

Semester 3 – Week 8 - Class 15

UNMASKING THE ANTICHRIST

We will begin this very serious and very important subject today in the book of Revelation, chapter 14. Why present such controversial subjects such as this? Because God presents it to us in the Bible and He wants us to know what it means. God always sends us truth to enlighten our minds so that He is better able to show us the way of salvation. We must be against error and false systems which can enslave people in sin. We will start by reading the most fearful warning in the Bible describing the most terrible punishment that will ever come to humanity.

Revelation 14:9, 10 **“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, ...”** Stop right here.

It is a life or death issue for every person in this room. The average Christian in the world today doesn't even know who the beast is or what the Mark of the Beast is? Because God is a God of love, He wants every Christian that is serious about salvation, to know not only who the beast of Revelation 13 is, but also what his mark is. Today we will positively identify the beast and Wednesday we will show what his mark is, all from the Bible.

Many speculate as to what the mark is, without identifying who the beast is. Thinking antichrist is in the future, many brush the issue aside thinking its not that important, while scripture declares this power will deceive almost the whole world.

Millions perhaps have been turned off on this subject completely because they've heard so many wild and speculative theories on this subject. They have decided that nobody can really understand it. When you leave this building today you will know who this beast of Revelation 13 represents, as you will see it right out of the Word of God so clearly that it can not be denied.

Over the years, speculators have tried to identify the antichrist. Some have said that certain political figures were the beast. Men such as Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Osama bin Laden, even Ronald Wilson Reagan with 6 Letters in each name = 666. Books are written and magazines run sensational articles on the subject.

Question: Who is the anti-christ beast? This is the question we need to answer today.

The word “antichrist” is used only four times in Scripture. (1 John 2:18; 1 John 2:22; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7) It is transliteration of the Greek “antichristos”, a name formed from “anti” meaning against or “instead of”, or “in place of”, and “Christos” – Christ. The word may therefore mean one who opposes Christ, or one who claims to take the place of Christ or one who combines both of these functions. So Antichrist can mean all of the following: “Against Christ,” “In Place of Christ,” “In Behalf of Christ;” “Instead of Christ.” “Antichristos” applies to a religious power or system which sets itself up in place of Christ.

Revelation 13:2 **“... and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.** In the Bible, the dragon represents Satan. (Revelation 12:9) In Revelation 12, Satan worked through pagan Rome, in particular to destroy Jesus.

Revelation 13:3 **“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”** The first thing we must understand about this power is that it is well known all over the world.

Revelation 13:8 **“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** The second thing that we can see is that this power is a universal system of worship. The beast therefore represents a political entity that is also a religious power as it receives worship.

Now we will read Revelation 13:1 **“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.** The beast that came up from the sea had seven heads and ten horns. In Revelation there is a lot of symbolism. We do not need to speculate on the symbols as the Bible also tells us the meaning. Let's first deal with the “waters” as the beast came up out of the sea.

Revelation 17:1, 15 **“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: ...”**

Verse 15 **“And he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”** So the Bible defines the prophetic symbol of waters as populated areas; peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. John saw a kingdom (beast) arising in a populated area (sea).

The next thing we are going to do is a Broad Historical Outline and we will begin in the second chapter of the book of Daniel.

Daniel Chapter 2 Verses 1-13 tell us that a Babylonian king named Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that he could not remember when he woke up. He knew it was important so he asked all the wise men who were supposed to answer such requests. He wanted the

interpretation even though he could not relate the dream. After several refusals to interpret without the king first telling them the dream, the king issued a death decree on all the wise men in Babylon. Verses 14-23 reveal Daniel asking the king's captain Arioch why the hasty decree? Daniel sought for time and he along with his 3 friends petitioned God for the interpretation, which God gave Daniel in a vision for which he blessed God.

In verses 24-49 Daniel has an audience with the king and gives the interpretation of the dream. He told the king that in the dream he saw a great metal image with a head of gold; arms and breast of silver; stomach and thighs of brass; legs of iron and feet of iron and clay. The dream represented the 4 ruling world empires and the succession they would follow. In Daniel 2:38 Daniel told the king, **"Thou art this head of gold."** Babylon-head of gold **605 – 539 BC.** Daniel 2:39 **"And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee ..."** Medo-Persia-arms and breast of silver **539 – 331 BC.** Daniel 2:39 **"... and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth."** Greece-Stomach and thighs of brass **331 – 168 BC.** Daniel 2:40 **"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: ..."** Rome-legs of iron **168 BC - 476 AD.** Rome would be the last ruling world empire.

