Church and State – Part 3 The Early Stages of Papal Rome



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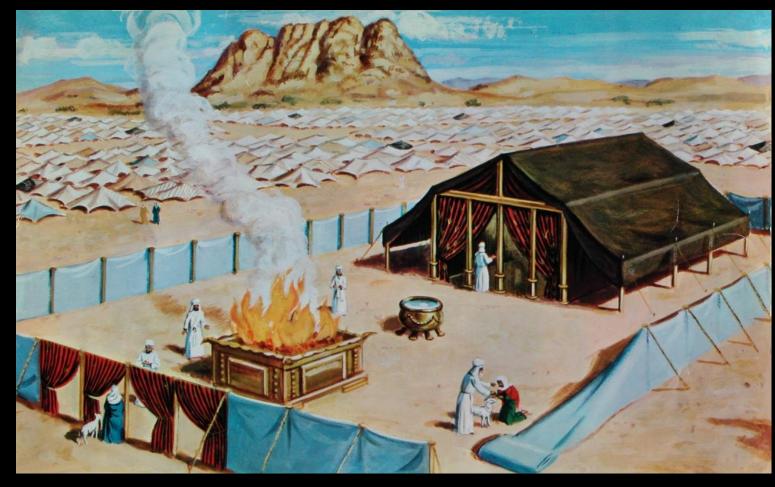
Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and Satan is primarily over "WORSHIP" Who will you Choose?









And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. – Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Bell peppers

<u>Health Benefits of Bell peppers</u> (Seek Medical Advise) Bell peppers are red, yellow, or orange. Unripe, green bell peppers are also popular, though they taste less sweet. <u>An 80g serving of red bell pepper (raw) provides</u>: 17 kcal, 0.6g protein, 0.2g fat, 3.4g carbohydrates, 1.8g fibre, 173mg potassium, 60mcg folate, 101mg vitamin C. <u>Antioxidants and bioactive chemicals present</u>: ascorbic acid, carotenoids, vitamin C, beta carotene, flavonoids, such as quercetin and kaempferol.

Top 5 health benefits of bell peppers:

- 1. May reduce the risk of cataracts and macular degeneration.
- 2. May reduce the likelihood of anaemia.
- 3. May protect against certain chronic diseases heart disease and cancer.
- 4. May delay age-related memory loss Alzheimer's.
- 5. May have blood-sugar lowering effects

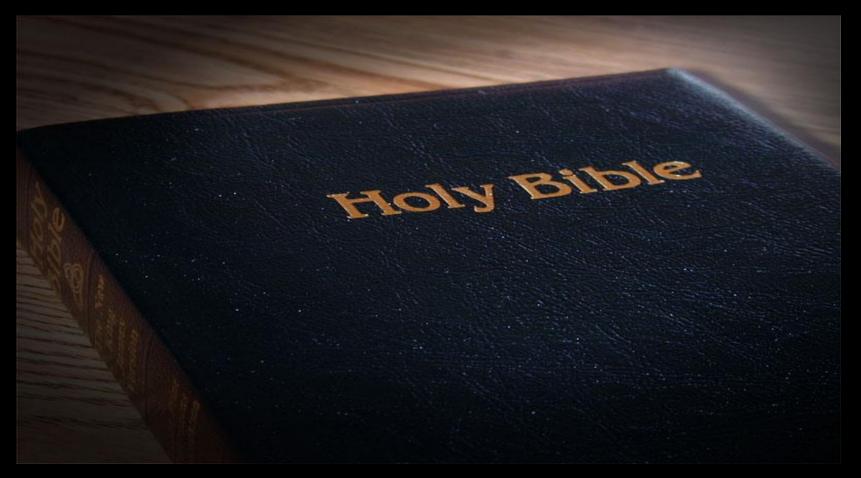
Are bell peppers safe for everyone?

Some find difficult to digest and may trigger heartburn, less common - allergic symptoms, with cross-reactivity being more likely for people who have a pollen allergy.



1.Good for Eyes 2. Burns more Calories **3.Anti-Cancer Benefits** 4. Cardiovascular Benefits 5. Supports the Immune System 6. Great source of Vitamin B6 and Magnesium 7. Cures Iron Deficiency 8. Benefits of Capsaicin 9. Detoxifying Properties 10.Benefits of Potassium 11. Effective In Curing Gastrointestinal Disorders 12. High Silicon Supports Hair & Nails 13. Stimulates Hair Growth 14. Strengthens Hair Follicles 15. Enhances Hair Growth & Health 16. Fights Oxidative Damage 17. Turns Skin Healthy & Youthful 18. Heals Shingles & Athlete's Foot 19. Reverses Signs of Ageing **20Clears Skin Blemishes & Rashes**

Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we can!



And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. -**Revelation 13:2**



Church and State – Part 3 The Early Stages of Papal Rome



Past > Present > Future



Introduction - An Apostate System

Now we are going to talk about a system that is portrayed in the Bible as the antichrist. We are not going to talk about the individuals in the system but rather the corporate, organizational system itself. There are many sincere persons in this system. They love the Lord and serve Him to the best of their knowledge and ability. But the system is corrupt and irreversible.

<u>One may say</u>: "How can we separate the individuals from the system if the individuals are members of the system?"

Perhaps the best explanation is found in the history of the Jewish nation in the days of Christ. The corporate entity composed of ministers and theologians had become corrupt. The governing Sanhedrin on several occasions gathered to pronounce the death sentence against Jesus. The priesthood was also corrupt. The nation was involved in ritualism and ceremonialism but their hearts were far away from the Lord. In this context, Jesus came to bring about revival and reformation within the Jewish Nation. He had no intention of calling people out of Judaism. But as time went by, the Jewish Nation became more and more hardened against His message and mission.

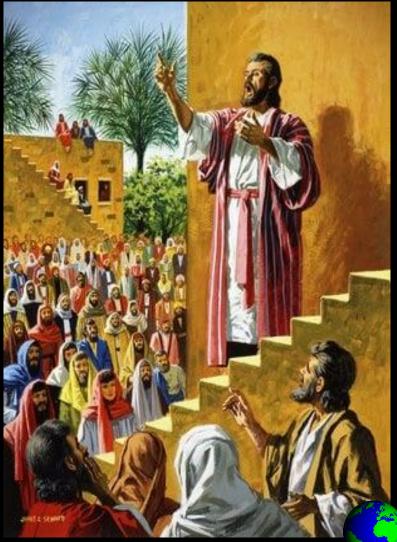


Introduction - An Apostate System (cont'd)

Finally, Jesus, in a scathing but loving rebuke to these leaders, pronounced woes upon them (see Matthew 23). He called them hypocrites, murderers, a generation of vipers and serpents and asked how they would be able to escape the condemnation of hell. Finally he told them that the kingdom would be taken from them and given to the Gentiles (Matthew 23:43).

