

Daniel



Lesson 13-Who is the Little Horn?

Focus: Dan.7 / Rev.13

- ❖ **As we begin our lesson to “reveal” the Little Horn power of Daniel 7, let us consider for a moment the deceptiveness of Christ’s enemy—the Devil (or Satan):**
 - How deceptive does Jesus warn us the Devil will try to be? (**Matthew 24:24**)
 - Does Satan ever present himself in a way that might look Holy or good? (**2 Cor. 11:14**)
 - Through Satan’s deception, what does he mainly try to lead people away from? (**2 Thessalonians 2:8, 9**) (think about what he led Eve to do in Eden also)
 - **How does God say we can detect [reveal/uncover] the Devil’s deceptions? (Isaiah 8:20)**
- ❖ **Let’s go to Revelation 13 to see how God warned the Christian church about this terrible “Little Horn” of Daniel 7. (See Revelation 13:1-10)**
 - **(v.1-2)** Do you recognize the characteristics of this beast? What Bible prophecy chapter does it remind you of? (hint: Daniel 7)
 - This “Beast” or Kingdom (ref. Daniel 7:17,23) rises out of the “sea” which represents the many peoples, nations, and languages (ref. Rev. 17:15). This is very characteristic of Europe. The European nations among which this power arose are clearly represented by the “ten horns” (v.1; also Daniel 7:7,23,24)
 - **(v.3-10)** It receives a deadly wound which is later healed (v.3)
 - This is a **“religious” power** that receives “worship” and also makes war with others (v.4). **Worshipping this Beast instead of God actually gives reverence to the Devil instead of God. He speaks blasphemous words** (v.5,6)
 - He continues with his **State (Beast) power for “42 months”** (literally 1260 years) (v.5) a.k.a. “...a time, times, and a half of time” or **1260 days** (One symbolic day in Bible prophecy is equal to **one literal year**—see Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34).
 - He **made war with the saints**, or faithful followers of God **during his time of power** (v.7)
 - **He took power over many nations, people’s, and languages of the earth—a world-wide power** (v.7,8). **AND The bottom line is that worshipping and obeying this corrupt power instead of God will cause you or me to be lost for eternity!!** (It’s like listening to the serpent!)
 - This persecuting power would finally **go into captivity** (v.10).
- ❖ **Daniel 7 describes the world powers leading up to this corrupt little Religious-Political nation.**
 - Daniel 7:1-7 describes the Lion, the bear, the Leopard, and the terrible (4th Beast) which had ten horns. Those nations are the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. From Rome (as it broke apart) came the European nations (represented by the Ten Horns). **Rome’s collapse into the European nations was complete by 476 AD.**
 - **Among those European nations would arise a “Little Horn” power, speaking perverse, blasphemous things (v.8). It also has ROMAN roots because it came up from the 4th Beast, but among the Ten Horns or European nations.** Three Early European nations were conquered by this power; They were the Vandals, the Heruli, and the **Ostrogoths**. The last of these three nations was **defeated in 538 AD—this allowed the little horn power to have its full political freedom!** (and thus began the 1260 years in 538 AD).

- This power also had “eyes like the eyes of a man” (v.8) which means **it was led by Human wisdom** and not by God’s Holy wisdom in His word. Bible prophets in the Old Testament were called “seers” because they saw God’s prophetic guidance with their eyes (1 Samuel 9:9).
- This power was very proud and thought to rule over all the Kings of Europe (v.20,23,24)
- **It made war against the saints (v.21)**
- It spoke blasphemous words against God, persecuted God’s faithful followers and **thought to change “God’s set times and Laws” (v.25).**
- It was in power for 1260 years—“a time, times, and a half” (v.25).

❖ **The Facts of History!!**

- **Please keep in mind**, this prophecy is describing a very corrupt and sinful power. It is not talking about people who may unknowingly be associated with this power. This little power mixed some truth with lots of error—a very deadly mixture! It mixed some good points with lots of evil things.
- The Roman Catholic Church was a **“little” power in Europe** which took power over the Kings and Queens of Europe during the middle Ages. They were very proud and made “blasphemous” claims about their power. Pope Leo the XIII was on record as being called, “Lord, God the Pope.” They called all the priests “Father”—a name which belongs only to God (ref. Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 23:9). They ventured to “forgive” people’s sins—a work that only belongs to God himself (Luke 5:21; John 10:33). People were wrongly confessing to a priest instead of Jesus (ref. 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 1:9; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 4:14-16).
- **They persecuted millions** of faithful, Bible-believing Christians in the Dark Ages who did not agree with their teachings. Historians estimate nearly 50 million people were put to death by the Roman Church during the middle ages.
- They **had state power for 1260 years** during the Dark Ages. From 538 AD until 1798 AD when the French General, Berthier, under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte took the Pope prisoner into France. The Pope died in captivity and the Roman Church lost its State power. This happened right towards the end of the French Revolution. Later **in 1929** the **“deadly (fatal) wound” was healed.** State power was regained by Rome when Pope Gasparri and Mussolini, the Italian leader, signed a historic Roman pact. The Vatican received back her state power which she still has to this day!
- **This power thought and attempted to change God’s “Set times and Laws...” (Daniel 7:25).** The Roman church is the only power which has clearly done this. Only one of God’s Ten Commandments deals with a “set time”—that is, the 7th Day Sabbath. The Roman Church so clearly made this change from God’s time, to their own time—the pagan day of Sun-worship—the 1st day of the week, Sunday. This change, they clearly boast of (**see handout**). Other changes to God’s Law were also attempted. The 2nd commandment about the use of Idols was dropped from their Catechism (the book of Catholic teachings). The tenth commandment was then split into two in order for the list to appear as Ten Commandments again.

❖ **The Devil has not changed a bit! His evil work is still to undermine, attack, and destroy God’s Commands and His authority.** He did it in Heaven; He did it with Adam and Eve; He’s doing it today. And he does it under the innocent cloak of a sheep (Acts 20:29). **The Dragon (or Devil) inspired this corrupted church to take power and dishonor God’s commands. THERE ARE many true-hearted Christians who are unknowingly involved with this corrupted church power. But, if we love Jesus, we should follow Jesus and His word more closely than anything else (see John 14:21, 15).**

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to follow Jesus wherever He leads by lovingly keeping all Ten of His Commandments (including the 7th day Sabbath)? _____