



# EndTime Issues ...

An e-publication of Prophecy Research Initiative

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This ministry is dedicated to a progressive understanding of truth apropos to the last generation to live on earth.

Welcome to *EndTime Issues*...

Who the Biblical Antichrist is has moved from a unified understanding during the Reformation to a contested issue in the twenty-first century. Sensationalism of “current events” seems to have silenced exegetic awareness.

## IDENTIFYING “THE” ANTICHRIST

### Introduction

Christians believe that they will face some “Antichrist” before the Second Coming of Christ. Protestant views now vary as to who this is but concur that it is either a “false Christ” or a leader who functions against Him. All agree that the Antichrist is or will be a figure of **concentrated evil**.

Even in Islamic eschatology, *Masih ad-Dajjal* is an anti-messiah figure (similar to the Christian concept of Antichrist), who will appear to deceive humanity before the second coming of “Isa,” as Jesus is known by Arabic-speaking Muslims.<sup>1</sup>

The view that the Antichrist is the papacy was shared by a broad spectrum of Protestants until recently.<sup>2</sup> It is also significant that the United States Congress went on record in 2000 to condemn Bob Jones University for promoting this belief.<sup>3</sup>

Professor Phillip Cary of Eastern University said: “The Reformation wouldn’t have happened without the conviction that the pope was Antichrist.”<sup>4</sup> He challenged Protestants: “If the pope isn’t the Antichrist, what right do you have to be split?”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antichrist>

<sup>2</sup> Bainton, Roland; *Christianity* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1964, 2000), 362; Noll, Mark A. and Carolyn Nystrom; *Is the Reformation Over: An Evangelical Assessment of Contemporary Roman Catholicism* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005), pp. 43-66, 76, 186.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Congress, 105<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2d. sess., S. Con. Res. 85, February 29, 2000, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:S.CON.RES.85.IS:>

<sup>4</sup> Cary, Philip; *Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation* (2 vols. Chantilly: The Teaching Company, 2004), p. 1:155.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 7.

Martin Luther, fourteenth century Catholic theologian turned Protestant reformer, firmly said:



- “We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist... personally I declare that I owe the Pope no other obedience than that to Antichrist.”<sup>6</sup>
- “Already I feel greater liberty in my heart; for at last I know that the pope is Antichrist, and that his throne is that of Satan himself.”<sup>7</sup>

Those convictions infiltrated the Protestant Reformation and continued through most of the twentieth century. **However, as the Islamic world once again became more violent and intolerant of Christianity, many are identifying Islam as the end-time Antichrist.**

This mischaracterization that now runs through the Christian world is where this study begins. The provocative questions that must be answered: “Can this evil power be convincingly identified from the Bible? Are there timing clues as to when this ‘person’ did or will impact the world?”

Most intriguing, the Biblical narratives even suggest two distinct rises of a single power that defies God and His people. The only way one can really understand the truth on this issue is to:

1. Look at the defining **characteristics** of this “anti-God,” “anti-Christ,” power in its “situational context” – and:
2. Look carefully at prophetic **timing** clues as to when this power comes into history.

This orientation begins with the prophetic messages Daniel records in the Aramaic section of his book. The first clues emerge from there.



King Nebuchadnezzar

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<sup>6</sup> Froom, L.; *Prophetic Faith of our Fathers*, Vol. 2 (Washington D.C: *The Review and Herald*, 1948), p. 121.

<sup>7</sup> Luther, Martin; as quoted in *D'Aubigné*, book 6, chapter 9.

## Kingdom Dreams – One by a King and one by a Prophet – a Crucial Background



When Papal Rome began will be addressed.

Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that he was the head of gold of a great statue he had observed in a dream (Daniel 2).

- Other nations/kingdoms would follow, descending down this metallic image.
- These distinct empires did sequence as symbolized in the king's dream.
- Then another fascinating event in this *image story* occurred.

The king saw a stone that was cut out of a mountain fly through the air, striking the image on its feet, totally destroying it – **all** parts at once (another important “story”).