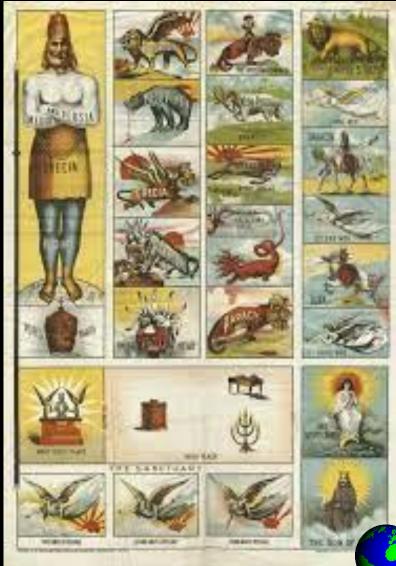
But there were faithful children of God within the system. We think of people like eleven of the twelve apostles, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimatea, the wise Gamaliel and even Saul of Tarsus. We are told in Acts 6:7 that large numbers of the priests became followers of Jesus after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, three thousand were baptized into the faith and became members of the Christian Church, all of them Jews.

You see, the system and those that are within the system is not the same thing. Many of the people who belong to the system are as corrupt as the system but there are also many who are in the system, both leaders and lay people who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Let's begin our study with Revelation 13.



The Symbols

- <u>Sand of the sea</u> the beasts of Daniel 7:1, 2 also came up from the sea. The turbulent sea represents warring nations—Isaiah 17:12, 13.
- <u>Seven heads</u> the seven heads on the single beast represent stages of the total career of the nations beginning with Babylon and ending with the resurrected papacy. The leopard with four heads in Daniel 7 presents the total career of Greece without any time distinctions and then Daniel 8 amplifies by teaching that Greece will be ruled first by a notable horn and then later four horns will rule when the notable horn is broken. Only one head of the beast of Revelation 13:1-10 rules at any given time as can be seen in Revelation 12, 13 and 17.
- <u>Ten horns</u> The horns are not distributed among the seven heads; they are all on the same head. The ten horns are on heads # 5, 6, 7.
- <u>Ten crowns on horns</u> horns represent kingdoms.
- <u>Blasphemous name</u> this blasphemous name has a number which is 666.

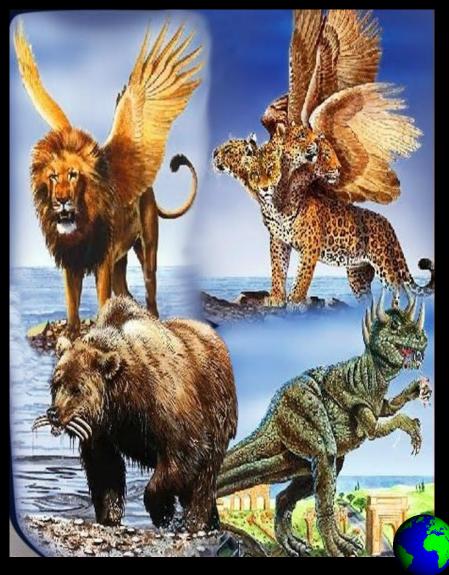


Backdrop of Daniel 7

One is struck by the fact that the same beasts of Daniel 7 are mentioned but in reverse order. The reason for the reversal of order is that Daniel is living in the period of the lion (Babylon) and looking forward and John is living in the period of the dragon (the Roman Empire) and looking backward.

It has long been recognized by students of Bible prophecy that the four beasts of Daniel 7 represent four consecutive kingdoms that arose in the course of history beginning in the days of king Nebuchadnezzar (see the parallel prophecy in Daniel 2 which proves this beyond any doubt). History proves that the lion represents the kingdom of Babylon (605-539), the bear symbolizes the kingdom of the Medes and Persians (539-331), the leopard denotes Greece (331-168) and the dragon beast represents Rome.

What has not received sufficient attention is the fact that the fourth beast (the Roman Empire) is described as having four consecutive periods of dominion.



Four Stages of Rome

Stage # 1: The United Roman Empire (168 BC-476 AD)

Daniel 7:23: "Thus 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."

Stage # 2: The Divided Roman Empire (476 AD-538 AD)

Daniel 7:24: "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise:..."

The text is clear. In order for the ten horns to arise from this kingdom, the kingdom must have already existed before they arose. History proves that the Roman Empire was carved up and divided among the barbarian tribes who invaded from the north.

Stage # 3: Papal Rome during the 1260 Years (538 AD-1798 AD)

Daniel 7:24, 25: "...and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. 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: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."



Ten Characteristics to identify this power:

- 1. Arose to power after the ten had come up (Daniel 7:23, 24)
- 2. Arose among the ten (Daniel 7:8)
- 3: Arose from the dragon (Daniel 7:23, 24)

"Within three centuries, the Roman Church had transformed the administrative organization of the Roman Empire into an ecclesiastical system of bishoprics, dioceses, monasteries, colonies, garrisons, schools, libraries, administrative centres, énvoys, répresentatives, courts of justice, and a criminal system of intricate laws all under the direct control of the pope. His Roman Palace, the Lateran, became the new Senate. The new senators were the cardinals. The bishops who lived in Rome and the priests and deacons helped the pope to administer this new imperium." (Malachi Martin, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church, p. 105



Ten Characteristics to identify this power: (cont'd)

"During the whole medieval period there was in Rome a single spiritual and temporal authority [the papacy] exercising powers which in the end exceeded those that had ever lain within the grasp of the Roman emperor." (R. W. Southern, Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages, vol 2), pp. 24-25

"The papacy is no other than the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof." (Thomas Hobbes, as quoted in, Dave Hunt, A Woman Rides the Beast, p. 95)

