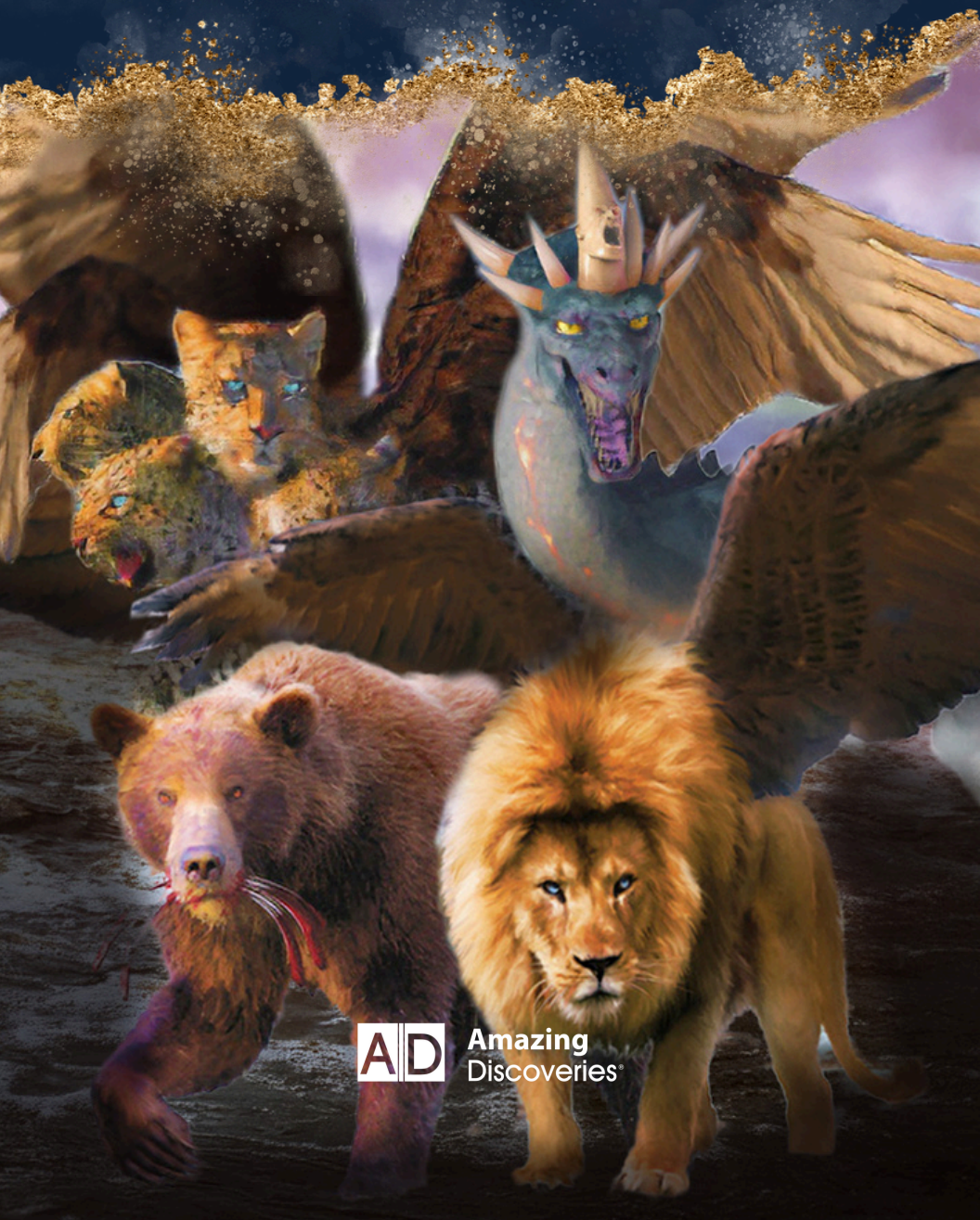


DANIEL 7

STUDY GUIDE



Amazing
Discoveries

Table of Contents

02	Introduction
08	Daniel 7:1-3
11	Daniel 7:4
15	Daniel 7:5-6
19	Daniel 7:7
27	Daniel 7:8
28	Daniel 7:9-10
30	Daniel 7:11-12
33	Daniel 7:13-14
35	Daniel 7:15-20
36	Daniel 7:21
38	Daniel 7:22
40	Daniel 7:23
41	Daniel 7:24
43	Daniel 7:25
47	Daniel 7:26-28
51	Answer Key
52	Appendix - William Miller's Rules
60	The Falling Away: How the Bride of Christ Became a Harlot
64	The Pope Claims to Be God on Earth
67	The Bloody History of Papal Rome
72	Why Do Christians Worship on Sunday?
78	God's Ten Commandments vs. the Catholic Church's Ten Commandments
80	Who is the Rock?
86	References

DANIEL 7 STUDY GUIDE

The study of the prophecies of Daniel is an insightful window into the exciting world of history. Prophecy is sometimes called “history in reverse,” because prophecy is an accurate foretelling of events before they happen.

By Daniel chapter 7, the narrative of Daniel’s life has been concluded and here begins the account of his visions and prophecies.

In chapter 2 we saw the image of Nebuchadnezzar with four metals symbolizing the four great world empires from Daniel’s day to the end of time; in chapter 7 Daniel begins to have visions himself. The Bible uses a repeat and enlarge format when explaining prophecy, and here in Daniel 7 we have a repetition and enlargement of what was shown in very basic terms to King Nebuchadnezzar, but using beasts to represent the four kingdoms instead of metals. Specifically, Daniel 7 explains some of the future events that will affect the Israelite nation, and God’s people in general until the end of time.

Before we embark on a journey through Biblical prophecy, we must establish the basis upon which prophetic symbols will be interpreted. In the Daniel 1 study guide, we saw that a Biblically derived interpretive system, Miller’s Rules, lets the Bible interpret itself. One of the rules (Rule XI) states that all Scripture language is to be taken literally unless there exists some good reason for supposing it to be a figure.

Additionally, all that is figurative should be interpreted by a literal meaning. In other words, a symbol is not interpreted by another symbol. A symbol will always be interpreted as something literal.

Many times an angel provides the interpretation. In [Daniel 7:19](#), Daniel says: “Then I would know the truth.” In [Daniel 8:15](#), he “sought for the meaning.” In [Daniel 11:2](#), the angel says: “And now will I shew thee the truth,” meaning that what he is about to reveal will be an explanation of what has been shown to Daniel. Each time the “truth” or “meaning” are mentioned it is referring to the literal explanation.

When the Bible doesn’t provide a clear interpretation by sending an angel, we will find an interpretation in another place of the Bible which is explicitly correlated, or which can be gleaned using the principle of the Bible explaining itself.

When studying the book of Daniel it is important to note that Daniel goes hand in hand with the book of Revelation. John the Apostle also saw many of the same things Daniel saw, with added details that enhance Daniel’s visions. These two books must be studied together, as much inter-connection between them can be found.

Why were the prophecies of the Bible given in the first place? At the heart of all of God’s communications with humanity is His desire for a restored relationship with His children. Sometimes He uses prophecy to get our attention and prove that He alone knows everything about what has been done and what will happen in the future. This is how God used Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Dan 2) to win Nebuchadnezzar. Though false prophets may sometimes make accurate predictions, only God’s true prophets reveal the future with 100% accuracy.

When we see nations falling and new nations rising, our faith may fail and we may feel disheartened. God provides prophecies so that we can have trust and confidence in Him, and peace even through the ever-changing landscape of world powers. But while prophecy sometimes reveals future events, its real purpose is to alert us to our need for a Saviour who can restore us to holiness and a right relationship to God. The revelation of future events in prophecy is to warn us of the danger of living life outside of God's will, and to woo us to a relationship with Him that will continue through an eternity of peace and joy.

Prophecy demands a response from those who apply themselves to understand it. Blessings are promised to those who read and hear, but the blessings are for those who also “keep” what is revealed ([Rev 1:3, 22:6-7](#)). In other words, the blessing comes when we allow prophecy to change us.

Please note: The entire chapter is provided here below, but because the study refers frequently to specific verses, it will be easier to complete it using a Bible opened to the chapter we are studying. This will prevent having to flip back to the pages at the beginning of the lesson as you progress through the lesson. You may also want to add notes or mark passages directly in your Bible.

These studies use the King James Version. Please keep in mind that if you use a different version, Bible verse fill-in-the-blank questions will not be a perfect fit and will not yield results that match the answers given in the answer key.

Daniel 7, KJV

1In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

2Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

3And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

4The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

5And 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: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

6After 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; and dominion was given to it.

7After 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.

8I 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.

9I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

10A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

11I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

12As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

13I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

16I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

17These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

18But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

19Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

20And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

21I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

22Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

23Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

24And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

25And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

26But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

27And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

28Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Daniel 7:1-3



1) Who is the recipient of the vision described in chapter 7?

A: _____

The visions in chapters 2 and 4 were seen by Nebuchadnezzar. The second half of the book of Daniel shifts its focus from issues pertaining to Babylon to events that will affect the world and it is Daniel who is shown the visions.

During the reign of the last king of Babylon, Daniel received his first vision that was to enlarge upon the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar received that is recorded in chapter 2. The vision in chapter 7 took place around 540 BC, two years before the events of chapter 6.

2) What realities are represented by these symbols?

- a) the four winds ([Jer 25:31-33](#), [49: 36-37](#)) A: _____
- b) great sea ([Rev 17:15](#)) A: _____
- c) great beasts ([Dan 7:17, 23](#)) A: _____

As the dream opens, Daniel sees a storm. **Winds** in Bible prophecy depict war, strife, political commotion, and bloodshed. See [Jer 4:11-13](#), [49:36,37](#); [Zech 7:14](#); [Mt 7:24-27](#); [Rev 7:1](#). In [Jeremiah 25:31-33](#), a great whirlwind is correlated with bloodshed. The “four winds” indicate that the strife is coming from all directions of the compass. See [Matthew 24:31](#).



The “sea” or waters symbolize many people. See Revelation 17:15. So the vision opens with war, strife, and bloodshed amongst many people. It is through war and revolution that kingdoms rise to power. Out of that sea of people, there arise four great beasts.

In verse 17, the angel states that **“these great beasts**, which are four, **are four kings** which shall arise out of the earth.”

In verse 23 the angel gives us a definition for the “beasts” Daniel sees in his vision: “The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon the earth.” Even today we portray modern-day nations with animal symbols (US–Eagle, Russia–Bear, England–Lion, etc.), so it’s not unusual that the Bible has used beasts to depict kingdoms. All the beasts used are considered “unclean” in the Jewish system, because these 4 kingdoms are made up of the Gentile nations.