This quote is from Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: *"... the images of gold, of silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome."*

Daniel 2:41, 42 **"... the kingdom shall be divided; ... as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.**

The ten divisions of the Roman Empire-feet part of iron and part of clay. These barbaric tribes are listed as follows by most historians: the Alemanni, (today Germany); the Bergundians (today Swiss); the Franks, (today France); Lombards, (today Italy); the Saxons, (today England); the Suevi, (today Portugal); the Visigoths, (today Spain); and the last three which did exist in 476 A.D. when Rome fell, but no longer existing today were the Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths.

Using God's prophetic principle of repeat and enlarge, we will now go to Daniel chapter 7 where we see from Daniel's vision, the 4 ruling world empires again, plus the introduction of the anti-christ little horn power.

Daniel 7:2, 3 **"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse, one from another.** We already know that the sea represents populated areas of the earth. But what do beasts represent?

Daniel 7:17, 23 **"These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth."** Beasts are kings. What else? Verse 23 **"Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms."** Beast are kings or kingdoms; so Daniel saw four kingdoms rise in already populated areas.

Daniel 7:4 **"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings:"** This was the same as the head of gold in Daniel 2 and represented Babylon which ruled the world from 605 – 539 BC.

Daniel 7:5 **"And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and [it had] three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it:"** This was the same as the chest and arms of silver in Daniel 2 and represented Medo-Persia which ruled the world from 539 – 331 BC

Daniel 7:6 **"After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; ..."** This was the same as the belly and thighs of brass in Daniel 2 and represented Greece which ruled the world from 331 - 168 BC

Daniel 7:7 **"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns."** This was the same as the legs of iron in Daniel 2 and represented Rome which ruled the world from 168 BC – 476 AD.

Daniel 7:8 **"I considered the horns..."** When Rome fell the ten horns represented the ten nations of Western Europe. This was the same as the ten toes in Daniel 2. There would be no more world empires ruled by men. 476 AD to the second coming.

Daniel 7:24 **"And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; ..."**

Daniel 7:8 **"I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."** We need to look at the clues as to who this little horn power is.

1) Verse 8 – It came up among the other horns (Western Europe) This helps us to locate this Antichrist power **geographically.**

2) Since it would arise after the ten horns, (Dan.7:24), **chronologically**, it would have to come up after the year 476 A.D).

3) Verse 8 "Another 'little' horn" --a little kingdom with world-wide influence

4) Verse 8 "... **before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots:**" Three of the nations in 476 AD, the Heruli; the Vandals; and the Ostrogoths, would be gone, plucked up, by 538 AD.

5) Verse 8 "... **and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, . .**" In the Bible, eyes are a symbol of divine intelligence, insight. (Revelation 5:6; Ezekiel 1:18; Revelation 4:6, 8). A prophet of God was called a "seer" because he, being guided by God was the "eyes" of the church. This horn has "eyes" not of God but of man. Eyes refer to prophecy. This power did not have the eyes of God guiding it. It is guided, not by the Bible but by human intelligence, human leadership, and human authority. This power calls itself "the Holy See." There's a visible man that speaks for it at the head of it . .

6) Verse 24 "... **and he shall be diverse from the first, . .**" The other horns (powers, kingdoms) are political (kings), whereas this horn is different; it is both political and religious.

7) Verse 8 "... **and a mouth speaking great things.**" Verse 25 "**And he shall speak great words against the most High, ...**" Revelation 13:5 "... **a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; . .**" So this little horn will speak great words and blasphemies. **Blasphemy!**

Question: How does the Bible define blasphemy?

John 10:30-33 "**I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.**"

Mark 2:5-7 "**When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?**"

The Bible defines blasphemy as assuming any rights or power that belong to God alone. A man claiming to be God or having the power to forgive sins is blasphemy. Jesus did not commit blasphemy because He is God.

8) Daniel 7:25 "... **and shall wear out the saints of the most High ...**" That term "wear out" is an old English term which means to persecute. Compare this with verse 21 "**I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them:**" This kingdom is going to persecute, and attempt to destroy, and war against God's people.

9) Daniel 7:25 "... **and think to change times and laws: ...**" This is not talking about man's laws as they are ever changing. God's law does not change. Nobody can change God's times and laws, but this power is going to think or try to change God's times and laws.

10) Daniel 7:25 "**and they shall be given into his hand until a time, times, and the dividing of time.** So this little horn power is to rule for a time, times and the dividing of a time. This will be explained shortly.

Revelation 12:14 "**And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.**"

Revelation 13:5 "**And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.**"

Time = 1 year; Times = 2 years; Dividing of a time or half a time = 1/2 year. Time was a Jewish year of 360 days; 2 Times would be two years = 720 days; Half a time would be 180 days. 360 + 720 + 180 = 1,260 days.