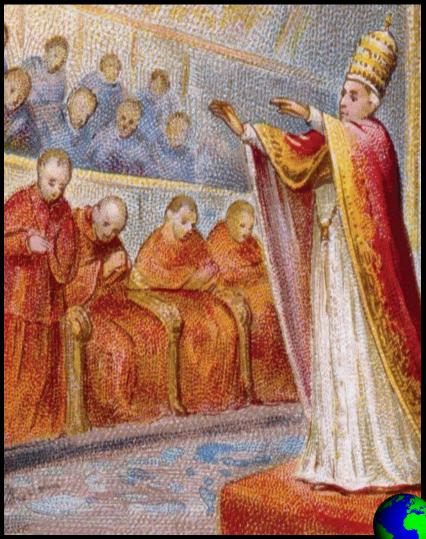
"Christian Rome was the legitimate successor of pagan Rome.... Christ had triumphed [and] Rome was ready to extend its sway to the heavens themselves." (W. H. C. Frend, The Rise of Christianity, p. 773)

"The Roman Christian Church was a church of world-wide importance and power, and her bishop the most influential. Out of the ruins of political Rome arose the great moral empire in the 'giant form' of the Roman Church. In the marvellous rise of the Roman Church is seen in strong relief the majestic office of the Bishop of Rome." (Alexander Clarence Flick, The Rise of the Mediaeval Church, p. 150)



Ten Characteristics to identify this power: (cont'd)

- 4. He would uproot three horns (7:8)
- 5. Spoke great words (7:8, 25)
- 6. Would persecute the saints (7:21, 25)
- 7. Ruled for 3 & ½ times (7:25)
- 8. Thought he could change God's law (7:25)
- 9. Thought he could change God's times (7:25)
- 10. It would recover its power before the end (7:26, 27)
- There can be no doubt that stage # 3 represents ecclesiastical or papal Rome.
- **Stage # 4**: Papal Rome restored to power sometime after the three and a half times and before the second coming of Jesus Daniel 7:26-27 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And 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.



Four Stages of Rome (cont'd)

The fourth stage of the fourth beast is implicit in Daniel 7. If the little horn's dominion will be taken away and destroyed when Jesus comes, then it must be ruling the world again at that time. This means that the papacy's career did not end when it lost its dominion at the end of the three and one half prophetic times. It will be alive, well and ruling the world again when Jesus comes and will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8, 9)

Summarizing the four stages of the fourth beast we have:

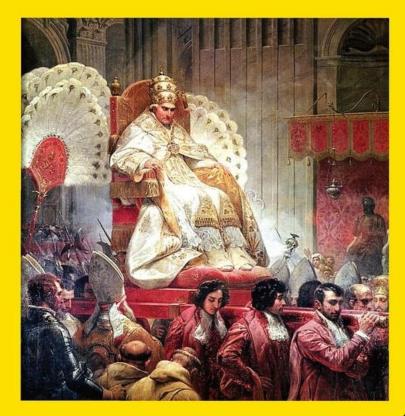
• The fourth beast alone: Imperial Rome (168-476)

• The fourth beast with ten horns: Divided Rome (476-538)

• The fourth beast with the little horn ruling for three and one half prophetic years: Papal Rome's first stage (538-1798)

• Fourth beast when the little horn is restored to power: Papal Rome's second stage (in the near future)

Papal Supremacy



Revelation 13:1-10 parallels Daniel 7

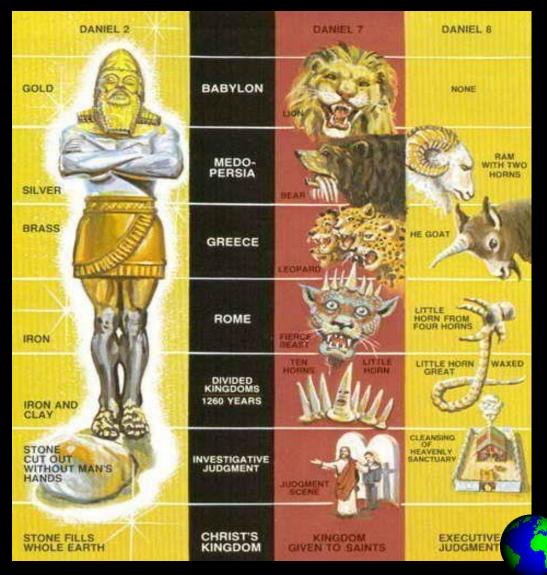
Even a cursory glance at Revelation 13:1, 2 reveals a clear link with Daniel 7. The same sequence of powers appears in both:

Revelation 13:2: "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

As with the dragon beast of Daniel 7, the dragon beast (fourth beast) of Revelation 12-13 also has four consecutive stages of dominion:

- <u>Imperial Rome</u>: The dragon which sought to kill Jesus (Revelation 12:1-3)
- <u>Divided Rome</u>: The dragon had ten horns (12:3)
- <u>Papal Rome</u>: The beast which received its power, throne and great authority from the dragon and then ruled for 42 months (13:5)

• <u>Papal Rome</u>: The beast which will rule the world once again after the deadly wound is healed (13:3)



Revelation 13:1-10 parallels Daniel 7 (cont'd)

It will be noticed that the beast which received its power, its throne and great authority from the dragon performed the same actions for the same time period as the little horn:

Revelation 13:5, 7: "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 it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."



Fourth Stage of the Dragon Beast

- It is important to underline that while the fourth stage of the dragon beast was only implied in Daniel 7 it is made explicit in Revelation 13 where we are told that after the beast ruled for 42 months it would receive a deadly wound and then have another period of dominion. In between these two stages the beast is convalescing with a deadly wound.
- Revelation 13:3: "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."
- Only one head of the beast is wounded, the head that ruled during the 42 months.
- The beast has seven heads but they rule consecutively one at a time. In Revelation 17 we will find that at this point in the prophecy, five of the heads had already died. At the moment when John saw this beast, the head had been freshly wounded. Whereas the other heads all died to never live again, this head will live again.