The beasts arising from the turbulent waters symbolize nations arising from wars among many peoples. Discover more Bible symbols by [requesting your copy of our FREE Bible Symbols Bookmark!](#)



Daniel 7:4

3) What does the lion with eagle's wings represent? ([Dan 2:38](#); [Jer 4:7](#), [50:17](#))

A: _____

If we remember the dream of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2), he also saw four kingdoms: gold, silver, brass, and iron with iron/clay, and we saw that these four kingdoms began with Babylon, and progressed through Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the 10 divisions of Rome.

Here we can look for the same kingdoms, with greater detail. Babylon is fitly represented by a "lion" and is called a lion by God in prophecy several times.

Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones. Jer 50:17 See also [Jeremiah 4:7](#); [50:17](#), [43-44](#).

The lion image comes up again in [Revelation 13:1,2](#) in the end-time kingdom, as the influence of Babylon remains even after the city and kingdom itself is gone. We also saw this in Daniel 4 when we learned about the roots of the tree representing Babylon and continuing till the end.

Just as gold is supreme among the metals so the "lion" is king among beasts, vicious and formidable, and the "eagle" is king of the birds. The wings added swiftness which describe the early years of Nebuchadnezzar's reign.

Babylon's rise from a state of Assyria to ruler of the known world was breathtakingly swift. In the 21 years after Babylon gained its independence from Assyria, it had conquered the surrounding nations, and become the most powerful empire in the region; thus the "eagle's wings" portray speed. See [Habakkuk 1:6-8](#).

Babylon's reach expanded across the Middle East to the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea, and even into Egypt. (1) Nebuchadnezzar also conquered Judah, taking the Israelites into captivity to be assimilated into Babylon. With each conquest, he took slaves, making Babylon a cultural melting pot.



Before Babylon was known as an independent kingdom, while it was still a subject province of Assyria, Habakkuk, a prophet of Israel, had been given a view of Babylon symbolized as a lion with eagle's wings. (Hab 1:6-10) "For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not their's...."

This is Babylon as Habakkuk saw it. While Daniel watched the same kingdom in his vision, the noble lion with its wings, denoting power and rapidity of conquest, had been lifted up from the earth into an unnatural position, and made to stand upon its feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. Man's heart without Christ is simply sin. The wings were shorn, and then Babylon was represented as it existed at the time of the vision, bereft of its strength, abandoned by God, with Belshazzar standing at the head of the government.

The prophet Habbakuk gives the reason for this sudden weakening of the mighty power of Babylon: "Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god." Hab 1:11. . . . Babylon committed the unpardonable sin by imputing the power and Spirit of God to the gods of the heathen. In this act the lion was shorn of its strength, the wings were plucked, and a man's heart was given to it. A few years after this vision, in the year 538 BC, Daniel was a witness to the complete overthrow of the kingdom. (2)

After the death of Nebuchadnezzar the succeeding kings of Babylon chose to ignore God's law and mock Him. (See [Daniel 5:2-4,22](#)). Then Babylon lost its lion-like nobility. It was given a "man's heart" and made to stand upon its "feet as a man."

"The boldness and spirit of the lion were gone. A man's heart, weak, timorous, and faint, had taken its place. Such was emphatically the case with the nation during the closing years of its history, when it had become enfeebled and effeminate through wealth and luxury." (3)

Babylon passed away because, in her prosperity, she ignored the God of heaven and ascribed the glory of her prosperity to false gods and human achievement. Jeremiah 51:9 tells us that God wanted Babylon to be converted but she refused.

We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.

God wants everyone to choose life over death. Even the most wicked can find mercy with the Lord who will abundantly pardon.

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; **Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.** (1 Timothy 2:1-4)*

But although the kingdom itself was gone, the roots remained in the earth to sprout elsewhere and at a later time.



Daniel 7:5-6

4) Which part of the image of chapter 2 does the second beast correspond to?

A: _____

The second bear kingdom corresponds to the second part of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the chest and arms of silver and represents Medo-Persia.

Persia was dominant over Media, which is represented by the "bear" being "raised up" "on one side—," so one side was higher than the other.

This detail is significant because that was the case with Medo-Persia. They at first were equal as they unified in order to have victory over their enemies, but eventually the Persians became a little stronger than the Medes with Cyrus the Persian taking the throne. The symbolism of the bear is also mentioned in [Revelation 13:2](#) in the beast rising from the sea. This tells us that elements of the bear kingdom which Daniel saw would be part of the end-time Antichrist kingdom. ([You can learn about the Antichrist on our website.](#))



626 - 538 BC
Head of Gold/Lion
= Babylon



538 - 321 BC
Arms of silver/
bear = Medo
Persia



321 - 168 BC
Thighs of
brass/leopard
= Greece



168 BC
Legs of
iron/beast = Rome



In Daniel's vision, the bear had three ribs in his mouth, representing the three nations that posed the greatest threat to the Medo-Persians in becoming a world-dominating power:

Lydia was defeated in 546 BC
Babylon in 539 BC
Egypt in 525 BC *

**Remember that when in speaking of dates in BC, the dates go from largest to smallest because it is counting down to 0. So 525 BC would be more recent than 546 BC.*

At the height of its power, Medo-Persia was 2 to 6 times the size of Babylon. The command to "devour much flesh" emphasized this point.

5) Why is the number 4 emphasized in this verse?

A: _____

The number 4 highlights important features of Greece.

Medo-Persia was defeated by Grecia, represented as a "leopard" with "four heads" and "four wings." The "four wings" again represent unprecedented swiftness. See [Habakkuk 1:6](#). The conquests of Grecia under Alexander the Great were more rapid than even those of Babylon, which is why the Bible used four wings instead of the previous two. In just three short years, from 334-331 BC, he conquered the entire Persian Empire. In under eight years, Alexander had marched his army over 5100 miles across the then-known world, conquering almost to the Ganges River in India.

The leopard is more agile and swift than a lion or bear, yet more frail. Alexander died in 323 BC at the age of thirty-two. His four strongest generals (Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus), divided the kingdom amongst themselves, symbolized by the leopard's "four heads."

Cassander ruled Grecia in the west. Lysimachus ruled Thrace and Bithynia in the north. Seleucus ruled the vast area to the east covering Turkey, Israel and Asia minor. Ptolemy ruled Egypt and Arabia.

Each successive kingdom left its mark on the next kingdom. Babylon's principles remained in the earth as the roots of a tree. When Medo-Persia fell, it also left her principles of government, education, and religion still alive. Greece did the same.



“... with each succeeding empire those foundation principles, so clearly portrayed in Babylon, which were placed there by the prince of the power of the air, instead of appearing in a weakened state, sprang into life with renewed vigor. So it was that when the fourth kingdom appeared, those same principles of government, which were the counterfeit of heaven’s underlying principles, were so strong that no natural beast could symbolize even pagan Rome.” (4)

Daniel 7:7

6) What is remarkable about this fourth beast?

A: _____

We know from history and Daniel 2 that the kingdom to follow Grecia was Rome.

“Rome in religion renewed all the religious errors of Babylon, and in education she perpetuated the errors of Greece, while in cruelty she followed in the footsteps of Media and Persia.” (5)

The previous empires were represented by some of the most ferocious animals of prey; but this “beast” is represented by a frightful monster. This is a fitting figure of the Roman Empire which dominated the world with its iron legions. The “iron teeth” of this monster give it a direct parallel to the iron in the image in [Daniel 2:40](#). This monster is said to “stamp the residue” with its feet. Rome trampled what remained of the kingdoms that preceded it.

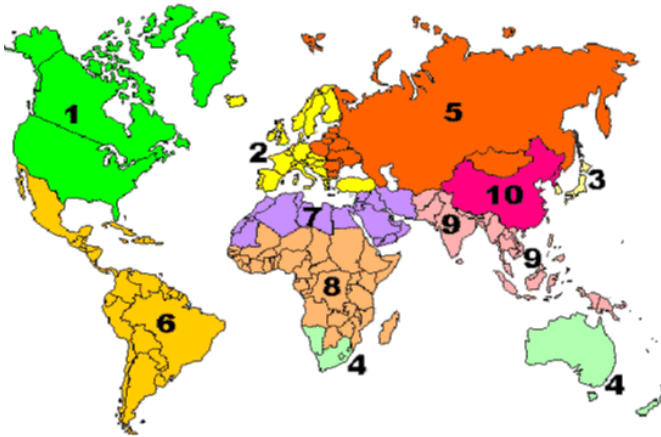
It was Rome that ruled the Mediterranean world when Jesus lived on earth, and it was the Roman governor, Pilate, who sent Him to the cross, where He died for the sins of all mankind. This was Rome's golden opportunity to accept the true God.

“To Babylon God sent His people, the Jews, to scatter the truths of His kingdom, and lead men to repentance. The Medes and the Persians received the Gospel from this same people, and representatives from Greece went to Jerusalem, into the very temple, in touch with the priests, in order that there might be no excuse for their refusing Christ. But to the Roman kingdom heaven itself was poured out in the person of the Saviour, and it was Rome that nailed Him to the cross. It was a Roman seal on His tomb, and a Roman guard at His grave. The early church suffered persecution at the hands of this same power. Judgment came on Rome when the barbarians overran the empire with fire and sword, and the kingdom was divided into ten parts.” (6)

The “ten horns,” like the leopard’s “four heads,” show a splintering of the kingdom into multiple parts. See notes on vss. 24-25. The decline of Rome is described in Revelation 8 and is discussed in our Revelation study series in the description of the 7 trumpets.

Here the component of 10 from the 10 toes of the Daniel 2 statue is seen in the 10 horns, and the iron component is also depicted in this beast with its “great iron teeth.” We also saw this iron component described in Daniel 2. The 10 horns also correspond to the 10 tribes of Europe that fragment it: the Burgundians, Suevi, Franks, Lombards, Saxons, Visigoths, Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Vandals. See Daniel 2 for description.

Another application of the 10 divisions is made in Revelation where 10 kings are predicted to “receive power as kings one hour with the beast” just before Christ returns (Rev 17:12). Interestingly, Club of Rome globalists have divided the world into 10 regions under a global government as part of a plan for remodeling the world in their new world order.



Map via Club of Rome.

This fourth beast is described as being very aggressive and cruel. And it's true that the Romans were a cruel nation. They developed crucifixion as a form of torture and punishment and used it to intimidate its citizens. Crosses with suffering people were set up along sides of roads and in sight of people passing by. The Romans razed cities they conquered and dispersed their citizens.

The gladiators fought to the death and Christians were put in the Roman amphitheater to face wild lions and to be crucified or burned at the stake, all in sight of a crowd of onlookers who came to enjoy the spectacle. The Romans had little sympathy for the people of the nations they conquered, enslaving millions of men, women and children. Some say that about 60% of the population were slaves.

While Rome was the great assimilator when it came to art, culture, and religion, this was also one of the problems.