Ezekiel 4:6 "**I have appointed thee each day for a year.**"

Therefore the time the little horn power would rule, 1,260 prophetic days would be 1,260 literal years.

Numbers 14:34 "**After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years.**"

"... power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." 42 prophetic months = 30 days x 42 months = 1260 prophetic days which = 1260 literal years. 1260 days = 1260 years. The little horn power would rule 1260 years. Identification point #10..

Revelation 13:3 "**And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.**"

Revelation 13:8 "**And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, . .**"

11) This will be a world-wide power!

Who is the Beast power ? That meets all 11 points of identification?

We are talking about a system that controls world-wide worship. Many people are a part of this system, which is a political and religious kingdom. God's only purpose for bringing this out is His great love for all people and His desire to warn them and tell them the truth. Truth is never given by God to embarrass or offend anyone, but always to enlighten and to save. Our heavenly Father has been very open and honest with us in giving us all these identifying marks or clues. There is absolutely no doubt that all these points collectively point in only one direction. Today, sitting upon the seat of the ancient pagan Roman Empire, is the world-wide headquarters of the religious and political kingdom of the church of Rome. The Papacy.

God is talking to us about a system of worship that is deceptive. He's not talking about the sincere Roman Catholic worshippers. We must keep in our minds this differentiation. Many of Christ's true followers are still members of that church. They are unaware of the great deception under which they worship.

In review:

- 1) "Comes up among the ten." The Papacy arose in Rome, the capitol of Western Europe at the time.
 - 2) "Comes up after 476 AD." The little horn (Papacy), the Roman Catholic system came to maturity after 476 AD, specifically 538 AD. *History of the Christian Church*, vol.3, p.327 Vigilius... ascended the papal chair (538 AD) under the military protection of Belisarius. The legally recognized supremacy of the pope began in 538 AD when there went into effect a decree of Emperor Justinian, making the bishop of Rome head over all the churches, the difiner of doctrine and the corrector of heretics.
 - 3) "a little kingdom" 108 acres comprises the total land mass of the Papal government in Rome.
 - 4) "Would uproot 3 horns." Of the ten divisions of old Rome seven accepted the supremacy of the Bishop of Rome; the other three opposed his supremacy. War was made on these three. The last of these opposing powers, the Ostrogoths, were overthrown in 538 AD. This gave Papal Rome the undisputed supremacy. The 1,260 years thus began in 538 AD.
- Daniel 7:24 **"...he shall subdue three kings."** Of the 10 nations Rome divided into 3 were conquered and destroyed for opposing the Papacy.
- 5) "A man at its head." To this day the Vatican City is the only kingdom that has always had a visible man at its head who's word is law and reigns unopposed until his death. It is the Pope who "sees" and speaks for that kingdom at all times.
 - 6) "It would be diverse or different." Daniel 7:24 **"...he shall be diverse from the first..."** All the preceding kingdoms had been simple political governments set up in normal fashion. Papal Rome however was and still is unique because it was a church that ruled, a religio-political power, with policies being dictated by the Pope.
 - 7) "Spake great words and blasphemy."

American Heritage Dictionary: Blasphemy: "To speak of (God or something sacred), in an irreverent or forbidden manner."

The Bible defines blasphemy as assuming any rights or power that belong to God alone.

Ferraris's Ecclesiastical Dictionary - The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a man, but as it were, God, and the Vicar of God.

From the Oration of Christopher Marcellus in the fourth session of the Fifth Lateran Council, Labbe and Cossart's History of the Councils, published in 1672, vol 24, col.109. – For thou art the shepard, thou art the physician, thou art the director, thou art the husbandman; finally, thou art another God on earth.

Revelation Four Views, A Parallel Commentary, p.288, Nelson Publishers - On April 30, 1922, Pope Pius XI said, 'You know that I am the Holy Father, the representative of God on earth, the Vicar of Christ, which means that I am God on the earth'.

On the Authority of Councils, Bellarmine, book 2, chap.17 (Vol.II, p.266) - All names which in the Scriptures are applied to Christ, by virtue of which it is established that he is over the church, all the same names are applied to the Pope.

Crossing the Threshold of Hope, by Pope John Paul II - Confronted with the Pope, one must make a choice. The leader of the Catholic Church is defined by the faith as the Vicar of Jesus Christ (and is accepted as such by believers). The Pope is considered the man on earth who represents the Son of God, who 'takes the place' of the Second person of the omnipotent God of the Trinity.

Antichristos (Antichrist) means men who set themselves up in the place of Christ, instead of Christ.

Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII, p.304 - We hold upon this earth the place of God almighty.

