Defeat of the Twelfth Legion by G.J. Goldberg March 2000.

Consequently Cestius suffers heavy losses of troops and loss of vital supplies to sustain his army during his campaign. Yet the Roman troops battle on, continuing to advance until they surround the walls of Jerusalem city.

The siege begins and continues with brutal success. But mysteriously, when Jerusalem is about to surrender and conditions are favourable for the Roman army to make full conquest into the city, Cestius withdraws his troops.

Now beholding the Roman withdrawal, the Jewish rebels seize their unexpected advantage. Rampaging through the city gates they pursue Cestius' army, inflicting casualties upon the rear, and plundering abandoned supplies.

CHRISTIANS UNHINDERED ESCAPE ROUTE

Meanwhile, beholding the Roman retreat and the zealots in hot pursuit, the Christians realise an escape route out of Jerusalem city is now a blessed reality.

You see, more than 30 years before the Roman siege, Jesus spoke of the Roman army's unexpected withdrawal, describing the escape route for the Christian community to flee with their lives from *the "...abomination of desolation..."*. This *"...abomination of desolation..."* refers to the pagan Roman standard raised up on sacred designated ground, surrounding Jerusalem's city walls.

"Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place' (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the house top not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his

clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.” Matthew 24:15–20

Thus by God’s higher power of deliverance, all Christians successfully flee from Rome’s besieging power. Yet for the remaining Jews of Judaism dwelling in Jerusalem, there is more to come. Boasting in their seeming victory over Cestius’ imperial army, the zealots become more emboldened in their uprisings against Rome’s iron rule. But alas, their uprisings become the deathly demise of the Jewish nation as with the passing of three years another “...*abomination of desolation*...” begins to surround Jerusalem city. Again, Jesus’ foreboding words resound over Jerusalem city. “*But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.*” Luke 21:20

SECOND SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

In spring of the year AD 70, the Jewish festival of Passover nears. Multitudes of Jews from eastern lands are travelling to Jerusalem to keep the yearly Passover ceremony, and the population within Jerusalem city is expected to swell to millions.

But this year, there is a difference. You see, the Roman general, Titus, has arrived outside the walls of Jerusalem. His military goal is to destroy Jerusalem.

Quote: “In April 70 CE, about the time of Passover, the Roman general Titus besieged Jerusalem. Since that action coincided with Passover, the Romans allowed pilgrims to enter the city but refused to let them leave – thus strategically depleting food and water supplies within Jerusalem... The Romans encircled the city with a wall to cut off supplies to the city completely and thereby drive the Jews to starvation.” Lohnes, K. (2018, August 29). *Siege of Jerusalem*. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved November 18, 2025 from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Siege-of-Jerusalem-70>

As Titus predicted, supplies of food within the city begin to dwindle into scarcity. Now descending in a pall of emaciating death, the horrors of famine and pestilence begin to annihilate Jerusalem’s starving multitudes.

In desperate attempts to stay alive, bonds of affection between husband and wife, fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters are abandoned, as morsels of food are literally snatched from starving mouths. Soon cannibalism emerges.

Meanwhile false prophets, deceived by the religious Judean leaders, continue to parade city streets proclaiming a deluded message of imminent deliverance from the Roman siege. But having rejected the Son of God as their promised Messiah, all is in deathly vain.

THE TEMPLE DESTRUCTION

And so the historic account of Jerusalem's final hour of destruction unfolds before us.

Quote: "Titus would willingly have put an end to the fearful scene, and thus have spared Jerusalem the full measure of her doom. He was filled with horror as he saw the bodies of the dead lying in heaps in the valleys. Like one entranced, he looked from the crest of Olivet upon the magnificent temple and gave command that not one stone of it be touched. Before attempting to gain possession of this stronghold, he made an earnest appeal to the Jewish leaders not to force him to defile the sacred place with blood. If they would come forth and fight in any other place, no Roman should violate the sanctity of the temple.

"Josephus himself, in a most eloquent appeal, entreated them to surrender, to save themselves, their city and their place of worship. But his words were answered with bitter curses. Darts were hurled at him, their last human mediator, as he stood pleading with them. The Jews have rejected the entreaties of the Son of God, and now expostulation and entreaty only made them more determined to resist to the last. In vain were the efforts of Titus to save the temple; One greater than he had declared that not one stone was to be left upon another.

"The blind obstinacy of the Jewish leaders, and the detestable crimes perpetrated within the besieged city, excited the horror and indignation of the Romans, and Titus at last decided to take the temple by storm. He determined, however, that if possible it should be saved from destruction. But his commands were disregarded. After he had retired to his tent at night, the Jews, sallying from the temple, attacked the soldiers without. In the struggle, a firebrand was flung by a soldier through an opening in the porch, and immediately the cedar-lined chambers about the holy house were in a blaze. Titus rushed to the place, followed by his generals and legionnaires, and commanded the soldiers to quench the flames. His words were unheeded. In their fury the soldiers hurled blazing brands into the chambers adjoining the temple, and then with their swords they slaughtered in great numbers those who had found shelter there. Blood flowed down the temple steps like water. Thousands upon thousands of Jews perished. Above the sound of battle, voices were heard shouting: 'Ichabod!' – the glory is departed." White, E.G., (1949 Centennial Edition). *The great controversy between Christ and Satan* (pp. 32-33). Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Thus reduced to a mound of stone rubble, the temple's spiritual presence is erased from the earth.

SATAN MAKES WAR UPON THE CHURCH

Meanwhile, empowered with uncompromising zeal, the flourishing Christian Churches continue to multiply with new converts. Stalking in the shadows, Satan beholds the miraculous signs of spiritual and physical healings, freeing multitudes from their imprisonment of suffering and death.

And so in an attempt to regain demonic control over the rejoicing multitudes, Satan stirs pagan Rome with hellish power to persecute the Christians.

“Now when the dragon (Satan) saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.” Revelation 12: 13

You may know a pure woman is a spiritual symbol for God’s pure Church: *“I have likened the daughter of Zion (Church) To a lovely and delicate woman.” Jeremiah 6:2*

And yes, *“...the male Child...”* is Jesus. *“And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.” Revelation 12:4-5*

*“And the dragon (Satan) was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, **who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**” Revelation 12:17*

ROME’S PAGAN RELIGION

During this dynamic time of flourishing Christian Churches, pagan Rome continues as the world’s superpower, exerting her pagan influence through a satanic system of worship. In direct opposition to God’s delivering love, Rome’s religious structure was one of a pagan priesthood, temples, sun worship and sometimes human sacrifices on satanic altars.

And so as Christianity continues to advance, pagan Rome soon realises her control and influence over the people is threatened. Now just like the leaders of Judaism, Rome’s pagan persecuting power is spurred on by fear of losing authority, and rages with vengeance upon the Christian Church.

PAGAN ROME’S PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

Quote:“Pagan Rome persecuted relentlessly the Christian church, and it is estimated that three millions of Christians perished in the first three centuries.” Smith, U (1881). *Daniel and the Revelation* (p142) London: Pacific Press Publishing Company.

This slaughter of Christians by pagan Rome begins in earnest in the year AD 64 when Nero, the emperor of Rome, attempts to squash the widespread rumour that he

started the Great Fire of Rome because he wanted to build a grand new palace.

So, what does Nero do? He deceitfully shines the spotlight on Christians, not actually blaming them for starting the fire, but for being haters of mankind.

According to a Roman writer of the time, Tacitus, Nero orders Christians to be covered with animal skins, and burned alive as human torches in the palace gardens. Other Christians are crucified upon Roman crosses; still other Christians are rounded up into a great amphitheatre, where men, women and children are torn apart by wild beasts to the applause of cheering spectators.

“And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.” Hebrews 11:35-38

Yet Rome’s bloody persecution cannot kill the spirit of God’s faithful people. Astounded, Rome’s rulers observe the opposite effect: As Christians hold fast to God’s truth even unto a martyr’s death, more and more non-believers convert to Christianity, and thus the Church grows.

With these fearless words, one Christian defies Rome’s persecuting power:

Quote: “You may torment, afflict, and vex us...The more we are mown down, the more we spring up again. The blood of the Christian’s is seed.”
Tertullian. (n.d.). Apology [Translated by S. Thelwell]. Tertullian.org. Retrieved 8 June 2025 from https://www.tertullian.org/fathers/tertullian_apology.htm.

SATAN’S NEW STRATEGY OF WARFARE

Satan now beholds Rome’s collapsing genocide against the Christian Church. His two decisive blows to exterminate the Christians - slaughter by Jewish hate and slaughter by Roman barbarism - are defeated.

Consulting with his demonic dark force, Satan plans a new strategy of attack: Mysteriously, persecution of the Christians stops. Well, at least for a convenient season of time. Now Satan’s stealthy plan is to infiltrate the Christian Church and systematically destroy from within.

Now relief from the onslaught of bloody persecution lulls many Christians into a state of peace and safety. Slowly but surely this complacency leads to spiritual compromise. Christian standards begin to fall in the churches and this produces a backsliding in Christian values and commitment to God.

Corruption and greed for power and wealth among church leaders takes hold, and a gradual falling away from God's pure truth begins to sift the spiritual ranks of Christendom.

FALLING AWAY FROM TRUTH

Earlier in the 1st century AD, the apostle Paul foresees and forewarns of this falling away from God's truth, and says, "...the mystery of lawlessness is already at work..." 2 Thessalonians 2:7

*"For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also **from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.** Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears." Acts 20:27-31*

AN OPEN DOOR INVITING PAGANISM

And so over time, the falling away from God's truth opens the door for pagan customs and rituals to creep into the church, just as Satan planned.

Quote: "No sooner were the apostles removed from the stage of action, no sooner was their watchful attentions gone and their apostolic authority removed, than this very thing appeared of which the apostle had spoken. Certain bishops, in order to make easier the conversion of the heathen, to multiply disciples, and by this increase their own influence and authority, began to adopt heathen customs and forms." Grosboll, J. (1998, May). The Origins of Sunday Observance. Quoting from The Great Empires of Prophecy, p377 by A.T. Jones. *Historic Adventist Land Marks magazine*, p38.

A SPIRITUAL ADULTEROUS MARRIAGE

And so wooed into an adulterous love affair by Satan's corrupting power, pagan worshippers and backsliding Christians mingle together and become one adulterated religious body.

Yes, the many twisted and tangled threads of pagan beliefs are woven into the Christian Churches, corrupting the sacred teachings of true Christianity.

Quote: "During the lives of the apostles the church remained comparatively pure. But 'toward the latter end of the second century most of

the churches assumed a new form; the first simplicity disappeared, and insensibly, as the old disciples retired to their graves, their children, along with new converts...came forward and new-modeled the cause.' - Robert Robinson, Ecclesiastical Researches, ch 6, par 17, p 51. To secure converts, the exalted standard of the Christian faith was lowered, and as the result 'a pagan flood, flowing into the church, carried with it its customs, practices, and idols.' Gavazzi, Lectures, page 278." White, E.G. (1939 ed). *The Great Controversy, volume 5 Conflict of the Ages series*. California, United States: Pacific Press Publications. ch 21 p384-385

Quote: "As the Christian religion secured the favor and support of secular rulers, it was nominally accepted by multitudes; but while in appearance Christians, many 'remained in substance pagans, especially worshipping in secret their idols.'" Gavazzi, Lectures, p 278. *ibid*

THE MAN OF SIN

Thus over the early centuries AD, a corrupt union between paganism and Christianity is formed - giving birth to apostate Christianity, a falling away and abandonment of God's biblical truth.

This apostate religion clothed in a deceptive cloak of Christianity gives birth to new styled churches throughout the world of bible times. And Paul names the spiritual leader of this new born church "...*the man of sin...*"

Not surprisingly concealed in "...*the man of sin...*" is the infiltrating power of Satan himself.

"Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

*"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the **falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?*

"And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those

who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
2 Thessalonians 2:1-10

And so for spiritual discernment and safety, our urgent need is to follow the trail that exposes. “...*the man of sin...*” who he is on the global stage, and where he has come from with his religious agenda escalating in our end times today.

The winding trail of “...*the man of sin...*” begins way back in Old Testament times, when God reveals future world events to the prophet Daniel. Caught up in prophetic vision, Daniel beholds the emergence of the “...*lawless one...*”, “...*the man of sin...*” who makes spiritual warfare against God’s true Church.

And because bible prophecy begins to feature existentially in this volume, Volume Six of *The Blazing Trail*, we shall briefly explore the meaning of prophecy and how prophecy relates to our lives today.

PART TWO

The Trail of Bible Prophecy



BIBLE PROPHECY FORETELLS THE FUTURE

Bible prophecy foretells the future as revealed by God to His chosen prophets. *“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”* Amos 3:7

“...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1: 21

Standing in the midst of eternal time, God beholds the past, present, and future as one motion of universal life. *“Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”* Isaiah 42:9 - **“Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’”** Isaiah 46:10

Vital for us today in our 21st century lives, Bible prophecy gives an outline of coming events in the world, political and spiritual, giving foresight and knowledge that we might be prepared to face the issues at hand.

TWO GREAT PROPHETIC BOOKS

The two great books of prophecy in the Bible are *Daniel*, in the Old Testament and also *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, the very last book in the New Testament. These two books reveal historic events of earth’s ages, the past, the present today, and also future events.

We often hear the question, “What is the world coming to?” Well these two books in the Bible, *Daniel* and *The Revelation*, tell us exactly what the world is coming to. Through visions, or in other words, through moving pictures similar to our dreams, God gives Daniel and the apostle John, prophetic messages revealing future events. – *“...Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed.”* Daniel 7: 1

And John recorded, *“I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet...”* Revelation 1:9–10

As Daniel and John recorded the prophecies they often said *“...I saw...”*, *“...Then*

I saw...”, “...I looked..” and “...Then I looked...” And what did they see? They saw God’s prophetic message given in descriptive symbolic language.

PROPHETIC SYMBOLS

Representing prophetic symbols, God uses familiar things that have always existed in life, known to all people. Things like beasts, the sea, the earth, the land, the moon, the stars, the sun, a woman, and the list continues.

All this living creation in bible prophecy, depicts a prophetic language that never dates. And using the natural things of life for prophetic symbols, the prophecies are condensed in their message, and precise in their meaning.

Some might say prophetic symbols are a mystery, locked in meaning, and cannot be opened to human understanding. Yet we shall soon learn, the key to unlock the symbolic mysteries of prophecy is simply to understand what or whom the symbols represent.

Much like piecing together a jigsaw puzzle, jumbled pieces of symbolism fit together, and little by little a prophetic message comes into focus, shining light upon future events.

“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, Here a little, there a little.” Isaiah 28:9-10 - “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...” 2 Peter 1:19

DANIEL AND HIS THREE COMPANIONS

Now we shall begin our prophetic trail, first becoming acquainted with Daniel. Who is he in prophetic life? And when does he enter upon the stage of prophetic history?

“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

“And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

“Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of Chaldeans.” Daniel 1:1-4

“Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and Azariah, Abed-Nego.” Daniel 1:6-7

Amazingly, although taken captive to the foreign land of Babylon, Daniel is destined to become prime minister over Babylon’s golden empire, and more importantly, a prophet of God.

The path leading to his exalted destiny involves a dream.

You see, one night the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, has a troubling dream about a metallic man. And yes, this is the same metallic man we first beheld in Volume One of *The Blazing Trail*.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM

“Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

“And the king said to them, ‘I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.’ Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, ‘O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.’ The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, ‘My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.

‘However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honour. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation.’” Daniel 2:1-6

Imagine trying to retell Nebuchadnezzar’s supernatural dream! Of course this task is an insurmountable obstacle to the Chaldeans, let alone explaining an accurate interpretation.

And so the Chaldean mystics, astrologers and sorcerers fail to give an answer to the king’s urgent command, and receive his death decree.

DANIEL’S LIFE IN DANGER

Numbered among the wise men of Babylon, Daniel and his companions also face Nebuchadnezzar’s death decree.

“For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise

men; and they sought Daniel and his companions to kill them.

“Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king’s guard who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; he answered and said to Arioch the king’s captain, ‘Why is the decree from the king so urgent?’ Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

“Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.” Daniel 2:12-19

DANIEL INTERPRETS NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM

Blessed with God’s revealing of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and precise interpretation, Daniel comes before the Babylonian king.

“Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, ‘I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.’

“The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, ‘Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?’

“Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, ‘The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.

*“**But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets**, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:*

“As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

“But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you, and its form was awesome.

“This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

“You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

“Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

“This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

“You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; And wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all - you are this head of gold.

“But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth

“And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

“Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

“And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

“Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold - the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” Daniel 2:25-45

FOUR EUROPEAN EMPIRES

And history confirms that Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is certain and sure. For each division of the metallic image unfolds Europe’s four great empires, to the division of Europe into the nations we behold today.

The Head of Gold - (Babylon 606 BC – 538 BC)

Nebuchadnezzar reigns 43 years, and succeeded by weaker rulers the Babylonian empire declines in power and status. Finally during the reign of Belshazzar, grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon's golden age of prosperity comes to a dismal end.

The Chest and Arms of Silver - (Media-Persia 538 BC – 331 BC)

In the year 538 BC defeated by Cyrus the Great, Babylon's failing empire falls to Media-Persia, The Media-Persia empire remains in power for a little over 200 years, to the time Darius Codonannus reigns as the last of the Persian kings.

Thighs of Brass - (Greece 331 BC – 161 BC)

On the battlefield of Arbela 331 BC the Media-Persia Empire under the rule of Darius Codonannus is defeated by Alexander the Great of Grecia. Alexander famously extends his empire but his life is suddenly cut short. In his 32nd year, Alexander dies in May or June 323 BC. Thereafter the Grecian Empire is divided between Alexander's four leading generals. But diminishing in ruling power, a little over a century down the trail of prophetic time, the divided factions of Greece are overthrown by Rome's iron military power.

Legs of Iron - (Rome 161 BC – AD 483)

Trailing down into the beginning of the Christian era AD 1, the Roman Empire encompasses the whole south of Europe, France, England, most of the Netherlands (Holland), Switzerland, the south of Germany, Hungary, Turkey, Greece and has possessions in Asia and Africa.

Feet and Toes - (Divisions of Rome) Part of potter's clay and part of iron

Between AD 351 and AD 483 the Roman Empire is divided by ten warring tribal nations symbolised by the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's metallic image. These ten tribal nations or kingdoms are the Huns, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons and Lombards.

Soon we shall see how three of these ten ancient kingdoms are utterly destroyed and today not a trace can be found of the kingdoms. The remaining seven kingdoms morph into the independent nations of Europe we know today.

Over the centuries men such as Charlemagne, Charles V Louis XIV, Napoleon Bonaparte, and the conspirators of the two World Wars have tried to weld the nations of Europe into a unified empire either through intermarrying and invasions, or both. *“They will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.” Daniel 2:43*

Just as history tells us their attempts have failed, under the inspiration of prophecy,

all modern attempts to form a united European empire in one way or another shall also end in dismal failure, “...they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.”

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold - the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” Daniel 2:44-45

Thus we behold an end to modern Europe, and indeed an end to our entire sinful world.

Upon His glorious second coming as “...king of kings...” Jesus Christ consumes the kingdoms of the world and reclaims His rightful dominion over Planet Earth.

And so, as pictured in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, we have travelled along a prophetic timeline of political history: From the Babylonian kingdom of 606 BC; to the annihilation of this evil world; and eventually the setting up of God’s eternal kingdom upon Planet Earth when this planet is recreated anew. *“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.” Revelation 21:1*

DANIEL’S VISION

Moving down the prophetic trail, we now explore Daniel’s vision later in his life. This vision features the very same four European empires given in the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

But Daniel’s vision not only gives political history relating to the four European empires, but also reveals the spiritual rising of the new religious power, “...the man of sin...”, “...**who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**” 2 Thessalonians 2:4

Daniel receives his vision in the first year of Belshazzar’s reign; the last reigning king over Babylon’s declining empire.

“In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

“Daniel spoke, saying, ‘I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

“The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it

“And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’ After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

*“I was considering the horns, and there was **another horn, a little one**, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, **in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.**” Daniel 7:1-8*

DANIEL SEEKS UNDERSTANDING

Not surprisingly, Daniel is deeply troubled by his vision, especially by the appearance of the “...dreadful and terrible...” beast, and so he seeks understanding.

“I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

““Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”

*“Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, **that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.***

*“I was watching; and **the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them**, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.*

*“Thus he said: **“The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom.***

*And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, **And shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High...**”*
Daniel 7:15-25

And so standing at this lookout on our trail, we can clearly see that King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream features a huge metallic man symbolizing the four European empires, reigning with power one after the other. And Daniel’s vision some years later, also features wild beasts symbolizing the same world empires.

But Daniel’s vision has more detail and information, revealing not only political history of the four empires, but the emergence of a spiritual kingdom headed by “...*the man of sin...*”.

““And another shall rise (kingdom) after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High...” Daniel 7:25

Thus Daniel’s vision is a signpost marking the beginning of “...*the man of sin...*” the spiritual power mentioned much later in New Testament times by the Apostle Paul.

*“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and **the man of sin** is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that **he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**” 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4*

MEANING OF A COUNTERFEIT CHURCH

Coming into view, as pictured in Daniel’s vision, is the beginning of a counterfeit Christian Church to be led by “...*the man of sin...*” continuing to the end of world history.

So what is a Christian counterfeit?

Well, if we take an analogy of true authentic money, compared with fake counterfeit money, what do we see? Counterfeit money appears to be money and may pass fraudulently from purchase to purchase. But then along the way an honest person spots the counterfeit and instantly the fake money is exposed and rendered worthless in purchasing value.

And such is true of a counterfeit Christian church, having the appearance of authenticity, but in spiritual value is only a fake pretender with a counterfeit agenda to draw sincere but unwary people away from all that is true in God.

So, with vital importance we must continue to pursue Daniel’s vision revealing the emerging counterfeit church, clothed in a deceptive guise of Christianity.