Ancient Roman religion [wasn't] particularly concerned with personal salvation or morality. Instead it mainly focused on the performance of rituals that were intended to keep the relationship between Rome and the gods in good order...It was a religion of doing, not believing. (7)



Jean-Léon Gérôme, The Christian Martyrs' Last Prayer, 1863-83. Walters Art Museum, [via Wikipedia](https://www.wikipedia.org).

Rome persecuted Christians because they would not do lip service to the Roman gods or deified emperors. In this Rome was unrelentingly cruel until, if possible, the last one was exterminated. This is the "residue" of which the Bible speaks, trying to stamp out anything left of the hated sect. John F. Walvoord, a Bible commentator, writes: "The glory of Rome was built on the misery of its conquered peoples." (8)

Cicero, (in 106-43 BC) a Roman statesman and author wrote:

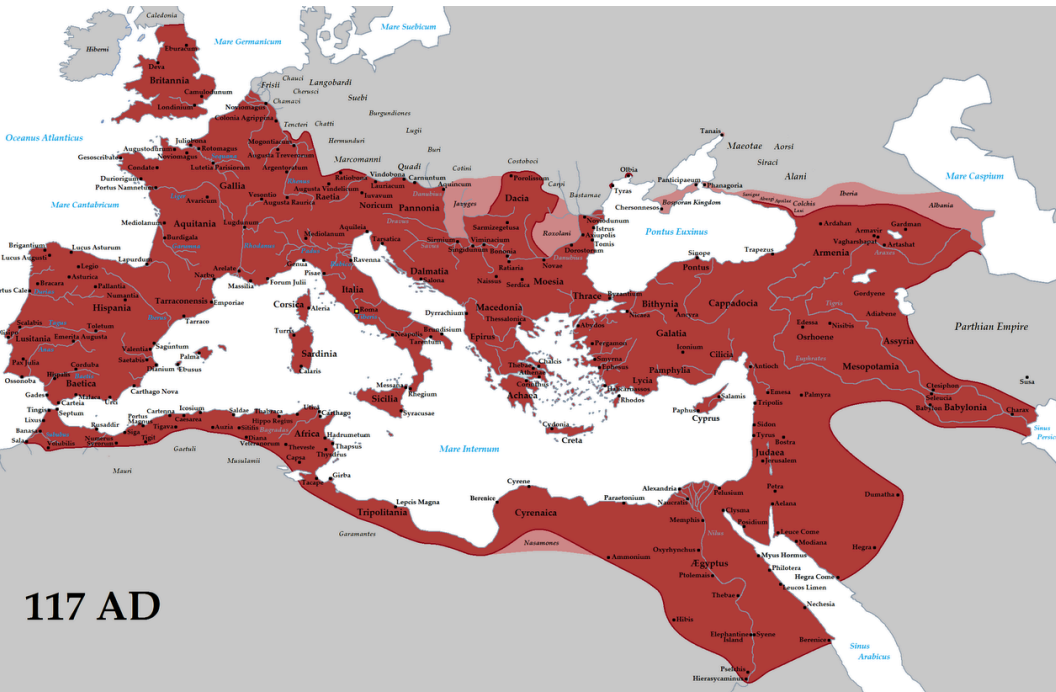
It is difficult to convey to you, gentlemen, the bitter hatred felt for us among foreign nations because of the unbridled and outrageous behaviour of the men whom we have sent to govern them during these past years. What temple in those lands do you think has had its sanctity respected by our magistrates? What state has been free from their aggression? What home has been adequately closed and protected against them? They actually look around for wealthy and flourishing cities in order to find an occasion of waging war against them and thus gratify their lust for plunder.... (9)

The historian Edward Gibbons describes how they maintained control: "They preserved peace by a constant preparation for war. "

Eventually, Rome developed a new way of acquiring lands and countries - by gift. Kings bequeathed their territories to Rome, usually in exchange for protection, enlarging the empire even further.

The iron kingdom of Rome expanded farther than any of the previous kingdoms, reaching all of mainland Europe, across to Asia, and down to Africa.

The Romans are known for their expansive road network, which they built across their empire. The saying “all roads lead to Rome” came from that time. In addition, the Romans used aqueducts to bring water from a freshwater source to a city.



Map of Ancient Roman empire, [via Wikipedia.](#)

These aqueducts used a system of pipes, tunnels, canals and bridges to bring water for drinking, irrigation and for public fountains and baths. Some aqueducts are still in use today! The Aqua Virgo aqueduct was constructed by Agrippa in 19 BC during Caesar Augustus' reign, and it still supplies water to Rome's Trevi Fountain! The Romans built amphitheaters and arches and what is left of these can still be found in places around the Mediterranean.

Some of their art and architectural elements they borrowed from the Greeks, improving on them in various ways.



The Roman impact on the world can still be felt today through their art, technology, literature, language and especially their law system. Even though Roman laws were extremely harsh, the Roman court system has served as the foundation for the court systems of the United States and some countries in Europe. The Latin language that they spoke is the basis of many languages in Europe, including French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian.

Rome was a great assimilator. It assimilated elements from all the previous kingdoms that came before it, especially in the case of religion. Rome's many gods mimic the gods of the Greeks, Medo-Persians, and Babylonians. The gods Apollo and Zeus were the same as the gods Marduk, Utu, Ahura-Mazda, Osiris, Tammuz, Jupiter, Mithra, Hermes, Adonis, Pan, Hades, Baachus, and more, (10) but with their names changed. The Papacy (the papal version of Rome) continues the practice to this day, renaming Greek and Babylonian statues and gods with Christianized names.

Daniel 7:8

7) In which kingdom does the little horn arise?

A: _____

Verse 24 tells us, “The ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings.” So this little horn is also a kingdom that comes out from the 10. See [vss. 24-25](#). The little horn rises within the fourth kingdom, that is, in Rome.

As we consider how God is moving the lens of Daniel’s dream to have him focus on the 10 horns and the little horn, we see that the vision is moving into what happened after the fall of Rome.

As discussed in Daniel 2, Rome was not conquered by another entity. Instead it fragmented into the 10 divisions of Europe for a variety of reasons that include internal decay and corruption, over-expansion and economic collapse, and barbarian invasions.

Never again would there be another world-dominating empire. Pagan Rome crumbled to pieces under its own weight, never to be united again. But just as a mushroom rises out of a decaying log, a new power arose that was nourished by the national decay.

Remember from Daniel 2 that the iron and clay mixture represents a mingling of churchcraft and statecraft. After Rome broke into 10 divisions, the Papacy took control over Europe, and they practiced a mingling of church and state which caused great persecution to exist throughout the Dark Ages.

We will look at the 3 horns that were plucked up more closely in vs. 24

The “eyes” on the little horn power were not those of a beast, but of a man - keen, shrewd and intelligent. They represent the shrewdness, penetration, cunning and foresight of the papal hierarchy, and the “mouth speaking great things” represents the arrogant claims of the bishops of Rome who took the place of God Himself, and the chief priest’s title, Pontifex Maximus, from the Babylonian priesthood. They ruled for the next 1260 years, from 538 AD to 1798, with absolute power, having kings and subjects under their spiritual oppression.

Daniel 7:9-10

8) What event do these verses depict?

A: _____

In Daniel 2 we saw a stone crush the statue to powder, then fill the whole earth, vividly portraying the time when these nations will be judged and destroyed. At that time God will set up His kingdom and reign forever.

This chapter adds the fact that God will “sit” for a solemn day of judgment before He sets up His “everlasting dominion.” See [vss. 9-12, 22, and 26](#). His verdict will be both just and merciful, because He commits the judgment to His Son, who gave His life for us. [John 5:22, 27](#).

In [vs. 9](#), we see thrones “cast down.” The Hebrew word for this is “mah” translated as “to be placed, to be set” or “pitched.” The Ancient of Days is another name for the Father, and the description of Him is awe-inspiring. Dressed in pure white like snow, His hair like pure wool (probably white as well). His throne was “like the fiery flame” and its wheels were also burning with fire. The prophet Ezekiel was granted a vision of the throne of God, and his description is similar although it also adds additional detail. ([Ezekiel 1:15-28; 10:1](#)).

Before the Father is a fiery river that flows out of His throne, and thousands of angels minister unto Him. His court is full of thousands of beings that do His bidding. The books by which we are judged are opened before Him. These books are the book of life, as well as the book of remembrance.

This is the investigative judgment which will determine the cases of all who will receive eternal life when the Lord comes for His people. The books of Daniel and Revelation go hand in hand, which is why we can also find references to the Judgment in Revelation. By comparing Scripture with Scripture, we find that the concept of the Judgment is repeated and enlarged. We will look more closely at the Judgment in Daniel 8, but for now, we should note that the seventh chapter of Daniel is the only place in the Bible where there is a description of the judgment scene. The Judgment is also announced by the first angel of Revelation 14, who notifies the world that the time of Judgment has arrived. As we’ll see when we look in detail at the next chapter of Daniel, Daniel 8:14 refers to the time of the beginning of the Judgment. By bringing all the texts together on the subject, we can get a picture of what takes place in the Judgment and when its various phases happen.

Daniel 7:11-12

9) What fate does the little horn experience even as it utters its “great words”?

A: _____

The kingdoms of this world will come to an end when Christ returns and sets up His eternal kingdom. At that time, the final kingdom, the little horn, is judged by God and found to be guilty. As a result, it is “slain,” its body is “destroyed,” and it is “given to the burning flame.”

Daniel says that the vision he saw continued until the terrible beast was slain and destroyed in burning fire—in other words, till the end of time, when the beast is thrown into the lake of fire and destroyed with all those who have chosen to reject God and His kingdom.



The other beasts, Daniel says, although they lose their dominion, yet their lives were “prolonged for a season and a time.”

“The territory and subjects of the Babylonian kingdom still existed, though made subject to the Persians. So of the Persian kingdom in respect to Grecia, and of Grecia in respect to Rome. But what succeeds the fourth kingdom? – No government or state in which mortals have any part. Its career ends in the lake of fire, and it has no existence beyond. The lion was merged into the bear, the bear into the leopard; the leopard into the fourth beast; and the fourth beast into what? – Not into another beast, but it is cast into the lake of fire under which destruction it rests till men shall suffer the second death.” (11)

“I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake.”

“The adverb “then” ... seems to refer to some particular time. The work of the investigative judgment is introduced in the previous verses; and this verse would seem to imply that while this work is going forward, ...the little horn utters its great words against the Most High.” (12)

The Papacy has indeed spoken great words against the Most High multiple times. But “then” in 1870—as the investigative judgment was taking place in heaven—at the Vatican Council it was decreed that when the pope speaks from the chair in Saint John’s Lateran, he is speaking infallibly, and cannot err. No wonder John, in vision, took note of such “great words” spoken by a mere mortal man.