The Catholic Encyclopedia - This judicial authority will even include the power to forgive sins.

Dignities and Duties of the Priest, vol.12, p.27 - God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priests, and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse or give absolution... The sentence of the priest precedes, and God subscribes to it.

Joseph Devarbe's Catechism, p.279 - The priest does really and truly forgive sins in virtue of the power given to him by Christ.

The Associated Press, December 11, 1984 - Pope John Paul II . . . on Tuesday told Roman Catholics to seek forgiveness through the church and not directly from God. In a major document on the need for confession of sin, the pontiff laid down guidelines for the world's nearly 800 million Roman Catholics on the purpose of confessing sins to priests. . . The requirement for confessing sin through priests is one of the fundamental principles of Roman Catholicism.

John 14:6 **"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**

1 Timothy 2:5 **"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"**

2 Thessalonians 2:4 **"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."** Paul is describing what antichrist would become.

1 Corinthians 1:2 ; 3:16 **"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth... Know ye not that ye are the temple of God..."**

Matthew Henry, Notes on 2 Thess. 2:4 - The Antichrist here mentioned is some usurper of God's authority in the church.

Unam Sanctum, Pope Boniface VIII, 1302 - We therefore assert, define, and pronounce that it is necessary for salvation that every human being is subject to the Pontiff of Rome.

Los Angeles Times, Sept. 6, 2000 - The bluntly worded declaration by the Vatican office that oversees Catholic doctrine [Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith – Office of the Inquisition] said that followers of non-Christian faiths have 'gravely deficient' chances for salvation and that other Christian churches have defects, partly because they *do not recognize the authority of the pope*. The statement broke no new theological ground...

8) "He would wear out the saints.

Daniel 7:25 **"... and shall wear out the saints of the most High ..."**

Revelation 13:7 **"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."**

Western Watchman, Dec. 23, 1908 - The church has persecuted. Only a tyro in church history will deny that.

Public Ecclesiastical Law, vol. 2, p.142 - The church may by divine right confiscate the property of heretics, imprison their persons and condemn them to the flames...

The noted Catholic, Thomas Aquinas, said that convicted heretics should be put to death just as surely as other criminals, because they were counterfeiters.

The History of the Rise of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe, vol.2, p.32 - That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, ... will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history.

History of Romanism, p.541, 542 - From the birth of popery... to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians that more than 50,000,000 of the human family have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors.

The History of the Popes, vol.2, p.334 - Great numbers were driven from their habitations with their wives and children, stripped and naked... Many of them inhumanly massacred.

Newsweek, Nov.15, 1982 - Sounding more serious themes to a gathering of academicians, John Paul did what no pope had ever done: he publically acknowledged the 'errors and excesses' of the Spanish Inquisition, which tortured and burned heretics, Jews and other 'false converts' to the faith.

Associated Press - Pontiff asks pardon for sins of Catholics; Apology includes Jews, women, minorities: In an unprecedented moment in the history of the church, Pope John Paul II sought God's forgiveness Sunday for the sins of Roman Catholics through the ages... The church burned heretics at the stake during the Inquisition. Armies of the faithful slaughtered Muslims during the crusades. And during the Holocaust, some Catholics stood silent in the face of Nazi genocide.

The Detroit News - By Mark Puls and Charles Hurt / - 'I want to go back to the old ways where Sunday was the Lord's day,' Schreiber said. 'I agree with the pope. I want that life again.' 'This really is an extraordinary move,' said Jay McNally, executive director of Call to Holiness, 'This appears to be the strongest words the pope has issued. Period.'... In his letter, the pope goes on to say a violator should be 'punished as a heretic,' said McNally.

Ad Tuendam Fidem, John Paul II May 18, 1998

Canon 1436 1. Whoever denies a truth which must be believed with divine and catholic faith, or who calls into doubt, or who totally repudiates the Christian faith, and does not retract after having been legitimately warned, is to be punished as a heretic or an apostate with a major excommunication; a cleric moreover can be punished with other penalties, not excluding deposition.

2. In addition to these cases, whoever obstinately rejects a teaching that the Roman Pontiff or the College of Bishops, exercising the authentic Magisterium, have set forth to be held definitively, or who affirms what they have condemned as erroneous, and does not retract after having been legitimately warned, is to be punished with an appropriate penalty.

Canon 1371 The following are to be punished with a just penalty:

1. a person who..., teaches a doctrine condemned by the Roman Pontiff, or by an Ecumenical Council, or obstinately rejects the teachings [of catholic faith handed down by tradition], when warned by the Apostolic See or by the Ordinary, does not retract;

2. a person who in any other way does not obey the lawful command or prohibition of the Apostolic See or the Ordinary or Superior and, after being warned, persists in disobedience.