PROPHETIC SYMBOLISM OF DANIEL'S VISION

Like Daniel seeking to understand his troubling and extraordinary vision, must seek and understand our spiritual times today. And so we begin.

In the opening scene of his vision Daniel beholds, “...the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.” *Daniel 7:2*

In prophetic language “...wind...” symbolizes political upheavals, strife and war. As an example we read in Jeremiah: ““A noise will come to the ends of the earth—For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,” says the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a **great whirlwind** shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth.”” *Jeremiah 25:31-32* - Notice this destruction in *Jeremiah 25:31-32* is symbolized by a great whirlwind.

Next, Daniel tells us he saw four beasts, one after another, coming up from the sea. In prophetic language, seas and waters symbolize multitudes of peoples and nations. We can understand this from reading *Revelation Chapter 17, verse 15*, “Then he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’” *Revelation 17:15*

When Daniel asked someone, an angel who, “...stood by...” what is the meaning of the four beasts, he is told, “Those great beasts, which are four, are four **kings** which arise out of the earth” *Daniel 7:17*.

So now we understand that a prophetic beast symbolizes a king and a kingdom, a nation, a power either civil, religious or a combination of both. And so the four beasts (kings and kingdoms) shall rise and fall one after another, by the whirlwinds of political strife.

Thus from our lookout we can see a prophetic timeline forming:

- Four kings and kingdoms (beasts);
- The four Kingdoms rise and fall one after another with the whirlwinds of political strife (wind);
- And all four kingdoms are densely populated regions of the world (seas and waters).

“The ten horns are ten kings...” *Daniel 7:24*. We are told the ten horns Daniel saw on the terrible fourth beast, are kings, with a little horn coming up amongst the ten. And do the horns have spiritual symbolism? Yes!

Horns featured in prophetic language represent power, political, civil, and spiritual. So these 10 horns, and the little growing horn were 11 powers during the time of the terrible fourth kingdom.

Here is an example showing prophetic horns representing power. “Then I raised my

eyes and looked, and there were four horns. And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" So he answered me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem." Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. And I said, "What are these coming to do?" So he said, **"These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it."** Zechariah 1:18–21

DANIEL'S FOUR BEASTS EXPLAINED

Now as we seek further understanding of the four beasts in Daniel's vision, we shall also see Daniel's beasts and Nebuchadnezzar's metallic man merging into one prophetic focus.

You see, God wants us to fully understand the great prophecies, without error, so He confirms times and events to help unfold coming events for our minds to grasp and truly understand.

THE LION IN DANIEL'S VISION

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it." Daniel 7:4

The lion beast with eagle wings symbolizes Babylon, also represented by the gold head of Nebuchadnezzar's image of the metallic man.

Likened to the proud demeanour of "...a lion..." Babylon is fierce, bold, and spirited. And this prophetic lion has "...eagle wings...", symbolising Nebuchadnezzar's swift conquest over the nations.

But eventually diminishing in mighty superpower, Babylon no longer swoops upon her prey. With her two wings plucked of power, the Babylonian empire becomes as feeble as a man.

And this trend of diminishing power continues down the successions of the following three kingdoms, becoming inferior in dominion, wealth, and magnificence.

THE BEAR IN DANIEL'S VISION

"And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'" Daniel 7:5

This bear-like kingdom represents Media-Persia - the silver breast and arms of

Nebuchadnezzar's metallic man, an empire formed when Persia first overthrew the Medes (north-western modern day Iran) around 550BC, then formed a partnership with the Medes eventually becoming a global empire.

You see, the Medes had something the Persians wanted: The Medes were gatekeepers at the crossroads of the world's famous trade route the Silk Road. And the Mede society had an advanced culture, complete with stunning architecture and advanced scientific understanding. To give you an idea of their standing, the Medes were the only people in the empire considered equals to the Persians.

Symbolising the two nations of the Medes and Persians, the bear raised up on one side represents Persia as the predominant power. The three ribs in the bear's mouth may well represent Babylon, Lydia and Egypt, because these three divided provinces are especially trodden underfoot by the combined might of Media-Persia. Like a ferocious bear devouring much flesh, the Media-Persians were a cruel, ferocious war-like people.

THE LEOPARD IN DANIEL'S VISION

"After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it." Daniel 7:6
The leopard beast with four wings of a fowl represents Grecia - the bronze thighs of Nebuchadnezzar's image of the metallic man.

You see, Media-Persia's empire is failing. The usual human downfalls were at play: greed for more, and losing other people's money in failing campaigns. Resentment and betrayal began to tear down the empire. This is the prophetic timing for the biblical winged leopard to rise.

Although leopards are naturally swift and agile, "...four wings of a bird..." are added to this prophetic leopard, notably two more wings than the lion of Babylon. These two extra wings depict Alexander the Great and his extraordinary speed of conquest as he devours the lands before him. Apparently, within 8 years, Alexander marches his armies more than 5,000 miles.

But reaching the zenith of his military conquests, Alexander unexpectedly dies at age 32. Eventually Alexander's Grecian empire is divided between his four leading generals, Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus and Seleucus.

- Egypt, Palestine, and parts of Syria go to Ptolemy.
- Cassander receives Macedonia and western Greece.
- Lysimachus acquires Thrace and parts of Asia – namely the strait of Hellespont (also known as the Dardanelles) and Bosphorus.
- The fourth general, Seleucus, receives a part of Syria and the rest of Alexander's

territories in the east. Thus these four Grecian divisions are represented by the four heads of the leopard beast.

THE FOURTH BEAST IN DANIEL'S VISION

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots." Daniel 7:7-8

Now we come to the fourth beast, representing Rome – also represented by the iron legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image of the metallic man.

Daniel is astonished at this fourth beast's hideous appearance and ferocity, an apt description of Rome's rule over nations and people. Hammered under the iron rule of Roman power, the people whose lives are spared are sold into slavery, *"...stamping the residue with his feet."*

TEN HORNS = TEN DIVISIONS OF ROME

"...It had ten horns..." Yes, the ten horns protruding from the fourth beast's head represent the ten independent kingdoms or tribes of Rome's divided Empire, also depicted by the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's metallic man.

Seven of these kingdoms eventually become the modern European nations of our times. Huns = German, Visigoths = Spain, Franks = France, Suevi = Portugal, Burgundians = Swiss, Anglo-Saxons = English and Lombards = Italians.

But what of the three kingdoms called the Ostrogoths, Heruli, and the Vandals? What happened to them? How did they vanish?

Firstly, we need to explore the little horn power.

THE LITTLE HORN POWER

Remember, Daniel beholds an eleventh horn mysteriously rising from amongst the ten horns of the terrible fourth beast. *"I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots."* Daniel 7:8

Emerging amongst the ten ancient kingdoms, the little horn grows and grows in size and strength. Eventually this little horn utterly destroys the three ancient kingdoms: The Ostrogoths; the Vandals; the Heruli.

Ominously, Daniel tells us, this rising horn has the appearance of a man's eyes, and a mouth speaking exalted words, and grows amongst the other ten horns, "*...eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.*" Daniel 7:8

Then who is this mysterious man?

Bible prophecy and recorded historical facts concur and agree that this little horn with eyes, and a "*...mouth speaking pompous words...*" depicts "*...the man of sin...*". At first this man of sin represents the strengthening leader of a new religious order, then becomes a firmly established religious authority.

This religious authority further grows in size and strength, ultimately claiming to be ruler of kings and kingdoms, not only of spiritual and moral matters, but shaping laws, influencing political decisions, having authority to call for and direct military campaigns.

Eventually, the leader of this religious authority is officially given status of "infallibility" (can do no wrong).

Over time, this religious and political authority became owner of vast lands and properties. The Bible and historical writers agree, the little horn power is known as the Papacy, and the power of the Papacy spirals far beyond the city of Rome, through churches known as the Roman Catholic Church.

Then how does the leader of the papal system rise in spiritual prominence, ruling with exalted power? The following quote reveals intriguing insight:

THE RISING OF THE ROMAN PAPACY AND THE MAN OF SIN

Quote: "The first pastors or bishops of Rome enjoyed a respect proportionate to the rank of the city in which they resided; and for the first few centuries of the Christian era, Rome was the largest, richest, and most powerful city in the world. It was the seat of empire, the capital of the nations. 'All the inhabitants of the earth belong to her,' said Julian; and Claudian declared her to be 'the fountain of laws.' 'If Rome is the queen of cities, **why should not her pastor be the king of bishops?**' was the reasoning these Roman pastors adopted. 'Why should not the Roman church be the mother of Christendom? Why should not all nations be her children, and her authority their sovereign law? It was easy,' says D'Aubigne, from whom we quote these words (History of the Reformation, vol. i chap. I), 'for the ambitious heart of man to reason thus. Ambitious Rome did so.'

"The bishops in the different parts of the Roman empire felt a pleasure in yielding to the bishop of Rome some portion of that honour which Rome, as the queen city, received from the nations of earth. There was originally no dependence implied in the honor thus paid. 'But continues

D'Aubigne, 'usurped power increases like an avalanche. Admonitions, at first simply fraternal, **soon became absolute commands in the mouth of the pontiff.** The Western bishops favored this encroachment of the Roman pastors, either from jealousy of the Eastern bishops, or because they preferred **submitting to the supremacy of a pope** rather than to the dominion of a temporal power.'

"Such were the influences clustering around the bishop of Rome, **and thus was everything tending toward his speedy elevation to the supreme spiritual throne of Christendom.**" Smith, U. (1881). *Daniel and the Revelation*. (p 129). London: Pacific Press Publishing Company.

Bishops residing over Rome's far flung regions, bow in homage to the exalted bishop residing over the city of Rome. Eventually, over a long span of time, this exalted bishop rises to become the supreme leader, with the title of Pope.

From the first exalted pope, a long succession of popes march down through the centuries of the Papacy, apparently elected by an elite group of cardinals and bishops, and the papal system of worship continues to filter down to the sincere believers worshipping in the Roman Catholic Church to our very day in the 21st century.

The 2025 election of Pope Leo the XIV (fourteenth), brings the total popes elected and crowned to 267.

Each succeeding pope down through the ages, is referred to in the bible as, "...*the man of sin...*" - "...*who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that **he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.***" 2 Thessalonians 2: 4

Looking back through the ancient writings, we can glimpse the shaping of the Papacy's founding doctrine, the formulation of the trinity, a god of three co-equal, three eternal persons, god the Father, god the Son, and god the Holy spirit.

Soon we shall learn the formulation of the trinity god is the foundational teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. All Catholic teachings are based upon the trinitarian decree.

This raises 2 questions:

1. Is the trinity god biblically true?
2. Or is the trinity god a counterfeit supplanted decoy, leading away from true worship to the true God?

Yes, you are right, we simply must find answers to whom we worship.

Do we worship the false trinity god, Satan's papal deceit? Or do we worship the true Godhead, God the Father and his divine only begotten Son.

Let us see what the Bible says:

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3 - “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.” 1 Corinthians 10:21

PART THREE

The Trinity Trail



Surprising to most Christians, jealousy of the Son of God was the poisoned seed that germinated into this strange trinity. The time and place? Far back in universal time, in heaven. We are now entering the very heartland of heaven's capital paradise.

In his former angelic life as Lucifer, Satan desperately desired to become divine and equal to God the Father and His only begotten Son. This would make a trinity god of three divine persons:

"For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'" Isaiah 14:13-14

In angelic life, Lucifer was the first created being, gifted with extraordinary talent and glorious splendour. And bestowed by God's benevolent grace, Lucifer is exalted as angelic leader over the heavenly host, a multitude of angels ministering in God's universal government. You can find biblical proof for this in *Isaiah 14: 12-17* and *Ezekiel 28: 12-19*.

Even more blessed, Lucifer is bestowed with astounding authority, ministering next to the divine Son of God as the Son's personal assistant.

Yet beholding the Father's and Son's governing relationship, Lucifer feels left out and muses that he too should be entitled to meet in the private council of the Godhead union of Father and Son. Lucifer is jealous of the Son of God.

And so his deluded thoughts fester and multiply. You see, Lucifer craves to be like the divine Father and Son, to receive worship from all created beings inhabiting the universe.

But Lucifer is a created being, and realising his deluded quest could never become a living reality, Lucifer's evil surmising escalates into rebellion, transgressing God's universal law of protecting life.

Now in lawless life, Lucifer exalts himself as a third god and seeks ruling dominion upon his own throne lifted up above God's throne of divine sovereignty. *"Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas..." Ezekiel 28:2 - "...you have set your heart as the heart of a god..." Ezekiel 28:6*

Yet to be a god, Lucifer must have worshippers. In a cunning ploy, Lucifer secretly conspires with the angelic host to draw them into his warfare and overthrow God's throne of ruling sovereignty.

Spreading rumours and malicious lies, Lucifer attempts to assassinate the Father's and the Son's characters of benevolent love. Tragically, one third of the angelic host are deceived and fall from God's grace, joining Lucifer in the most treasonous rebellion of all universal time.

Now prostrating themselves before Lucifer, defecting angels worship the great deceiver and exalt him as their substitute god. Thus evil's darkness overcasts heaven's sacred paradise.

Marshalling his dark force, Lucifer makes an all-out attempt to overthrow the ruling Godhead of Father and Son.

A fierce battle ensues. But defeated by the Son of God and His loyal angelic legions, Lucifer and his dark force are cast out of heaven. *"And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."* Revelation 12:7-9

Having forfeited his angelic status of light bearer, "...son of the morning..." Lucifer is now called Satan the dark "...adversary..." warring against all that is true in God. And ruling over his demonic dark force of fallen angels, now called demons. Satan enthrones himself as *"Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons..."* Matthew 12: 24

SATAN INVADES PLANET EARTH

Cast out of heaven and traversing the cosmic universe, eventually Satan and his dark force seek to gain dominion over Planet Earth. Thus Satan enters Eden's paradise garden, and tempts Eve to eat of the tree bearing the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil laced with seeds of death.

Beguiled by Satan's false gospel of lies, Eve believes she too can be exalted to god-like status. And so Eve eats of the tempting fruit bearing evil, and then seeks out her husband Adam to share in her mystical excitement. Adam takes the deathly fruit clutched in Eve's outstretched hand, and out of love for his wife, over and above love for his creator God, Adam partakes of the deathly fruit bringing death into the fallen world. *Genesis 3: 1-24*

And so in Eden's paradise garden, the first humans commit their first sin against God. How? They broke His guiding love law of abundant life, they chose to step outside of God's guidance and instructions for healthy, endless life.

Now marching triumphantly through Adam's and Eve's open door of sin, Satan lays claim to Planet Earth and reigns as god over earth's lost dominion. ***"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light***

of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” 2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV

Having gained dominion over Planet Earth, Satan schemes to enlarge his deluded quest. Yes, his quest for God-like status has grown. Not only does Satan want to **be like God**, now he thinks to infiltrate the divine Godhead and seen by the human race as **being one with God**.

Further down the stream of earthly time, Satan plans to impersonate the Holy Spirit. Concealed in his masterful disguise, Satan will masquerade as a third person of God in a phantom trinity.

This will be a long and devious process, firstly by inventing worship of pagan gods, three false gods in each pagan religion. Eventually, over time, these pagan trinity gods will seep through Christendom in a phantom guise of a Christian trinity.

So, concealed in his fabricated trinity, Satan shall enthrone himself over the realm of apostate Christianity, and steal worship due only to God the Father and His divine only begotten Son.

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” Isaiah 14:13–14

Now following the trail of Satan’s delusional quest, we shall discover pagan trinities that lead to the exaltation of the Christian trinity in New Testament times. Yes, exploring the biblical record of the times, and quoted insights of historians, and religious authorities from the distant past, we continue along our trail of truth.

THE TRAIL OF PAGAN TRINITIES

After the Great Flood of Noah’s time, in the second era of world history, Nimrod, the mighty hunter was famous for protecting the people from ferocious animals. Nimrod is exalted as their all-powerful god.

And this worship from the people opens the way for Satan to plant the seeds of the first pagan trinity in Nimrod’s life.

Satan inspires Nimrod, Noah’s great grandson, to build a high tower of world governance, defying God’s authority over Planet Earth, *“...the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth...”* Genesis 11:1-4

Quote: “He (Nimrod) also said that he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again: for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach! And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers.” Flavius, J. (n.d.) *Anitquities of the Jews*, Book I, Chapter 4. William Whiston A.M. (Eds).

Retrieved 16 June 2025 you will need to cut and paste this link from <http://perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0146%3Abook%3D1%3Awhiston+chapter%3D4#>~:text=It%20was%20built%20of%20burnt,AND%20THE%20CONFUSION%20OF%20TONGUES

As rebellion against God escalates at the tower building site, located on the plain of Shinar, the time is ripe for Satan to plant his pagan counterfeit religion in the world.

Quote: “The cult that arose in Babylon and spread its cult tentacles throughout the world was Trinitarian (Two Babylons, by Alexander Hislop). At first, this doctrine was merely humanism, man making himself god. The first humanism trinity of record to be set up and worshiped as gods, was that of Nimrod, Simeramus, and Tammuz. These are in the Old Testament in the Canaanite language identified as Baal, Ashtoreth, and Tammuz. At the dispersion of the people at the Tower of Babel, this trinity doctrine of humanism was spread all over the world. Each religion of all the pagan religions held two common traits: 1) A trinity of gods and; 2) These were in a form of human gods.” – Jesus Messieh Fellowship *The Trinity Doctrine is Pagan* By Cohen G. Reckart, Pastor” Reckhart, C.G. (n.d.) Retrieved June 22 2025 from <http://romecorruptedchristianity.wordpress.com/2013/07/02/the-trinity-from-babylon-to-rome/>

Now achieving his cunning design, Satan leads the people of Shinar to worship the sun, and enthroned in the sun god, Satan receives worship from his pagan subjects as if he were the true God reigning over heaven and earth.

THE TRINITY THREE GODS AS ONE DEITY

“But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the LORD said, ‘Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.’ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.” Genesis 11:5-9

And so as pagan lives migrate from Shinar, Satan’s dark trail of sun worship weaves through emerging heathen nations. Over time, sun worship morphs into many trinity

gods, **three deities worshiped as one god**. As pagan worship passes from nation to nation, from culture to culture, trinity gods take on changing names of differing deities.

Quote: “Three Became the most universal number of deity...Sun worship is one of the most primitive forms of religion...The Egyptians, for example, **divided the sun god into three deities**: Horus, rising sun, Ra or Re, midday sun, Osiris, old and setting sun.” EgyptianDeities, New International Encyclopedia, N.Y.: Dodd 1917. Volume 7, p529. *Mark of the beast – the Bible truth revealed*. (n.d.) Retrieved June 22 2025 from <http://scribd.com>

Quote: “The number 3 is a sacred number identified with the pagan godhead of Baal, Ishtar and Tammuz. Sometimes the number **3 represented a triple aspect of the Sun-god** as the ruler of Heaven.” Sutton, W.J. (1983). *The new age and the illuminati – 666 – Another book exposing the purposes and intentions of those in power*. Retrieved June 22 2025 from <http://www.biblioecapleyades.net>

Quote: “The historian S.H. Hooke tells in detail of the ancient Sumerian trinity: Anu was the primary god of heaven, the ‘Father’, and the ‘King of the Gods’; Enlil, the ‘wind-god’ was the god of the earth, and a creator god; and Enki was the god of waters and the ‘lord of wisdom’ (15-18). The historian, H.W.F. Saggs, explains that **the Babylonian triad consisted of ‘three gods of roughly equal rank...whose inter-relationship is of the essence of their natures.’** (316)” Hagensick, Cher El L. *The Origin of the Trinity: From Paganism to Constantine*. Retrieved December 29 2011, from <http://www.heraldmag.org/olb/Contents/doctrine/The%20Of%20the%20Trinity.htm>

PAGANISM ENTERS THE ISRAELITE NATION

Seeping down through the generations of Old Testament times, different cultures throughout the known world are worshipping pagan trinity gods.

Now having enthroned himself in many trinity gods exalted over the landscape of heathen nations, Satan begins his pagan infiltration into God’s Israelite nation.

Enslaved under Egyptian bondage for a long 400 years, the Hebrew people lose sight of worshipping the one true God and are enticed into worshipping Egypt’s pagan gods. The Israelite’s pagan worship is borne out when freed from slavery they make and worship a golden calf at the base of Mount Sinai.

“Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the

people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, '**Come, make us gods that shall go before us**; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'

"And Aaron said to them, 'Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.'

"So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made **a molded calf**.

"Then they said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'

"So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.' Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "**This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!**"'" Exodus 32:1-8

Alas, how abhorrent and insulting to God, having just manifested His miraculous power to liberate His people from Egyptian bondage. If Moses had not interceded on the Israelite's behalf, seeking God's forgiveness for their grievous sin, they would have justifiably been consumed from the earth.

"Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, 'You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.'

"Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, 'Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.'

"And the LORD said to Moses, 'Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin.'" Exodus 32:30-34

Yet the sad saga of pagan worship by the Israelite nation continues, down the generations, like a roller coaster between good and evil, as the Israelites are drawn into worshipping trinity gods of surrounding pagan nations.

"**Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD**, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD

and did not serve Him.” Judges 10:6

Even greater blasphemy is enacted before God, when Israel’s spiritual leaders desecrate God’s holy temple in pagan worship to the sun.

*“So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD’s house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, **and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.**” Ezekiel 8:16*

And so traversing Old Testament times, worship of pagan trinity gods paves the way for Satan to infiltrate Christendom during New Testament times.

All too soon, a religion whose roots are firmly grounded in pagan Roman worship, begins to emerge as the Roman “Catholic” Church. Interestingly, the word “catholic” means universal. Satan plants his Christian trinity god of three coequal eternal persons into this strange meld of paganism and Christianity.

Ever so gently, the Roman Catholic trinity slips deceptively into the new “Protest” hurches around the 16th century, beginning in Europe and spreading around the world. These new churches are called “Protestant” as they protest against the power, control and corruption of the Papacy. But sadly, the new churches adopt the trinity as their own foundational doctrine. Thus the trinity is common to all today.