Along with claiming the right to forgive sins, the Papacy has indeed spoken [blasphemy](#), identified as “great words against the Most High” here in verse 11, even going so far as claiming to be a god on earth.

Here are some other self-accepted titles the Pope uses: “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.”

Dr. Clarke comments: “‘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 nations 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.” (13)

Daniel says: “I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.” - this is the end of the kingdom of the fourth beast. No earthly power conquers it. It continues even past the time when the judgment has started, even after the thrones are set and the work in the most holy has begun. It continues until it goes into the lake of fire. Its destruction will be complete.

Daniel 7:13-14

10) Where does the scene depicted in [verses 13 and 14](#) take place?

A: _____

As Daniel watches the judgment scene, the “Son of man,” who we understand to be Jesus Himself, is brought before the Father. He arrives with the clouds of heaven. Because this scene is described in the context of the Judgment ([vs. 9 & 10](#)) it is also connected with [Revelation 14:7](#) and the angel’s announcement that “the hour of his judgment is come.”

To learn more about the Judgment, search “sanctuary” at <https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read>.

This arrival of the Son of Man is the start of the Judgment for “all judgment has been given unto the Son.” This coming could not have taken place at His ascension because then He ascended to the Father, and the Judgment was still in the future. It cannot refer to His second coming because that is when He comes *from* the Father, bringing His reward with Him ([Is 40:10](#), [62:11](#); [Rev 22:12](#)). The fact that He will have His reward with Him at His second coming shows that the Judgment has already taken place. In [verses 13 and 14](#), He comes *before* the Father who is enthroned over His law in the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary, and Christ comes in to plead before Him for His people.

It is also the final transfer of the kingdom to the Son. At the end of the judgment, Jesus receives His kingdom, for which He has done so much. It always was His, but it was wrested from Him by the devil when he tricked Eve into eating the apple.

When Adam followed Eve in eating the apple, they transferred their allegiance from God to Satan. Adam had been the “manager” or “representative” of this earth when God created him. He was called a “son of God.” (See [Luke 3:38](#).)

Each one of the worlds God created had a representative, and they would gather to meet periodically. Look up Job 1:6 and fill in the blanks. “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to _____ before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.” While the “sons of God” came to “present themselves” as God’s ministers, Satan “came also,” pretending to represent the world.

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for our sins and bought us back with His blood. The treatment of Jesus, the Son of God, also stilled any further sympathies that might have existed amongst the angels in heaven for Satan. It was perfectly clear what Satan could and would do to God and where his kingdom led. But thanks be to God, Satan did not win the victory that day. Because of Jesus’ perfect life, death could not hold Him in the grave and He arose. He had bought back the human race from death.



But Satan’s attempts to reign on this earth were not over. The great controversy still had to be finished. Although this earth belongs to Christ, His kingdom is not yet fully established. The reason for this is that the subjects of His kingdom must align with the principles of His kingdom to ensure that sin will not arise a second time. It has done too much damage and caused too much pain and suffering to ever have it happen again. Those who join Christ in His kingdom must have hearts that are aligned with Him.

Here in vs 13-14, in the presence of His Father, the Ancient of Days ([Ps 90:2](#)), the Son of man receives His kingdom before His return to this earth. ([Luke 19:10-27](#)).

“He receives the kingdom at the close of his priestly work in the sanctuary. The people, nations, and languages that shall serve him, are the nations of the saved ([Rev 21:24](#)), not the wicked nations of the earth; for these are dashed in pieces ([Ps 2:9](#)) at the second advent.” (14)

Daniel 7:15-20

11) What does the angel do for Daniel?

A: _____

As Daniel watches the vision, he is troubled in his spirit. The scenes before him are difficult to fathom. He was anxious to understand the meaning of what he had seen. So he asks one of the heavenly beings in his dream to help him understand the truth of it all.

The angel is happy to oblige. “These great beasts which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.” Daniel has clarity now that the four great beasts are the four kingdoms that he has previously seen in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

The angel assures him that God and His people win. “The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever...”

Daniel had no problem figuring out what the first three beasts represented. But the fourth beast, which lasted until Jesus comes, was something he wanted to know more about. He also was intrigued by the ten horns and the little horn with the eyes of a man that spoke great things. This had not been in Nebuchadnezzar’s vision.

The Bible says the little horn was “more stout than its fellows.” In other words, it was stronger than the other horns. No wonder Daniel wishes to know more.

Daniel 7:21

12) What distinguishes the little horn?

A: _____

As he watches, Daniel sees that the little horn is doing more than just speaking great words against the Most High. He is making “war with the saints” and prevailing against them.

The Papacy carried on the same persecution of God's people that pagan Rome had done, but in the name of Christ. Although some would seek to deny history, there are many authors who have written about it. Millions were exterminated through the use of state power. The Waldenses, Albigenses, and later Protestants were all persecuted by the papal power. Hunted like animals through the mountains and in caves of Europe, they would not submit to the demands of the Papacy. They could not go against the truth of God's Word. They secretly hid Bibles or fragments of Bibles so that they could read God's Word in their own tongue.



“It is stated on good authority that the persecutions, massacres, and religious wars excited by the church and bishop of Rome, have occasioned the shedding of far more blood of the saints of the Most High, than all the enmity, hostility, and persecutions of professed heathens from the foundations of the world.” (15)

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 corruptions of the Church of Rome. A million 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." (16)

Daniel 7:22

13) What are three events included in God's plan of restoration?

A:

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

The coming of the Ancient of Days is the coming described in [verses 9 and 10](#) of this chapter. This event marked the beginning of the investigative judgment in heaven. This phase of judgment takes place before Christ's second coming.

Judgment is given to the saints when they sit with Christ in judgment a thousand years, following the first resurrection. At this time, God's people review the records and determine the legal sentence or punishment due to individual sinners. ([Rev 20:1-4](#)) This happens in heaven after Christ's second coming.

To learn more about what the Bible says about the millennium, see [What Happens During the Millennium?](#)

The time that the saints possess the kingdom is the time when the earth is made new and the last vestige of the curse is wiped away. This happens when Christ and His people return from heaven.



Daniel 7:23

14) How is the fourth kingdom different from the others?

A: _____

The angel tells Daniel that the fourth kingdom is “diverse” from all the kingdoms. This is because the Papacy was not just a political power, but also an ecclesiastical power.

Cardinal Bellarmine described the relationship of the secular power to the church when he said,

“As the church has ecclesiastical and secular princes, who are her two arms, so she has two swords, the spiritual and material; and therefore when her right hand is unable to convert a heretic with the sword of the Spirit, she invokes the aid of the left hand, and coerces heretics with the material sword.” (17)

The next trait of the little horn power was that it would “devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down and break it in pieces.” The Papacy ruled the entire then-known world with its spiritual oppression.

Kings were subject to its power. If a king was excommunicated, all his subjects were in danger of losing their salvation.



Daniel 7:24

15) When does the little horn arise?

A: _____

The fourth and terrible beast had 10 horns, but 3 of the 10 horns were uprooted, and a little horn would arise in their place. What could this mean?

The 3 horns that were plucked up are 3 people-groups from among the 10 tribes that made up Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire: Burgundians, Suevi, Franks, Lombards, Saxons, Huns, Visigoths, Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Vandals.

The last 3, the Heruli, Vandals and Ostrogoths did indeed become extinct after being extinguished by the Romans themselves with the help of the Franks in 538 AD. Once this was accomplished, the papal power of Rome (the little horn power) took over. The little horn power that arises in their place is the same power described in Revelation 13. It was in 538 AD that the Papacy rose to power without any further opposition.

Machiavelli, in his *History of Florence*, p. 14, says: “Nearly all the wars which the northern barbarians carried on in Italy, it may be here remarked, were occasioned by the pontiffs; and the hordes with which the country was inundated, were generally called in by them.” (18)

Here we have “a general view of the state of affairs at this time, and show us that though the hands of the Roman pontiffs might not be visibly manifest in the movements upon the political board, they constituted the power working assiduously behind the scenes to secure their own purposes.” (19)

Daniel 7:25

16) Whose times and laws does the little horn imagine it can change?

A: _____

Besides speaking blasphemous words, as we have already seen, and wearing out the saints, the little horn also thinks “to change times and laws.”

What laws and whose? It isn't laws of earthly governments or human laws, as changes in these is no superb feat. But these laws are laws that the little horn power only “thinks” to change but cannot actually change. These laws belong to the same power to whom the saints belong who are worn out by the little horn - the laws of the Most High God. How has the Papacy tried to change the laws of God?

Satan well knew that the Holy Scriptures would enable men to discern his deceptions and withstand his power. It was by the Word that even the Saviour of the world had resisted his attacks. At every assault, Christ presented the shield of eternal truth, saying, “It is written.” To every suggestion of the adversary, he opposed the wisdom and power of the Word. In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures.

The Bible would exalt God, and place finite men in their true position; therefore its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman Church. For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited. The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions. Thus the pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicegerent of God on earth, endowed with authority over Church and State.

The detector of error having been removed, Satan worked according to his will. Prophecy had declared that the papacy was to “think to change times and laws.” [Daniel 7:25.] This work it was not slow to attempt. To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols, and thus to promote their nominal acceptance of Christianity, the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into the Christian worship.

The decree of a general council [Second Council of Nice, A.D. 787.] finally established this system of idolatry. To complete the sacrilegious work, Rome presumed to expunge from the law of God the second commandment, forbidding image worship, and to divide the tenth commandment, in order to preserve the number.

Satan tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified, [Genesis 2:2, 3.] and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as “the venerable day of the sun.” This change was not at first attempted openly. [In the first centuries the true Sabbath had been kept by all Christians.](#) . . . 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. (20)

That the law which was spoken by God's own voice is faulty, that some specification has been set aside, is the claim which Satan now puts forward. It is the last great deception that he will bring upon the world. He needs not to assail the whole law; if he can lead men to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained. For "whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. By consenting to break one precept, men are brought under Satan's power. By substituting human law for God's law, Satan will seek to control the world. This work is foretold in prophecy. Of the great apostate power which is the representative of Satan, it is declared, "He shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand." Daniel 7:25. (21)

In its [catechism](#), the Papacy has indeed altered the decalogue - the ten commandments written in stone by the finger of God. The second commandment has been removed so that they can worship their images. To make up the difference, the Papacy has split the tenth commandment into two to make up the ten commandments. At the same time, the Papacy has moved the fourth commandment to the third place, and shortened it.

The Papacy also changed the day of worship from the seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible to the first day of the week. In its catechism, it has stated that it is by its own authority that it did this.

Q. Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?

