



SAVED TO SERVE

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 7 THE FOUR BEASTS & LITTLE HORN, PART 6

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will conclude our series on Daniel 7 by focusing on the role of the little horn historically and in these last days.

“To the student of prophecy, the seventh chapter of Daniel is a most important record. By a continuous chain of events, the prophet gives the history from the days of Babylon to the great investigative judgment, which is the central theme of the chapter.” {1901 SNH, SDP 88.2}

2. What do the four beasts represent? Daniel 7:17, 23

3. Whose kingdom is the only one that will stand forever? Daniel 7:18; 2:44

4. Which kingdom is represented as the fourth beast? Daniel 7:19; 2:40; Luke 2:1; John 19:19-21

5. **Note:** Read Daniel 7:8, 20. In previous lessons, we identified the little horn which plucked up three other horns as the Papacy, Roman Catholicism. The three nations that the Papacy plucked up were the Heruli, the Ostrogoths, and the Vandals.

6. Notice that in Daniel 7:8, the Papacy was described as a “little” horn. How is it described in Daniel 7:20?

7. **Note:** The word ‘stout’ in the Hebrew Concordance is 7229 and it means “chief or great.” Let us now look at the things the Papacy did to become stout or great.

8. As mentioned on question 5, what is one thing the Papacy did to become stout or great? Daniel 7:24

but after Daniel considered the horns following this strange movement, a little horn (at first little, own, and fill it; it must thrust aside some of the others, and usurp their places. Three kingdoms were plucked up before it. This little horn, as we shall have occasion to notice more fully hereafter, was the papacy. **The three horns plucked up before it were the Heruli, the Ostrogoths, and the Vandals. And the reason why they were plucked up was because they were opposed to the teaching and claims of the papal hierarchy, and hence to the supremacy in the church of the bishop of Rome.**” {DAR1909 132.4}

9. Daniel 7:25 shows us three other things the Papacy did to become stout. What are those three things?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

10. Let us now break down each of these things. The Papacy, described as the little horn in Daniel 7, is the same entity described as the beast in Revelation 13:1-10. What word is synonymous to “speaking great things?” Revelation 13:5-6

11. The Papacy fitly fulfills the Biblical definition of blasphemy. What does it mean to blaspheme? John 10:30-33; Mark 2:5-7

12. The Papacy also historically warred against God's saints. For how long did they war against the saints? Daniel 7:21, 25

13. **Note:** This "time, times, and the dividing of a time" points to 3 ½ prophetic years. We will deduce how many literal years this represents in the following points. Another representation of the Papacy, as the dragon, is brought to view in Revelation 12:13-14 and the same time frame is given. The dragon is seen persecuting the woman, a symbol of God's true church (Ephesians 5:25; Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2) "for a time, and times, and half a time."

14. Read Revelation 12:14 and then verse 6. How many prophetic days does the "time, times, and a half" represent? (Answer is in verse 6!)

15. **Important Further Study:** There are twelve months (Genesis 8:13 & Esther 3:7) in a Biblical year and thirty days in a Biblical month (Genesis 7:11; 8:4 and then Genesis 7:24). Understanding that there are twelve months in a Biblical year, the 3 ½ prophetic years are equivalent to 42 prophetic months (12 x 3.5 = 42). The Bible is sharing with us that the 42 prophetic months, the "time, times, and a half," and the 1260 prophetic days **ALL represent the same time period**. Using the day for a year principle (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34), the 1260 prophetic days point to **1260 literal years** of Papal reign and persecution of God's saints.

16. Read Revelation 13:5-7 as another scripture for confirmation that the Papacy ruled for 42 prophetic months (1260 literal years) and persecuted God's saints. What was the exact starting and ending date of the Papacy's reign? See quotation below.