But if we stand back from the trinity error, and behold the true Godhead union of God the Father and His only begotten Son, we see two divine persons only, and Their Spirit presence of divine life. And so let us explore the Godhead union in the Bible and discover the truth mirrored in the Father’s and Son’s divine lives.

GOD THE FATHER THE TRUE ORIGIN OF DEITY

And so with reverent awe, we behold God the Father, the divine origin of deity, the One, and Only true God reigning over His universe of created life.

*“Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is **no other God but one**. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us **there is one God**, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.” 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 - “For there is **one God** and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...” 1 Timothy 2:5 - “...**one God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:6 - “Have we not all one Father? Has not **one God** created us?” Malachi 2:10*

*“You believe that there is **one God**. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!” James 2:19 - “So the scribe said to Him, ‘Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is **one God**, and there is no other but **He**.’” Mark 12:32 - “Tell and bring*

*forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is **no other God besides Me**, A just God and a Savior; There is **none besides Me**.” Isaiah 45:21*

*“I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; Therefore you are My witnesses,’ Says the LORD, ‘that **I am God**. Indeed before the day was, **I am He**; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?’” Isaiah 43:12-13*

*“Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even **from everlasting to everlasting, You are God**.” Psalm 90:2 - “**Known to God** from eternity are all His works.” Acts 15:18 - “Now to **the King** eternal, immortal, invisible, **to God** who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Timothy 1:17*

DENIAL OF FATHER AND SON DIVINE RELATIONSHIP

We have just read true biblical knowledge revealing God the Father’s divine life. Now let us explore the true relationship between the Son of God and His Father God.

For you see, another Satanic attack launched through the counterfeit trinity is the attempt to undermine the Father’s and Son’s literal relationship.

Yes, some Christians cannot see, or perhaps will not see, the true literal relationship between Father and Son.

A modern prevailing idea is that each of the three gods of the Christian trinity - Father, Son and holy spirit - each take on different roles: One of the three trinity gods plays the role of God the Father; A second trinity god, plays the role of the Son of God; And the third trinity god is deemed to be the role of the Holy Spirit God.

Furthermore, some go on to postulate that the trinity role-play of Father and Son begins with the Son’s human birth in the stable at Bethlehem.

However, we bring King Solomon before you, a famous biblical king of Old Testament times.

King Solomon was greatly blessed by God and received immense wisdom with discerning knowledge of all things. And King Solomon knew of the Father and Son relationship well before the Son of God’s human birth in the stable at Bethlehem. And this is what King Solomon knowingly said: “*Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son’s name, If you know?**” Proverbs 30:4*

Also proclaimed in an Old Testament psalm, we hear the affirming words of the Father’s only begotten Son, that He is indeed the Son of His Father. “*That men may*

know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, (the Father) art the most high over all the earth.” Psalm 83:18

“Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: **The LORD has said to Me, “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.”**” Psalm 2:6–7

And furthermore, we have been learning of King Nebuchadnezzar’s reign in Old Testament times. This king also recognized the existence of the Son of God way back then.

Nebuchadnezzar erects a great image of a man entirely made of gleaming gold from head to toe, much like the metallic man Nebuchadnezzar beheld in his dream.

The gleaming large statue represents Nebuchadnezzar himself as well as Babylon’s golden age of wealth and prosperity, and Nebuchadnezzar commands all his subjects to worship at his Babylonian shrine.

But standing upright among the prostrated crowd are “...Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego...”, who refuse to bow down and worship at Nebuchadnezzar’s pagan image. But very soon their defiance comes before the king.

*“And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, ‘Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?’ They answered and said to the king, ‘True, O king.’ ‘Look!’ he answered, ‘I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and **the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**’” Daniel 3:20–25*

Yes, way back then, in Old Testament times, King Nebuchadnezzar recognised the living reality of the Son of God.

Continuing to walk the trail of trinity deception, some Christians postulate that the Son has existed as God from eternity, without a beginning, being co-equal, co-eternal in a trinity of three divine persons. With this theory, the literal Son-ship of the Son of God is made mute and void of all true meaning.

Alas, alas, for blinded by deception, humanity stumbles in darkness, never coming to the light of biblical knowledge that they might see the Son of God is truly a literal Son begotten of the Father’s divine substance, marking a beginning of the Son’s existence far back in past eternity.

Let us not be counted among those blind to biblical knowledge, but in seeking

truth, open our spiritual eyes and behold the Son of God's own literal words that He is truly His Father's only begotten Son.

"The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'" Psalm 2:6-7 - "...for I proceeded forth and came from God..." John 19 8:42 - "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world..." John 16:28 - "Father...You loved Me before the foundation of the world." John 17: 24

"The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men." Proverbs 8:22-31

By His own affirming words, the Son of God is a literal true Son:

- Conceived in his Father's image of divine life;
- Born of His Father's immortal spirit;
- Receiving His Father's essence of divinity;
- Inheriting His Father's divine nature of holy perfection;
- Imbued with His Father's righteous character of benevolent love.

And so the One True God is truly God the Father, the first ever Father, and His only begotten Son born of His Father's divine substance, is truly the Son of God. Indeed the first ever Son, and the only Son of His unique kind.

"For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself..." John 5:26 KJV " ... I proceeded forth and came from God;..." John 8:42

"For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You'? And again: 'I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son'?" Hebrews 1:5 - "...His only begotten Son..." John 3: 16 - "...the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14 - "...Son of the Most High God..." Luke 8:28 - "...the Prince of life..." Acts 3:15 - "...the Son of His love..." Colossians 1:13 -- "...who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God..." Philippians 2:6 - "...being the brightness of His glory and the express

image of His person... Hebrews 1:3 - **"...He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."** Colossians 1:15 - **"...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds..."** Hebrews 1:2 - **"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."** John 1:18

Even more clearly, on two audible occasions, God the Father proclaims His divine relationship with His beloved Son echoing down to us today. **"And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"** Matthew 3:17 - **"While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!'"** Matthew 17:5 - **"...and everyone who loves Him who begot (The Father) also loves him who is begotten of Him (The Son)."** 1 John 5:1

And so we behold the Father **who begot**, and the Son **who is begotten of Him**, the one pulsating heartbeat of divine love encompassing all universal creation and embracing our very lives. **"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."** John 17:3

Now we come face to face with this startling bottom line:

"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also." 1 John 2:22-23 - **"I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth."** 1 John 2:21

FATHER'S AND SON'S SPIRIT ESSENCE OF DIVINE LIFE

Yet another spiritual falsehood exists in Christendom today, where most Christians sincerely believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of a trinity, a triune God of three persons.

But in true spiritual reality, the Holy Spirit is the Father's and Son's Spirit essence of divine life, their divine Spirit Presence that filters throughout the universe sustaining all created life.

"...the Spirit of life from God" Revelation 11:11 KJV - **"...the God of the spirits of all flesh..."** Numbers 16:22 - **"...the Father of spirits..."** Hebrews 12:9 - **"God is Spirit..."** John 4:24 - **"...the power of the Spirit of God..."** Romans 15:19 - **"I will put My Spirit within you..."** Ezekiel 36:27 - **"...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh..."** Joel 2:28

"The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue." 2 Samuel 23:2 - **"...the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."** Matthew 10:20 - **"God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"** Galatians 4:6 - **"Now**

the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2 Corinthians 3:17

“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” Ephesians 2:18 - “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling...” Ephesians 4:4 -- “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” Romans 8:9 - “...the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ...” Philippians 1:19 - “...the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus...” Romans 8:2

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” Psalm 139:7 - “...uphold me by Your generous Spirit.” Psalm 51:12 - “...And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2

“...You send forth Your Spirit, they are created...” Psalm 104:30 - “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8 - “...If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.” Job 34:14-15

“...He sighed deeply in His spirit...” Mark 8:12 - “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” John 20:21-22

Amazingly, upon their creation, Adam and Eve receive from the Son of God, His spirit of life. *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7*

Thus, all humans inherit and share the one and same spirit of life, *“...there is **a spirit in man**, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.” Job 32:8* And even more amazingly, abiding in a spiritual relationship with God the Father and His beloved Son, our earthly human spirit is joined to Their heavenly divine Spirit, *“...he who is joined to the Lord **is one spirit with Him**.” 1 Corinthians 6:17*

With clarity, biblical evidence declares, the Holy Spirit of God is not a third person in a trinity, but God the Father and His only begotten Son are the divine personalities of the Holy Spirit.

JESUS OUR SPIRITUAL COMFORTER

During Jesus’ three and a half year ministry among the Jewish people, a close spiritual bond grows between Jesus and His disciples. And so prior to His death upon the crucifixion cross, Jesus seeks to prepare His disciples for the testing ordeal soon to come upon them. *“Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, ‘The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.’ And they were exceedingly sorrowful.” Matthew 17:22-23*

Jesus explains to His disciples, soon He must leave them and return to heaven and so Jesus comforts His sorrowing disciples saying to them, “*Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. **And where I go you know, and the way you know.***” John 14:1-4

Although Jesus will no longer be bodily present with His disciples this will not mean an end to their spiritual relationship with Him, but the spiritual relationship will grow even stronger by His comforting spirit abiding in the disciples lives.

Thus Jesus says to His disciples, “*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: **but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.***” John 14:16-18 KJV

Yes, Jesus promises His disciples, “*...I will come to you...*” in another comforting way. How? By His Holy Spirit presence of divine supernatural life.

“*Now **the Lord is that Spirit:** ...” 2 Corinthians 3:17 KJV - “Do not cast me away from **Your presence**, And do not take **Your Holy Spirit** from me.” Psalm 51:11 - “Where can I go from **Your Spirit**? Or where can I flee from **Your presence**?” Psalm 139:7*

And did you notice how Jesus said, “*...**the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: **but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you?***”

Thus Jesus was referring to himself as “*...**the Spirit of truth...***” when He said, “*...**ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.***”

“*Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, **the truth, and the life...**’* John 14:6 - “*...and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth.***” John 1:14

Quite simply Jesus was reassuring His disciples by referring to Himself. In simple words: I am the Spirit of truth, and **you know Me for I have been with you** (Past), and **I am with you now** (Present). Soon I must go away. But **I will return to you** (Future), in my spirit presence of life and abide in your lives as your spiritual comforter.

“*...I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you.***” John 14:18 KJV

“*...the Spirit of Christ who was in them...*” 1 Peter 1:11

“*...Spirit of life from God*” Revelation 11:11 KJV

JESUS = HE AND HIM

Now some time after Jesus explained to His disciples, saying He was the coming Comforter, one of His disciples, John, recorded the conversation in the book bearing his name, *“The Gospel According to John.”*

To capture the profound truth, that Jesus Himself would return to them in His Spirit presence, the writer (whether John himself or an employed scribe) used the Greek word, “autos.” The Collins English dictionary (1987 edition) tells us the Greek word “autos,” means “self.” When we study the Strong’s Concordance, Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, number 846, we find a broader, fuller meaning. For the word “autos” can also mean “it,” “itself,” “him,” “himself,” “her,” “herself,” “oneself,” “my own” “self-same,” “myself,” “yourselves,” “theirs,” “themselves.”

Thus the word “autos,” was used to indicate that Jesus Himself would be returning in His Spirit presence. *“...for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:18*

Centuries later, when the Greek manuscripts were translated into English, the translators faced the spiritual task of transcribing the broad meaning of “autos” into English words. To capture the Son’s Spirit presence, the translators chose the pronouns, “He,” and “Him.”

And so, Jesus’ promise to return to earth in His Spirit presence heralded the dawning of a new era. For when Jesus returned to earth in His Spirit presence, He would have already died and risen to release us from sin and everlasting death. The Comforter, the Spirit of truth, the living presence of Jesus in Spirit, would be the transforming power in our believing lives.

*For, “... **the Lord is the Spirit**; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the **Spirit of the Lord.**” 2 Corinthians 3:17-18*

By His Spirit presence, “He,” “autos,” “Himself,” “self-same,” “my-self,” Jesus, would abide in our lives as our risen, living Saviour.

“AUTOS” ALSO IS “THEMSELVES”

You see, cascading in one flow of spiritual life, we receive the **Father’s and the Son’s indwelling spirit**, “autos,” “**themselves.**” Thus Jesus went on to say, *“...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**” John 14:23*

Through Their abiding union of one Spirit presence, both Father and Son were coming to make Their home in every welcoming believer’s life, even in our welcoming lives today. This is a supernatural joining of Their Divine Spirit with our human spirit,

so we are one with them in spiritual life.

*“But he who is joined to the Lord is **one spirit with Him.**” 1 Corinthians 6:17 - Jesus said, “At that day you will know that **I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.**” John 14:20-24 - And Jesus prayed to His Father: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that **they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:20-23 - “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, **because He has given us of His Spirit.**” 1 John 4:13*

Yes, through Their indwelling spirit of life, we hear the Father’s and the Son’s spiritual voice speaking comfort and peace to our souls. Our humble spiritual minds become one with their divine spiritual minds in righteous thoughts, exceeding all dimensions of earthly human life, “...by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these **you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4

A SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGE

As Jesus continued His conversation with His disciples, He spoke again of His nearing departure. “You have heard Me say to you, “I am going away and coming back to you.” If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, “I am going to the Father,” for My Father is greater than I.” John 14:28 “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, “Where are You going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. **It is to your advantage that I go away**; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter KJV) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him (My Spirit) to you.” John 16:5-7

Yes, Jesus assured His sorrowing disciples that His return to heaven would be a supernatural advantage to their lives. For if Jesus stayed on Planet Earth in His limited body presence, He could not be present everywhere, nor present with every person. But if He went away to His Father, this would open the way for Him to return in His Spirit presence, and not only be with His disciples, but with every living person in the world. He could actually abide in every person’s life as a spiritual Helper and Comforter, should they choose Him.

“PARAKLETOS”

Now for even greater insight to Jesus’ comforting presence, we turn again to the Strong’s Concordance, Greek Dictionary of the New Testament and we see that the word “comforter” in the Bible is translated from the Greek word “parakletos”.

3875 parakletos. Par—ak-lay-tos, an intercessor, consoler- advocate, **comforter**.

And so flowing from “parakletos” we behold a broader biblical meaning to the word “comforter” connecting us to Jesus’ High priestly ministry as our intercessor, consoler-advocate, and comforter.

You may remember we learned in Volume Five of *The Blazing Trail* that Jesus’ spirit presence abiding in our lives, also connects us to Jesus’ bodily presence abiding in the heavenly temple. Ministering in the heavenly temple as our High Priest, Jesus offers His righteous virtues in place of our confessed sin and becomes our intercessor and advocate connecting us to God the Father in forgiveness and pardon of sin.

*“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**” 1 John 2:1*

*“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**” Hebrews 7:25*

*“For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...**” 1 Timothy 2:5*

*“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, **He Himself likewise shared in the same**, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but **He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.** Therefore, **in all things He had to be made like His brethren**, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.**” Hebrews 2:14–18*

*“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and **given us to everlasting consolation** and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.” 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17*

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies **and God of all comfort, who comforts us** in all our tribulation, **that we may be able to comfort those** who are in any trouble, **with the comfort** with which we ourselves **are comforted by God.**” 2 Corinthians 1:3–4*

SATAN'S MASTERFUL DECEPTION

Now we begin to unmask Satan’s master deception, where he seeks to dethrone Jesus as our spiritual Comforter. In a counterfeit play, Satan hijacks God’s Holy Spirit, and impersonating the Holy Spirit, Satan parades as the phantom third person of God in the spiritual realm of Christendom.

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne

above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:13-14

Enthroned in the churches of Christendom, Satan receives trinity worship from the deceived masses.

Quote: “This doctrine of the trinity was brought into the church about the same time with image worship, and keeping the day of the sun, and is but Persian doctrine remodelled. It occupied about three hundred years from its introduction to bring the doctrine to what it is now. It was commenced about 325 A.D., and was not completed till 681. See Milman’s Gibbon’s Rome, vol. iv, p.422. It was adopted in Spain in 589, in England in 596, in Africa in 534. - Gib.vol. iv, pp. 114,345; Milner, vol. i, p519. *Discussion between Summerbell and Flood on Trinity, p.38. #Hist. Christianity, p.34.” Loughborough, J.N. (November 5, 1861). Questions for Bro. Loughborough. Review & Herald. In Stump, A. (n.d.). The Foundation of Our Faith: Over 150 years of Seventh-day Adventist Christology (pp 212-213) West Virginia, USA: Smyrna Gospel Ministries.

Quote: “QUESTION 1. What serious objection is there to the doctrine of the Trinity?

ANSWER. There are many objections which we might urge, but on account of our limited space we shall reduce them to the three following:

It is contrary to common sense. 2. It is contrary to scripture. 3. It’s origin is Pagan and fabulous.”

Loughborough, J.N. (1861, November 5). Questions for Bro. Loughborough on the Trinity. *Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald*. (p 184). Retrieved June 25, 2025 from <https://asitreads.com/jn-loughborough/>

Quote: “The doctrine of the Trinity which was established in the church by the council of Nice, a. d. 325. This doctrine destroys the personality of God, and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The infamous measures by which it was forced upon the church, which appear upon the pages of ecclesiastical history might well cause every believer in that doctrine to blush.” Andrews, J.N. (1855). *The three angels of Revelation 14:6-12*. Rochester, New York: Advent Review Office. (p 54.3). Retrieved June 25, 2025 from <https://www.biblasia.com/doctrine/godhead/>

Quote: “Immediately after his baptism by the Catholic bishop of Thessalonica in 380 AD, Theodosius issued an edict, which included these words: ‘...According to the discipline of the apostles, and the doctrine of the gospel, let us believe the sole deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: under an **equal majesty, and a pious Trinity...We**

authorise the followers of this doctrine to assume the title of Catholic Christians; and as we judge that all others are extravagant madmen, we brand them with the infamous name of “heretics”...Besides the condemnation of divine justice, they must expect to suffer the severe penalties which our authority, guided by heavenly wisdom, shall think proper to inflict upon them.’

“This law was issued in the names of the three emperors, Gratian, Valentinian II, and Theodosius. ‘Thus the religion of the whole Roman world was enacted by two feeble boys and a rude Spanish soldier.’” Milman ‘History of Christianity,’ book iii, chap. ix, par I. Beachy, L. *The formulation of the doctrine of the trinity: A history of the formulation of the doctrine of the trinity within orthodox Christianity.* (p19). Retrieved December 29, 2011 from http://www.smyrna.org/books/Formulation_of_the_Trinity/The%20Formulation%20of%20the%20Doctrine%20of%20the%20Trinity.Pdf

PAPACY AFFIRMS ITS DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

From the beginnings of the Catholic trinity to our time in the 21st century, the Papal leadership of the Roman Catholic Church declares and affirms, that the doctrine of the Trinity is enacted and exalted by their ecclesiastical church authority alone, **and in their own words, that the Trinity has no foundation of biblical truth.**

Quote: **“The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church.”** Redemptorists. (2004) *Handbook for today’s Catholic* Revised edition (p 19). Liguori Publications. Retrieved June 25 2025 https://www.liguori.org/amfile/file/download/file_id/511/product_id/5086/

Quote: **“In Scripture** there is as yet no single term by which the Three Divine Persons are denoted together... The **Vatican Council** has explained the meaning to be attributed to the term ‘**mystery**’ in theology. It lays down that a mystery is a truth which we are not merely incapable of discovering apart from Divine Revelation, but which even when revealed remains ‘hidden by the veil of faith and **enveloped so to speak, by a kind of darkness.**’” (Const., “De fide.cath.”, iv). Joyce, G.H. (1912) *The blessed trinity.* The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume XV. (online edition) Robert Appleton Company copyright 2003 K. Knight. Retrieved June 26, 2025 from <https://asitreads.com/what-is-trinity/>

Yes, in the Vatican Council’s own words the trinity concept is a **“mystery... enveloped so to speak, by a kind of darkness.”**

And concealed in the seeping darkness of the Roman Papal church, Satan achieves his age old quest. For Satan enthrones himself as a phantom third person of God, and

sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 - “For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:13-14

THREE KINGDOMS OPPOSE THE PAPAL POWER AND TRINITY DOCTRINE

As the trinity teaching rises in spiritual power during the fourth century AD, three of the ten horn kingdoms - the Heruli, the Vandals, and Ostrogoths - stand in the way of Papal supremacy. Opposing the Papacy’s authority, the religion of these three horn kingdoms’ is Arian - rivalling Catholicism and the Catholic trinity.

Quote: “Trinity, in Christian doctrine, the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead... The doctrine developed gradually over several centuries and through many controversies... The high point of these conflicts was the so-called Arian controversy in the early 4th century. In his interpretation of the idea of God, Arius sought to maintain a formal understanding of the oneness of God. Petruzello, M. (n.d.). *Trinity Christianity*. Britannica. Retrieved June 26 2025 from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Trinity-Christianity>

Most of Arius’s writings were confiscated and burnt to ashes by the Roman Catholic Papacy, but here remains a revealing letter written by Arius to Eusebius, a well-known bible scholar and bishop of the time. In his letter, Arius states his rejection of the Papacy’s trinity god. Arius holds true to his belief that the one God begot a Son and hence the Son of God has a beginning of divine life.

Quote: “The bishop greatly wastes and persecutes us, and leaves no stone unturned against us. He has driven us out of the city as atheists, because **we do not concur in what he publicly preaches, namely, God always, the Son always...** We are persecuted because we say that **the Son has a beginning, but that God is without beginning.**” Early Church Tests (n.d.) *Arius Letter to Eusebius of Nicomedia – Greek Text with English translation* – from Theodoret, *Hostoriaq Ecclesiastica* 1.4.1-4 (and also Ephiphanius). Retrieved June 26, 2025 from https://earlychurch-texts.com/public/arius_letter_to_eusebius_of_nicomedia.htm

And what are the Papacy’s public statements?