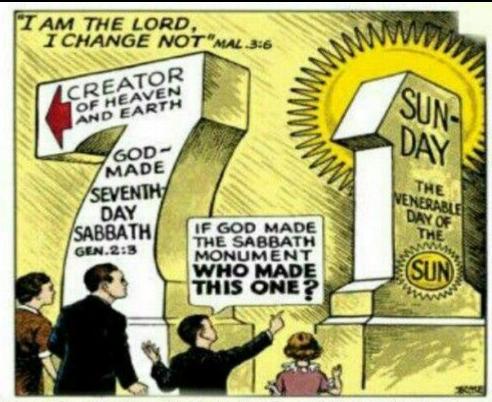
THE DEADLY WOUND CONTINUES **TO HEAL**

What is the meaning of the expression "as if it had been mortally wounded"?

 Ellen White on repeated occasions stated that the entire world would follow and worship the beast:

"History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image of Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath. . . . The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world." 7BC 976 (1897) Last Day Events, pp. 134, 135

"As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example." Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, p. 18 "The Sabbath question is to be the issue in the great final conflict in which all the world will act a part." Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, p. 352



"Sunday is founded, not of scripture, but on tradition, and is distinctly a Catholic institution. As there is no scripture for the transfer of the day of rest from the last to the first day of the week, Protestants ought to keep their Sabbath on Saturday and thus leave Catholics in full possession of Sunday." Catholic Record, September 17, 1893

"Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world." Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, p. 395

"The substitution of the false for the true is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal God will reveal Himself. When the laws of men are exalted above the laws of God, when the powers of this earth try to force men to keep the first day of the week, know that the time has come for God to work." Last Day Events, p. 135

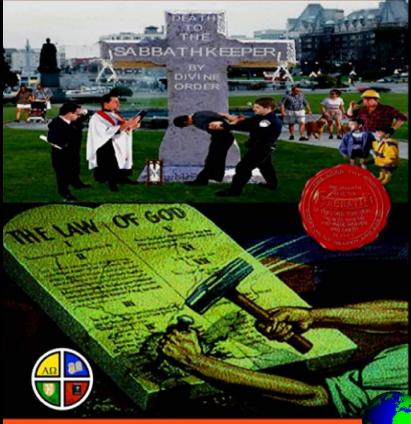
"The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth." Testimonies for the Church, volume 7, p. 141 When the United States Passes THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW As Predicted in the Bible

"The wicked ... declared that they had the truth, that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them and walked with them, that great power and signs and wonders were performed among them, and that this was the temporal millennium that they had been expecting so long. The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday law." Last Day Events, p. 136

"The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists because they will not yield homage to the papacy by honouring Sunday, the institution of this antichristian power." Testimonies to Ministers p. 37

"Those who trample upon God's law make human laws which they will force the people to accept. Men will devise and counsel and plan what they will do. The whole world keeps Sunday, they say, and why should not this people, who are so few in number, do according to the laws of the land?" Last Day Events, p. 136

THE GLOBAL SUNDAY LAW



"The so-called Christian world is to be the theatre of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved. Of this time John the Revelator declares: [Revelation 18:3-7; 17:13, 14, quoted]. "These have one mind." There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces. 'And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.' Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty--freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience--as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism." Last Day Events, pp. 136, 137



"In the great conflict between faith and unbelief the whole Christian world will be involved." Review and Herald February 7, 1893. Last Day Events, p. 137

"As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of universal execration." The Great Controversy, p. 615



Crucial Questions

- With what weapon was the beast wounded?
- What does the sword represent?
- How and when did the beast acquire the sword?
- What is the meaning of the deadly wound?
- Was the deadly wound healed in 1801 or 1929
- What presently keeps the deadly wound from healing?
- When and how will the wound be healed and by whom?

Are Sunday Laws Coming?



The Weapon that Wounded the Beast

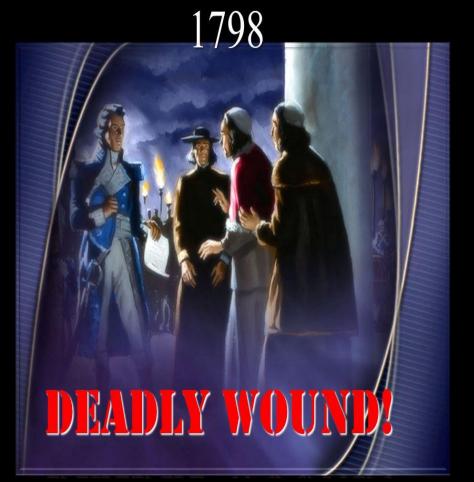
Revelation 13:10 explains that the deadly wound that ended the dragon's third stage of rule was given with the sword. When the sword wounded the beast it was led into captivity which means that it was not free to wreak havoc like it did during the period of its dominion:

Revelation 13:10: "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

<u>Someone might object</u>: "The text does not say that the beast killed with the sword and must be killed with the sword; the text uses the indefinite: 'he who.'"

But Revelation 13:14 leaves no doubt that it was the beast who killed with the sword and in turn was killed with it:

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."



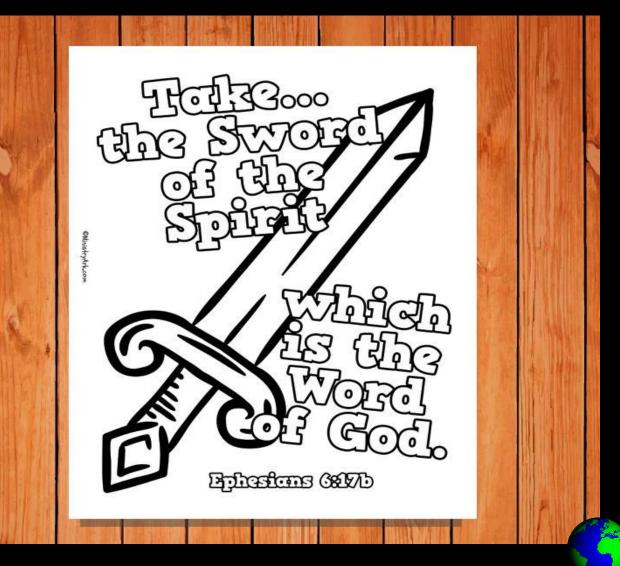
What is represented by a sword?

As we have already seen, Jesus gave His church a sword which is the Bible.

Ephesians 6:17: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

Whenever I ask people what the sword represents they immediately answer "it represents the Word of God." However, the sword that wounded the beast in Revelation 13:10 was not the Bible. It is rather obvious that the papacy did not slay people with the Bible!!