Our Country, by Josiah Strong, ch. 5 - The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O'Connor: 'Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world'... Every cardinal, archbishop, and bishop in the Catholic Church takes an oath of allegiance to the pope, in which occur the following words: 'Heretics, schismatics, and rebels to our said lord the pope, or his aforesaid successors, I will to my utmost persecute and oppose.'

The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol.XIII, art."Pope."p.268. - He (the Pope) is not subject to them (the canons of the church), because he is competent to modify or to annul them when he holds this to be best for the church.

9) "He shall think to change times and laws."

The Catholic Ferraris's Ecclesiastical Dictionary , article under the Pope - The Pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, change, or interpret even divine laws. The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth with most ample power of binding and loosing his sheep.

Decretal de Translation Episcop. Cap. - The Pope has power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ.

Daniel 7:25 "...and think to change times and laws..."

Exodus 20:5 "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them..."

Exodus 20:8-10 **"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..."**

10) "He shall rule for a time, times, and a half a time." He shall rule 1260 years.

History of the Christian Church, vol.3, p.327 - Vigilius... ascended the papal chair (538 AD) under the military protection of Belisarius.

The legally recognized supremacy of the pope began in 538 AD when there went into effect a decree of Emperor Justinian, making the bishop of Rome head over all the churches, the difiner of doctrine and the corrector of heretics. 538 AD – 1798 AD.

Question: What happened to the beast after the 42 months?

Question: What happened to the beast after the 1260 years?

Revelation 13:3 **"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."**

Church History, p.24 - The murder of a Frenchman in Rome in 1798 gave the French an excuse for occupying the Eternal City and putting an end to the Papal temporal power. The aged Pontiff himself was carried off into exile to Valance... the enemies of the Church rejoiced. The last pope, they declared, had reigned.

The Encyclopedia Americana, 1941 edition - In 1798 he (Berthier)... made his entrance into Rome, abolished the papal government and established a secular one.

The Modern Papacy, by Joseph Rickaby, p.1 - Berthier entered Rome on the tenth of February, 1798 and proclaimed a republic... Half Europe thought Napoleon's veto would be obeyed, and that with the Pope the papacy was dead.

Revelation 13:3 **"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."**

In 1798 the Papacy received 'a deadly wound' - Rev 13:3; 'a wound by a sword' – Rev. 13:14; 'captivity ... by a sword – Rev. 13:10.

Revelation 13:3 “...his deadly wound was healed.” In 1929 the Papacy was to rise again.

San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 11, 1929 - The Roman question tonight was a thing of the past and the Vatican was at peace with Italy... In affixing the autographs to the memorable document, healing the wound... extreme cordiality was displayed on both sides.

Daily Progress, Feb. 26, 2000 - Pope John Paul II tackled sectarian divisions Friday, prodding fellow Christian leaders to work to heal their rifts and even offering to discuss the primacy of the Roman Catholic pontiff.

Washington Post, May 30, 2005 - On First Trip, Benedict Urges Unity: In his homily, at the close of a national religious conference, Benedict pledged to “work with all my energy” toward healing divisions among Christians and urged the faithful to move beyond old resentments as the only way to unity.

11) World-wide power

The Papacy has gained worldwide influence, prestige and prominence.

Revelation 13:3 “**And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.**”

Question: Who did the dragon, Pagan Rome, give its power, seat and great authority to?

Revelation 13:2 “...and the dragon (Pagan Rome) **gave him** (the Beast) **his power, and his seat, and great authority.**”

In the Bible, the dragon represents Satan. Revelation 12:9

In Revelation 12, Satan works through Pagan Rome to destroy Jesus.

Stanley's History, p.40 The popes filled the place of the vacant emperors of Rome, inheriting their power, prestige and titles from paganism,... The papacy is but the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon its grave.

Labianca, Professor of History, University of Rome - To the succession of the Caesar's came the succession of the Pontiffs in Rome. When Constantine left Rome he gave his Seat to the Pontiff.

Papal Rights and Privileges, p.13, 14 - When the Roman Empire became Christian, and the peace of the church was guaranteed, the Emperor left Rome to the Pope, to be the seat of the authority of the Vicar of Christ, who should reign there independent of all human authority, to the consummation of ages, to the end of time.

Abbot's Roman History, p.236 - The transfer of the emperor's residence to Constantinople was a sad blow to the prestige of Rome, and at the time one might have predicted her speedy decline. But the development of the Church and the growing authority of the Bishop of Rome, or the pope, gave her a new lease on life, and made her again the capital – this time the religious capital – of the civilized world.

* The beast receives power, seat and authority from Pagan Rome.