Quote: “God always, the Son always; as the Father so the Son; the Son co-exists unbegotten with God; He is everlasting; neither by thought nor by any interval does God precede the Son; always God, always Son.”
ibid

And so just as Daniel’s prophecy foretells, the three horn kingdoms who oppose the

Papal trinity, the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths are plucked up by the roots and trodden under foot by Papal supremacy.

The Heruli, a Germanic people who lived in Eastern Europe between the Baltic Sea and Black Sea, were the first kingdom to be rooted up and destroyed in the year AD 493. Meanwhile...

Quote: "...The Vandals, led by Gaiseric (Genseric), had settled in North Africa, having taken Carthage in 439 (AD). Being fanatically Arian and warlike, they posed a threat to the supremacy of the Catholic Church in the west. They were particularly intolerant toward the Catholics, whom they termed heretics. To help the cause of the Catholics in the West the Emperor Justinian, who ruled the Eastern half of the Roman Empire in Constantinople, dispatched Belisarius, the ablest of his generals. **Belisarius completely vanquished the Vandals in 534.**

"This victory left the Ostrogoths in Italy as the sole surviving Arian power of significance to hinder the hegemony of the papacy in the West (see Hodgkin, op. cit., vol 3, ch 15). Having wiped out the Vandals, Belisarius in 534 began his campaign against the Ostrogoths in Italy. Though this campaign lasted for twenty years before the imperial armies emerged completely victorious (see Hodgkin, op. cit., vol 5, pp. 3-66), the decisive action occurred early in the campaign. The Ostrogoths, who had been driven from Rome, returned and laid siege to it in 537. The siege lasted for a full year, but in 538 Justinian landed another army in Italy, and in March the Ostrogoths abandoned the siege (see Hodgkin, op. cit., vol. 4, pp. 73-113, 210-252; Charles Diel, "Justinian," in Cambridge Medieval History, vol. 2, p. 15). It is true that they re-entered the city for a brief time in 540, but their stand was short-lived. Their withdrawal from Rome **in 538 marked the real end of Ostrogothic power**, though not of the Ostrogothic nation. **Thus was "plucked up" the third of the three horns that stood in the way of the little horn.**

"Justinian is noted not only for his success in temporarily reuniting Italy and parts of the West with the Eastern half of what had been the Roman Empire, but also for the gathering and organising of the then-existing laws of the empire, including new edicts of Justinian himself, into a unified code. Incorporated into this imperial code were two official letters of Justinian, which had all the force of royal edicts, **in which he legally confirmed the bishop of Rome as the "head of all the holy churches: and "Head of all the holy priests of God"** (Code of Justinian, book 1, title 1). In the later epistle he also commends the pope's activities as corrector of heretics.

"Although this legal recognition of the pope's ecclesiastical supremacy is dated 533, it is obvious that the imperial edict could not become ef-

fective for the pope so long as the Arian Ostrogothic kingdom was in control of Rome and the greater part of Italy. Not until the rule of the Goths was broken could the papacy be free to develop fully its power. In 538, for the first time since the end of the Western imperial line, the city of Rome was freed from the domination of an Arian kingdom. In that year the Ostrogothic kingdom received its death blow (although the Ostrogoths survived some years longer as a people). That is 538 is a more significant date than 533....In 538 the papacy was effectively freed from the domination of the Arian kingdoms that followed the western emperors in the control of Rome and Italy. From then on the papacy was in a position to increase its ecclesiastical power. The other kingdoms became Catholic, one by one, and since the distant eastern emperors did not retain control of Italy, in the turbulent developments that followed, the pope emerged often as the leading figure in the west. The papacy acquired territorial rule and eventually **reached its peak in political as well as religious dominance in Europe...** Though this dominance came much later, the turning point can be found in the time of Justinian. Some find it significant that Vigilius, the pope who held office in 538, had, the year before, replaced a pope who had been under Gothic influence. The new pope owed his office to the empress Theodora, and was regarded by Justinian as the means of uniting all the churches east and west, under his own imperial dominance. It has been pointed out that, beginning with Bigilus, **the popes were more and more men of the state as well as of the church, and often became rulers of the state** (Charles Bemont and G. Monod, *Medieval Europe*, p. 121). Nichol, F.D. (1978) *Seventh Day Adventist Bible Commentary + Bible Students' Source Book electronic PDF version*. Vol 4 pp 89-90. Retrieved June 26, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/SdaBibleCommentary1980/SdaBc-4%20%2827%29%20Daniel/page/n87/mode/2up?view=theater>

In summary, the division of pagan Rome into ten kingdoms takes place between AD 351 and AD 483 and in the midst of these ten divided kingdoms rises Papal Rome, the little horn power. And so one by one, seven of the ten kingdoms become Roman Catholic, but three kingdoms oppose papal supremacy. Subsequently these three horn kingdoms are plucked and destroyed beginning with the Heruli AD 493, then the Vandals AD 534 and finally the Ostrogoths in AD 538. Hence Papal Rome rises in supremacy not only wielding church ecclesiastical power but also wielding powers of state to enforce her religious dogmas over the peoples of Europe.

PAPAL ROME'S RULING SUPREMACY

Quote: "The reign of Constantine the Great forms one of the epochs in the history of the world. It is the era of the dissolution of the Roman empire; the commencement, or rather consolidation, of a kind of Eastern despotism, with a new capital, a new patriciate, a new constitution, a

new financial system, a new, though as yet imperfect, jurisprudence and, **finally, a new religion.**” *History of Christianity*, book 3, chapter 1, para 1, by Milman.

The origin of Sunday observance. (n.d.) Retrieved June 27 2025 from <https://stepstolife.org/article/origi-sunday-observance/>

“The epoch thus formed was the epoch of the papacy; and **the new religion thus created was the papal religion.**” *from Land Marks May 1998, The Origins of Sunday Observance, p 15 by John Grosboll quoting from The Great Empires of Prophecy, p 395 by Alonzo T. Jones.* This was the beginning of that dark and dismal age which oppressed Europe for well over one thousand years. Ibid.

Quote: “**Out of the ruins of political Rome**, arose the great moral Empire in the “**giant form**” of the **Roman Church**; (AC Flick, *The Rise of the Mediaeval Church* [1900], p 150).” Nichol, F.D. (1978) *Seventh Day Adventist Bible Commentary + Bible Students’ Source Book* electronic PDF version. Vol 4 pp 89-90. Retrieved June 27, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/SdaBibleCommentaryI980/SDA%20Sourcebook%20-%20Bible%20Student%27s%20Source%20Book%20%28SDA%20Bible%20Commentary%2C%20Vol.%209%29%20%28txt%29/page/n671/mode/2up?q=%22Out+of+the+ruins+of+political+Rome%22>

“The dragon (Pagan Rome) gave him (Papal Rome) his power, his throne, and great authority”. *Revelation 13:2*

And yes, this transition of ruling power from pagan Rome to Papal Rome is foretold in the New Testament book of *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, given to the Apostle John when exiled on the Isle of Patmos. “I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.” *Revelation 1:9*

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.” *Revelation 1:1-3*

JOHN’S VISION REVEALS THE PAPAL POWER OF ROME

Yes, vitally important, God wants us to receive and understand bible prophecy that we might know the times we live in, and not be deceived by political world powers and spiritual deception in Christendom today.

Thus, throughout the Bible, God has revealed the interconnecting theme of fulfilled and fulfilling prophecy: Beginning with Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the prophetic

metallic man, to Daniel's vision of the four prophetic beasts, and now to John's vision of a prophetic leopard beast "...rising up out of the sea..."

John says, *"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority."* Revelation 13:1-2

CONNECTING FEATURES

John's leopard beast also has connecting features to Daniel's four beasts, and the emerging little horn power of papal Rome.

- John's beast is a leopard. Daniel's third beast is a leopard (Grecia).
- John's beast has feet like a bear. Remember Daniel's second beast is a bear (Media-Persia).
- John's beast has a mouth like a lion. Daniel's first beast is a lion (Babylon).
- John's beast has ten horns with ten crowns. Daniel's fourth beast (Rome), has ten horns symbolizing Rome's ten divisions.

And remember Daniel's interpreter said, *"...the ten horns are ten kings..."* Daniel 7:24.

Then the ten crowns upon the ten horns of John's beast, also represent the same kings of the 10 divisions of Rome seen in Daniel's vision: The, Alemanni, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons and Lombards.

Thus through interconnecting features between John's leopard beast and Daniel's four beasts, we see representation of the same times, the same kingdoms, the same earthly powers.

SEVEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

Yet, did you notice John's leopard beast has additional features, having seven heads?

For you see, the leopard's seven heads represent Rome's seven successive heads of government.

Quote: "The symbol as here presented has but seven heads, denoting seven forms of government, not contemporaneous but successive. Of course only one head is ruling at any one time; but all are placed alike upon the dragon and beast to identify both these symbols as denoting the Roman power. Six heads belonged to the dragon; that is six forms of

government were developed and passed away one after another, while the religion of Rome was pagan; and only one remained to be developed after the change to Christianity, and that was the papal; which as a spiritual power continues to the end (2 Thess. 2:8), and as a temporal power to the time when his dominion is taken away just before the end. Dan 7:26” Smith, U. (1881) *Daniel and the Revelation*.(p 538 footnote) London: Pacific Press Publishing Company.

Over decades of time during Rome’s pagan rule, six forms of government are developed and pass down government to government.

Then as Rome’s pagan religion merges with Christian apostasy, the seventh head of government develops into **Papal Rome, the seventh government**. Thus the dragon, pagan Rome gives to papal Rome “...his power, his throne, and great authority..”

Quote:“Seat. Gr. thronos, ‘throne.’ The popes ascended the throne of the Caesars. The capital of the papal system was the same as that occupied by the Roman Empire at its height. Great authority. The papacy exercised control in matters political and religious, and over the consciences of men.” Seventh Day Adventist Bible Commentary + Bible Students’ Source Book electronic PDF version. Vol 7 pp 112-113. Retrieved June 29, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/SdaBibleCommentary1980/SdaBc-7%20%2866^29%20Revelation/page/n111/mode/2up?q=%22seat+gr+thronos%22&view=theater>

Here’s the background:

The Papacy began as an early Christian Church established in Rome. God’s truth was spreading throughout the known world. And more and more churches were starting up and getting established. These new churches absorbed hundreds or even thousands of people from different pagan cultures. And along with the people came their familiar pagan rituals, customs and festivals.

Gradually, true Christian worship as taught by Jesus Christ the Son of God, slipped away, and instead various pagan rituals became the new way to worship. And Rome, the famous capital city of the world superpower, the Roman Empire, was no different. (MacMullen R. Christianizing the Roman Empire 1984)

The Roman churches now worshipped with ingrained pagan rituals, and grew larger and stronger. Leaders emerged. Churches became organised on Greek/Roman cultural principles.

Successive pagan Roman emperors, desiring political power and success appointed Roman church leaders as spiritual and political advisors.

These Roman church leaders, hungry for their own power and success, were only too pleased to lobby the emperors with persuasive ideas and plans. With strategy and planning, the church leaders gained more and more political power, until the church

had a complete knowledge of the Roman Empire's operation and administration.

"The dragon (Pagan Rome) gave him (Papal Rome) his power, his throne, and great authority". Revelation 13:2

Once the Roman church understood the entirety of the Roman Empire's infrastructure and administration, there was no stopping the trajectory to become the ruling authority of the world.

When the last Roman emperor fell to a "barbarian" German military attack around AD 476, the Roman church stepped in to run the Empire, out of necessity for the officials of the empire were either dead or vanished into the countryside, and the Germanic conquerors had no administrative experience.

And that's when the Western Roman empire was quietly vanquished, behind the scenes, by the highly organised Roman church, very soon to be known as Papal Rome.

And so we see how the Pope of Rome is destined to become exalted upon the papal throne, ruling through a union of church and state. Papal supremacy begins rising over European lands. And as revealed in Daniel's vision, papal supremacy begins to escalate into a challenge against God's divine authority.

PART FOUR

The Trail of Papal Counterfeits



Now before our very eyes, Daniel's vision unmasks the Papacy's agenda.

Remember, Daniel beholds the appearance of popery rising in the little horn power. *"I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whome three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words."* Daniel 7:8

"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and laws..." Daniel 7:25 - So the vision tells us the pope challenges God's divine authority and makes three specific attacks:

1. Persecutes the saints;
2. Changes times and;
3. Changes laws.

But what times? And whose laws? This is the question we need to answer. Well, these prophesied changes to times and laws are given in a spiritual setting. Therefore we must conclude the changes to times and laws, refers to God's spiritual times and spiritual laws upheld in the Bible.

And furthermore, the persecution by the pope is against *"...the saints of the Most High..."*, those who hold to God's truth as revealed in the Bible, the persecution is not against the world.

Thus we can expect the double edge sword of church and state shall be swung far and wide, as the papal power attempts to trample upon God's overruling authority and to change God's times and God's laws contained in the Ten Commandments.

And so has Popery attempted or achieved a change to God's times and God's laws?

The answer is an unsettling and resounding "YES", and stated in the Papacy's own confirming words we read:

Quote: "The Pope has power to change times, to abrogate (change) laws, and to dispense with all things, **even the precepts of Christ.**" Decretal, de Tranlatic Episcop. Cap. (The Pope can modify Divine Law)" Ferraris, L. (n.d.) Ecclesiastical Dictionary. Retrieved June 29, 2025 from <https://theologyonline.com/threads/is-the-pope-as-he-claims-%E2%80%9Cgod-on-earth%E2%80%9D.53319/>

Note: The Ecclesiastical Dictionary written by Lucius Ferraris, a Roman Catholic scholar, was first published in 1746. Ferraris published a much expanded further two editions before his death later that century. The last known edition was published by the Press of Propaganda in 1899 (Rome). The Catholic Encyclopedia refers to Ferraris work as a veritable cyclopedia of religious knowledge' and a 'precious mine of information.' The full name of Lucius work is: Prompta Bibliotheca, Canonica, Juridica, Moral, Theologica nec non Ascentica, Polemica, Rubristica.

Now walking the path through this chilling statement we shall discern between the changed and the unchanged.

GOD'S UNCHANGED TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Spoken by God from Mount Sinai.
- Engraved on stone tablets by God's divine finger.
- Faithfully recorded in the Hebrew text and the Septuagint (Greek Old Testament)
- Exalted in the authorized King James Version of the Bible.

"And God spake all these words, saying, 'I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.'

1 *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me.'*

2 *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

3 *"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.'*

4 *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.'*

5 *"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.'*

6 *"Thou shalt not kill.'*

7 “Thou shalt not commit adultery.’

8 “Thou shalt not steal.’

9 “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.’

10 “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s.” Exodus 20:1–17 KJV

“And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.” Exodus 31:18 KJV

“And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.” Deuteronomy 9:10 KJV

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC VERSION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Of papal origin.
- Reformulated in the city of Hippo, Algeria, North Africa, by Bishop Augustine, highly esteemed intellectual philosopher around AD 414, instituted by the Roman Papacy.
- Upheld in the Roman Catholic teachings of the Catechism.

The Collins Dictionary definition of Catechism, reads:

“**catechism** *n.* 1. instruction by a series of questions and answers; esp. a book containing such instruction on the religious doctrine of a Christian Church...”

Quote: “Whereas the *Catechism*’s traditional presentation of the commandments for memorization are:

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.

7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Wensing, M. (2004, March 1). The Catholic Ten Commandments. *Magazine*. Retrieved June 29, 2025 from <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/the-true-ten-commandments>

COMPARING EVIDENCE OF CHANGE

When we compare God's Ten Commandments with the Papacy's version of the Ten Commandments, the evidence of change made by the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy is stark and chilling. Let us investigate.

God's first commandment clearly states, "*Thou shalt have **no other gods before me...***" (KJV) and "**me**" refers to God the Father's sovereign deity as the biblical **one and only true God**.

The Catholic commandment replaces "...*no other gods before me...*" with "You shall not have **strange gods** before me."

Can you discern the subtle difference between "...**no other gods before me...**" and "...**strange gods before me...**"?

In place of the one true God of the first commandment, the Catholic Trinity strangely claims there are three co-eternal persons of God.

Therefore God's first commandment is sabotaged. Three trinity gods as one god is very strange indeed, and yet the Catholic changed commandment states you shall not have strange gods!

Now, God's second commandment which forbids image worship is completely erased in the Catholic version of the Ten Commandments. Why?

We must ask questions:

Has the Papacy erased God's second commandment to make way for image worship within the Roman Catholic Church?

Are sincere believers breaking God's true second commandment by paying pagan homage to crafted statues of Mary, dead saints, and images of exalted crucifixes?

Thus by grouping Commandment 1 and 2 together, God's distinct command to have no false gods nor to worship images are actually hidden from the reader's mind.

Yet God's voice of sovereign authority cannot be silenced by mere men.

Commandment Two is proclaimed from heaven unto the ends of Planet Earth and beyond, into universal eternity:

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.” Exodus 20:4-5 KJV

In a sleight of hand move, the Catholic Catechism simply moves God’s Commandment Three into the empty space where God forbids image worship. The Catholic Commandment Two now reads, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.”

And the changes continue to unfold. The fourth commandment’s beautiful descriptive language from God Himself, is abbreviated to a mere seven words that read; “...remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day...” and becomes the papal system’s Commandment Three.

Can you see how God’s fourth commandment is wrenched from its sacred place and reshaped in the counterfeit form of the Catholic third commandment?

The phrase, “...keep holy the Lord’s Day”, is misleading at the very least, suggesting somehow the seventh day Sabbath has been replaced with another day. But the change must have been successful, because many if not most Christians believe by worshipping on Sunday they are commemorating Jesus’ resurrection from death to victorious life, on Sunday, “the Lord’s Day”.

But remember, Jesus rested in His tomb of death on the seventh day Sabbath for a very special reason. He rested on the seventh day Sabbath to perfect *our* salvation, and during His ministry among the people He openly declares that He is lord of the Sabbath. *“For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” Matthew 12:8* - Therefore a mere created human being possesses no divine authority, whatsoever, to even think of making a change to the seventh day Sabbath, the very day our Creator sanctified for true spiritual rest in Him.

“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” Genesis 2:1-3

By warring against God’s sanctified seventh day Sabbath rest, Satan plays a double counterfeit act: He opposes the Son of God’s lordship over true seventh day worship AND falsely exalts himself as lord over Sunday worship. *“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” 2 Corinthians 11:14*

Did you notice the gaping void in the Papacy’s reconstruction of God’s Ten Commandments?

By watering down the language of the second commandment (the original second commandment expressly forbids worshipping of images like statues) and joining those words onto the end of the watered down first commandment, there are now only nine commandments.

Just nine. Not ten.

So the Papacy divides the tenth commandment in two.

The Papacy's modified 9th commandment reads, "You shall not **covet your neighbor's wife.**"

And the reconstructed 10th commandment reads, "You shall not **covet your neighbor's goods.**"

But what does God's 10th Commandment read in full? "*Thou **shalt not covet** thy neighbour's house, thou **shalt not covet** thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*"

According to Bishop Augustine's own words, in his book "Questions about Exodus", writing from his church lodgings in Algeria, North Africa, he thought he was brilliantly resculpting God's Ten Commandments to elegantly represent the trinity doctrine of Papal Rome. You see the Trinity doctrine was formalized less than 20 years before Augustine's Ten Commandments were published. So we can see that Bishop Augustine was a great promoter of the Catholic Trinity:

Quote: "It seems to me more fitting that the first group be accepted as three, and the other as seven, because those three which pertain to God seem to make known the Trinity to those diligently contemplating." (Mihi tamen videntur congruentius accepti tria illa, et ista septem, quia et Trinitatem videntur illa quae ad Deum pertinent insinuare diligentius intuentibus.) Richardson, Joseph E. (2013, October 9). St. Augustine on how to divide the ten commandments. Did Catholics "change" the ten commandments? Retrieved May 29, 2026 from <http://lonelypilgrim.com>

Thus the test comes to all: "*To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*" Isaiah 8:20 - "*The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant.*" Isaiah 24:5 - "*It is time for You to act, O LORD, For they have regarded Your law as void.*" Psalm 119:126

GOD'S LAW STANDS TRUE FOREVER

As the Papacy's attempted changes to God's law are revealed to our minds, with a sad countenance we may realise these changes are nothing more than a spiritual phantom, deceiving and having deceived millions if not billions of sincere believers throughout the ages.

For in living reality, God's eternal law stands true forever and can never be changed by Satan or mankind by the slightest thought or deed.

*"You are near, O Lord,
And all Your commandments are truth.*

*Concerning Your testimonies,
I have known of old that You have founded them forever."*

Psalm 119:151-152

"For I am the LORD, I do not change..." Malachi 3:6 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8

This is why Jesus proclaims His unchangeable words to the ends of Planet Earth: *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, **till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law** till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; **but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**"* Matthew 5:17-19

"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie." Revelation 22:14-15

GOD'S SEVENTH DAY OF SACRED TIME TARGETED

*"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. **For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.**"* Exodus 20:8-11

Standing in the midst of God's Ten Commandments, as a pillar of His sovereign authority, seventh day Sabbath observance not only encompasses law, but also encompasses God's sacred time.

Remember, the Roman Papacy *"...shall intend to **change times** and laws..."*

Once again we read:

Quote: **"The Pope has power to change times**, to abrogate (change) laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ." Decree-

tal, de Tranlatic Episcop. Cap. (The Pope can modify Divine Law)” Ferraris, L. (n.d.) Ecclesiastical Dictionary. Retrieved June 29, 2025 from <https://theologyonline.com/threads/is-the-pope-as-he-claims-%E2%80%9Cgod-on-earth%E2%80%9D.53319/> Note: This book, known as The Ecclesiastical Dictionary was written by Lucius Ferraris a Roman Catholic scholar, and was first published in 1746. Ferraris published a much expanded further two editions before his death later that century. The last known edition was published by the Press of Propaganda in 1899 (Rome). The Catholic Encyclopedia refers to Ferraris work as “a veritable cyclopedia of religious knowledge” and a “precious mine of information.” The full name of Lucius work is: Prompta Bibliotheca, Canonica, Juridica, Moral, Theologica nec non Ascentica, Polemica, Rubristica.