"The periods here mentioned—"forty and two months," and "a thousand two hundred and threescore days"—are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798. At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed." {GC 266.3}

17. Read Daniel 7:25. Using the context of the scripture, answer the following questions.

a) Who did the little horn (which became stout) speak great words against?

b) Whose saints did this horn "wear out" or war against?

c) Whose "times and laws" did this horn think to change?

18. God's laws are found in the ten commandments in Exodus 20:3-17. Which one in particular specifies the 'time' to worship God? Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-14

19. What day does the Roman Catholic Church teach is the sabbath day, and who claims responsibility for trying to change the Seventh-day Sabbath commandment?

Question - Which is the Sabbath day?

Answer - Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Question - Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

Answer - We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (AD. 364), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. —Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, p. 50, 3rd edition, 1957.

"In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church. **But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment.**" {GC 53.1}

Sunday | Day of Week

"The Roman emperor Constantine I (died 337), a convert to Christianity, introduced the first civil legislation concerning Sunday in 321, when he decreed that all work should cease on that day, except that farmers could work if necessary. That law, aimed at providing time for worship, was followed later in the same century and in subsequent centuries by further restrictions on Sunday activities."

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sunday-day-of-week>

20. Compare the Biblical ten commandments with the Roman Catholic ten commandments (see *image at the end of the lesson*). What differences do you see?

"The papacy has attempted to change the law of God. The second commandment, forbidding image worship, has been dropped from the law, and the fourth commandment has been so changed as to authorize the observance of the first instead of the seventh day as the Sabbath. But papists urge, as a reason for omitting the second commandment, that it is unnecessary, being included in the first, and that they are giving the law exactly as God designed it to be understood. This cannot be the change foretold by the prophet. An intentional, deliberate change is presented: "He shall think to change the times and the law." The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfills the prophecy. For this the only authority claimed is that of the church. Here the papal power openly sets itself above God." {GC 446.2}

"Roman Catholics acknowledge that the change of the Sabbath was made by their church, and declare that Protestants by observing the Sunday are recognizing her power. In the Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion, in answer to a question as to the day to be observed in obedience to the fourth commandment, this statement is made: "During the old law, Saturday was the day sanctified; but the church, instructed by Jesus Christ, and directed by the Spirit of God, has substituted Sunday for Saturday; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day. Sunday means, and now is, the day of the Lord." {GC 447.4}

21. In previous points, we saw that the Papacy historically made war with God's saints. According to Bible prophecy, the Papacy will soon regain power and again make war with God's people. What phrases confirm this fact in Daniel 7:21-22?

22. **Note:** Understanding the prophecies in Daniel and Revelation will help us to make sense of current events. Since the succession of worldly kingdoms from Babylon to Rome were fulfilled with pinpoint accuracy, just as the Bible declared, we must also believe that in the near future, we will see the Papacy arise again with power to inflict persecution against the saints of the Most High until the Second Coming of Jesus. However, we don't need to fear because God also foretells in Daniel 7 that the saints will judge the wicked, have dominion with Jesus, and live for eternity. Read Daniel 7:22, 25-28.

23. As we close, let us meditate on the words of Malachi 3:13-18 so that we can examine ourselves and know how to be one of God's saints who will reign with Him for eternity.

24. Like the Papacy, God says that we have been 'stout' against Him. What do we reply in response to God? Malachi 3:13

25. By our words and actions, how do we act in a prideful way toward God?

a) Malachi 3:14

b) Malachi 3:15

26. In Malachi 3:16, God shows us what we must do, through His strength, to overcome our pride and be saved. Next to each phrase, write down how this practically applies to our daily lives.

a) Fear the Lord (Proverbs 8:13; 3:7)

b) Speak often one to another (Ephesians 5:19-20; Hebrews 10:25)

c) Think upon His Name (Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 119:11)

d) As we do the above mentioned points, God will write our good deeds in His book of remembrance.

27. What will Jesus do for us next? Malachi 3:17

28. Once we are having this experience daily, what will we be able to discern? Malachi 3:18