The crucial question then is this: Which sword did the papacy use to persecute God's saints during its period of supremacy?



The answer is found in Romans 13:1-4:

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.



THERE **IS NO** POWER **BUT OF**

The Sword that Wounded the Beast

The sword that is mentioned in Romans 13 threatens civil penalties (incarceration, confiscation of goods, fines, death) against transgressors. This passage makes it clear that this sword does not belong to the church but rather to the state. This sword is punitive, not persuasive.

It goes without saying that this cannot be the sword that wounded the beast at the end of the 1260 years because we are told explicitly that the very sword that the beast used to kill the saints during the 1260 years would be used to kill it at the end of this period.

It is rather obvious that the papacy did not use the Bible during the 1260 years to kill dissenters (rather it forbade the Bible and kept it in an unknown tongue) so the symbol of the sword in the context of Revelation 13 must represent something different than it does in Ephesians 6:17.



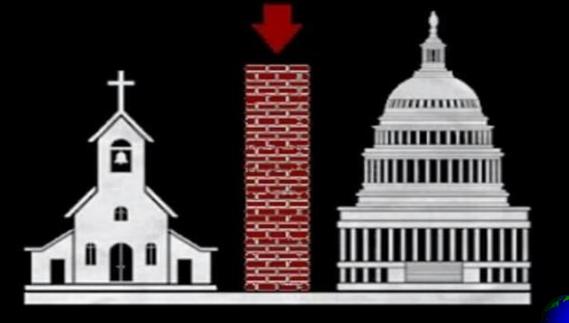
God Established Both

It is important to realize that God has established both church and state. In God's order they both have their legitimate function and place.

Jesus announced that He would build His church upon Himself when He said to Peter: "upon this rock I will build My church." The church is Christ's spiritual kingdom.

But Romans 13 also makes it very clear that the state was established by God—it is even called God's minister. But the state is God's minister to punish violations of civil and criminal law, not religious law. Romans 13 explicitly affirm that the state is God's minister to preserve the civil order of society. In the days of Paul this sword was in the hand of the Roman Empire.

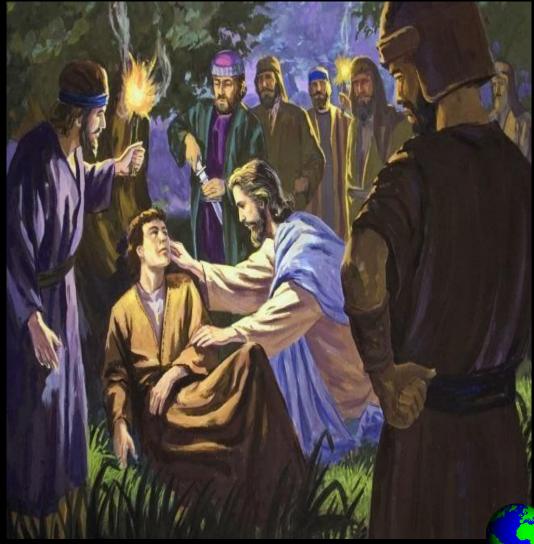




Jesus and the Sword

Remarkably, Jesus refused to allow His followers (the incipient church of that age) to use the temporal sword to defend His kingdom. When the mob came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane we are told that Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Peter, who was purportedly the first pope, was using the temporal sword to defend His Master's spiritual kingdom. During the middle Ages, the papacy did the same thing by burning heretics and by organizing the crusades to defend and recover the holy sites which had been lost to the Muslims.

Did Jesus encourage Peter's behaviour? Did he commend Peter for using the literal sword to defend His kingdom? Did He rebuke His other disciples for not following Peter's laudable example?



Jesus and the Sword (cont'd)

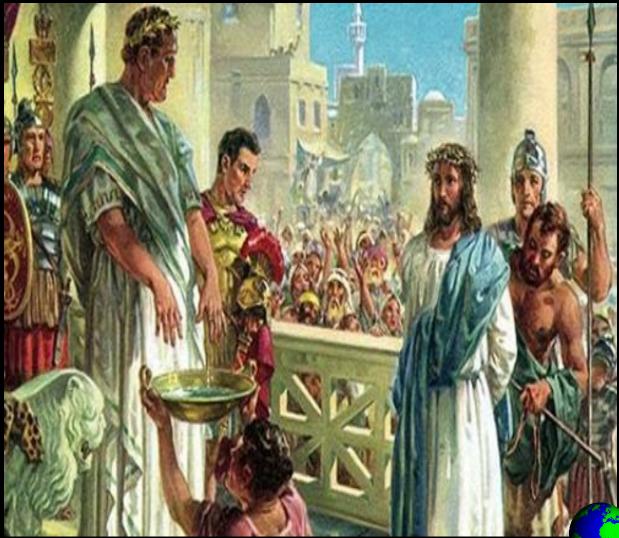
Absolutely not! Jesus soundly rebuked Peter in words strikingly similar to those of Revelation 13:10:

"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)

A few hours later when Pilate asked Jesus if He was a king, Jesus promptly replied:

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:36)

Jesus refused to allow His followers to employ the temporal sword to establish or to defend His spiritual kingdom.

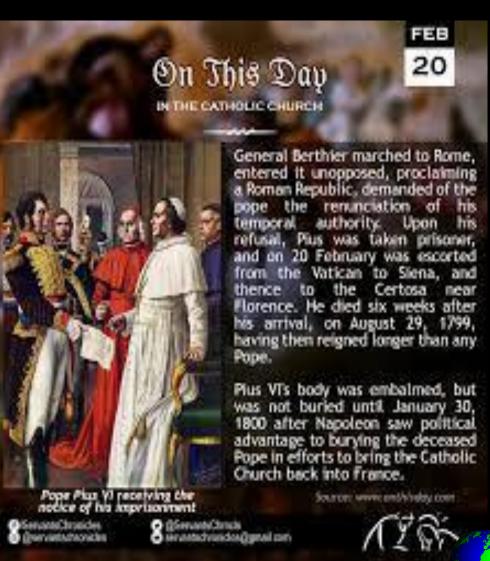


What is the deadly wound?

Now that we know that the sword of Revelation 13:10 represents the attempt of the church to use the punitive power of the state to enforce religious laws, we must seek to discover what is meant by the deadly wound.