And so hand in hand with the Papacy’s changes to God’s law of the Ten Commandments, comes the changing of God’s sacred time from Saturday, the Seventh day Sabbath, to Sunday the first day of the week.

SUNDAY WORSHIP RISES IN SUPREMACY

We have seen how Satan has exalted Sunday, the first day of the week, as his day to receive false worship.

You may recall Satan’s first method was to establish various pagan religions based on worshipping false gods, often three false gods as a triune deity.

Now Satan’s ploy is to undermine God’s sacred Seventh day Sabbath in Christendom, and exalt Sunday as the new Christian day for worship. Thus slowly but surely Satan’s counterfeit Sunday worship rises in the midst of apostate Christianity.

Quote: “In the first centuries the true Sabbath had been kept by all Christians. They were jealous for the honor of God, and believing that His law is immutable, they zealously guarded the sacredness of its precepts. But with great subtlety Satan worked through his agents to bring about his object. That the attention of the people might be called to the Sunday, it was made a festival in honor of the resurrection of Christ. Religious services were held upon it; yet it was regarded as a day of recreation, the Sabbath being still sacredly observed.” White, E.G. (1950) *The Great Controversy*. Conflict of the Ages Series. Vol 5, ch 3 p52. California, USA: Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Quote: “To prepare the way for the work which he designed to accomplish, Satan had led the Jews, before the advent of Christ, to load down the Sabbath with the most rigorous exactions, making its observance a burden. Now, taking advantage of the false light in which he had thus

caused it to be regarded, he cast contempt upon it as a Jewish institution. While Christians generally continued to observe the Sunday as a joyous festival, he led them, in order to show their hatred of Judaism, to make the Sabbath a fast, a day of sadness and gloom.” ibid pp 52-53.

THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE BETWEEN PAGANISM AND CHRISTIANITY

Now Constantine, the Roman emperor of the time (AD 306-337) is drawn into Satan’s wily art of deception, to unite the Roman Empire under one religious order with Sunday worship playing the uniting role.

Quote: “The day of the sun was revered by his (Constantine’s) pagan subjects and was honoured by Christians, it was the emperor’s policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. **He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church**, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church. But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment.

“The arch deceiver had not completed his work. He was resolved to gather the Christian world under his banner and to exercise his power through his vicegerent, the proud pontiff who claimed to be the representative of Christ. Through half-converted pagans, ambitious prelates, and world-loving churchmen he accomplished his purpose.

“Vast councils were held from time to time, in which the dignitaries of the church were convened from all the world. In nearly every council the Sabbath which God had instituted was pressed down a little lower, while the Sunday was correspondingly exalted. Thus the pagan festival came finally to be honoured as a divine institution, while the Bible Sabbath was pronounced a relic of Judaism, and its observers were declared to be accursed.

“The great apostate had succeeded in exalting himself ‘above all that is called God, or that is worshiped.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:4” ibid p 53

And so Sunday worship rises into prominence, replacing God’s divine word with pagan rites and ceremonies.

Quote: “In the interval between the days of the apostles and the conversion of Constantine, the Christian commonwealth changed its aspect...

Rites and ceremonies, of which neither Paul nor Peter ever heard, crept silently into use, and then **claimed the rank of divine institutions.**" Dr W.D. Killen's (Presbyterian), "The Ancient Church", Preface, pp xv,xvi" Bible Readings for the Home Circle (1914 ed) Section 9 The Sabbath Chapter 100. Walk as He Walked. Retrieved July 1 2025 from <https://www.preparingforeternity.com/brl914/brhc.htm>

THE FIRST SUNDAY LAW

Now the united powers of state and religion come into mandatory force.

Early in the year AD 321, with the blessings of collaborating bishops, Emperor Constantine, a Sun god worshipper, becomes a nominal Christian. History records he combined Sun god worship on Sun Day with some Christian principles.

Later that year, Constantine declares, in a state decree, that all his subjects are to observe Sun Day as the religious day for worship.

From historical evidence available, this decree was backed by a political strategy to unite his fractured empire.

A law enforcing Sun Day as a rest day was pleasing to people who worshipped the Sun god on Sun Day, and also pleasing to some Christians who gathered on Sun Day to honour Christ's resurrection. Note while some "gathered" on Sun Day, most still worshipped God on the seventh day Sabbath, the day we call Saturday.

Some 16 years later, in 337, Constantine lay on his deathbed, and surrounded by bishops the dying emperor was officially baptised, as the bishops forgave his lifetime of sins.

You see, anyone can say they are a Christian, attend church, pray, know some Christian beliefs. But does their daily life begin to demonstrate a deep commitment to God, and show a transformation of their life through faith?

Quote: "**On the venerable Day of the Sun** let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain-sowing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost. (Given the 7th day of March, Crispus and Constantine being consuls each of them for the second time.)"Codex Justinianus, lib 3, tit. 12.3; translated by Phillip Schaff in *History of the Christian Church*, 1864, Vol. III p380). Retrieved July 1 2025 from <https://222.onegodonelord.com/sundaylaw>

Yes, Constantine's political decree was the first mandated Sunday law enforcing “..the venerable day of the sun...” Sunday, as the weekly day for worship.

But, not the last.

For today, in the 21st century, there are “blue laws” sitting on legislative books in various counties, cities, states and nations ready to mandate and enforce Sunday observance to encompass our entire world.

Quote: **“If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day. In keeping the Sunday, they are following a law of the Catholic Church.”** Albert Smith, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the Cardinal, in a letter of February 10, 1920 *Bible discussion thread* (2015) Retrieved July 1, 2025 from <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Discussion-Thread-50233/>

Thus Sunday enforcement will come with persecuting power in our latter times.

You see, there are faithful Seventh day Sabbath keepers who hold true to the entirety of God's sacred law. They will be standing in the days of Sunday dominance. *“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12*

Travelling through the last part of our blazing trail in Volume Seven, we shall fully explore a prophetic time of crisis most Christians have heard about, but few truly understand. That time of crisis, called the mark of the beast crisis, is intimately linked to worship - the day you worship and whom you worship.

Yes, the mark of the beast is a decisive conflict every person alive must meet head on, there will be no indecision or escape. Imagine this choice before you: Will you accept the papal mark of Sunday observance, and Satan's false trinity god, or will you choose God's seal of Seventh Day Sabbath keeping.

And this imminent conflict brings the spiritual battle of the ages to a climactic end, your choice and my choice: Either Satan's false trinity god, or the true Godhead union of God the Father and His only begotten Son.

*“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, **having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people**—saying with a loud voice, **“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”**”* Revelation 14:6-7

PART FIVE

The Trail of Admission



POPERY THE ANTI CHRIST?

We have seen how denial of the Father's and Son's literal relationship is the antichrist (1 John 2:22-23) and yet there is a specific Antichrist, prophesied to come into the world and is now among us this very day. Yet many do not know who this Antichrist is in person.

*"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that **the Antichrist is coming**, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that **it is the last hour**."* 1 John 2:18

Martin Luther, firstly a devout Roman Catholic monk, then priest, then university professor of the 16th century, was led by God to discover biblical truth, and became a courageous Protestant reformer. And Martin Luther described the Papacy as the Antichrist.

Quote: "During his protective confinement at Wartburg Castle, **he continued to describe the papacy as the antichrist**: St. Paul calls Antichrist the man of sin and the son of perdition, because through his precepts and laws he will turn all the world from God and prevent God and the world from coming together; he shall be a master of sin and all iniquity, and yet will retain the name and appearance of Christ and call himself Sanctimus and Vicarius Dei and Caput Ecclesiae ["most holy one; vicar of God; head of the Church"], and persecute all who will not obey him. It is easy to recognize that the pope more than fits this description.³¹" Pettibone, D. (2008) Martin Luther and the AntiChrist. Perspective Digest: Vol. 13: No. 2, Article 1. Retrieved August 8 2024 from <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pd/vol13/iss2/1>

*"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**"* 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Yes, in person, the pope, "...the man of sin...the son of perdition..." is the Antichrist in the world today, proclaiming himself as God upon earth.

Quote: "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 – And all the people

did say, Amen! A holy terror seized their souls. It was Antichrist whom they beheld seated on the pontifical throne. This new idea, which derived greater strength from the prophetic descriptions launched forth by Luther into the midst of contemporaries, inflicted the most terrible blow on Rome.” Taken from J.H. Merle D’Aubigne’s History of the Reformation of the Sixteen Century book vi, chapter xii, p215. Aanhalings: Pousdom is die antichrist. (2025, April 28). Retrieved July 3, 2025 from <https://www.glodiebybel.co.za/aanhalings-pousdom-is-die-antichris/>

Charles Spurgeon, known as the “Prince of Preachers” was a Baptist minister who lived and preached in the times of Queen Victoria. Spurgeon lived from 1834-1892 and spoke plainly about the Antichrist. Let’s see what Charles Spurgeon had to say:

Quote: “Popery is contrary to Christ’s Gospel, and is the Antichrist, and we ought to pray against it. It should be the daily prayer of every believer that Antichrist might be hurled like a millstone into the flood and for Christ, because it wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of His glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of His atonement, and lifts a piece of bread into the place of the Saviour, and a few drops of water into the place of the Holy Ghost and puts a mere fallible man like ourselves up as the vicar of Christ on earth; if we pray against it, because it is against Him, we shall love the persons though we hate their errors: we shall love their souls though we loath and detest their dogmas, and so the breath of our prayers will be sweetened, because we turn our faces towards Christ when we pray.” Ibid July 3, 2025

THE POPE’S GOD-LIKE STATUS IN THE PAPACY

Brace yourself, for you shall behold blasphemous statements, as the Roman Papacy exalts the Pope’s usurped authority over and above God’s divine authority here on Planet Earth.

Quote: “...**We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.**” **Pope Leo XIII** (1894, June 20). *Praeclara Gratulationis Publicae: Apostolic Letter of Pope Leo XIII*. Retrieved July 3, 2025 from <https://catholic.net/op/articles/2229/cat/1198/praeclara-gratulationis-publicae.html>

Quote: “...at the high mass of November 25th, 1894, Cardinal Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, who later became Pope Pius the 10th, presented an address at the high mass of St Mark’s (Venice) to the fanfare of the crowds. In that famous address he said the following, which has been quoted for the past one hundred plus years:

““The Pope is not simply the representative of Jesus Christ. On the contrary, he is Jesus Christ Himself, under the veil of the flesh, and who by means of a being common to humanity continues His ministry amongst

men...Does the Pope speak? It is Jesus Christ Who is speaking. Does he teach? It is Jesus Christ Who teaches. Does he confer grace or pronounce an anathema? It is Jesus Christ Himself Who is pronouncing the anathema and conferring the grace. Hence consequently, when one speaks of the Pope, it is not necessary to examine, but to obey..." Bowen, J. (2022, November 24). *Quote found after 127 years!* Retrieved July 3, 2025 from <https://www.fulcrum7.com/blog/2022/11/24/quote-found-after-127-years>

Quote: "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.

"Hence the pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions.

"So that if it were possible that the angels might err in the faith, or might think contrary to the faith, they could be judged and excommunicated by the pope.

"The pope is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief king of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom.

"The pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man but of God."

Inspiration Books East Inc (2023) *What's Behind the New World Order?*. Retrieved July 6 2025 from <https://theperfectstormiscoming.org/pdf-page.html> The last five quotes taken from What's Behind the New World Order.

Quote: "Whatever the Lord God himself, and the Redeemer, is said to do, that his vicar does, provided that he does nothing contrary to the faith." Ferraris, L. (n.d.) *Ecclesiastical Dictionary*. Vol VI pp25-29 Retrieved June 29, 2025 from <https://theologyonline.com/threads/is-the-pope-as-he-claims-%E2%80%9Cgod-on-earth%E2%80%9D.53319/> Quote from Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica, Vol VI, by Lucius Ferraris.

THE PAPACY'S COUNTERFEIT MARK OF AUTHORITY

The Papacy openly acknowledges that by her distinguishing mark of ecclesiastical authority she changed God's Seventh day Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday worship.

Quote: **“The Church is above the Bible; and this transference of Sabbath observance from Saturday to Sunday is proof positive of that fact.** Deny the authority of the Church and you have no adequate or reasonable explanation or justification for the substitution of Sunday for Saturday in the Third – Protestant Fourth – Commandment of God.” Sabbath observance (1923, September 1) *The Catholic Record*. London, Ontario, Canada. Retrieved July 7 2025 from <https://biblelight-info.com/c-record.htm>

Quote:“...you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.” Gibbons, Cardinal J. (1917). *The Faith of our Fathers*. 93rd edition, Pp 89. Baltimore, New York. Retrieved July 6, 2025 from <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/27435/pg27435-images.html> Note: Cardinal Gibbons was the Archbishop of Baltimore from 1877 until his death in 1921.

Quote:“Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; - she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.” Keenan, Rev. S. (1846) *On the obedience due to the church* Chapter II p 175. *A Doctrinal Catechism*. Impratur John Cardinal McCloskey, Archbishop of New York. New York. P.J. Kennedy and Sons. Retrieved 7 July 2025 from <https://www.catholicapologetics.info/apologetics/protestantism/catechism.htm>

Quote:“I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says ‘Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.’ The Catholic Church says, ‘No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.’ And lo! The entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the Holy Catholic Church.” – Father T. Enright, CSSR, President, Redemptorist College (Roman Catholic), Kansas City, Mo., February 18, 1884, printed in *History of the Sabbath*, p.802. Retrieved July 7, 2025 from <https://www.thebiblesaysthat.com/articles/sabbath/quick-qa-what-do-church-leaders-say-about-changing-sabbath-sunday>

PROTESTANT SUNDAY KEEPERS

Clearly by her own admission the papal system, the power behind the Roman Catholic Church, changed Sabbath observance from Saturday to Sunday worship.

And what about other Sunday-keeping Christians, called Protestants? Where do they come from? And why do they worship on the first day of the week, also known as the “Lord’s Day”?

Well, the founding roots of Protestantism are embedded in the 14th and 15th century AD – the very early times of The Reformation, which we shall explore in depth a little later when we venture onto the Protestant reform trail.

But let us briefly for now, dip into the Reformation.

The Reformation was a protest movement of great breadth and depth, crossing time, continents and borders, There were prominent men such as John Wycliffe (England, 14th century), who died peacefully in 1384, Jan Hus (John Huss) a Bohemian (Czech Republic) who was burned alive by decree of the Roman Catholic Church as a heretic in 1415, and Jerome of Prague, a friend of Huss, also burned alive within a year of Huss’ execution.

These men, and many more men and women who remain hidden in the mists of time, worked to unmask the false teachings in the papal system. Yes, they laid the foundation for Martin Luther and others who would rise nearly a hundred years later.

Like fire to the stubble, the reformers’ zeal and martyrdom for God’s truth spread quickly throughout Europe. Skirmishes and wars such as the Hussite movement were ignited against the Papacy, the censorship, the surveillance and control the Papacy was wielding throughout the nations.

A great Reformation builds and many people begin to break away from the false papal religion.

They are called Protestants because they protested against Rome’s false teachings and corruption. Through this awakening to God’s truth, Protestantism is born.

But the Protestant movement does not accomplish all of God’s reforming truth.

Eventually the reformers stop reforming, and still hold to the first day of the week as their day for worship, leaving the papal power a foothold in the midst of Protestantism.

Quote – “The greatest fault we can find in the Reformation is the Reformers stopped reforming. Had they gone on, and onward, till they had left the last vestige of Papacy behind, **such as natural immortality, sprinkling, the trinity, and Sunday-keeping**, the church would now be free from her unscriptural errors.” White, J. (1856, February 7) The word. *The Advent Review, and Sabbath Herald*, vol 7 p148 para 22. Retrieved July 8, 2025 from <https://m.egwritings.org>

Thus the majority of Protestants today, still adhere to Rome’s counterfeit day for worship - Sunday the first day of the week - and by default knowingly or unknowingly continue to believe in the papal doctrine of the trinity.

CATHOLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT SUNDAY KEEPING PROTESTANTS

The following statements reveal the Roman Catholic Church stance toward Protestants keeping Sunday in place of Saturday's seventh day Sabbath.

Quote: "They (Protestants) conveniently forget that they separated from us, not we from them; and that it is for them to return to unity on Catholic terms, not for us to seek union with them, or to accept it, on their terms. ...Protestantism is rebellion against the authority of Christ vested in His Church. It neither possessed authority, or has any desire to submit to authority. ...Protestantism has really proved to be the ally of paganism...All forms of Protestantism are unjustified. They should not exist." Rumble, L. (1941, January 4). Are American Catholics growing soft and satisfied? *America – A Catholic review of the Week*, vol 64, issue 13, pp 342-343. Retrieved July 8, 2025 from https://archive.org/details/sim_america_1941-01-04_64_13/mode/2up?view=theater

Quote: "Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the (Roman Catholic) Church, has no good reasons for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath, with the Jews and Seventh-Day Baptists." Shea, J.G. (1883, January). The observance of Sunday and civil laws for its enforcement. *American Catholic Quarterly Review*. Vol. 8, No. 29, p152 Retrieved July 8, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/american-catholic08unse/page/152/mode/2up>

Quote: "Nothing can be more plain and easy to understand than all this; and there is nobody who attempts to deny it; it is acknowledged by everybody that the day which Almighty God appointed to be kept holy was Saturday, not Sunday. Why do you then keep holy the Sunday, and not Saturday?"

"You will tell me that Saturday was the *Jewish* Sabbath, but that the *Christian* Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. Changed! But by whom? Who has authority to change an express command of Almighty God? When God has spoken and said, Thou shalt keep holy the seventh day, who shall dare to say, Nay, though mayest work and do all manner of worldly business on the seventh day; but thou shalt keep holy the first day in its stead? This is a most important, question, which I know not how you can answer.

"You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only; and yet in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day, you go against the plain letter of the Bible, and put another day in the place of that day which the Bible has commanded.

The command to keep holy the seventh day is one of the ten commandments; you believe that the other nine are still binding; who gave you authority to tamper with the fourth? If you are consistent with your own principles, if you really follow the Bible and the Bible only, you ought to be able to produce some portion of the New Testament in which this fourth commandment is expressly altered, or at least from which you may confidently infer that it was the will of God that Christians should make that change in its observance which you have made.” Brotherhood of St Vincent of Paul (1856) *The Clifton Tracts: Why don't you keep holy the Sabbath day – A question for all Bible Christians* (Vol 4, Tract 4 pp3-4). Retrieved July 9, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/CliftonTractsV4/page/n117/mode/2up>

Quote: “We Catholics then, have precisely the same authority for keeping Sunday holy instead of Saturday as we have for every other article of our creed, namely, the authority of ‘the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth’ (1 Tim iii. 15); whereas you who are Protestants have really no authority for it (Sunday sacredness) whatever; for there is no authority for it in the Bible, and you will not allow that there can be authority for it anywhere else. Both you and we do, in fact, follow tradition in this matter; but we follow it believing it to be a part of God’s word, and the (Catholic) Church to be its divinely appointed guardian and interpreter; you follow it (the Catholic Church), denouncing it all the time as a fallible and treacherous guide, which often makes the commandments of God of none effect quoting Matthew 15:6.” *ibid* p15

Quote: “Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible.” Reference: *The Catholic Mirror*, December 23, 1893.

Quote: “Practically everything that Protestants regard as essential or important they have received from the Catholic Church. They accepted Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made that change. They accepted the Bible from the Catholic Church as genuine, as authentic, as inspired, solely on the authority of the Catholic Church. They observe Christmas on the day assigned to it by the Catholic Church. They accept the date for Easter observance from the Church.

“They observe Advent and Lent, both institutions of the Catholic Church. Their prayer books and liturgy follow the order of the Catholic Church’s

ecclesiastical year, and they use many prayers and Bible readings which were in common use by Catholics throughout the world before new religions were formed.

“But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in accepting the Bible, in observing the Sunday, in keeping Christmas and Easter, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the Church, the Pope.

“Practically everything fundamental taught by Protestantism was defined by early Councils of the Church, and whether these were held in the east or in the west, they were presided over by the Pope or his legate...” Our Sunday Visitor. (1950, February 5). Since they take everything else why not the Pope? Fort Wayne Diocesan Edition, Huntington, Indiana. Retrieved July 10, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/20211124114413112-1/mode/lup?view=theater>

PROTESTANTS ADMISSIONS OF UNBIBLICAL SUNDAY KEEPING

We have distinctly heard the Roman Catholic voice on Sunday-keeping, but what does the voice of Sunday-keeping Protestants have to say? You might be surprised by their forthright answers. Below is a selection of quotes from Protestant sources. There are internet links to as many primary sources as possible.

Quote: Baptist: “There was and is a command to “keep the Sabbath day”, **but that Sabbath was not Sunday.** It will, however, be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask: Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament - absolutely not. **There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.**’ From an address (by Dr Edward T. Hiscox) before a Baptist ministers’ meeting in New York City, and reported in the Examiner, Nov. 16, 1893.” Sims, W.L. Rev & Dillon, I.P. Rev. (1913, July 4). The Sabbath Question. The Graham Guardian, no 20, p4. Retrieved July 13, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/safford-graham-guardian-1913-07-04/page/n3/mode/2up>

Quote: Congregationalist: “It is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath... **The Sabbath was founded on specific, divine command. We can plead no such command for the observance of Sunday...** There is not a single line in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any pen-

alty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday.” Dale, R.W. Dr. (1901) *The Ten Commandments*. pp 106-107. London, Hodder & Stoughton. Retrieved July 13, 2025 from https://archive.org/details/tencommandments-00dale_0/page/100/mode/2up?