Revelation 13:2 “...and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

* The beast is not a person. It is a religious political system.

* The “seat” of a worldwide kingdom

* Over one billion members

The real truth about the antichrist beast power as Daniel showed us in chapter 7 and John showed us in Revelation 13 is how it became this composite beast from all of its pagan root system. In Daniel the pagan Babylon lion with eagles wings followed by the pagan Medo-Persian bear followed by the four headed pagan leopard with four eagles wings followed by the indescribable pagan Roman beast empire. And then from John's perspective looking back the rise of the beast power during the seven headed, ten horned pagan Roman empire with its leopard body, bear paws and lion's head. Both Daniel and John under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit have accurately described the counterfeit, political-religious anti-christ system that deceives the whole world, yet receives its worship.

Much was written about the current Pope's predecessor and his powerful impact on the whole world.

Time, Dec. 26, 1994 - ‘He'll go down in history as the greatest of our modern Popes,’ says Billy Graham. ‘He's been the strong conscience of the whole Christian world.’

From the dawn of the reformation and down to our time there have been many men who saw the Papacy as the antichrist:

Martin Luther – Lutheran – “...reign of antichrist...the Papacy...”; John Calvin – Presbyterian – “...Roman Pontiff Antichrist...”; John Knox – Scotch Presbyterian – “...the Papacy was the very antichrist...”; Thomas Cranmer – Anglican – “...the Pope to be the very

antichrist..."; Roger Williams – Baptist – "...he is the son of perdition"; Westminster Confession of Faith – "...the Pope of Rome...is that antichrist..." Cotton Mather – Congregational Theologian – "...and in the Pope of Rome, all the characteristics of the Antichrist..."; John Wesley – Methodist – "This beast is the Roman Papacy..." "This beast is a spiritually secular power, opposite to the kingdom of Christ."

All Roads Lead to Rome, p. 205 - A Great Cloud of Witnesses: Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther, Calvin, Cranmer; in the seventeenth century, Bunyan, the translators of the King James Bible and the men who published the Westminster and Baptist confessions of Faith; Sir Isaac Newton, Wesley, Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards; and more recently Spurgeon, Bishop J.C. Ryle and Dr, MartinLloyd-Jones; these men among countless others, all saw the office of the Papacy as the antichrist.

The stage is indeed set for the anti-christ to strike as Time Magazine declared in 1994, but here in 2012 it is about ready to make its final move in its conquest of the world, politically and economically and to secure its worship.

Revelation 13:3 **"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."**

The Papacy has been in the wound healing period since 1929 and that wound is almost fully healed.

John 14:6 **"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**

Today, let's determine in our hearts to worship the Christ, instead of the Antichrist.

End Semester 3 – Week 8 - Class 15

The Next Class Semester 3 – Week 8 - Class 16

The Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God

The Following Class Semester 3 – Week 9 - Class 17

The U.S.A. in Bible Prophecy

The Next Following Class Semester 3 – Week 9 - Class 18

Armageddon and the Seven Last Plagues

Quotes for: "UNMASKING THE ANTICHRIST" - SUPPLEMENT

THE PAPACY'S CLAIM TO BE GOD ON EARTH:

The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh. – *the Catholic National*, July of 1895.

"We hold upon this earth the place of God almighty." *Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter, June 20, 1894, (The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII, p.304.)*

The pope is the supreme judge of the law of the land. ... He is the vicegerent of Christ, and is not only a priest forever, but also king of King of kings and Lord of lords. *La Civiltà Cattolica*, March 18, 1871.

The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a man, but as it were, God, and the Vicar of God. . . . The Pope is called "Most Holy" because he is rightfully presumed to be such. The Pope alone is deservedly called by the name "Most Holy" because he alone is the Vicar of Christ, who is the fountain and source and fullness of all holiness. He is likewise the divine Monarch and supreme Emperor, and King of Kings. Hence the Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and of the lower regions. Moreover the superiority, and the power of the Roman Pontiff, but by no means pertain only to heavenly things, to earthly things, and to things under the earth, but are even over angels, of whom he is greater. So that if it were possible that angels might err in 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.

–From *Lucius Ferraris's Ecclesiastical Dictionary, "Prompta Bibliotheca", vol.6 art."Papa II" (under the "POPE")*

The full title of this work known as "*Ferraris's Ecclesiastical Dictionary*" is:

"Prompta, Bibliotheca, Canonica, Juridica, Moralis, Theologica Nec Non Assetica, Polemica, Rubricistica Historica."