A careful study of Revelation 13:10 reveals that the deadly wound does not refer primarily to the confiscation of the territories of the Roman Catholic Church. Neither is it the elimination of the Roman Catholic Church as a church because that has never happened.

The deadly wound was given to the papacy when the sword of the state that the papacy had used to persecute God's people turned against it. The deadly wound then was the removal of the sword of the state from the hand of the papacy. This led to papacy into captivity because it could no longer use the power of the state to enforce its practices and dogmas.



How did the papacy obtain the sword?

Revelation 13:10 states explicitly that the very sword that the papacy used to kill God's people (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5) would be used by the state to give the papacy its deadly wound. This means that the sword of the state would turn against the papacy at the end of its period of dominion.

Between the year 300 AD and the year 476 AD hordes of barbarian tribes from the north invaded and carved up the Roman Empire. Romulus Augustulus, the last emperor of the western empire was deposed in the year 476 AD. Without an emperor, the Empire was thrown into turmoil. The barbarian incursions into the Roman Empire turned it upside down and left it without a civil ruler who could preserve law and order. In the midst of this chaotic situation, the Bishop of Rome was enticed to take the reins of civil power and bring about order in the empire. As a result, the bishop of Rome was not only the spiritual leader of the church but also became the temporal ruler of the state.

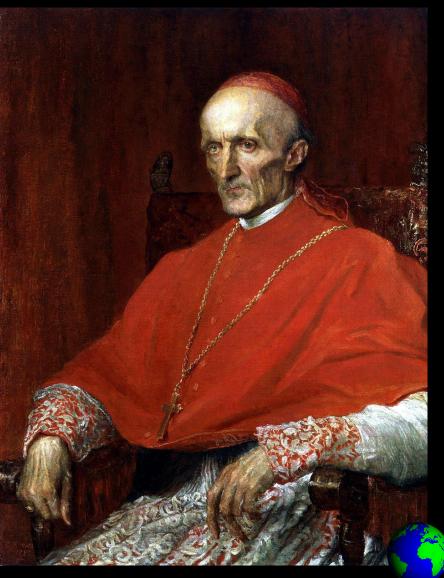
4. Paganism Gives Its Authority to the Papacy

"...Justinian, emperor of Rome, with his capital at Constantinople, espoused the cause of the bishop of Rome; and in 533 A.D. issued a decree which constituted that prelate head of all the churches. But the Arian Ostrogoths had possession of Rome, and it was not until they had been rooted up that the city was accessible to the bishop. This was accomplished in 538, by Belisarius, Justinian's celebrated general..." (White, 1895, p.

Cardinal Manning Says...

Cardinal Edward Manning described the manner in which the Roman Pontiff originally gained his civil power in the Roman Empire. When the barbarians invaded the Roman Empire and tore it apart Manning explains:

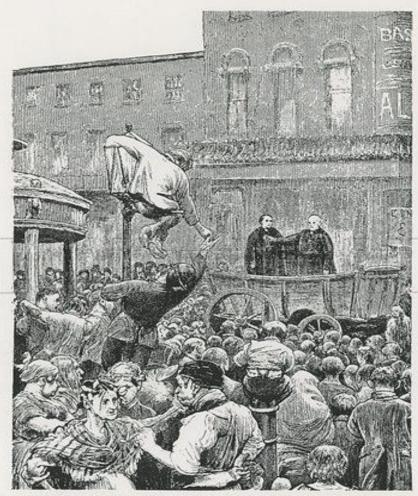
"Now the abandonment of Rome was the liberation of the **pontiffs.** Whatsoever claims to obedience the emperors may have made, and whatsoever compliance the Pontiff may have yielded, the whole previous relation, anomalous, and annulled again and again by the vices and outrages of the emperors, was finally dissolved by a higher power. The providence of God permitted a succession of irruptions, Gothic, Lombard, and Hungarian, to desolate Italy, and to efface from it every remnant of the empire. The pontiffs found themselves alone, the sole fountains of order, peace, law, and safety. And from the hour of this providential liberation, when, by a divine intervention, the chains fell off from the hands of the successor of St. Peter, as once before from his own, no sovereign has ever reigned in **Rome except the Vicar of Jesus Christ.**" (Henry Edward Manning, The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, Preface, pp. xxviii, xxix. London: Burns and Lambert, 1862



Manning further explains:

"It [the papacy] waited until such a time as God should break its bonds asunder, and should liberate it from subjection to civil powers, and enthrone it in the possession of a temporal sovereignty of its own." Henry Edward Manning, The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ (London: Burns & Lambert, second edition, 1862), pp. 11-13.

Manning is saying that when the civil power of Rome was removed by the barbarians, the bishop of Rome filled the vacuum and became the arbiter in civil affairs as well as in religious. Remarkably, Manning refers to this taking over of civil power by the bishop of Rome with expressions such as "breaking bonds asunder", and "chains falling off", terminology that is reminiscent of 2 Thessalonians 2 to which we must now turn. The dragon had given the beast 'his power, his throne and great authority' (Revelation 13:2)



CARDINAL MANNING ADMINISTERING THE TEMPERANCE PLEDGE: "An incident on Clerkenwell Green during Dr. Manning's campaign to persuade the poor but drunken Irish in London to save their souls by forswearing the demon of whisky and other strong liquots"

Paul's Mysterious 'Restrainer'

In cryptic language, the apostle Paul had already referred to the moment when the civil power of the Roman Empire would be given over to papal Rome. In 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7 the apostle referred to the removal of the mysterious restrainer of 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7:

"And now you know what is restraining [the civil power of the Roman Empire], that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains [the emperor] will do so until He is taken out of the way."

The early church Fathers were practically unanimous in the opinion that the 'restrainer' was a reference to the Roman Empire in general and the emperors in particular. In verse 5 the apostle refers to what was restraining (using the neuter article to katechon) but in verse 7 he refers to who was restraining (using the masculine article ho katechon). By his use of language, Paul indicates that the Church at Thessalonica knew who the restrainer was and what was restraining. And yet Paul wrote in veiled, cryptic language. Why wouldn't Paul just come out and write openly that the Roman Empire was the restrainer that would be taken out of the way?