A. 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. (22)

Does the Catholic church have this authority? (23) In addition, the Papacy made a [calendar change](#) twice, once with the Julian calendar and once with the Gregorian calendar.

The final trait of the little horn, mentioned by the angel is that the saints “shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.” Since this is a prophecy, “a time” is a symbol representing something.

In the Bible a time refers to a year. (See Lesson 4.) A time, times and the dividing of times = $3 \frac{1}{2}$ Biblical years or 1260 days. When we apply the day for a year principle, it is 1260 years. This time frame is accurately revealed in history. From 598 AD - the year that the last of the 3 horns were exterminated and the Papacy had full sway, until 1798 when it received what appeared to be a “mortal wound” ([Rev 13:3](#)) when the Pope was taken captive by Berthier, the French general, is exactly 1260 years. This span of time is known as the Dark Ages, when the Papacy ruled and oppressed those that were faithful to God and His Word. This was the time of the [church in the wilderness](#). ([Rev 12:6](#))



Daniel 7:26-28

17) What will happen to the little horn power?

A: _____

The climax of this prophecy is God's final judgment. The beast and the little horn power are judged and their kingdom is taken away; at the same time the verdict is made in favor of the saints and dominion is given to them.

These same events were portrayed in Daniel 2 when the stone crushed the statue and filled the whole earth.

God will set up His everlasting kingdom full of love, joy and peace; there will be no sickness or death. [Revelation 21:3-4](#). Those who were counted as worthy in the investigative judgment will reign with Christ forever and ever. These are the "people of the saints of the Most High." Sin, with all who have clung to it, will be forever destroyed. And "all dominions shall serve and obey him." At that time, there will not be one being in the entire universe that desires to live for self and go against God. Finally, there will be everlasting peace in the entire universe, but only because His people have been justified (declared just or righteous), and sanctified (conformed to the will of God), recreated into His image, having allowed Him to change their characters to be in line with the law of God.

The kingdom of God's grace is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world. "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven," is to be given to "the people of the saints of the Most High." Daniel 7:27. They shall inherit the kingdom prepared for them "from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34. And Christ will take to Himself His great power and will reign. (24)

The details shared in this vision Daniel received were astonishing to him, and in many ways troubling. He had just witnessed the climax of the great controversy - the victory of the people of God and of Christ.

"Babylon of old, her iniquity of every form which has been repeated by all the nations of the earth, together with the instigator of all evil, will at last be blotted out. The triumph of truth is witnessed by all created beings. The scar which sin has made is gone forever. The discord which for six thousand years has marred the universe is forgotten." (25)

No wonder Daniel's countenance is changed as he contemplates the love of Christ and His justice.

Daniel kept the matter to himself, but God would share more and more details with him as we will see in coming chapters, until more of the picture was fleshed out for him.

Personal Reflection

The study of Daniel's prophecies is just as intriguing for us today, on the other side of history, where we can see the fulfillment of the visions Daniel received. Some day in heaven, Daniel will be amazed to see how all his visions came true. Won't it be wonderful to speak with him and answer all his questions as we explain to him how world history transpired just as God had shown? Are you cooperating with Him as He works out the details of your life?

Prayer

Loving Father, King of the universe, You are sovereign. Help me to surrender to Your loving will at all times.

Further Reading

The following articles and ebooks can be found at

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read>.

[What Is the Purpose of Prophecy?;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/what-is-the-purpose-of-prophecy?)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/what-is-the-purpose-of-prophecy>

[William Miller's Rules;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/william-miller-s-rules)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/william-miller-s-rules>

[The Corruption of the Early Church and Rise of the Papacy;_](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/the-corruption-of-the-early-church-and-rise-of-the-papacy?)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/the-corruption-of-the-early-church-and-rise-of-the-papacy>

[Is My Name Written There?;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/the-books-of-record)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/the-books-of-record>

[What Are the 2300 Days of Daniel 8:14?;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/what-are-the-2300-days-of-daniel-8-14?)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/what-are-the-2300-days-of-daniel-8-14>

[Biblical Time Reckoning and Oct 22, 1844;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/biblical-time-reckoning-and-oct-22-1844)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/biblical-time-reckoning-and-oct-22-1844>

[Cleansing the Temple;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/cleansing-the-temple)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/cleansing-the-temple>

[History of Sabbath Observance \(ebook\);](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/ebook/96/show)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/ebook/96/show>

[Why Do Christians Worship on Sunday?;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/why-do-christians-worship-on-sunday)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/why-do-christians-worship-on-sunday>

[God's Ten Commandments Vs. the Catholic Church's Ten Commandments;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/god-s-ten-commandments-vs-the-catholic-church-s-ten-commandments)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/god-s-ten-commandments-vs-the-catholic-church-s-ten-commandments>

[The Convert's Catechism;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/ebooks/the-convert-s-catechism-of-catholic-doctrine)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/ebooks/the-convert-s-catechism-of-catholic-doctrine>

[When Was the Calendar Changed?;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/when-was-the-calendar-changed?)

[https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/when-was-the-calendar-changed](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/when-was-the-calendar-changed?)

[Woman in the Wilderness—Keeper of the Faith;](https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/the-woman-in-the-wilderness-rev-12-6-keeper-of-the-faith)

<https://amazingdiscoveries.org/read/articles/the-woman-in-the-wilderness-rev-12-6-keeper-of-the-faith>

Answer Key

1. Daniel is the one who saw this vision.
2. Winds represent war, the great sea represents a multitude of people, and beasts are kingdoms or nations.
3. The winged lion stands for Babylon.
4. The bear corresponds to the chest and arms of silver.
5. The leopard's four wings symbolize greater speed of conquest than that of Babylon. The four heads represent the four divisions of the empire after Alexander's death.
6. There's nothing like it.
7. The little horn arises in Rome, the fourth kingdom.
8. A judgment scene is described in verses 9 and 10.
9. All earthly kingdoms will be destroyed when Christ returns.
10. This scene takes place in heaven.
11. The angel interprets the vision for Daniel.
12. A distinguishing feature of the little horn is its hatred for God's people. It makes war with the saints.
13. Daniel sees that the little horn lasts "until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the saints . . . and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."
14. It is both religious and political.
15. The little horn rises after the division of Rome into 10 kingdoms.
16. The little horn aims to change the times and laws of God, the Most High.
17. Its dominion will be taken away and it will be destroyed.

Appendix

William Miller's Rules

Have you ever heard that Scripture interprets Scripture or that the Bible is its own interpreter? What does this mean?

The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Bible. Peter tells us this plainly in these words,

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter 1:21

And while some may teach that the Bible cannot be understood by everyone but by experts only, the Bible is clear that God has given us His Word to reveal His will and disclose His counsel to us.

Paul explains the practical purpose God intended the Bible to have in our lives.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

It's clear from these verses that the Bible is to be read, understood, and applied. While God does not share all His vast knowledge with us, we're assured that it is His desire to keep us informed. With this revealed knowledge, comes a responsibility to share it with others, especially our own families.

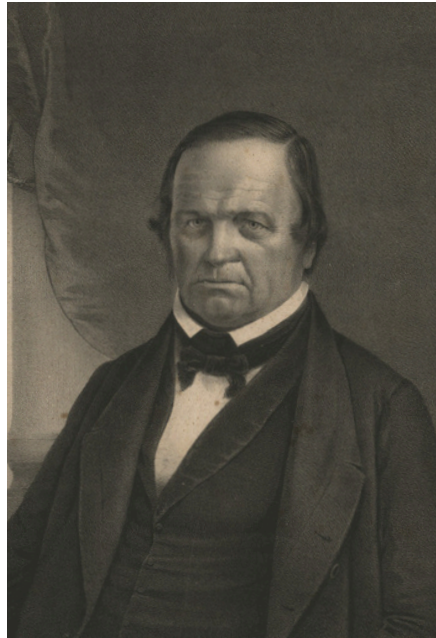
Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29

Considering that God wants us to understand His will as it is revealed in the Bible, shouldn't we expect that He would provide a clear method for Bible study and interpretation within the Bible itself? In fact, He does. God has included a number of rules right in Scripture to guide us in our study. These rules, gathered together and published by William Miller, reveal how Scripture interprets itself.

William Miller (1782-1849) was a preacher and diligent Bible student. He compiled a list of Bible study rules straight from the Bible and added others in keeping with these principles. Many serious Bible students have since benefited from having these rules in writing.

*“That we may proceed intelligently, ...I shall give an extract or two from Mr. Miller's rules of interpretation, **which are substantially those of every judicious interpreter of the word of God.**” James White – RH Sep 16 1851*



The way we study the Bible must be methodical. We cannot base a doctrine upon one verse.

The Bible itself suggests that its words be studied “line upon line, precept upon precept,” in other words, comparing Scripture with Scripture and precept with precept, for the Bible never contradicts itself, and we should use the weight of evidence to prove any concept. If there are verses that seem to contradict, then they must be understood in light of the other verses upon that subject. Miller himself suggests this methodology in his commentary for Rule 5. He believed that all parts of Scripture were necessary, that no word was used without purpose or significance, and that Scripture could be understood by diligent application and study. ([2 Tim 3:15-17](#))

William Miller’s Rules of Bible Interpretation

In studying the Bible, I have found the following rules to be of great service to myself, and now give them to the public by special request. Every rule should be well studied, in connection with the Scripture references, if the Bible student would be at all benefited by them.

RULE I.

Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible. ([Matthew 5:18](#))

RULE II.

All Scripture is necessary, and may be understood by a diligent application and study. ([2 Timothy 3:15-17](#))

RULE III.

Nothing revealed in the Scripture can or will be hid from those who ask in faith, not wavering. ([Deuteronomy 29:29](#); [Matthew 10:26-27](#); [1 Corinthians 2:10](#); [Philippians 3:15](#); [Isaiah 45:11](#); [Matthew 21:22](#); [John 14:13](#); [James 1:5-6](#); [1 John 5:13-15](#))

RULE IV.

To understand doctrine, bring all the Scriptures together on the subject you wish to know; then let every word have its proper influence, and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in error. ([Isaiah 28:7-29, 35:8](#); [Proverbs 19:27](#); [Luke 24:27,44-45](#); [Romans 16:26](#); [James 5:19](#); [2 Peter 1:19-20](#))

RULE V.

Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound it to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed or wisdom is my rule, not the Bible. ([Psalm 19:7-11, 119:97-105](#); [Matthew 23:8-10](#); [1 Corinthians 2:12-16](#); [Ezekiel 34:18-19](#); [Luke 11:52](#); [Malachi 2:7-8](#))

RULE VI.