Quote: Lutheran Free Church: ““For when there could not be produced **one solitary place in the Holy Scriptures which testified that either the Lord Himself or the apostles** had ordered such a transfer of the Sabbath to Sunday, then it was not easy to answer the question: Who has transferred the Sabbath, and who has had the right to do it?” “Source: George Sverdrup, “En ny Dag” (“A New Day”), in “Sondagen og dens Hilligholdelse” (“Sunday and its Observance”), reprinted from Kvartal-Skrift (“Quarterly Journal”), 4 (1878), 5 (1879), in his Samlede Skrifter (“Collected Works”), ed. By Andreas Helland, Vo91 I (Minneapolis: Frikirkens Boghandels Forlag, 1909), p. 342. Norwegian. Used by permission of Messenger Printing, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.” Neufeld, D.F. & Neuffer, J.(Eds), (1962). 1454. Sabbath, Change of, Not in Scriptures. Seventh-day Adventist Bible Students’ Source Book. p891 Washington D.C., Review and Herald Publishing Association. Retrieved July 13, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/sourcebook0009donf/page/n5/mode/2up?g=1452>

Quote: Protestant Episcopal: “The day is now changed from the seventh to the first day...but as we meet with no Scriptural direction for the change, we may conclude it was done by the authority of the church.” The Protestant Episcopal Explanation of the Catechism. White, E.G. (1998 a reissue of the complete 1888 edition) *The Great Controversy*. p 492. Altamont, Tennessee, USA: Harvestime Books. Retrieved July 13, 2025 from https://archive.org/details/sda-ellen-g-white-the-great-Controversy=1888_202301/page/11/mode/2up?g=%22The+Scriptures+nowhere+call+the+first+_day+of+the+week+the+Sabbath%22

Quote: Presbyterian: “There is no word, no hint in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday...**Into the rest of Sunday no Divine Law enters.**” Eyton, R. (1895). *Fourth Commandment. The Ten Commandments: sermons preached at Holy Trinity, Chelsea*. London, K. Paul, Trench, Trubner. Retrieved July 13, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/tencommandmentss0000eyto/page/n5/mode/2up?q=%22There+is+no+word%2C+no+hint+in+the+New+Testament%22>

Quote: Anglican: “In the first place we are commanded to keep holy the seventh day; but yet we do not think it necessary to keep the seventh day holy; for the seventh day is Saturday. It may be said that we keep the first day instead; but then surely this is not the same thing; the first day

cannot be the seventh day: and where are we told in Scripture that we are to keep the first day at all? **We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.” (1847)** Fourth Commandment. *Plain Sermons Contributors to the “Tracts for the Times.”* Volume IX p267 London: Gilbert & Rivington. Retrieved July 13, 2025 from https://google.co.nz/books/edition/Plain_sermons_by_contributors_to_the_Tra/SOWEAAAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=plain+sermons+by+isaac+williams+volume+I+%22We+are+commanded+to+keep+the+seventh%3B%22&pg=PA2676&printsec=frontcover

Quote: Methodist: “It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week.” Binney A (Rev). & Steele, D. (Rev) (1875). *Institutions of Christianity. Theological Compendium Improved* p 181-182. New York: Nelson & Phillips. Retrieved July 13, 2025 from https://google.co.nz/books/edition/_/cYICAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=l

Thus at least some Protestants agree, there is no scriptural base for the change of God’s seventh day Sabbath to Sunday worship.

Expounding on biblical truth, the New Testament scriptures undeniably declare that the Seventh day Sabbath remains as God’s holy day for worship.

JESUS KEPT THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

And so beginning with Jesus’ example, for what better example could we ever find, we follow the New Testament trail of true seventh day Sabbath keepers. *“And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.” Luke 4:14-16*

During the Sabbath hours, with compassionate love for suffering humanity, Jesus heals the sick and brokenhearted, declaring to all people that doing good on the Sabbath is lawful.

“For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.’ Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’—that they might accuse Him. Then He said to them, ‘What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.’” Matthew 12:8-12

And being the “...Son of Man...”, and “...Lord...”, Jesus says, *“The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.” Mark 2:27-28*

Knowing His death is imminent, Jesus looks down the trail of time to the year AD 70 and speaks to His disciples about the future destruction of Jerusalem. *“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.”* Luke 21:20-21

Jesus added, *“And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.”* Matthew 24:20

Yes, Jesus is referring to the seventh day Sabbath that He upholds to our day and forever beyond.

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8 - *“For I am the LORD, I do not change;”* Malachi 3:6

NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS KEPT THE TRUE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

After Jesus returns to heaven, His close family and beloved disciples continue to keep the seventh day Sabbath holy, and so does the flourishing Christian Church.

*“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a **Sabbath day’s** journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.*

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” Acts 1:12-14

The apostle Paul, a former Pharisee who converts to Christianity soon after Jesus returns to heaven, is another New Testament believer who keeps the seventh day Sabbath holy as he taught and preached to the assembled people.

You can read about Paul’s conversion experience under the subheading **Saul Becomes Paul**.

*“Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and **went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day** and sat down. And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying,*

“Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.” Acts 13:13-15

*“So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them **the next Sabbath**. Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking*

to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. **On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.**" Acts 13:42-44

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

"Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. And **on the Sabbath day** we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul." Acts 16:9-14

In the book of *Hebrews*, in the Bible, Paul declares that the seventh day Sabbath remains a rest for God's faithful people:

"For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: '**And God rested on the seventh day from all His works.**' There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His." Hebrews 4:4, 9-10

Now stepping into the book of *Revelation*, the last book in the Bible, we meet the apostle John, exiled on the rocky isle of Patmos and he mentions the Sabbath day in these words: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet..." Revelation 1:10

And yes, there is the phrase "...the Lord's day..." referring of course to the seventh day Sabbath. Remember, Jesus said, "Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." Mark 2:28. Therefore the seventh day Sabbath is, "...the Lord's day..." of sacred time.

KEEPING GOD'S SEVENTH DAY SABBATH TODAY

Joyfully, when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour into our lives, His commandments and abiding faith become the spiritual example we naturally desire to follow. "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

Can you see how keeping God's Commandments and the seventh day Sabbath are inseparable, for both blend in one embodiment of truth proceeding from God's divine being.

Quote: "Dr JB Dimbleby, premier chronologist to the British Chronological and Astronomical Association, after years of careful calculations asserts: 'If men refused to observe weeks, and the line of time was for-

gotten, the day of the week could be recovered by observing when the transits of the planets, or eclipses of the Sun and Moon, occurred. These great sentinels of the sky keep seven days with scientific accuracy, thundering out the seven days inscribed on the inspired page.” All Past Time, p 10 from National Sunday Law, Appensix 12 p93 by Jan Marcussen.

“Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me.” Isaiah 51:4

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

“...the law is spiritual...” Romans 7:14

“... And Your law is truth.” Psalm 119:142

“...if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” Matthew 19:17

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...” Exodus 20:8

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15

“...the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God.” Exodus 20:10

While John is in the Spirit on “...the Lord’s day...” on God’s Seventh day Sabbath, he beholds the Ark of the Covenant, containing God’s original Ten Commandments in the heavenly temple. *“Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.” Revelation 11:19*

And the The Ark of the Covenant seen in the heavenly temple is still there today informing us that God’s covenant of Ten Commandments is eternal just as God is eternal.

“The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” Psalm 111:7-8

Hence God’s seventh day Sabbath centred in the Ten Commandments is eternal, just as God is eternal.

*“For as the new heavens and the new earth
Which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD,
‘So shall your descendants and your name remain.
And it shall come to pass
That from one New Moon to another,
And from one Sabbath to another,*

All flesh shall come to worship before Me,' says the LORD."

Isaiah 66:22-23

Yes, on the newly created earth, the saved saints shall gather every seventh day to worship God on His Sabbath day of spiritual rest.

SATAN WORKS THROUGH PAPACY'S UNSCRIPTURAL DECREES

And so we have seen numerous biblical texts and historic quotes declaring and confirming that keeping God's seventh day Sabbath is relevant for us today and beyond.

And today, just like the true believers living in past history, we too face the Papacy's unscriptural decrees invoked through her early councils.

Quote: **"The Council of Laodicea decreed that Christians should keep the Sunday,** and that if they persisted in resting on the Sabbath, 'they shall be shut out from Christ.' (See Hefele, A History of the Councils of the Church, vol 2, p 316." Bible readings for the home; a study of 200 vital scripture topics in question-and-answer form contributed by a large number of Bible scholars p482 (1949 edition) Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association Retrieved July 27, 2025 from <https://archive.org/details/biblereadingsfor00paci/page/482/mode/2up?q=%22The+Council+of+Laodicea+decreed+that+Christians+should+keep+the+Sunday%22>

Thus through the decree of the Laodicean council, in the latter half of the fourth century, the true Seventh day Sabbath is formally replaced with Sunday worship, and Satan raises his satanic standard of counterfeit worship in the papal church, flowing through to the realm of Protestant Churches today in the 21st century.

Yes, Satan has deceived and is deceiving many billions, of people into believing the first day of the week , Sunday, is God's day for worship. Thus the majority of Christians innocently and sincerely keep Sunday, believing they are worshipping God on His day of rest.

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent..." Acts 17:30

And so with overwhelming evidence before us, we cannot plea ignorance. For we have clearly seen without the slightest hint of doubt, that Sunday is Satan's counterfeit Sabbath, in opposition to God's true seventh day Sabbath - Saturday.

TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO GOD

Knowing of Satan's Sunday deceit, our Sabbath allegiance must be to God, honoring His Seventh day of Sabbath rest.

As we worship God on the seventh day Sabbath, our loyalty becomes a visible sign before Him and the universe that we belong to Him, and Jesus is crowned Lord and King over our lives.

*“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: **‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.’**” Exodus 31:13*

*“Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. **‘It is a sign** between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’” Exodus 31:16-17*

Yes, honouring God's true Sabbath in our times today, we shall receive God's Sabbath prosperity into our lives.

*“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath,
From doing your pleasure on My holy day,
And call the Sabbath a delight,
The holy day of the LORD honorable,
And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,
Nor finding your own pleasure,
Nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD;
And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,
And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.
The mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 58:13-14*

Thus the seventh day of holy rest, is God's signature of authority, written over the changing times of Planet Earth, that we might remember Him and honour Him as our Creator.

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment

has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” Revelation 14:6–7

So always remember, the six common weekly days Sunday to Friday, God has given for work to sustain our physical being, but the seventh day is God’s sanctified day of rest to sustain our spiritual souls.

PART SIX

The Trail to Papal Power



SEPARATION FROM PAGANISM

Surging over time, the corrupting wave of paganism floods the Christian Church, yet the faithful of God remain true to His pure word of truth and take the only way left open to them – true believers must separate from the fallen apostate church.

Quote: “After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children’s children.” White, E.G. (1950 ed) *The Great Controversy* p 45 Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Yet God’s faithful few continue to proclaim His delivering message, gathering precious souls into God’s spiritual fold. But their bold witness for God’s truth stirs the anger of the Roman papal church and so begins a third era of bloody persecution.

You may recall Daniel’s vision, where he beholds papal Rome, the little horn power, warring against God’s people.

*“Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, **namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.***

***“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,** “until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.” Daniel 7:19-22*

Yes, Daniel beholds the Papal power, “...**making war against the saints...**” and this links to what the apostle John of New Testament times beholds, recorded in *The Revelation Of Jesus Christ*, the last book of the Bible. And not surprisingly, John’s vision reveals Satan as the persecuting power enraging the Papacy to annihilate God’s Church.

*“Now when the dragon (Satan) saw that he had been cast to the earth, **he persecuted the woman** (God’s true Church) who gave birth to the male Child. (Jesus) But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.” Revelation 12:13-14*

Like a bird in flight escaping predatory prey, God’s faithful believers flee from papal persecution into the isolated wilderness.

“So the serpent (Satan) spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:15-17

Thus manipulated by Satan’s persecuting power, the pope of Rome begins a brutal campaign to annihilate those who will not conform to the Papacy’s religious dogmas. God’s true believers were hunted down like animals. Safe havens were few and far between. And for how long would this third era of persecution continue to rage against God’s saints?

*“Then the saints shall be given into his hand **For a time and times and half a time.**” Daniel 7:25*

*“And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority **to continue for forty-two months.**” Revelation 13:5*

CALCULATING PROPHETIC TIME

You may remember, prophetic time is not measured in the literal time we live by. You may also remember, God has given a simple guide to measure prophetic time, where a day stands for a literal year.

For example (to refresh our memories), God said to the Israelite nation:

*““According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, **forty days**, for **each day** you shall bear your guilt **one year**, namely **forty years**, and you shall know My rejection.”” Numbers 14:34*

And again God gives a day for a year of prophetic time when He says to the prophet Ezekiel.

*“...when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah **forty days**. I have laid on you **a day for each year.**” Ezekiel 4:6*

So we see one prophetic day equals one year. But a prophetic year is not the same as the year we use today either.

We know that our calendar year consists of 365 days, with an extra day in February every four years, called a leap year.

Yet a year in the Bible is 360 days only, made up of 12 months with 30 days each (12 x 30 = 360 days).

Now the prophetic year goes by the 360 day year outlined in the Bible. How can this be? You see in earth's beginning, when God created our planet, God said, "*Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for **days and years...***" Genesis 1:14

Quite clearly, God intended the "...lights..." (the sun and moon), to be used by earth's inhabitants for measuring the seasons, days and years.

Sir Isaac Newton and many other prominent thinkers and historians through the ages, agree that the Bible year of 360 days, was based on 30 days to a lunar month (the complete cycle of the moon), and there were 12 of these months to one year.

Biblical evidence for a 360 day year is clearly given in the account of the Great Flood, during Noah's life time. Let's investigate:

In the following bible texts, notice this: The flood lasted for 150 days, from the 17th day of the second month to the 17th day of the seventh month. That is five months of 30 days each. And so thirty days multiplied by twelve months equals a 360 day year.

*"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in **the second month, the seventeenth day of the month**, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."* Genesis 7:11

*"And the waters prevailed on the earth **one hundred and fifty days.**"* Genesis 7:24

*"And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of **the hundred and fifty days** the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the **seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month**, on the mountains of Ararat."* Genesis 8:3-4

And so a prophetic year is a complete 360 days. That is 12 months with 30 days each without variation.

So let's do a little calculating remembering that in prophesy, a day represents a literal year and a prophetic month represents thirty literal days:

Daniel's prophetic time is "*For a time and times and half a time...*"

Now a time and times and half a time = a time (360 days) + times (360 days x 2) = 720 days + half a time (180 days) = 1260 prophetic days.

1260 prophetic days = 1260 actual years.

And John's prophetic time "... *forty-two months*..."

Forty-two prophetic months = 42 months x 30 days = 1260 days.

1260 prophetic days = 1260 actual years.

And so Daniel and John behold papal rule and persecution of the true believers lasting for 1260 literal years.

BEGINNING OF THE 1260 YEARS?

We know that the official date of papal rule began AD 538.

Quote: "The edict of the emperor Justinian, dated A. D. 533, made the bishop of Rome the head of all the churches. But this edict could not go into effect until the Arian Ostrogoths, the last of the three horns that were plucked up to make room for the papacy, were driven from Rome: and this was not accomplished, till A. D. 538," Smith, U. (1881). *Daniel and the Revelation*. (p 144). London: Pacific Press Publishing Company.

Thus begins the period of the little horn power, the papal rule. Add the calculated 1260 years to AD 538 and we arrive at the year AD 1798.

Yes, Daniel and John behold papal rule continuing for 1260 long years. But what transpires during the 1260 years? Weaving our way through the 1260 year path of persecution, we shall discover dark answers.

TIMES OF THE DARK AGES

Now that the Bishop of Rome (Pope) is enthroned in the imperial city AD 538, Satan has reached his first objective.

Just as Satan possessed that beautiful flying serpent in the Garden of Eden to entice mankind into sin, he now possesses the Pope, using the Pope as his master puppet to exert influence over the affairs of state and church. In effect, concealed in the Roman Papacy, Satan has gained his seat of power, enthroning himself over the religious world.

His next objective is to overshadow the peoples of every nation with dark heresies, hiding the truth of God through ignorance and superstition.

Thus, the reign of the Roman Papacy ushers in the era of time called the Dark Ages. Wielding her powers of state and church combined, the Papacy puts forth every effort to keep the word of God from the masses.

The only Bibles to be found are those handwritten in Latin and chained to monastery and church furniture. Most people were illiterate anyway, and these were

dark times before the printing press was invented.

So the people are completely dependent upon the one and only church, the Roman Catholic Church, for their spiritual development. Weekly attendance at church is expected and as time moves on, church pews are installed in churches, making identification of people easier. Then, failing to attend church came with negative consequences.

In church, sermons were preached on Roman Catholic doctrines, each line of prayer was called out and worshippers repeated the words out loud. Then around the interior of the church were works of art, all depicting church doctrines.

And yet, papal dominance was only beginning.

Scientific and practical knowledge, the arts and inventive imaginations are suppressed or rerouted for fulfillment of the spiritual and temporal aims of the church. Over time, valuable skills change focus. For example, physical mapping of the world is kept secret, for the papal hierarchy only. But another type of map emerges, maps based on spiritual doctrine and papal supremacy. Hospital care changes focus, instead of curing, hospitals focus on spiritual preparation.

Monks, friars and priests are the only teachers authorized by the church. Only that which filters down from the papal hierarchy is taught. There are exceptions of course. For instance, during the time of papal dominance, music transforms from an oral tradition to the written music we know today, thanks to an invention by a monk. Of course, the invention of musical notation was in accordance with the aims and needs of the Papacy.

Yet still we see how one Pope after another is presented before the people as the very image and presence of God upon earth. Popes issue legal decisions that are enforced throughout the entire “Christian” known world, even bringing kings to bow to the papal supremacy. This is the beginnings of blasphemies hurled against God’s true presence upon earth.

THE POPE’S BLASPHEMY AGAINST GOD

“Then he (the Papacy) opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.” Revelation 13:6

And what is blasphemy? The Bible gives an answer, when the Jews attempt to stone Jesus.

*“Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, ‘Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?’ The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, **but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.**’” John 10:31-33*

And there it is, blasphemy is claiming to be equal to God.

Of course, being the Son of God in human flesh, Jesus did not blaspheme at all - He was who He claimed to be! But in living reality the man of sin, is just a created human being made entirely from the dust of the earth. Just like you or me.

Yet let us read again the claims of the Papacy.”

Quote: **“The Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions...”** Retrieved July 6 2025 from <https://theperfectstormiscoming.org/pdf-page.html>

Quote: **“The Pope is as it were God on earth**, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom...” Retrieved July 6 2025 from <https://theperfectstormiscoming.org/pdf-page.html>

Thus the man of sin “...sits as God in the temple of God...” 2 Thessalonians 2:4, “...to blaspheme His name, his tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.” Revelation 13:6

Quote: “Look at a few of the pope’s self-assumed titles: ‘Vicegerent of the Son of God,’ **‘Our Lord God, the Pope,’** ‘Another God upon earth,’ ‘King of the world,’ **‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’** **Said Pope Nicholas to the emperor Michael,** ‘The pope, who is called God by Constantine, can never be bound or released by man; for God cannot be judged by man.’ **Is there need of bolder blasphemy than this?** Listen also to the adulation the popes have received from their followers without rebuke. A Venetian prelate in the fourth session of the Lateran, addressed the pope as follows: ‘Thou are our Shepherd, our Physician, in short, a second God upon earth.’ Another bishop called him ‘the lion of the tribe of Judah, the promised Saviour.’ Lord Anthony Pucci, in the fifth Lateran, said to the pope, ‘The sight of thy divine majesty does not a little terrify me; for I am not ignorant that all power both in heaven and in earth is given unto you; that the prophetic saying is fulfilled in you, “All the kings of the earth shall worship him, and nations shall serve him.”’ See Oswald’s ‘Kingdom Which Shall not be Destroyed,’ pp. 97-99. Again Dr Clarke, on verse 25, says: “He shall speak as if he were God.” So St Jerome quotes from Symmachus. To none can this apply so well or so fully as to the popes of Rome. They have assumed infallibility, which belongs only to God. They profess to forgive sins, which belongs only to God. They profess to open and shut heaven, which belongs only to God. They profess to be higher than all the kings of the earth, which belongs only to God. And they go beyond God in pretending to loose whole na-

tions from their oath of allegiance to their kings, when such kings do not please them. And they go against God, when they give indulgences for sin. This is the worst of all blasphemies. Smith, U. (1881) *Daniel and the Revelation*. (pp 137-138) London: Pacific Press Company.

BLASPHEMY BY PRIESTS

And yes, papal blasphemy continues in our day, where ordained priests stand in the place of God to hear confession of sin and to forgive sin. Yet only God the Father and Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man have divine authority to forgive sin transgressed against Their law.

*“And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, ‘Who is this who speaks blasphemies? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**’ But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, ‘Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven you,” or to say, “Rise up and walk”? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’—He said to the man who was paralyzed, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, ‘We have seen strange things today!’” Luke 5:21-26*

JESUS - ONLY TRUE MEDIATOR

The Bible tells us, “...there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...” 1 Timothy 2:5

“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens...” Hebrews 8:1

*“But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**” Hebrews 7:24-25*

Yes, Jesus is our High Priest in the heavenly temple and He intercedes between us and God the Father. As we pray to our heavenly Father and confess our sins, the Father receives us through Jesus’ interceding ministry and the Father forgives us and pardons our sin.

But, when Catholic priests hear human confessions and grant human forgiveness for the transgression of God’s law, they blaspheme God’s name and His tabernacle. They sit in the place of Jesus, our true and only Mediator in the heavenly temple.

Jesus explained very simply, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” John 14:6 - And Jesus also said, “*Do not call anyone on*

earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.” Matthew 23:9

In spiritual context, we are not to call a human being “Father” in the place of our heavenly Father’s divine honourable name. *“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” Exodus 20:7*

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Papal blasphemy against God continues down the ages to our modern times, as revealed in the catholic rituals of mass and partaking of the Eucharist.

These rituals are a counterfeit of the New Testament ordinance called the “Lord’s Supper”. So what is this “Lord’s Supper”?