Paul's Mysterious 'Restrainer' (cont'd)

The answer is obvious. If Paul had said this openly the Roman Empire would have had grounds to accuse Paul of sedition. So Paul had to be cautious in his way of referring to this matter. Dispensationalists describe the restrainer as the Holy Spirit. But if this were true, then why would there be any need for Paul to be so cautious? It is clear that Paul could not define the 'restrainer' openly. It was not necessary to do so because the Thessalonians knew what he was talking about.

You will notice in the comment by Cardinal Manning that the fall of the Roman Empire led to the 'liberation' of the Roman Pontiff. In other words, before this he was restrained. You will also notice that the fall of the Roman Empire is described as chains falling off the hands of the successor of St. Peter. The inevitable conclusion we reach from Manning's words is that the fall of the empire removed the restraint placed upon the Bishop of Rome.

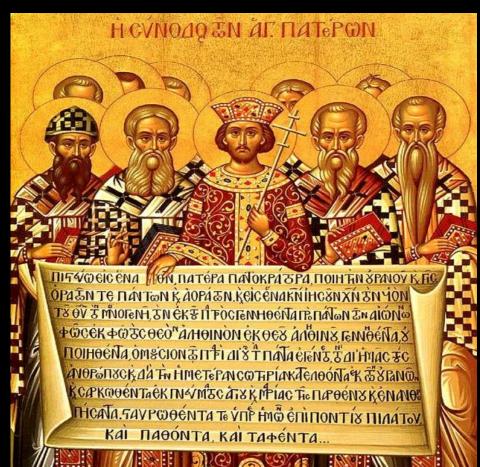


The Ante-Nicene Fathers

But now let us turn to the writings of the early church Fathers to see how they understood the 'restrainer'.

Let us begin with Tertullian (160-240 AD):

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now hinders must hinder, until he be taken out of the way.' What obstacle is there but the Roman state, the falling away of which, by being scattered into ten kingdoms, shall introduce Antichrist upon (its own ruins)? 'And then shall be revealed the wicked one." 'On the Resurrection of the Flesh,' chapter 24; Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. III, p. 563 [New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908.



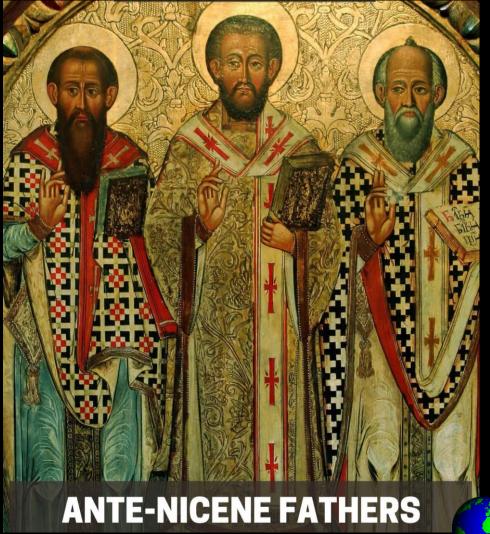
The Ante-Nicene Fathers (cont'd)

Tertullian also states:

"The very end of all things threatening dreadful woes is only retarded by the continued existence of the Roman Empire." ('Apology,' chapter 32; Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. III, p. 43)

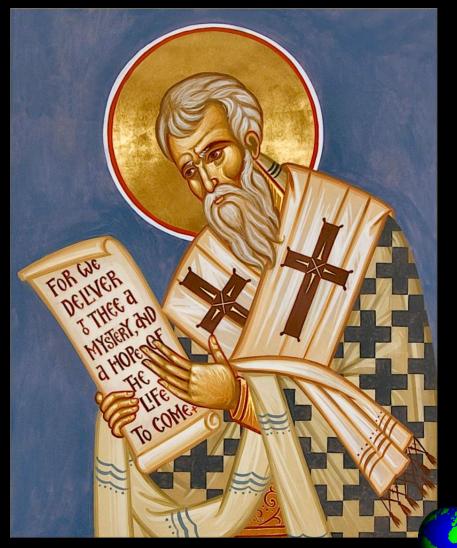
<u>Now notice the words of Lactantius (early fourth</u> <u>century)</u>:

"The subject itself declares that the fall and ruin of the world will shortly take place; except that while the city of Rome remains, it appears that nothing of this kind is to be feared. But when that capital of the world shall have fallen, and shall have begun to be a street, which the Sibyls say shall come to pass, who can doubt that the end has now arrived to the affairs of men and the whole world? It is that city, that only, which still sustains all things." ('The Divine Institutes,' book 7, chapter 25; Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. VII, p. 220)



The Ante-Nicene Fathers (cont'd)

Let's listen to Cyril of Jerusalem (318-386 AD): "But this aforesaid Antichrist is to come when the times of the Roman Empire shall have been fulfilled, and the end of the world is drawing near. There shall rise up together ten kings of the Romans, reigning in different parts perhaps, but all about the same time; and after those an eleventh, the Antichrist, who by his magical craft shall seize upon the Roman power; and of the kings who reigned before him, 'three he shall humble,' and the remaining seven he shall keep in subjection to himself." ('Catechetical Lectures' Section 15, on II Thessalonians 2:4; Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, vol. VII, p. 108 [New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1895



The Ante-Nicene Fathers (cont'd)

Next we present the testimony of Ambrose (died in 398 AD):

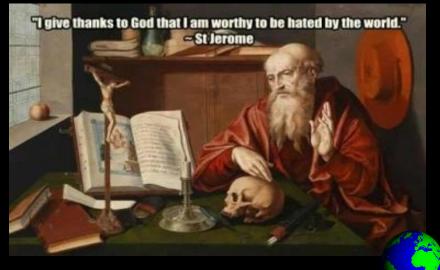
"After the falling or decay of the Roman Empire, Antichrist shall appear." (Quoted in, Bishop Thomas Newton, Dissertations on the Prophecies, p. 463 [London: B. Blake, 1840]) Next in line is Chrysostom (died in 407 AD):

"When the Roman Empire is taken out of the way, then he [the Antichrist] shall come. And naturally. For as long as the fear of this empire lasts, no one will willingly exalt himself, but when that is dissolved, he will attack the anarchy, and endeavour to seize upon the government both of man and of God." 'Homily IV on 2 Thessalonians 2:6-9,' Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers', vol. XIII, p. 389 [New York: Charles Scribner's and Sons, 1905]

Finally we will quote from Jerome (died 420 AD):

"He that letteth is taken out of the way, and yet we do not realize that Antichrist is near." (Letter to Ageruchia, written about 409 A. D. Letter 123, section 16; Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, vol. VI, p. 236 [New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912]).