God has revealed things to come, by visions, in figures and parables, and in this way the same things are oftentimes revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different figures, and parables. If you wish to understand them, you must combine them all in one. ([Psalm 89:19](#); [Hosea 12:10](#); [Habakkuk 2:2](#); [Acts 2:17](#); [1 Corinthians 10:6](#); [Hebrews 9:9, 24](#); [Psalm 78:2](#); [Matthew 13:13, 34](#); [Genesis 41:1-32](#); Daniel, chapters [2, 7 & 8](#); [Acts 10:9-16](#))

RULE VII.

Visions are always mentioned as such. ([2 Corinthians 12:1](#); [Acts 10:9-16](#); [11:5](#); [Daniel 4:10](#); [8:2](#); [9:21](#); [10:8](#))

RULE VIII.

Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy, to represent future things, times and events; such as mountains, meaning governments ([Daniel 2:35,44](#)); beasts, meaning kingdoms ([Daniel 7:8,17](#)); waters, meaning people ([Rev 17:1,15](#)); lamp, meaning Word of God ([Ps 119:105](#)); day, meaning year ([Ezek 4:6](#)).

RULE IX.

Parables are used as comparisons to illustrate subjects, and must be explained in the same way as figures by the subject and Bible. ([Mark 4:13](#))

RULE X.

Figures sometimes have two or more different significations, as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time.

1. Indefinite. [Ecclesiastes 7:14](#)
2. Definite, a day for a year. [Ezekiel 4:6](#)
3. Day for a thousand years. [2 Peter 3:8](#)

If you put on the right construction it will harmonize with the Bible and make good sense, otherwise it will not.

RULE XI.

How to know when a word is used figuratively: If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally, if not, figuratively. ([Revelation 12:1-2, 17:3-7](#))

RULE XII.

To learn the true meaning of figures, trace your figurative word through your Bible, and where you find it explained, put it on your figure, and if it makes good sense you need look no further, if not, look again.

RULE XIII.

To know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfillment of a prophecy: If you find every word of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event. But if one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait for its future development. For God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed. ([Psalm 22:5](#); [Isaiah 45:17-19](#); [1 Peter 2:6](#); [Revelation 17:17](#); [Acts 3:18](#))



RULE XIV.

The most important rule of all is, that you must have faith. It must be a faith that requires a sacrifice, and, if tried, would give up the dearest object on earth, the world and all its desires, character, living, occupation, friends, home, comforts, and worldly honors. If any of these should hinder our believing any part of God's Word, it would show our faith to be vain. Nor can we ever believe so long as one of these motives lies lurking in our hearts.

We must believe that God will never forfeit His Word. And we can have confidence that He that takes notice of the sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our head, will guard the translation of His own Word, and throw a barrier around it, and prevent those who sincerely trust in God, and put implicit confidence in His Word, from erring far from the truth, though they may not understand Hebrew or Greek.

These are some of the most important rules which I find the Word of God warrants me to adopt and follow, in order for system and regularity. And if I am not greatly deceived, in so doing, I have found the Bible, as a whole, one of the most simple, plain, and intelligible books ever written, containing proof in itself of its divine origin, and full of all knowledge that our hearts could wish to know or enjoy.

I have found it a treasure which the world cannot purchase. It gives a calm peace in believing, and a firm hope in the future. It sustains the mind in adversity, and teaches us to be humble in prosperity. It prepares us to love and do good to others, and to realize the value of the soul. It makes us bold and valiant for the truth, and nerves the arm to oppose error. It gives us a powerful weapon to break down Infidelity, and makes known the only antidote for sin.

It instructs us how death will be conquered, and how the bonds of the tomb must be broken. It tells us of future events, and shows the preparation necessary to meet them. It gives us an opportunity to hold conversation with the King of kings, and reveals the best code of laws ever enacted.

This is but a faint view of its value; yet how many perishing souls treat it with neglect, or, what is equally as bad, treat it as a hidden mystery which cannot be known. Oh, my dear reader, make it your chief study. Try it well, and you will find it to be all I have said. Yes, like the Queen of Sheba, you will say the half was not told you.

(Memoirs, Bliss)

From *Memoirs of William Miller* by Sylvester Bliss (1853), pages 70-72.

The Second Advent Manual, Apollos Hale, pages 103-106.

The Falling Away: How the Bride of Christ Became a Harlot

Christianity spread like wildfire after Christ's ascension. That God had come to save mankind from sin and spiritual servitude to Satan and his agents, pagan and corrupt Jewish priests, was indeed very good news. And, for a time, Christian converts enjoyed a first-love experience with God through Christ. But Christianity's luster soon faded. Christians were relentlessly persecuted by pagan emperors until Constantine became emperor and declared Christianity to be the state religion. As a result, half-converted pagans flooded into the church, bringing their pagan practices with them. The Church became worldly and its shepherds, the pastors, became corrupt.

On his missionary journeys, Paul had organized local churches and districts which were supervised by bishops. At first, Rome's bishop had been one among many equal brethren. But due to his privileged location near the emperor in the great city of Rome, the Roman bishop came to occupy the role of big brother. Over time, his brotherly counsel soon grew to be absolute, authoritative commands.

The Pope's power only grew as the emperor's power decreased. As the empire crumbled, the bishop of Rome gathered up the signs and symbols of its power. His title, [Pontifex Maximus](#), along with religious rites and festivals, vestments and symbols were all gathered up by the bishop of Rome. These were incorporated into the Roman Church, increasing its mysterious attraction and power.

Christ had brought the good news of salvation as a free gift from God and opened the way for direct access to God. Over the centuries, the Papacy worked to undo all that Christ had accomplished and gradually made the world subject to Rome. The Pope claimed to be God's representative on earth and ruled the people through the church's hierarchical system.

Following the pattern of [pagan Babylon](#), the Church established a spiritual nobility, separate and distinct from the common people. To accentuate this supposed difference, the clergy also adopted clothing borrowed from paganism that set them apart from the laity, the ordinary Christians. A hierarchy was developed in which the Holy Spirit's anointing from Christ was passed to the Pope, who in turn passed it to cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons, and finally to "deserving" believers.



External display and ceremony was substituted for Christian graces, the fruit that is a natural outcome of true faith and love toward God. And salvation was no longer a gift, but a reward for correctly following the prescribed course. The idea that Christ had made all believers a universal Christian priesthood ([1 Pet 2:9](#)) was forgotten. The necessity of each member being connected to Christ as the vine to the branch ([John 15:5](#)), was replaced with the necessity of each member being connected to the Church and its Pope.

In this way, the Roman Church substituted its priesthood for the priesthood which Christ had given to all believers.

As the common people lost hold of Christ and turned to the increasingly corrupt priests for guidance, the Church slipped into a long period of spiritual darkness marked by widespread ignorance of the Scriptures, vice, and corruption.

Advancement of the Roman Bishop over his Brethren

To strengthen his assumed superiority over his brethren, the Papacy introduced the idea that Peter was superior over Christ's other apostles. This is contrary to Christ's admonition that the apostles were to "minister one to another," rather than serve one as superior to the others. (See [1 Peter 4:10.](#)) It is also contrary to Jesus' sharp rebukes to His disciples regarding superiority. [Matthew 20: 24-28](#) records Jesus' teaching on this topic:

Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

The [primacy of Peter and the Papacy's inherited keys](#) are inventions of the Roman Catholic Church to support its claim of supremacy, contrary to Jesus' instruction.

Gradually, and by many small steps the Papacy took control of the ancient Roman Empire, making it the Holy Roman Empire. Worldly-minded ministers often battled over the bishopric of Rome.

An Earthly Kingdom

St. Peter's chair came to closely resemble the coveted temporal thrones of earthly kingdoms. History records that Popes often came to office through appointment by aristocrats and secular rulers, by bribery and by bloodshed. Frequently, those appointed as Pope were from aristocratic families, those associated with royalty, and increased the power of the ruling classes. At times more than one Pope claimed the right to St. Peter's chair. Through the Dark Ages especially, the Church hierarchy plunged into such an abyss of immorality that the years 904-963 are known by Church historians as the "pornocracy" or "rule of the harlots" because of the scandalous practices in Pope selection at that time. But the corruption did not end.

As an example of the corruption that prevailed, in 1033, the counts of Tuscany placed a 12 year old boy on the throne and named him Benedict IX. He grew up to be a homosexual and a murderer. A rival party put Sylvester III on St. Peter's throne. Benedict IX finally sold the Papacy to a Roman clergyman. In 1046, there were three Popes.

These disorders continued until people had lost respect for the church and its leaders. When the reformers gave the Bible to the people in their own language and they saw the contrast between Christ and ungodly church leaders, they refused to submit any longer to the authority of the corrupt institute which the church had become.

That's why, when the Reformation broke out, no amount of persecution could restrain it.

The Pope Claims to be God on Earth

The full version of this article can be found on the Read section of AmazingDiscoveries.org.

As the supposed successor of Peter, the Pope claims infallibility and the ability to judge and excommunicate angels, among other rights nowhere given in the Bible. It is not difficult to find these claims in papal writings through history and even in modern times because the Papacy has never renounced these claims.

The gradual growth of the papacy into a great power was predicted in Daniel's prophecy of the little horn in Daniel 8. For over a thousand years, people lived in fear and awe of the pope. In their statements, leaders within the church's hierarchy perpetuated the view that the pope was as God on earth. Here are some examples.

- The Catholic Education Resource Center says that people should address the pope as "Your Holiness," "Most Holy Father," or "Holy Father." (26)
- Venetian prelate to the Pope (Fourth Lateran): "Thou art our shepherd, our physician, in short a second God upon earth." (27)
- Lord Anthony Pucci to the Pope (Fifth Lateran): "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 prophetic saying is fulfilled in you, 'All the kings of the earth shall worship him, and all the nations shall serve him.'" (28)

One would think that any pope to whom such things are said would immediately correct the speaker, but that did not happen. In accepting these addresses without correction, popes ratify them as truthful statements.

In addition, audacious claims of many popes are on record, applying divine titles to themselves. Following are examples of the claims that popes have made and maintain to this day.