The night before His crucifixion on Friday, Jesus and His disciples gather for the last Passover supper:

“So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, ‘With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’” Luke 22:13–20

Spiritually partaking of the Lord’s Supper, pure unfermented grape juice and unleavened bread are **symbolic representations** of Jesus’ blood and body once sacrificed upon the cross.

But during the ritual of the Roman Catholic mass, priests claim to have special powers to change the bread and wine into the **actual blood and body** of Christ.

Quote: “Papist priests pretended, by their senseless mummery, to convert the simple bread and wine into the actual ‘body and blood of Christ.’ Cardinal Wiseman, *The Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Eucharist, Proved From Scripture*, lecture 8, sec. 3, par. 26. With blasphemous presumption, they openly claimed the power of ‘creating God, the Creator of all things.’ All Christians were required, on pain of death, to avow their faith in this horrible, Heaven-insulting heresy. Multitudes who refused were given to the flames.” Inspiration Books East Inc (2023) *What’s Behind the New World Order?* p 9 Retrieved July 6 2025 from <https://theperfectstormiscoming.org/pdf-page.html>

THE FEAR OF HELL

And so slipping down down the centuries, as Papal corruption follows corruption, darkness grips the world and the fear of banishment to the fiery depths of hell torments the people.

Now to capitalize on the fear of the Roman Catholic multitude, the Papacy invents the doctrine of indulgences, a down payment of money to release the Catholic believer from past, present and all future sin, assuring a free pass into heaven.

Quote: “Still another fabrication was needed to enable Rome to profit by the fears and vices of her adherents. This was supplied by the doctrine of indulgences. Full remission of sins, past, present, and future, and release from all the pains and penalties incurred, were promised to those who would enlist in the pontiff’s wars to extend his temporal dominion, to punish his enemies, or to exterminate those who dared deny his spiritual supremacy. The people were taught that by the payment of money to the church they might free themselves from sin, and release the souls of their deceased friends **who were confined in the tormenting flames**. By such means Rome filled her coffers, and sustained the magnificence, luxury, and vice of the pretended representatives of Him who had not where to lay His head.” Inspiration Books East Inc (2023) *What’s Behind the New World Order?* p 9 Retrieved July 6 2025 from <https://thep-erfectstormiscoming.org/pdf-page.html>

PART SEVEN

The Trail of Papal Persecution



Before we press on, encountering horrific persecution, let us pause a while and take a moment of spiritual rest. We have covered a lot of intense ground on our prophetic trail with a wide historical landscape to comprehend in a short time.

But having gathered prophetic knowledge “...*here a little and there a little...*” we are in a sound biblical space. And we can rest assured, God’s directing hand is upon the prophetic clock guiding our personal lives into heaven’s welcoming paradise.

THE PAPAL INQUISITION

Quote: “In the thirteenth century was established that most terrible of all the engines of the papacy - the Inquisition. The prince of darkness wrought with the leaders of the papal hierarchy. In their secret councils Satan and his angels controlled the minds of evil men, while unseen in the midst stood an angel of God, taking the fearful record of their iniquitous decrees and writing the history of deeds too horrible to appear to human eyes. ‘Babylon the great’ was ‘drunken with the blood of the saints.’ The mangled forms of millions of martyrs cried to God for vengeance upon that apostate power.

“Popery had become the world’s despot. Kings and emperors bowed to the decrees of the Roman pontiff. The destinies of men, both for time and for eternity, seemed under his control. For hundreds of years the doctrines of Rome had been extensively and implicitly received, its rites reverently performed, its festivals generally observed. Its clergy were honored and liberally sustained. Never since has the Roman Church attained to greater dignity, magnificence, or power.

“But ‘the noon of the papacy was the midnight of the world.’ - J.A.Wylie, *The History of Protestantism, b. I, ch. 4*. The Holy Scriptures were almost unknown, not only to the people, but to the priests. Like the Pharisees of old, the papal leaders hated the light which would reveal their sins. God’s law, the standard of righteousness, having been removed, they exercised power without limit, and practices vice without restraint. Fraud, avarice, and profligacy prevailed. Men shrank from no crime by which they could gain wealth or position. The palaces of popes and prelates were scenes of the vilest debauchery. Some of the reigning pontiffs were

guilty of crimes so revolting that secular rulers endeavoured to depose these dignitaries of the church as monsters too vile to be tolerated. For centuries Europe had made no progress in learning, arts, or civilization. A moral and intellectual paralysis had fallen upon Christendom.” White, E.G. (1950 Centennial Edition) *The Great Controversy*. Volume 5, Conflict of the Age series, Chapter 3 (pp 59-60) Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association.

GOD’S TRUE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS

And so papal dominance and persecution continue through the 1260 year period. God’s word is exiled in the spiritual wilderness. And yet inspite of Satan’s efforts to darken God’s knowledge of truth, God’s word shines forth in the lives of the faithful

“But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent (Satan). So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, (true Church) that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:14-17

Thus spewing a flood of fierce persecution, the Roman Papacy attempts to drown God’s true Church - those who faithfully keep the seventh day Sabbath and the Ten Commandments of righteous life.

Quote: “Amid the gloom that settled upon the earth during the long period of papal supremacy, the light of truth could not be wholly extinguished. In every age there were witnesses for God - men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath. How much the world owes to these men, posterity will never know. They were branded as heretics, their motives impugned, their characters maligned, their writings suppressed, misrepresented, or mutilated. Yet they stood firm, and from age to age maintained their faith in its purity, as a sacred heritage for the generations to come...

“...In lands beyond the jurisdiction of Rome there existed for many centuries bodies of Christians who remained almost wholly free from papal corruption. They were surrounded by heathenism and in the lapse of ages were affected by its errors; but they continued to regard the Bible as the only rule of faith and adhered to many of its truths. These Christians believed in the perpetuity of the law of God and observed the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Churches that held to this faith and

practice existed in Central Africa and among the Armenians of Asia.

“But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost. In the very land where popery had fixed its seat, there its falsehood and corruption were most steadfastly resisted. For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome insisted upon their submission. After ineffectual struggles against her tyranny, the leaders of these churches reluctantly acknowledged the supremacy of the power to which the whole world seemed to pay homage. There were some, however, who refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. Those who adhered to the ancient faith now withdrew; some, forsaking their native Alps, raised the banner of truth in foreign lands; others retreated to the secluded glens and rocky fastnesses of the mountains, and there preserved their freedom to worship God.

“The faith which for centuries was held and taught by the Waldensian Christians was in marked contrast to the false doctrines put forth from Rome. Their religious belief was founded upon the written word of God, the true system of Christianity. But those humble peasants, in their obscure retreats, shut away from the world, and bound to daily toil among their flocks and their vineyards, had not by themselves arrived at the truth in opposition to the dogmas and heresies of the apostate church. Theirs was not a faith newly received. Their religious belief was their inheritance from their fathers. They contended for the faith of the apostolic church, - ‘the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.’ Jude 3. ‘The church in the wilderness,’ and not the proud hierarchy enthroned in the world’s great capital, was the true church of Christ, the guardian of the treasures of truth which God has committed to His people to be given to the world...

“...The Waldenses were among the first of the peoples of Europe to obtain a translation of the Holy Scriptures. (See Appendix.) Hundreds of years before the Reformation they possessed the Bible in manuscript in their native tongue. They had the truth unadulterated, and this rendered them the special objects of hatred and persecution. They declared the Church of Rome to be the apostate Babylon of the Apocalypse, and at the peril of their lives they stood up to resist her corruptions. While, under the pressure of long-continued persecution, some compromised their faith, little by little yielding its distinctive principles, others held fast the truth. Through ages of darkness and apostasy there were Waldenses who denied the supremacy of Rome, who rejected image worship as idolatry, and who kept the true Sabbath. Under the fiercest tempests of opposition they maintained their faith. Though gashed by the Savoyard

spear, and scorched by the Romish fagot, they stood unflinchingly for God's word and His honour.

"Behind the lofty bulwarks of the mountains - in all ages the refuge of the persecuted and oppressed - the Waldenses found a hiding place. Here the light of truth was kept burning amid the darkness of the Middle Ages. Here, for a thousand years, witnesses for the truth maintained the ancient faith...

"...The Vaudois ministers were trained as missionaries, everyone who expected to enter the ministry being required first to gain an experience as an evangelist. Each was to serve three years in some mission field before taking charge of a church at home...

"...The Waldensian missionaries were invading the kingdom of Satan, and the powers of darkness aroused to greater vigilance. Every effort to advance the truth was watched by the prince of evil, and he excited the fears of his agents. The papal leaders saw a portent of danger to their cause from the labours of these humble itinerants. If the light of truth were allowed to shine unobstructed, it would sweep away the heavy clouds of error that enveloped the people. It would direct the minds of men to God alone and would eventually destroy the supremacy of Rome.

"The very existence of this people, holding the faith of the ancient church, was a constant testimony to Rome's apostasy, and therefore excited the most bitter hatred and persecution. Their refusal to surrender the Scriptures was also an offense that Rome could not tolerate. She determined to blot them from the earth. Now began the most terrible crusades against God's people in their mountain homes. Inquisitors were put upon their track, and the scene of innocent Abel falling before the murderous Cain was often repeated.

"Again and again were their fertile lands laid waste, their dwellings and chapels swept away, so that where once were flourishing fields and the homes of an innocent, industrious people, there remained only a desert. As the ravenous beast is rendered more furious by the taste of blood, so the rage of the papists was kindled to greater intensity by the sufferings of their victims. Many of these witnesses for a pure faith were pursued across the mountains and hunted down in the valleys where they were hidden, shut in by mighty forests and pinnacles of rock.

"No charge could be brought against the moral character of this proscribed class. Even their enemies declared them to be a peaceable, quiet, pious people. Their grand offense was that they would not worship God according to the will of the pope. For this crime every humiliation, insult, and torture that men or devils could invent was heaped upon them.

“When Rome at one time determined to exterminate the hated sect, a bull was issued by the pope, condemning them as heretics, and delivering them to slaughter.

“They were not accused as idlers, or dishonest, or disorderly; but it was declared that they had an appearance of piety and sanctity that seduced ‘the sheep of the true fold.’ Therefore the pope ordered ‘that malicious and abominable sect of malignants,’ if they ‘refuse to abjure, to be crushed like venomous snakes.’ - Wylie, b. 16, ch.1. Did this haughty potentate expect to meet those words again? Did he know that they were registered in the books of heaven, to confront him at the judgement? ‘Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren,’ said Jesus, ‘ye have done it unto Me.’ Matthew 25:40...

“...The persecutions visited for many centuries upon this God-fearing people were endured by them with a patience and constancy that honoured their Redeemer. Notwithstanding the crusades against them, and the inhuman butchery to which they were subjected, they continued to send out their missionaries to scatter the precious truth. They were hunted to death; yet their blood watered the seed sown, and it failed not of yielding fruit. Thus the Waldenses witnessed for God centuries before the birth of Luther. Scattered over many lands, they planted the seeds of the Reformation that began in the time of Wycliffe, grew broad and deep in the days of Luther, and is to be carried forward to the close of time by those who also are willing to suffer all things for ‘the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Revelation 1:9.” White, E.G. (1950 Centennial Edition) *The Great Controversy*. Volume 5, Conflict of the Age series, Chapter 4 (pp 61-78) Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association.

PAPACY’S PERSECUTIONS AND SLAUGHTER

Quote: “Has the papacy done this? For the mere information of any student of church history, no answer need here be given. All know that for long years the papal church has pursued its relentless work against the true followers of God. Chapter after chapter might be given, would our limited space permit. Wars, crusades, massacres, inquisitions, and persecutions of all kinds, - these were their weapons of extinction.

“Scott’s Church History says: ‘No computation can reach the numbers who have been put to death in different ways on account of their maintaining the profession of the gospel, and opposing the corruption of the church of Rome. A *million* of poor Waldenses perished in France; *nine hundred thousand* orthodox Christians were slain in less than thirty years after the institution of the order of the Jesuits. The Duke of Alva boasted

of having put to death in the Netherlands *thirty six thousand* by the hand of the common executioner during the space of a few years. The Inquisition destroyed, by various tortures, *one hundred and fifty thousand* within thirty years. These are a few specimens, and but a few, of those which history has recorded. But the total amount will never be known till the earth shall disclose her blood, and no more cover her slain.'

"Commenting upon the prophesy that the little horn should 'wear out the saints of the Most High,' Barnes in his Notes on Dan. 7:25, says: 'Can anyone doubt that this is true of the papacy? The Inquisition, the persecutions of the Waldenses, the ravages of the Duke of Alva, the fires of Smithfield, the tortures at Goa - indeed, the whole history of the papacy, may be appealed to in proof that this is applicable to that power. If anyone *could* have worn out the saints of the Most High, - could have cut them off from the earth so that evangelical religion would have become extinct - it would have been the persecutions of the papal power. In the year 1208 a crusade was proclaimed by Pope Innocent III. against the Waldenses and Albigenses in which a million of men perished. From the beginning of the order of the Jesuits, in the year 1540-1580 nine hundred thousand were destroyed. One hundred and fifty thousand perished in the Inquisition of thirty years in the Low Countries fifty thousand persons were hanged, beheaded, burned, and buried alive, for the crime of heresy within the space of thirty eight years from the edict of Charles V against the Protestants to the peace of Chateau Cambresis in 1559. Eighteen thousand suffered by the hand of the executioner in the space of five years and a half, during the administration of the Duke of Alva. Indeed, the slightest acquaintance with the history of the papacy will convince anyone that what is here said of 'making war with the saints' (verse 21) and 'wearing out the saints of the Most High' (verse 25), is strictly applicable to that power, and will accurately describe its history.' See Buck's Theological Dictionary, art. Persecutions; Oswald's Kingdom, etc., pp. 107-133; Dowling's History of Romanism; Fox's Book of Martyrs; Charlotte Elizabeth's Martyrology; The Wars of the Huguenots; The Great Red Dragon, By Anthony Gavin, formerly one of the Roman Catholic priests of Saragossa, Spain; Histories of the Reformation, etc....

"...In corroboration of these facts, **fifty millions of martyrs** - this is the lowest computation made by any historian - will rise up in the resurrection as witnesses against her bloody work.

Pagan Rome persecuted relentlessly the Christian church, and it is estimated that *three millions* of Christians perished in the first three centuries; yet it is said that the primitive Christians prayed for the continuance of imperial Rome; for they knew that when this form of government should cease, another far worse persecuting power would arise, which would literally, as this prophecy declares, 'wear out the saints of the Most

High.' Pagan Rome could slay the infants, but spare the mothers, but papal Rome slew both mothers and infants together. No age, no sex, no condition in life, was exempt from her relentless rage. 'When Herod died,' says a forcible writer, 'he went down to the grave with infamy; and earth had one murderer, one persecutor, less, and hell one victim more. O Rome! what will not be thy hell, and that of thy votaries, when thy judgment shall have come!'" Smith, U. (1881) *Daniel and the Revelation*. (pp139-143) London: Pacific Press Company.

Quote: "Thus the Waldenses witnessed for God centuries before the birth of Luther. Scattered over many lands, they planted the seeds of the Reformation that began in the time of Wycliffe, grew broad and deep in the days of Luther, and is to be carried forward to the close of time by those who also are willing to suffer all things for 'the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Revelation 1:9." White, E.G. (1950 Centennial Edition) *The Great Controversy* vol 5, Conflict of the Ages series (pp78) Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association.

PART EIGHT

The Protestant Blazing Trail



THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

From the dark ages of Roman Catholic supremacy, a pale light dares to pierce the darkness. Yes, a new day is dawning, this is the time of the Protestant Reformation.

Beginning with John Wycliffe in the 14th century AD, the Protestant Reformation light glows ever more brightly until Martin Luther and his fellow reformers in the 16th century AD become the bearers of flaming torches of God's truth upon earth's darkened landscape.

Quote: "Except among the Waldenses, the word of God had for ages been locked up in languages known only to the learned; but the time had come for the Scriptures to be translated and given to the people of different lands in their native tongue. The world had passed its midnight. The hours of darkness were wearing away, and in many lands appeared tokens of the coming dawn.

"In the fourteenth century arose in England the 'morning star of the Reformation.' John Wycliffe was the herald of reform, not for England alone, but for all Christendom. The great protest against Rome which it was permitted him to utter was never to be silenced. That protest opened the struggle which was to result in the emancipation of individuals, of churches, and of nations...

"...Like after Reformers, Wycliffe did not, at the opening of his work, foresee whither it would lead him. He did not set himself deliberately in opposition to Rome. But devotion to truth could not but bring him in conflict with falsehood. The more clearly he discerned the errors of the papacy, the more earnestly he presented the teaching of the Bible. He saw that Rome had forsaken the word of God for human tradition; he fearlessly accused the priesthood of having banished the Scriptures, and demanded that the Bible be restored to the people and that its authority be again established in the church. He was an able and earnest teacher and an eloquent preacher, and his daily life was a demonstration of the truths he preached. His knowledge of the Scriptures, the force of his reasoning, the purity of his life, and his unbending courage and integrity won for him general esteem and confidence. Many of the people had become dissatisfied with their former faith as they saw the iniquity that prevailed in the Roman Church, and they hailed with unconcealed joy the truths

brought to view by Wycliffe; but the papal leaders were filled with rage when they perceived that this Reformer was gaining an influence greater than their own.

“Wycliffe was a keen detector of error, and he struck fearlessly against many of the abuses sanctioned by the authority of Rome...

“...But the greatest work of his life was to be the translation of the Scriptures into the English language. In a work, *On the Truth and Meaning of Scripture*, he expressed his intention to translate the Bible, so that every man in England might read, in the language in which he was born, the wonderful works of God.

“But suddenly his labours were stopped. Though not yet sixty years of age, unceasing toil, study, and the assaults of his enemies had told upon his strength and made him prematurely old. He was attacked by a dangerous illness. The tidings brought great joy to the friars. Now they thought he would bitterly repent the evil he had done the church, and they hurried to his chamber to listen to his confession. Representatives from the four religious orders, with four civil officers, gathered about the supposed dying man. ‘You have death on your lips,’ they said; ‘be touched by your faults, and retract in our presence all that you have said to our injury.’ The Reformer listened in silence; then he bade his attendant raise him in his bed, and gazing steadily upon them as they stood waiting for his recantation, he said, in the firm, strong voice which had so often caused them to tremble: ‘I shall not die, but live; and again declare the evil deeds of the friars.’ - D’Aubigne, b. 17, ch. 7. Astonished and abashed, the monks hurried from the room.

“Wycliffe’s words were fulfilled. He lived to place in the hands of his countrymen the most powerful of all weapons against Rome - to give them the Bible, the Heaven-appointed agent to liberate, enlighten, and evangelize the people.” White, E.G. (1950 Centennial Edition) *The Great Controversy* vol 5, Conflict of the Age series (pp79-88) Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association.

HUSS AND JEROME

Now we see the reformers Huss and Jerome stepping forward in Wycliffe’s footsteps.

Quote: “God permitted great light to shine upon the minds of these chosen men, revealing to them many of the errors of Rome; but they did not receive all the light that was to be given to the world. Through these, His servants, God was leading the people out of the darkness of Romanism; but there were many and great obstacles for them to meet, and He led them on, step by step, as they could bear it. They were not prepared

to receive all the light at once. Like the full glory of the noontide sun to those who have long dwelt in darkness, it would, if presented, have caused them to turn away. Therefore He revealed it to the leaders little by little, as it could be received by the people. From century to century, other faithful workers were to follow, to lead the people on still further in the path of reform.” Ibid p 103

MARTIN LUTHER

Quote: “Foremost among those who were called to lead the church from the darkness of popery into the light of a purer faith, stood Martin Luther. Zealous, ardent, and devoted, knowing no fear but the fear of God, and acknowledging no foundation for religious faith but the Holy Scriptures, Luther was the man for his time; through him God accomplished a great work for the reformation of the church and the enlightenment of the world.” ibid p120

Quote: “While Luther was opening a closed Bible to the people of Germany, Tyndale was impelled by the Spirit of God to do the same for England. Wycliffe’s Bible had been translated from the Latin text, which contained many errors. It had never been printed, and the cost of manuscript copies was so great that few but wealthy men or nobles could procure it; and, furthermore, being strictly proscribed by the church, it had had a comparatively narrow circulation. In 1516, a year before the appearance of Luther’s theses, Erasmus had published his Greek and Latin version of the New Testament. Now for the first time the word of God was printed in the original tongue. In this work many errors of former versions were corrected, and the sense was more clearly rendered. It led many among the educated classes to a better knowledge of the truth, and gave a new impetus to the work of reform. But the common people were still, to a great extent, debarred from God’s work. Tyndale was to complete the work of Wycliffe in giving the Bible to his countrymen.

“A diligent student and an earnest seeker for truth, he had received the gospel from the Greek Testament of Erasmus. He fearlessly preached his convictions, urging that all doctrines be tested by the Scriptures. To the papist claim that the church had given the Bible, and the church alone could explain it, Tyndale responded: ‘Do you know who taught the eagles to find their prey? Well, that same God teaches His hungry children to find their Father in His word. Far from having given us the Scriptures, it is you who have hidden them from us; it is you who burn those who teach them, and if you could, you would burn the Scriptures themselves.’
- D-Aubigne, History of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, b. 18, ch. 4.

“Tyndale’s preaching excited great interest; many accepted the truth. But the priests were on the alert, and no sooner had he left the field than they by their threats and misrepresentations endeavoured to destroy his work. Too often they succeeded. ‘What is to be done?’ he exclaimed. ‘While I am sowing in one place, the enemy ravages the field I have just left. I cannot be everywhere. Oh! if Christians possessed the Holy Scriptures in their own tongue, they could of themselves withstand these sophists. Without the Bible it is impossible to establish the laity in the truth.’ Ibid (D’Aubigne), b. 18, ch. 4.