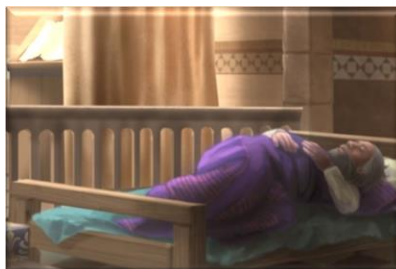
The stone then grew to cover the whole earth. This represented **God's eternal kingdom** that would be made up of the saints.<sup>8</sup> It would never be destroyed but stand forever (7:44; cf. Revelation 21:1).



Future

**Approximately 50 years later God gave Daniel another prophecy regarding those same kingdoms!** This is found in Daniel 7:1-7. The seer was given a dream of four beasts as their representations.

*“In 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” (Daniel 7:1).*



Daniel in Vision

<sup>8</sup> Keil, C. F. and F. Delitzsch; *Commentary on the Old Testament* (Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, Massachusetts 01961-3473; 2006 – 2<sup>nd</sup> printing), vol. 9, pp. 560-561.



Lion – Babylon

Bear – Medo-Persia

Leopard – Greece

Nondescript Horrible Beast – **Rome – and Papal Rome** – assumed

**God does something very different in this prophecy compared to Nebuchadnezzar's dream image!**

1. God's kingdom is **not** initially part of this picture, like the "stone" that destroyed Nebuchadnezzar's image.
2. ***While*** that **terrible** fourth Roman Empire beast is **still living** and **active**, a "***little horn***" ***Antichrist makes its entrance into history!!!***
3. That means both "powers" are ***contemporary for a period of time!***

That Roman beast had "***ten horns,***" representing **ten powerful regions** within the Roman Empire.

### **Daniel's "little horn" Makes its Debut**

*"I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words"*  
(Daniel 7:8 – NET).



***This is the first detailed prophecy of the Antichrist.*** He is defying God by his ***words*** or ***decrees***. He is supporting and giving power to the Roman leadership through its "***horn power.***" "This is a spectacular new element in predictive prophecy."<sup>9</sup> At the height of the Roman Empire's authoritative rule, this evil horn emerges as an almost independent power!!!

As far back as the fourth century (347-420 A.D), the "***little horn***" of Daniel 7 was seen as a prophecy of the Antichrist. Jerome (called "Saint Jerome" by the Catholic Church) is best known for translating the Bible into Latin, which became the basis for the Vulgate Bible. He, too, was convinced that that "***little horn***" was the Antichrist!<sup>10</sup>

One can quickly observe four Antichrist issues in verse 8:

1. This is horn number eleven. It uniquely stands independent of the others.
2. It is small when Daniel first notices it. The ten horns (kings, kingdoms, or national powerbases) are part of a thriving Roman Empire. This new horn is seen as a dominant force within the Roman Empire authority base.

<sup>9</sup> Whitcomb, John C.; *Daniel* (Moody Press; Chicago, IL – 1985), p. 96.

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/jerome\\_daniel\\_02\\_text.htm](http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/jerome_daniel_02_text.htm)

3. It defies or hates God or perhaps even something that God has even established.
4. The eyes and mouth reveal that this little horn power is a human institution.<sup>11</sup> Some suggest that it represents an individual. The eyes imply intelligence, insight, and wisdom (Zechariah 3:9, 4:10; Revelation 4:6, 5:6).<sup>12</sup> To Collins it asserts haughtiness (Isaiah 2:11, 5:15; Psalm 12:3; Obadiah 12).<sup>13</sup>

Intriguingly, two of the seven things God hates in Solomon’s fascinating list are “haughty eyes [and a] lying tongue” (Proverbs 6:16, 19).<sup>14</sup>

Since it wasn’t included as part of the original ten horns and the vision portrays its later emergence and growth, a vast new progressive power is represented – then emphasized. Papal Rome is in view. Recall – it initially rises as a “*little*” horn.

The “great things” this “institution” speaks or does are later against God’s people (7:21, 25). It is the only entity in the chapter that attacks God’s people. Most expositors conclude that this “*little horn*” describes the Antichrist, first depicted here ***emerging during the Roman Empire***, and later at the very end of time under a variety of symbols (e.g., Daniel 7:23-25, 8:9-12, 11:36-37; II Thessalonians 2:3-12; Revelation 13:5-6).

Christian persecution was outlawed during Constantine’s reign. But this “*little horn*” persecutes. Fascinating – in Daniel’s first record of this power (7:8) the persecution is not addressed. In his later query he mentions it (7:21). This suggests that it rises; then in a later segment of its history persecution comes.