Papal Claims

In the 9th century, Pope Nicholas told the Byzantine emperor Michael III, “The pope, who is called God by Constantine, can never be bound or released by man; for God cannot be judged by man.” (29)

In 1302 Pope Boniface said this in a letter to the Catholic Church:

Furthermore, we declare, we proclaim, we define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff. (30)

In 1512 Christopher Marcellus said this to Pope Julius II:

*Take care that we lose not that **salvation, that life and breath which thou hast given us**, for thou art our shepherd, thou art our physician, thou art our governor, thou art our husbandman, **thou art finally another God on earth** (emphasis added). (31)*

In 1890, Pope Leo XIII wrote,

But the supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself. (32)

In 1894, the same pope said these things about the role of the Papacy and the Roman Church:

*...it is impossible to think of such a large portion of **mankind deviating, as it were, from the right path, as they move away from Us**, and not experience a sentiment of innermost grief. But since **We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty...**(33)*

More recently, Pope John Paul II wrote that names like "Holy Father" are applicable to the Pope, even though calling him that is counter to the Gospel:

Have no fear when people call me the "Vicar of Christ," when they say to me "Holy Father," or "Your Holiness," or use titles similar to these, which seem even inimical to the Gospel. (34)

In 1996 he also gave his assent to calling the Pope "Lord" and "Christ on earth":

*We **readily understand** the devotion of Saint Francis of Assisi for "the **Lord Pope**", the daughterly outspokenness of Saint Catherine of Siena towards the one whom she called "**sweet Christ on earth**", the apostolic obedience and the *sentire cum Ecclesia* of Saint Ignatius Loyola, and the joyful profession of faith made by Saint Teresa of Avila: "I am a daughter of the Church" (emphases added). (35)*

In 2004, Bishop Patrick Dunn of Auckland said this about Pope John Paul II:

"It seems that Pope John Paul II now presides over the universal Church from his place upon Christ's cross. (36)

The Doctrine of Papal Infallibility Is Not Biblical

It is clear that "the Popes have never reproved or rejected this title," (37) that is, the title of God, but the Bible does not support the belief of papal divinity or infallibility. It declares that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" ([Romans 3:23](#)). This includes the Pope. These boasts of the papal state fulfill the Bible's prediction of what the Antichrist power would do:

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws...(Daniel 7:25).

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. And he opened his mouth in [blasphemy](#) against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. (Revelation 13:5-6).

The Bloody History of Papal Rome

In his old age and while being held in an island prison colony, Christ's beloved disciple John was given the visions recorded in Revelation. In one vision, he saw "a great whore . . . drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" ([Rev 17: 1, 6](#)). This fallen woman is a fitting symbol for the fallen church, drunken with the blood of Christ's faithful followers. The history of the Roman Catholic Church is written in the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

In Daniel we read that one of the characteristics of the Antichrist is that it would wear out the saints of the Most High:

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws (Daniel 7:25).

Why would a church, allegedly patterned after the meek and lowly Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wage war against Christ's flock?

The simple answer is that Christians who knew their Bibles would not submit themselves to the authority of the Pope. For this reason, the Catholic Church waged relentless war against God's people.

Let us take a very brief look at the bloody history of the Papacy, lest we forget. Below is a timeline of the generally aggressive history of the Roman Catholic Church which gives only a snapshot of its bloody career.

The Bloody Past —A Timeline

1096 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughtered half the Jews in Worms, Germany.

1098 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughtered almost all of the inhabitants of the city of Antioch.

1099 Roman Catholic crusaders massacred 70,000 Muslims and Jews when they captured Jerusalem.

1208 – 1226 The Albigensian Crusades in southern France. Roman Catholic crusaders slaughtered approximately 20,000 citizens of Beziers, France, on July 22, 1209. Albigensian Christians and Catholics were slain. By the time the Roman Catholic armies finished their "crusade," almost the entire population of southern France (mostly Albigensian Christians) had been exterminated. During the six centuries of papal Inquisition that began in the 13th century, up to 50 million people were killed. [Read what J. A. Wylie's *The History of Protestantism* has to say about the Crusades against the Albigenses.](#)

1236 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughtered Jews in the Anjou and Poitou regions of western France. The Catholic crusaders trampled to death under their horses 3000 Jews who refused baptism.

1243 Roman Catholic mobs burned alive all the Jews in Berlitz, Germany (near Berlin).

1298 Roman Catholic mobs burned alive all Jews in Rottingen, Germany.

April 26, 1349 Roman Catholic mobs burned to death all Jews in Germersheim, Germany.

1348 – 1349 The Jews were blamed for the bubonic plague. Author Dave Hunt tells us, “Accused of causing the ‘Black Death’ Jews were rounded up [by Roman Catholic mobs] and hanged, burned, and drowned by the thousands in revenge.”

1389 Roman Catholic mobs murdered 3000 Jews in Prague when they refused to be baptized.

1481 – 1483 At the direction of the Roman Catholic inquisitors, authorities burned at the stake at least 2000 people during the first two years of the Spanish Inquisition.

1540 – 1570 Roman Catholic armies butchered at least 900,000 Waldensian Christians of all ages during this 30-year period.

1550 – 1560 Roman Catholic troops slaughtered at least 250,000 Dutch Protestants via torture, hanging, and burning during this ten-year period.

1560 Inquisition of Goa begins and lasts until 1623.

1553 – 1558 Roman Catholic Queen Mary I of England (aka “bloody Mary”) attempted to bring England back under the yoke of papal tyranny. During her reign, approximately 200 men and women were burned to death at the stake. Her victims include bishops, scholars, and other Protestant leaders.

1572 St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre. French Roman Catholic soldiers began killing Protestants (specifically Huguenots) in Paris on the night of August 24, 1572. Catholic citizens soon joined the butchery, killing at least 10,000 Protestants during the first three days. At least 8000 more Protestants were killed as the slaughter spread to the countryside.

1618 – 1648 The Thirty Years’ War. This bloody, religious war was planned, instigated, and orchestrated by the Roman Catholic Jesuit order and its agents in an attempt to exterminate all the Protestants in Europe. Many countries in central Europe lost up to half their population.

1641 – 1649 Eight years of Jesuit-instigated Roman Catholic butchery of Irish Protestants claimed the lives of at least 100,000 Protestants.

Circa 1938 – 1945 Catholic dictators such as Adolf Hitler and Monsignor Tiso slaughtered approximately six million Jews in Europe prior to and during World War 2.

1941 – 1945 The Roman Catholic Ustasha in the fascist state of Croatia massacred up to one million Serbian Orthodox Christians. Roman Catholic killer squads were often led by Franciscan priests, monks, and friars. This genocide was choreographed by two Jesuit prelates: Aloysius Stepinac and Ivan Saric.

In addition to this abbreviated list of atrocities may be added the secret workings of the church through the Jesuits and other military orders, who have [instigated wars](#), uprisings, and bloodshed. Though it is impossible to calculate, the unnumbered victims who died as a result of persecution (by starvation, maltreatment, or associated disease) and others who died in convents must also be added to the total number of casualties. In more recent years, the deaths of 9000 children in Ireland's Catholic-run homes for unwed mothers also make up the bloody history of this church.



Only God knows the total extent of the bloodshed for which this system is responsible. Indeed, she is drunk with the blood of saints.

A lesson on church-state union

Let us remember and take heed: Romanism is an exceptional example of the union of church and state. And though papists may deny that the church ever persecuted anyone, through most of the church's history, the secular power was simply a tool in the church's hand and under its control, to do its bidding.

Christianity is often blamed for much of the bloodshed that has happened through history. But true Christians are not responsible for war and bloodshed. Christ did not condone violence in the name of religion and His true followers oppose all types of violence, especially religious violence.

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight. John 18:36

Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Matthew 26:52

For more on this see [Revolutions, Tyrants and Wars](#) on adtv.watch

Why Do Christians Worship on Sunday?

The Bible recognizes one weekly holy day and that is the seventh-day Sabbath. Many Scriptures explicitly say that the seventh day is the Sabbath. Here are a few examples: [Gen 2:2-3](#); [Ex 16:26-30](#); [Ex 20:10-11](#); [Ex 23:12](#); [Ex 31:15](#); [Lev 23:3, 24](#); [Deut 5:14](#).

But today, almost all Christians worship on Sunday.

How did Sunday become the Christian day of worship? Why was the day changed? Does it even matter which day we worship on?

Names for the Days of the Week

We might not give much thought to this, but the names of days of the week in the English language reveal something about the spiritual history of the Sabbath and Sunday. The names of the days of the week reflect the development of the English language and show the strong influence of pagan beliefs upon early European society. This chart shows the origin of each day's name and that each day was dedicated to a pagan god.

Days of the Week	
Name	Origin
Sunday	The sun's day
Monday	The moon's day
Tuesday	The day of the Norse god Tyr
Wednesday	The day of Anglo-Saxon god Woden
Thursday	The day of the early Germanic god Thor
Friday	The day of Woden's wife Frigg
Saturday	Saturn's day

In contrast to the pagan origin of the names we now use for the days of the week, the Bible has a completely different way of identifying them. Both the Old and New Testaments assign only numbers to the first six days of the week.

Sunday is called the first day, Monday is called the second day, etc. The seventh day is the only day that has a proper name, the Sabbath. This in itself reveals that the Bible writers recognized the separateness of that particular day from the others.

Knowledge of the seventh-day Sabbath spread around the world along with the spread of the Gospel. The apostles and the early Christian church kept the seventh-day Sabbath as a holy day that was set apart and different from the other days of the week. And Christians recognized this difference long after the days of the apostles. In fact, Christians were Sabbath-keepers for hundreds of years after Christ's resurrection.

The keeping of Sunday as a holy day came into the church gradually. At first, some Christians met together to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Sunday, but they didn't consider it a holy day. For early Christians, the seventh-day Sabbath was still the holy day.

It wasn't until laws were passed restricting work on Sunday that Sunday began to take on the characteristics of a holy day.

Author John Ley tells us that, "From the apostles' time until the council of Laodicea, which was about the year 364, the holy observation of the Jew's Sabbath continued, as may be proved out of many authors." (38) Until the time of this Catholic council that changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, early Christians all worshiped on the seventh day.

Sabbath/Sunday as a Sign of Authority

In the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath commandment emphasizes the authority of the lawgiver—God (See [The Sabbath is a Royal Seal](#)). A change in the Sabbath means a change in authority. When we choose another Sabbath, we honor the authority of another entity. ([Romans 6:16](#))

God is no longer the authority. Rather, the substitute—the counterfeit—grasps this position. Another [god on Earth](#) has attempted to replace the true God.

The Roman Catholic church takes credit for changing the Sabbath to Sunday and says that it is a sign of their authority. However, for a thief to claim that his possession of a stolen item is proof of his authority to have it is really no proof at all. It would also be like a husband saying he has authority to change his wife's birthday simply because he chooses to celebrate it on the birthdate of a former lover. Sunday is not the Sabbath or the Lord's Day just because the Roman Catholic Church says that it is. God never gave the pope or anyone else authority to change His holy day. Nevertheless, the Catholic church claims that Christ gave Peter His authority and the popes have inherited it from Peter through apostolic succession. These are the claims of a usurper.

Behind the papal authority that changed the Sabbath is an even higher authority that wants to steal Christ's claim on our lives. Satan was worshiped in pagan traditions under the symbol of the sun. He was the hidden one, the god behind the scenes.