“A new purpose now took possession of his mind. ‘It was in the language of Israel,’ said he, ‘that the psalms were sung in the temple of Jehovah; and shall not the gospel speak the language of England among us?...Ought the church to have less light at noonday than at the dawn?...Christians must read the New Testament in their mother tongue.’ The doctors and teachers of the church disagreed among themselves. Only by the Bible could men arrive at the truth. ‘One holdeth this doctor, another that... Now each of these authors contradicts the other. How then can we distinguish him who says right from him who says wrong?...How?...Verily by God’s word.’ - Ibid (D’Aubigne), b. 18. ch. 4.

“It was not long after that a learned Catholic doctor, engaging in controversy with him, exclaimed: ‘We were better to be without God’s laws than the pope’s.’ Tyndale replied: ‘I defy the pope and all his laws; and if God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scripture than you do.’” Anderson, Annals of the English Bible, page 19.” White, E.G. (1950 Centennial Edition) *The Great Controversy* vol 5, Conflict of the Age series (pp245-246) Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association.

And Tyndale’s prediction was fulfilled to the letter, but his life’s work came at a price. On Friday 6 October 1536, William Tyndale was strangled at the Papal stake, and his body burnt to ashes.

PAPACY RECEIVES A MORTAL BLOW

True to fulfilling prophecy, Papal supremacy receives a mortal blow, ending the 1260 year era, . “*And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.*” *Revelation 13:3*

The year 1798 brings Papal persecution to a halt, seriously wounding its political and religious power in the world. But only for a season of time; for biblical prophecy also informs us that the Papacy’s deadly wound would heal, and remodelled, would become more powerful, more deadly than centuries gone before.

History informs us that on February 10 1798, the French general Berthier and the

army under his command, marched to the Castel of St Angelo, a monument rebuilt into a defensive castle and very close to the historic centre of Rome. Deep within the castle structure lies a secret corridor, linked to the Vatican so the Pope has a way to quickly and secretly move between the Vatican and the Castle. But not this time.

This historic winter day, Berthier demands the surrender of the Castel of St Angelo, allowing papal troops just four hours to evacuate. Prisoners are freed from the infamous castle dungeons and the gates of the city of Rome are guarded by French soldiers.

Now, Pope Pius VI, all cardinals except three, and all the people of Rome, are prisoners of the French army.

Berthier triumphantly issues a formal proclamation declaring a free and independent republic of Italy, under the special protection of the French army.

Yes, the goal of the French army was to completely destroy the papal government.

The French invaders set up a temporary government, and demand the Pope step down from his position as governor of Rome and other papal states of Italy.

Refusing to step down, the elderly Pope is dragged from the altar, rings are torn from his fingers, and he is quickly removed from Rome, a prisoner of the French. On August 29, 1799 after being moved from prison to prison, Pope Pius VI dies in a French fortress at Valence. He was 82.

Yet, the Roman Catholic hierarchy was not to be put to death so easily. In the long standing tradition of the Papacy, eligible cardinals retire to a secret location and vote among themselves, until a new pope emerges. In this year, 1800, the new pope takes the name of Pius VII.

PAPACY'S MORTAL WOUND BEGINS TO HEAL

True, the Papacy has suffered a terrible blow. But ever so slowly, the wound inflicted by the French, designed to kill the Papal rule, begins to regain strength.

Over the new pope's 23-year reign, several emperors, kings and queens of Europe pay homage to Pope Pius VII as spiritual leader of the known world. Yet cruelty and oppression reign as Pius VII restores the Roman Inquisition and the Index of Forbidden Books in 1814, recreating a strict police-state for the citizens of Rome.

Three more popes come and go between 1823 and 1846, a time some historians term "The Last Inquisition."

Under Pope Gregory XVI, a conservative pope, citizens of the Papal States are oppressed, persecuted and harassed. Political meetings are forbidden, newspapers are heavily censored and technological advances like the railway, streetlights and the telegraph are forbidden. Perhaps the pope saw these advances as a threat to his power. Whatever the reason, more than 200,000 citizens are severely punished during these

23 years. All trials are held in Latin, and many accused do not understand the charges against them.

Now, a new Pope is elected in 1846. The aim is to appoint a more liberal man to the role. Relaxing the stranglehold on the people, Pius IX, (Cardinal Mastai-Ferretti) sets about winning the people.

In his first year as Pope, the people unharness the horses from his carriage and joyously pull it through the streets of Rome. Pius IX responds by allowing a newspaper to be printed, demolishes the Jewish ghetto and declares a general amnesty.

In a bold international move, amid strong anti-Catholic feeling, Pope Pius IX re-establishes the Roman Catholic hierarchy across England after nearly 200 years since the last Catholic bishop to hold office in England died during the reign of Protestant sympathiser, Queen Elizabeth I (1553-1603).

This pope also establishes a Roman Catholic presence right across the United States from 1847 to 1877, laying the foundations for a strong Catholic administration for the future. He also appoints men of high Catholic standing in Germany, Austria and other European nations.

Yet, the Papacy faced seeming disaster at home in Rome. In the past, reigning kings or monarchs in Europe had helped the Papacy fight off invading armies. This time, threatened by the Italian army, not one nation would support the papal government. There was no human power to call upon. So Pope Pius XI turned to religious power, and at an historic conference, he declared all Popes' teachings to be infallible, perfect and to be obeyed.

Although the wound to the Papacy's power seemed to be reopening, the reality was the Papacy was further on the way to being healed than the world could ever imagine.

On September 20 1870, famous Italian patriot, Guiseppi Garibaldi, led an army of 60,000, breaking through the walls of Rome and seizing power from the poorly armed papal troops of just 4000 men.

Thus a united Italy was born, and an independent government began to rule and continues to this day. A referendum was taken among the citizens of the Papal States: Did they want to join the Italian Republic? The answer was a resounding "Yes."

But there were problems.

You see, Italy is, like no other nation in the world. The Pope's unique political and religious standing still had a huge impact upon the religious lives of the Italian people.

How was the new Italian State government to satisfy the religious needs of the Roman Catholic population, while keeping the State free of papal control?

In 1871, trying to solve the problem, the government passed a law protecting "...the

sacredness of the person of the Sovereign Pontiff..." (The Pope). A financial settlement was offered as well. The Pope rejected both offers and simply locked the gates of the Vatican Palace and refused to come out.

For the next 58 years, Popes come and go, but always refusing to bow to the Italian government's ruling power. From 1870-1929 this uneasy state of affairs was known as "The Vatican Question."

MUSSOLINI REINSTATES THE ROMAN PAPACY

What the Papacy needs is a conservative government leader, who will declare the Papal power to be universal and independent of any government, yet this leader will also want the Papacy as an ally.

In 1918, Benito Mussolini, self-styled as "Il Duce" (the leader) begins to rise. He was a clever journalist who knew how to persuade people through dramatic words, voice and gestures. Little by little he elevated himself as the powerful man to lead Italy.

Mussolini is often thought to have seized power, but in reality, in late October 1922, he organised a carefully staged march to Rome by his "Blackshirts", his 30,000 supporters who organised as an army. Mussolini himself arrived by train, and the king of Italy officially appointed Mussolini as Prime Minister. For the first few years Mussolini quietly uses strategy to cement himself and his political ideals firmly in the psyche of Italy.

You see, the Italian fascist ideal sees the State as supreme, yet the people of Italy were almost all Roman Catholics. To be a powerful leader, the people must believe Mussolini is a friend of their spiritual leader, the Pope. But Mussolini knew the church was no pushover. So a secret meeting is held between Mussolini and Pope Pius XI in 1923.

In 1926 the Papacy and the Italian State leaders began official talks, and an agreement was worked out. First, and vital to the Papacy, was the Italian government's recognition of the Roman Catholic Church as completely independent, controlling its own affairs, and an international force.

And so on February 11 1929, the "Lateran Accords" was signed by a representative of the Papacy (who left his sick bed for the historical signing) and Mussolini, leader of the State of Italy.

THE VATICAN STATE

Vatican City State was born! Mussolini gave 110 acres of land back to the Papacy, centred in the city of Rome looking out to the famous seven hills of Rome. And adding to the Vatican's already fabulous wealth of lands, buildings, priceless art, Mussolini gave the Papacy a hefty 750 million lire, and 1 billion lire of government bonds, a considerable

fortune even by today's standards.

And here is the success of the Papacy - nowhere in the world is there another State like Vatican City State. Free to come and go throughout the world as a powerful diplomatic and religious voice, Vatican City State appears to the world as a universal, international force.

As an independent state, Vatican City State can appoint political diplomats to every country, as well as hold a powerful religious presence throughout the entire world. The pope can speak out on moral issues, diplomatic issues and spiritual issues, yet be censured by none.

Watch carefully, for the Papal power is moving close, weaving further and further into the Protestant political power of prophecy.

In 1984 Vatican City State established diplomatic political ties with the United States. During his reign, Pope John Paul II met with successive United States Presidents. During 2002, the US President of the time, George W. Bush, established a weekly conference with Roman Catholic advisors.

Then in 2015, a bold move was made. Pope Francis became the first pope in history to address a joint session of the United States Congress.

Broadcast across the world, millions if not billions of people watched the unique event unfold in the hallowed hall of American government. That one move on the chessboard of history united Protestants and Roman Catholics in a way never seen since the Reformation began hundreds of years before.

We must remember, the Papacy's aim is to once more unite the entire world under the Roman Catholic banner, to once again become the universal religious force on Planet Earth. Interestingly, the word, "Catholic" means universal.

According to Roman Catholic information available to the public, relations with Poland were re-established in 1989, diplomatic relations were established with the Soviet Union in 1990, and with the Russian Federation in 1992. Diplomatic relations have been established with Eastern European countries also, and other countries that were part of the former Soviet Union. As religion was seriously restricted during the Soviet era, establishment of relations by the Papacy is significant. Still other countries were reached and relations established, including Mexico, Jordan, South Africa, and Libya.

Working relationships of a "permanent and official character" were begun with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1994, with the Papacy recognising the right of the Palestinian people to a land of their own. This culminated in the signing of a formal Basic Agreement with the PLO on February 15, 2000, paving the way for an agreement signed in 2015 called the "Global Agreement", formalising the Vatican's recognition of the State of Palestine.

Very recently, in 2025, Pope Leo XIV, becomes the first American born Pope. On his first international tour, Pope Leo XIV visits Turkey and Lebanon, with ecumenical and interreligious meetings a highlight on his itinerary published on the Vatican website.

MORTAL WOUND IS HEALED

“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.” Revelation 13:3

So, has the Papacy’s deadly wound healed?

The Papacy has been transformed into a powerful, much admired, international religious force. And all the world wonders at the Papal power encompassing the world today. But do not be deceived. Watch and be warned, for prophecy is soon to be fulfilled yet again when the Papacy meets up with the last prophetic beast to enter upon the world religious stage.

THE BEAST RISING OUT OF THE EARTH

Immediately after John beholds the leopard beast (the Papacy) coming out of the sea, John beholds another beast entering the prophetic landscape, this new beast is “...coming up out of the earth...”

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.” Revelation 13:11.

Now let us pause for a moment and have a close look at this beast “...coming up out of the earth..” Almost all other beasts in the books of *Daniel* and *The Revelation* come up from the sea.

You will remember in picture prophetic language, the sea or waters represent multitudes of people or densely populated regions of the world. *“Then he said to me, ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’” Revelation 17:15*

But this new beast comes up out of the earth. And so what does this mean? Well, if the waters in prophecy represent vastly populated regions and nations then surely the “...beast coming up out of the earth...” represents a nation emerging from a sparsely populated region of the world. So prophecy declares a new nation would arise. And this new nation would be recognised as a new nation in the world.

Thus when we cast our eye over the Old World geography, looking for a sparsely populated region, we can find no land which clearly aligns with the prophecy. There may be sparsely populated lands, but none which become recognised as a new nation.

Still looking through the lens of Old World geography, let us turn to the newly

discovered western lands. For there, we see the emergence of America. Then does America fit the criteria of this emerging prophetic beast power?

Let us explore a few revealing facts of history.

LOOKING TOWARD THE NEW LAND OF AMERICA

In the year 1492 while looking for a sea route from Europe to Asia, Christopher Columbus landed in America, by accident.

Not long after, half a world away in Germany in the year 1517, Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation by revealing 95 errors in the Papacy's teachings.

He made his views public by nailing them to a church door in Wittenburg, Germany. Even in those far distant days of slow, costly and complicated communication, Luther's study of the 95 papal errors became a world sensation.

Soon after, the first Bible, the "Geneva Bible" and later the "King James Bible", was printed in the English language. Now the people could read the Scriptures for themselves, instead of being told what to believe by the priests.

These three events heralded a new beginning in the world.

A ray of hope awakened the people as they dreamed of freedom from the oppressive Roman Catholic rule.

But this dream, instead of ushering in freedom, turned into a nightmare, for the Reformation took hold, then shockingly mutated and produced a new and terrifying monster. Instead of freeing the people to worship God in freedom of conscience, the Reformation merely produced a Protestant, oppressive State Church, in the emerging Church of England.

People were forced to follow the preference of the reigning king or queen. If a leader was a Protestant believer, then the people were forced to worship in the Protestant manner, every week, with punishment if they failed to do so.

And if a leader was a Roman Catholic believer, then the people were forced to worship in the Catholic manner, every week without fail. People were imprisoned, tortured, and even executed if they refused to worship according to the dictates of the reigning king or queen and the rulers of the Protestant State Church, or Roman Catholic State Church.

Still, the spirit of the people was not totally broken. Small groups of people began to secretly talk and hope for a new life of religious and civil freedom. They looked westward to the new land known as America.

Their dream was fraught with trials and barriers. Many were imprisoned; secret plans to leave England were discovered and ruined. These people, who came to be

known as “separatists,” were few, poor and unpopular.

After many disappointments, and several years living and worshipping in the more lenient nation of Holland, one group known as the Leiden community chose 60 or 70 of their most able men and boys to travel to the new land in the West.

These voluntary exiles were determined to seek out the civil and religious freedom they believed was the heaven-born right of every man, woman and child.

But how were they to finance such a bold and adventurous undertaking? They chose to borrow the money from a group of financiers. These financiers hoped to make profit from the men’s labours in the new land.

After more bitter setbacks, finally, on September 6, 1620, 41 separatists boarded a ship called the *Mayflower*, bound for the new land, America. Sixty-one fellow passengers had entered into contracts with the financiers to work for seven years, with no profit for themselves in order to repay their passage. Of the 102 passengers, about 20 were children, 19 women and the rest were men. Some were servants of passengers.

The historic journey was to take eight weeks, a gruelling experience for the majority of the passengers who were “landlubbers.”

After so many years of failure and dashed hopes, the pilgrims finally sighted land at the beginning of the winter months. And what greeted their sea-weary eyes? A desolate, barren landscape: No houses; no people; no jobs; nothing. Some passengers had died on the voyage, adding to a sense of woe onboard the ship.

And now, a new worry, a mutiny was brewing. Some of the passengers, thinking they were out of reach of the English legal system decided they were not going to work for seven years to repay their passage.

Yet, the religious men realised every able man would be needed to establish homes, food supplies and warmth to get through the approaching winter.

So they drew up an agreement, known as the Mayflower Compact, laying out the first foundations of a democratic society, and setting the stage for the development of the American Constitution.

This agreement was drawn up with the express forethought of their Pastor, who back in England had laid down lines for the successful running of a new settlement in the New World.

And so a settlement was established and called “Plymouth”, the first English settlement in America to be run on democratic lines.

Over time, other settlements and townships would adopt the Mayflower Compact as the foundation for their own governments. But each settlement would still be subject to the rule of the British empire until the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, Up until the signing of the Declaration, the war was a protest against British rule.

Afterwards, the war became a fight for independence.

Finally America gained recognition in 1883, but there were decades of disillusionment and skirmishes ahead as the British Empire refused to recognise the legal agreement. Yet the United States of America would one day become reality.

THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED STATES

Those first pioneers and settlers sowed the first European seeds in new fertile soil. But the battle for survival had only just begun.

You see, the land, the weather and the soil were completely alien to the seeds of European crops. Over that first American winter, about half the original travellers died of scurvy, disease through malnutrition, or exposure to the harsh winter conditions. Fifty three people survived.

And from those 53 survivors, a nation was conceived and a people would multiply, giving birth to the United States of America.

Quote: “The population of these colonies, according to the *United States Magazine* of August, 1855, amounted in 1701 to 262,000; in 1749, to 1,046,000; in 1775, to 2,803,000.

“Then commenced the struggle of the American colonies against the oppression of the mother country. In 1776, they declared themselves, as in justice and right they were entitled to be, a free and independent nation. In 1777, delegates from the thirteen original states, - New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, - in Congress assembled, adopted Articles of Confederation. In 1783, the war of the Revolution closed with a treaty of peace with Great Britain, whereby our independence was acknowledged, and territory ceded to the extent of 815,615 square miles. In 1787, the Constitution was framed, and ratified by the foregoing thirteen states; and on the 1st of March, 1789, it went into effect. Then the American ship of state was fairly launched, with less than one million square miles of territory, and about three millions of souls.

“Thus we are brought to the year 1798, when this government is introduced into prophecy.

“Our territorial growth since that time has been simply a marvel to the pent-up and politically fettered kingdoms of the East. In less than five years, we more than doubled the extent of our domain, by acquiring from France the Louisiana territory in 1803, embracing 930, 928 miles.

Then came Florida, Texas, Oregon, Californian, Arizona (New Mexico), and Alaska, aggregating 1,931,849 square miles of territory, and giving us at the present time a grand total of 3,678,392 square miles.” Smith, U. (1881) *Daniel and the Revelation*. (pp557-558) London: Pacific Press Company.

“A writer in the Dublin Nation, about the year 1850, spoke of the United States as a wonderful empire which was ‘emerging,’ and ‘**amid the silence of the earth**’ daily adding to its power and pride.” Reference: Ibid p 554

Clearly, no other nation but the United States of America matches the description of the beast rising out of the earth in prophetic fulfilment of the year AD 1798.

Today in the 21st century, the United States of America claims to be the super power of the world, and leader of world affairs. This is precisely why the United States features in the prophecies of the last days.

THE TIME OF THE END

The year AD 1798 also marks the beginning of the “...*time of the end*...” continuing on through our end times today and onwards to the end of this sinful fallen world.

*“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” Daniel 12:4 - “Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, ‘My lord, what shall be the end of these things?’ And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till **the time of the end**. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” Daniel 12:8-10*

Although Daniel does not understand the prophetic knowledge presented before him, yet he is assured the people living in the time of the end will search out God’s knowledge and understand the prophetic times they live in.

Since the year AD 1798, all the way to our 21st century world, knowledge has increased in rapid leaps and bounds, not only in biblical understanding of prophecy but in knowledge of the world at large.

In all forms of intellectual knowledge, be they arts, science, technology or any other human endeavour, the explosion of progress is almost unbelievable. And today we face the existential pace of artificial intelligence, AI, perhaps the greatest threat to humanity, already overpowering human intelligence on a global scale.

Are we watching the unfolding of Satan’s concealed master plan of transhumanism, aiming to destroy God’s creation of the human race? Or perhaps AI will find humans a threat to a non-human ordered, efficient, data-linked world and decide to exterminate

our race? Whichever way the end time plays out, and there are many possibilities, the knowledge of both good and evil is exploding, conflict will increase, and as individuals you and I must choose on which side we stand and who we stand for, God's good or Satan's evil.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BEAST RISING FROM THE EARTH

Striding forward on the trail of "...*the end time*..." we now explore the characteristics of the beast which depicts the living essence of the United States of America:

John said the "...*beast coming up out of the earth..had two horns like a lamb...*" *Revelation 13:11*. The symbolism of the lamb is Christ-like in nature representing Christianity in its purest form without fault or blemish of character. The horns of the symbolic lamb are only beginning to grow. And true to prophecy, around 1798 America was only beginning to grow as an independent nation.

Of course a lamb is also youthful and innocent by nature. And for many immigrants settling in the new world, America represented a youthful, innocent new start in the land of the free. Free from the political and religious strife of the Old World in Europe.

Now we know a horn in prophecy represents a power either civil or spiritual. And two horns represent a union between two powers. So one horn of the lamb depicts America's youthful innocence as a Protestant nation, declaring liberty to worship God according to personal conscience, and the other horn represents Republican principals of government. These two powers, spiritual and civil, are aligned in purpose and principal and according to prophecy become unified.

One writer of the time said this about the people migrating from the Old World to the shores of republic America:

Quote: "And what attached these people to us? - In part, undoubtedly, our zone, and the natural endowments of this portion of the globe. In part, and of late years, our vindicated national character, and the safety of our institutions. But the magnet in America is that we are a republic - a republican people! Cursed with artificial government, however glittering, the people of Europe, like the sick, pine for nature with protection, for open vistas and blue sky, for independence without ceremony, for adventure in their own interest, and here they find it!" Smith, U. (1881) *Daniel and the Revelation*. (pp566-557) London: Pacific Press Company.

THE UNITED STATES SPEAKS LIKE A DRAGON

But alas, as America the land of the free, matures and prospers in wealth and superpower might, her lamb-like innocence morphs into a tyrannical beast and speaks

like a dragon.

For John says, “*Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and **spoke like a dragon.***” Revelation 13:11

And so continuing in Volume Seven of *The Blazing Trail*, we shall behold America speaking in the enforcing tones of a dragon, ushering in final prophetic events of New Testament history.

Stepping through our end times, Volume Seven unmasks the agenda of the lamb-like beast and reveals Protestant America making a spiritual image to the Papal Roman powerful beast rising from the sea.

So please join us in Volume Seven and travel the climaxing history of our fallen world.

Behold the glorious second coming of Jesus appearing above the earth when He returns to take us to our heavenly home!

Then after a thousand years in heaven and returning to desolate earth, be truly amazed with overflowing joy as we behold Jesus recreating planet Earth to its original sinless splendor. Dwelling in our restored world we trail blaze through the ceaseless ages of eternity, flourishing in abundant everlasting life.

Until then,

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26





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