BLASPHEMOUS CLAIMS OF THE PAPACY

Grand as these claims may appear today, even they are not quite so exalted as the status attributed to Pope Julius II at the Fifth Lateran Council in 1512, when Christopher Marcellus told the Pope– and the pope did not rebuke him for it–

Thou art the shepherd, thou art the physician, thou art the director, thou art the husbandman; finally, thou art another God on earth. (Latin: –tu enim pastor, . . . tu denique alter Deus in terris.)

–From the *Oration of Christopher Marcellus (R.C.) in the fourth session of the Fifth Lateran Council, 1512 (an address to the Pope); History of the Councils, Labbe and Cossart, vol 24, col.109.*

All names which in the Scriptures are applied to Christ, by virtue of which it is established that he is over the church, all the same names are applied to the Pope.–"*On the Authority of Councils,*" –*Bellarmino (R. C.). book 2, chap.17 (Vol.II, p.266), ed.1619.*

The priest may, in a certain manner, be called the creator of his Creator, since by saying the words of consecration, he creates, as it were, Jesus in the sacrament (the Eucharist) by giving him a sacramental existence. Oh happy function of the priest! He that created me (if I may say so) gave me power to create Him; and He that created me without me is Himself created by me. (*Dignities and Duties of the Priest, pp. 32, 33*).

PAPAL CLAIMS REGARDING HAVING THE POWER TO FORGIVE SINS:

The priest does really and truly forgive sins in virtue of the power given to him by Christ.–*Joseph's Devarbe's catechism pp.279.*

Seek where you will, through heaven and earth, and you will find but one created being who can forgive the sinner, who can free him from the chains of hell, that extraordinary being is the priest, the (Roman) Catholic priest. Yes, beloved brethren, the priest not only declares that the sinner is forgiven, but he really forgives him. The priest raises his hand, he pronounces the word of absolution, and in an instant, quick as a flash of light the chains of hell are burst asunder, and the sinner becomes a child of God. So great is the power of the priest that the judgments of heaven itself are subject to his decision. – *Michael Muller, "The Catholic Priest," pp.78,79.*

The Roman Catholic Church claims, "the pardon of God can only be obtained by sinners through the prayers of the priests. – *The Question Box, (R.C.) Rev. Bertrand L. Conway, C.S.P., p.284.)*

Pope John Paul II . . . on Tuesday told Roman Catholics to seek forgiveness through the church and not directly from God. In a major document on the need for confession of sin, the pontiff laid down guidelines for the world's nearly 800 million Roman Catholics on the purpose of confessing sins to priests. . . The requirement for confessing sin through priests is one of the fundamental principles of Roman Catholicism. – *The Associated Press, December 11, 1984. (Emphasis Supplied).*

Pope John Paul II's decision to set aside a special year devoted to Mary reflects his desire to bring back such traditional customs as pilgrimages to sanctuaries and religious processions, Vatican officials say . . . The Vatican said the Catholics could gain indulgence, or the pardon of temporal punishment of sin, by devoutly taking part in some of the Marian year activities. . . From the outset of his pontificate more than eight years ago, John Paul has displayed special devotion to her. He calls Mary the 'heavenly mother of the church' and often invokes her intercession in public prayers. – *The Associated Press, February 17, 1987 (Emphasis Supplied)*.

PAPAL CLAIMS REGARDING THE POWER TO FORGIVE SINS

Were the Redeemer to descend into a church, and sit in a confessional to administer the sacraments of penance, and a priest to sit in another confessional, Jesus would say over each penitent, "Ego te absolvo" (I absolve you). The priest would likewise say over each of his penitents, "Ego te absolvo," and the penitence of both would be equally absolved.—(*Dignities and Duties of the Priest*, pp.28).

To pardon a single sin requires all the omnipotence of God . . . But what only God can do by His omnipotence, the priest can also do by saying 'Ego te absolvo . . .' Indeed, it is not too much to say that, in view of the sublimity of their offices, the priests are so many gods.—(*Dignities and Duties of the Priest*, pp.34-36).—(*Our Sunday Visitor*, Dec.1,1946).

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The Bible Says:

"I Am The Way, The Truth, And The Life: No Man Cometh Unto The Father, But By Me. . . . Whatsoever Ye Shall Ask In My Name, That Will I Do." – Jesus Christ, John 14:6,13.

"For There Is One God, And One Mediator Between God And Men, The Man Christ Jesus." –The Apostle Paul, 1 Timothy 2:5.

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### **PAPAL CLAIMS REGARDING HAVING THE POWERS TO CHANGE GOD'S LAWS:**

The Pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, change, or interpret even divine laws. The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth with most ample power of binding and loosing his sheep. –*the Catholic Ferraris's Ecclesiastical Dictionary – article under the Pope*

Peter and his successors have power to impose laws both preceptive and prohibitive, power likewise to grant dispensation from these laws, and, when needful, to annul them. It is theirs to judge offenses against the laws, to impose and to remit penalties. This judicial authority will even include the power to pardon sin. For sin is a breach of the laws of the supernatural kingdom, and falls under the cognizance of its constituted judges. – *The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol.XIII, art. "Pope."*p.265.