- “The combination of these two characteristics [the eyes and the mouth] points to a man capable of incomparably brilliant blasphemies, not simply speaking against God but doing so in a manner that will attract and deceive vast numbers of men. Indeed, he will be Satan’s masterpiece – a superbly effective instrument of ‘the father of lies,’ who was ‘a murderer from the beginning’ (John 8:44).”<sup>15</sup>
- Was there a power that arose with these descriptive characteristics while the Roman Empire was present?<sup>16</sup> Did it morph into a controlling element that could and did persecute God’s people?

### **When the Roman Empire and a Christian Power Collaborated**

The early Christian church throughout this Empire was under fierce persecution during its first two centuries related to its leaders. Then Constantine became Rome’s emperor (306–337 A.D.). He put a stop to the persecution by the ***Edict of Milan*** in 313 A.D., which brought religious tolerance into its sovereign domain.

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<sup>11</sup> Steinmann, Andrew E.; *Daniel* (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis), p. 348.

<sup>12</sup> Miller, *op. cit.*, p. 202.

<sup>13</sup> Collins, John J.; *Daniel* (Fortress Press, Minneapolis, MN – 1993), p. 299.

<sup>14</sup> Lucas, Ernest C.; *Daniel* (Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL; 2002), p. 180.

<sup>15</sup> Whitcomb, *op. cit.*, p. 96.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.reference.com/history/importance-edict-milan-5b2a906aa74de0e7>

- This gave Christianity protection and, thereby, legal status – **BUT** – it did not yet make Christianity the religion of the Empire.
- Paganism still thrived.
- Constantine retained his loyalty to Mithraism, a pagan religion embedded within Rome’s authority, and he worshiped the sun. (History claims that he was later baptized into Christianity, though its confirmation is unclear.)



In 314 A.D. *Sylvester I* became Bishop of Rome (today he is called a *pope*). There is a dearth of history surrounding this man. We do know that:



1. He became friends with Constantine.

During his reign, which lasted till his death in 335 A.D., he influenced Constantine to build several Christian churches in Rome, including the early structure which would later become St. Peter’s Basilica.<sup>17</sup>

2. He **ecclesiastically** changed the Sabbath of the seventh day to the first day of the week in 316 A.D.:

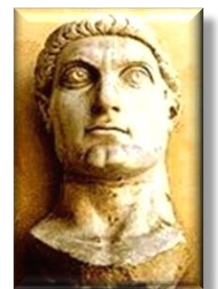
*“If every Lord’s day is to be observed joyfully by the Christians on account of the resurrection, then every **Sabbath on account of the burial is detestably Jewish**. In fact all the disciples of the Lord lamented on the Sabbath, bewailing the buried Lord, and the Jews exulted. But sadness reigned for the fasting apostles. In like manner we are sad, saddened by the burial of the Lord, and rejoice with them in the Lord’s resurrection. Neither in fact is it proper to feast [on the Sabbath] as the Jewish custom observed by the Jews.”*

He decreed that the rest of the Sabbath should be transferred to the Lord’s day [Sunday].<sup>18</sup>

A contemporary of Emperor Constantine and Pope Sylvester I was Eusebius Pamphili, Bishop of Cæsarea in Palestine (260–341 A.D.). He wrote<sup>19</sup>:

*“All things whatsoever that it was duty to do on the Sabbath, these we have transferred to the Lord’s day, as more appropriately belonging to it, because it has precedence, and is first in rank, and more honorable than the Jewish Sabbath.”<sup>20</sup>*

3. It wasn’t long afterward (321 A.D.) that Constantine issued an **Empire-wide** decree mandating the keeping of Sunday.



<sup>17</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope\\_Sylvester\\_I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Sylvester_I)

<sup>18</sup> <http://biblelight.net/sylvester-1.htm> (emphasis added).

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Eusebius' Commentary on the Psalms* (Psalm 92, *A Psalm or Song for the Sabbath-day*), in Migne’s *Patrologia Graeca*, Vol. XXIII, col. 1171 & 1172, and *Bernard de Montfaucon’s Collectio Nova Patrum Et Scriptorum Graecorum* (2 vols., folio, Paris, 1706).