Sunday...so called because this day was anciently dedicated to the sun, or to its worship. (39)

Sunday, so called because it was dedicated to the worship of the sun. (40)

Sunday (Dies Solis of the Roman calendar, 'Day of the sun,' being dedicated to the sun), the first Day of the week. (41)

Despite the fact that Sunday was the day dedicated to sun worship, Christianity adopted Sunday as its holy day.

How did this happen? Why did Christians replace God's holy Sabbath with a day dedicated to the sun god?

Sabbath Change in New Testament Times

Through the influence of Mithraism (Persian sun worship) in the Roman Empire and the heathen festival of Sunday, the pure church of Christ gradually fell into apostasy. The emperor Constantine's "conversion" to Christianity and his establishment of Christianity as the state religion also accelerated the apostasy by motivating pagans to become Christians. Both pagans and Christians had Sunday in common. For pagans the day was in honor of the sun god. For Christians it was a day that could be honored because Christ rose from the grave on that day. The blending of pagan teachings and beliefs with Christianity was the "falling away," the great apostasy spoken of by Paul in [2 Thessalonians 2:3](#).

But even in the days of the apostles the great apostasy had already begun to develop. Paul writes, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work" ([2 Thessalonians 2:7](#)).

Paul also declares this:

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them (Acts 20:29-30).

Although many Christians aren't aware of this fact or don't want to accept it, there is no command in the Bible to keep Sunday as a holy day. And, there is no evidence in the Bible that any of Christ's disciples ever kept Sunday as a holy day. Charles Buck, a Protestant minister and author of *A Theological Dictionary* states, "It must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first Day." (42)

Sunday: Commemoration of the Resurrection?

Some say, however, that we should take Sunday as our day of worship in order to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Does the fact that Christ rose from the dead make Sunday a holy day? Should we honor Sunday to commemorate His resurrection? No. The Bible tells us that baptism is the commemoration of the resurrection, not Sunday.

The Sabbath is also a day of commemoration which is apparent from the first words of the Sabbath command: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy ([Ex 20:8](#)). The seventh-day Sabbath was instituted to commemorate Creation. In fact, we're told that it was made holy because of its connection to God's creative work: "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" ([Gen 2:3](#)). (See also [Exodus 20:8-11; 31:17](#).) We rest on the seventh day to honor our Creator and our Saviour.

Nowhere does the Bible tell us that we should modify the Sabbath by celebrating it on another day or for another purpose, such as commemorating Christ's resurrection. God designed the Sabbath to honor Him as the Creator who demonstrated His power in creating the world. Keeping the Sabbath is also an acknowledgement of God's creative power that is available to transform our characters when we choose to live for Him.

Paul tells us:

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
2 Cor 5:17*

When we accept Christ as our Saviour, He truly does make us new creatures. Christ re-creates us in His image by justifying us, declaring us to be free of guilt, and by sanctifying us, empowering us to live according to His will.

When we surrender our lives to Him, He gives us the power to live in obedience to His commands, writing His law on our hearts and in our minds, making us new in His image.

Though some believe that Sabbath-keeping is legalism, an attempt to earn salvation by our works, honoring the seventh-day Sabbath is actually a sign that we do not believe in righteousness by works, but rather in the saving grace of Jesus to sanctify us ([Ex 31:13](#)), cleanse us from all sin, and to make us right with Him.

By keeping God's Sabbath holy, we symbolically acknowledge that every aspect of our salvation is possible only through Christ, both justification and sanctification. On Sabbath Christians do no physical work as a sign of our resting in Christ for our salvation. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith ([Heb 12:2](#)), the Creator and re-Creator.

After all, Christ is the One who created all things and sustains all things.

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

*And he is before all things, and by 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 might have the preeminence. Colossians 1:16-18*

Though many Christians mistakenly believe that the Lord's Day is Sunday, the day of the resurrection, and therefore a day to be kept to honor Him, the truth is, the seventh-day Sabbath is the true Lord's Day and in keeping it, we honor Christ as our Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, and Lord.

God's Ten Commandments Vs. the Catholic Church's Ten Commandments

Below is a comparison between the Ten Commandments that God Himself wrote in stone and the altered version as given in the Catholic Catechism. Two of the commandments were more extensively revised than the others.

To learn more about the change of God's Commandments, watch [Why Messing with God's Law Is an Attack on the Character of God.](#)

Bible Commandments Exodus 20: 2-17	Catholic Commandments Catechism of the Catholic Church (43)
<p>1st Commandment 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.</p>	<p>1st Catholic Commandment I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.</p>
<p>2nd Commandment 4 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. 5 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; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.</p>	<p>2nd Commandment REMOVED & REPLACED with 3rd, and the rest re-numbered.</p> <p><i>2nd Catholic Commandment</i> <i>You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.</i></p>

<p>3rd Commandment 7 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.</p>	<p>3rd Catholic Commandment (verses missing) Remember to keep holy the LORD's Day.</p>
<p>4th Commandment 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 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: 11 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.</p>	<p>4th Catholic Commandment Honor your father and your mother.</p>
<p>5th Commandment 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.</p>	<p>5th Catholic Commandment You shall not kill.</p>
<p>6th Commandment 13 Thou shalt not kill</p>	<p>6th Catholic Commandment You shall not commit adultery.</p>
<p>7th Commandment 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.</p>	<p>7th Catholic Commandment You shall not steal.</p>
<p>8th Commandment 15 Thou shalt not steal.</p>	<p>8th Catholic Commandment You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.</p>
<p>9th Commandment 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.</p>	<p>9th Catholic Commandment(10th Commandment Split in 2) You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.</p>
<p>10th Commandment 17 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.</p>	<p>10th Catholic Commandment You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.</p>

Who Is the Rock?

Taking [Matthew 16:18-19](#) as their supporting text, Catholics claim that Peter is the first pope of the Catholic Church because Jesus said to Peter,

Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Catholics believe this passage establishes both Peter as the head of the Catholic Church and the Catholic Church as the one with final say on salvation issues.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states these beliefs:

The sole Church of Christ [is that] which our Saviour, after His resurrection, entrusted to Peter's pastoral care, commissioning him and the other apostles to extend and rule it . . . This Church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him.

This interpretation, however, is not Biblical.

There has been much scholarly debate regarding who Jesus referred to when He said, “upon this rock I will build My church” (Mt 16:18). While Peter’s name in Greek is Petros which means “rock”—or actually, a small, movable stone—Jesus switches to *petra* when he says, “and upon this rock I will build my church” (emphasis added).

Petros is a masculine noun, whereas petra is feminine and refers to bedrock or an immovable foundation. (44) Jesus thus makes a play-on-words between Peter's name and the rock that establishes His Church. Theologian Loraine Boettner writes that Jesus' words translate as, "You are Petros, and upon this petra I will build my church." (45) A change of gender indicates a change of subject.



So if the rock isn't Peter, who is it?

Scriptures make it clear that the rock is Christ. There are approximately 34 instances of Christ being referred to as a rock in the New Testament, including the following:

*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the **chief corner stone** (Ephesians 2:19-20, emphasis added).*

*Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: **and that Rock was Christ** (1 Corinthians 10:1-4, emphasis added).*

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

No other foundation can withstand the gates of hell, which signify death, for Hades (hell) literally means “grave.” (For a study on this, see “[Hell](#).”) Mere people cannot overcome death and the devil. Only God can, which He did through His Son’s death on the cross and His resurrection.

Jesus says in [Revelation 1:18](#), “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

Peter was not infallible. After the rock passage, Jesus warned His disciples that He would be put to death. When Peter rebuked Him, Jesus said, “Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me” (verse 23).

A little later on, we see that the gates of hell did most certainly prevail against Peter for a time when he denied his Lord with cursing and swearing.

Even more ironic is that Peter never refers to himself as a pope, but called himself only an “apostle of Jesus Christ” ([1 Pet 1:1](#)). Clearly, the authority of God’s church does not rest on any human system, but on Christ alone. As Peter himself preached in Acts 4:10-12,

*Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. **This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved** (emphasis added).*

If indeed Jesus had made Peter the primary disciple, the other disciples would not have been found contending as to who would be the greatest among them. ([Matthew 18:1](#).) They would have submitted to the wish of their Master, and honored the one whom He had chosen. Instead of appointing one to be their head, however, Christ said,

But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. Matthew 23: 8-1

What do the keys symbolize and what does “binding and loosing on earth and in heaven” mean?

Alphonsus Liguori wrote in *The Dignity and Duties of the Priest*:

*The priest has the power of the keys, or the power of delivering sinners from Hell, of making them worthy of Paradise, and of changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. **And God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priests, and either not to pardon or to pardon** (emphasis added). (46)*

While the giving of keys does signal the transfer of authority, it does not indicate the power to absolve sins or to allow or deny access to heaven. Only God has the authority to judge people’s hearts and grant sinners salvation, not the pope or priests. The Scriptures emphasize this point.

Revelation 3:7 says,

He that hath the key of David, he that openeth, [referring to Jesus], and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.

Jesus Himself declares in Matthew 28:18, "All power is given unto **me** in heaven and in earth" (emphasis added). Thus, Jesus alone has the authority to pass judgment on man's heart since it is a confession and belief in Jesus that determines one's eternal fate.

*That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans 10:9, emphasis added.*

John 3:16 promises that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Instead, as many scholars state, the authority granted to Peter and the apostles refers to the work of proclaiming the Gospel by which people come to know the Truth and through which the kingdom of heaven thus opens. The key is the knowledge of the Word, the life-giving Word that sets every person free (47) ([Luke 11: 52](#), [John 8:32](#)).

Indeed, the "keys of the kingdom" are the words of Christ

These words have power to open and to shut heaven. They declare the conditions upon which men are received or rejected. Thus the work of those who preach God's word is a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. Theirs is a mission weighted with eternal results. (48)

Boettner writes that the power to bind and loose means:

*a declaratory power, the **authority to announce** the terms on which God would grant salvation, not an absolute power to admit or to exclude from the kingdom of heaven. Only God can do that; and He never delegates that authority to men. (49)*

An early-20th-century American minister, Jesse Stevens, connects the keys to Christ's commission to all Christians:

Now the privilege and commission to preach the gospel were given to all the apostles [see [Matthew 18:18](#)], and likewise to the whole church [see [Matthew 28:19-20](#)]. The church really exists for no other work than to preach the gospel in all the world; and if a man accepts it, the kingdom of heaven is unlocked to him." (50)

How Christians fulfill or don't fulfill this commission on Earth will affect the results in heaven, for if Christians slacken in their duty here and now, fewer people will hear the Gospel and enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus teaches that salvation is through no one but Himself. He says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." In other words, Jesus did not grant Peter, the disciples, Christians, or any religious system the power to do what only He could do. Christians are not called to pronounce judgment on people's hearts but to point them to the One who can cleanse the sinful heart and offer an eternal relationship with the living Saviour who has defeated the grave. The keys are firmly in Christ's hands.

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