He (the Pope) is not subject to them (the canons of the church), because he is competent to modify or to annul them when he holds this to be best for the church. – *The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol.XIII, art."Pope."*p.268.

In "Converts Catechism of Catholic Doctrine", p.49 we find that God's law has been changed.

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The Bible Says: "Add Thou Not Unto His Words, Lest He Reprove Thee, And Thou Be Found A Liar." Proverbs 30:6

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### **REGARDING THE PAPACY'S ADMISSION OF PAST PERSECUTIONS**

The Catholic Church has a horror of blood. . . When confronted by heresy, she does not content herself with persuasion; arguments of an intellectual and moral order appear to her insufficient, and she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture. She creates tribunals like the Inquisition, she calls the laws of the State to her aid, if necessary she encourages a crusade, or a religious war, and all her 'horror of blood' practically culminates into urging the secular power to shed it, which proceeding is almost more odious– for it is less frank–than shedding it herself. Especially did she act thus in the 16th century with regard to Protestants. . . In France under Francis I and Henri II, in England under Mary Tudor, she tortured the heretics. . . – "*The Catholic Church, the Renaissance and Protestantism*", pp.182-84.

The Church has persecuted. Only a tyro in church history will deny that. – *Western Watchman*, Dec.23, 1908.

The church may by divine right confiscate the property of heretics, imprison their persons, and condemn them to the flames. In our age the right to inflict the severest penalties, even death belongs to the church. There is no graver offense than heresy, therefore it must be rooted out. – *Public Ecclesiastical Vol. 2* p.142.

This power reigned in Europe from the time of the destroying of the Ostrogoths in 538 A.D. when Justinian's Decree went into effect, making this little horn power the sovereign of Western Europe, not only in the religious sense, but in the political sense as well. It would reign down 1260 years bringing us down to 1798. In 1798 the Papacy received its deadly wound spoken of in Revelation 13:3. Then it was that the Pope was taken into captivity by General Berthier, under Napoleon of the French Army and he died in captivity.

Napoleon put an end to the church's temporal power, but it didn't end the religious power. He abolished the papal government; their political prestige and power.

Berthier entered Rome on February 10, 1798, and proclaimed a republic . . . Half of Europe thought that Napoleon's veto would be obeyed, and that with the pope the papacy was dead. – *Modern Papacy page 1 (A Roman Catholic work)*. (Joseph Rickaby—*Roman Catholic priest*)

The Papacy received its deadly wound. The Bible however prophesied in Revelation 13:3 that the deadly wound would be healed. It looked for a time like the papacy's political rule had ended, but lo, it began to receive life again in February of 1929 when Mussolini with Gaspari and other dignities of the papal church signed the historic Roman Lateran pact or Concordat as it has come to be called, a formal agreement that restored the political autonomy of the Roman Catholic Church, giving it the independence and statehood it desired. Power and authority and world-wide influence were again gained.

The Roman question tonight was a thing of the past and the Vatican was at peace with Italy . . . In affixing the autographs to the memorable document HEALING THE WOUND . . . extreme cordiality was displayed on both sides. *San Francisco Chronicle Feb.11/1929*.

Gold is more valuable than silver, but it's softer. Silver is more valuable than bronze, but it's softer. Bronze is more valuable than iron, but it's softer. Iron is more valuable than stone but it is less enduring. Each consecutive metal is stronger but less valuable. As these kingdoms ruled longer and longer, then devil has been perfecting his skills at trying to get a one world government so that he could then control it and thereby control people's belief systems everywhere. Nothing gets the devil angrier than to see people in this world who don't serve him. That's why the dragon was wroth with the women in Rev. 12.

And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."

#### **Counterfeits**

**God the Father gave His authority to His Son, Jesus Christ,**

The dragon gives his authority to his son, the beast.

The beast receives a deadly wound.

**The Son of God received a deadly wound when He died on the cross.**

**Jesus Christ was raised from the dead**

The beast's deadly wound was healed.

Parallels here between the dragon and the beast and the Father and the Son.

Satan counterfeits everything that God does.

Cardinal Manning

*"The Catholic Church is either the masterpiece of Satan or the kingdom of the Son of God."*

Cardinal Neuman

*"A sacerdotal order of the church is historically the essence of the church of Rome. If it is not divinely appointed, it is the essence of the antichrist."*