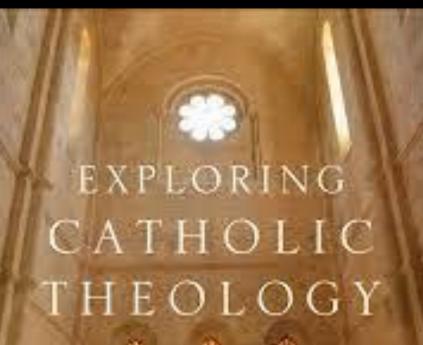


Other Roman Catholic Theologians

Scores of church historians have said the same:

"Long ages ago, when Rome through the neglect of the Western emperors was left to the mercy of the barbarous hordes, the Romans turned to one figure for aid and protection, and asked him to rule them; and thus, in this simple manner, the best title of all to kingly right, commenced the temporal sovereignty of the popes. And meekly stepping to the throne of Caesar, the Vicar of Christ took up the scepter to which the emperors and kings of Europe were to bow in reverence through so many ages." James P. Conroy, American Catholic Quarterly Review, April, 1911.

"Under the Roman Empire [stage # 1] the popes had no temporal powers. But when the Roman Empire had disintegrated and its place had been taken by a number of rude, barbarous kingdoms [stage # 2], the Roman Catholic Church not only became independent of the states in religious affairs but dominated secular affairs as well [stage # 3]." Carl Conrad Eckhardt, The Papacy and World Affairs (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1937), p. 1



Other Roman Catholic Theologians (cont'd)

Church historian, R. W. Southern further explains the relationship between the papacy and the state during the middle ages:

"During the whole medieval period there was in Rome a single spiritual and temporal authority [the papacy] exercising powers which in the end exceeded those that had ever lain within the grasp of the Roman emperor." (R. W. Southern, Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages, vol 2), pp. 24-25

Church historian John N. Figgis adds his testimony:

"[In] the Middle Ages the church was not a State, it was the State; or rather, the civil authority (for a separate society was not recognized), was merely the police department of the Church." John N. Figgis, From Gerson to Grotius, p. 4





Other Roman Catholic Theologians (cont'd)

This idea of the church ruling in temporal as well as in spiritual affairs was fleshed out in 1302 when pope Boniface VIII wrote a significant bull (personal letter) titled Unam Sanctam:

"We are informed by the texts of the gospels that in this [Roman Catholic] Church and in its power are two swords; namely, the spiritual and the temporal. Both, therefore, are in the power of the Church, that is to say, the spiritual and the material sword, but the former [the spiritual] is to be administered for the Church but the latter [the temporal] by the Church; the former in the hands of the priest; the latter by the hands of kings and soldiers, but at the will and sufferance of the priest."



rebo in unum Weum, Patrem omnipotentem factorem roeli et teux, vilibilium omnium et inv ilibilium. Et in unum Wominu m Jelum Eriftum, Filium Wei u nigenitum et ex Patre natum a nie omnia facula. Weum be We o, lumen be lumine, Weum ver um be Weo vero, genitum non F

actum, confublitantialem Patri, pei quem omnia facta fu nt. Qui popter nos homines, et propter nolitram lalutem belcendit de cælis. Et incarnatus elt de Spuitu lancto et Maria vingine, et homo factus elt. Crucificus etia m pro nodis fub Pontio Púlato, pallus et lepultus est. Et reluverit tenia die, fecundum faipturas; et alcend it in cælum, fedet ad bertenam Patris, et iteum ventu rus elt cum giona judicare vivos et motuos, cujus re gni non ent finis. Et in Spuitum lanctum Dominum et vivificantem, qui er Patre Filioque procedit; qui cu m Patre et filio fimul adoratur et conglouificatur: qui locutus elt per Prophetas. Et in unam lanctam catho licam et apolitolicam eccleliam. Confiteor unum baph ima in remillionem percatorum. Et expecto reluvectio nem motuorum et vitam ventui feculi, amen.

Conclusion

"The spirit of compromise and conformity [of the early Christian church] was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under paganism. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions." The Great Controversy, p. 49

"Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed and Rome be reinstated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution." The Great Controversy, p. 564

"The vast empire of Rome crumbled to pieces, and from its ruins rose that mighty power, the Roman Catholic Church. This church boasts of her infallibility and her hereditary religion." Manuscript Releases, volume 1, p. 50

Not emotions, not feelings, not logic, not the testimony of our senses, not the testimony of others will keep the remnant faithful. Only strict adherence to the Word of God will protect the remnant from the 'almost overmastering delusion.'





God has given all:

The Power of Choice

Revelation 12:12

"..... for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

– John 10:16

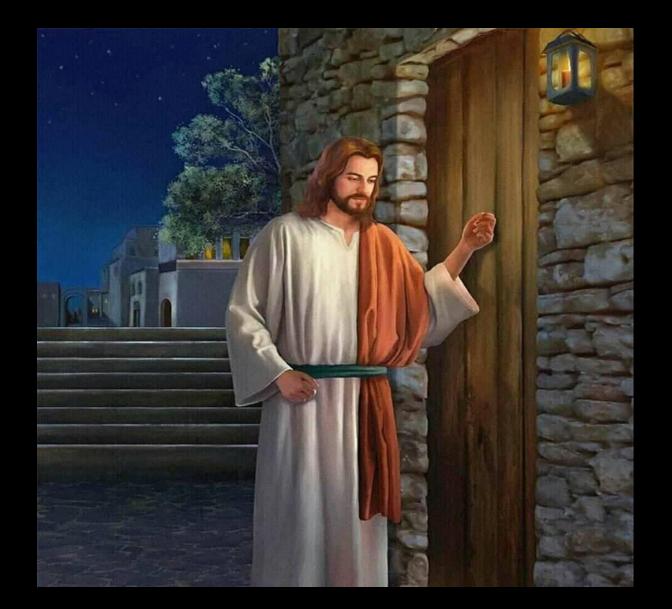
The Ark of the Covenant





Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. – Revelation 3:20





ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?