“On the venerable Day of the sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits: because it often happens that another Day is not so suitable for grain sowing or for vine planting: lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.”<sup>21</sup>



**Isn't it interesting:** Roman Christianity wanted Sunday to be the “Lord’s Day” or “Sabbath” **and** Constantine wanted the “Day of the sun” to be a rest day. The god Mithra was also seen as a sun god.<sup>22</sup>

Stunning! **We now have early clues** that begin to identify the church at Rome with apostasy and overt rebellion!

1. A powerful and unique religious power rises **during** the Roman Empire’s tenure, just like the “*little horn*” rises on the Roman beast.
2. It is led by a human being.
3. Verse 25 states that this power tries to **change “set times and laws”** (NIV). We saw this in the decretals to alter the Sabbath.
4. By this act alone this ecclesiastical power **defied God**, which was alluded to by what comes from his “*mouth*.”
5. With these **initial observations**, the “*little horn*” Antichrist **emerges** in the window of time between 314 and 321 A.D.
6. Might it influence persecution of the saints later?

### **Civil Rome Enters Church Administration – Then:**



Purity of the Roman Christian faith by the time of Constantine had been severely tainted. It had led to bruising conflict between its leaders as to what constituted true Biblical truth. Constantine saw this and resolved to bring it to a halt.



He called the first “world” Christian conference named the **Council of Nicaea** (325 A.D.). He acted as the chairman, though he still honored paganism! Over 300 bishops and Christian leaders attended. *Sylvester I* sent representatives instead of attending himself.

Emperor Constantine began by saying: **“Division in the church is worse than war.”** He mandated resolution of questions – especially regarding the divinity of Christ.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Schaff, Philip; *History of the Christian Church: Vol. II: From Constantine the Great to Gregory the Great A.D. 311–600* (New York: Charles Scribner, 1867), p. 380.

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.truthbeknown.com/mithra.htm>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-28/325-first-council-of-nicaea.html>

- This was the **first step** in making Roman Christianity the Empire's religion.
- Out of the deliberations came the Nicene Creed (used by Christian churches today). The divinity of Christ was upheld. **Then:**

**January, 379 A.D., Theodosius I** (known as *Theodosius the Great*, who was appointed by the Bishop of Rome, Damasus I) became the last Roman emperor to rule over both the eastern and western halves of the Roman Empire. His reign lasted until 395 A.D.



In 380 A.D. his **Edict of Thessalonica** ordered all subjects of the Roman Empire to profess the faith in the bishops of Rome and of Alexandria [another center of Christianity]. *Nicene Christianity* became the state religion of the Empire. **Theodosius then forced its citizens to attend Christian churches.**<sup>24</sup>

Paganism, as it had existed, was, in effect, **outlawed! Christianity became a church-state religion, headed by a strange legal bond between civil and religious leaders!**

Roman Christianity, however, quickly morphed into paganism!

### **How Paganism Entered the Roman “Christian” Church – the Ultimate Blaspheme**

In the nineteenth Century, an Episcopal priest converted to Roman Catholicism. He was quickly elevated and became known as Cardinal Newman. He was a prolific, magnetic, and in-depth writer! One of his amazing books, called *The Development of the Christian Religion*, was about early Roman Christianity. Note carefully these referenced historical comments:

- He described how Roman Christianity brought pagan “things” into the church, “in order to recommend the **new religion** to the heathen:” “The use of temples ... dedicated to particular saints, and ornamented on occasions with branches of trees; incense, lamps, and candles, holy water, asylums [hermitages, monasteries and convents]; [pagan] holy-days, processions, sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure, ... turning to the East, images, ... all became part of the Church.”<sup>25</sup>
- Was God being blasphemed?
- Mary worship came from ancient Babylon where the virgin mother goddess was worshiped under the name *Ishtar*. Elsewhere in the Near East, the mother goddess was called *Astarte*, *Ashtoreth*, *Persephone*, *Artemis*, *Diana of Ephesus*, *Venus*, and *Isis*. This goddess, considered to be greater than any god, was called by these heathen the “virgin mother, merciful mother, Queen of Heaven, and my lady” (which is what “Madonna” means in Italian). Langdon says she was often sculpted in mother and infant images or as a “mater dolorum” (sorrowful mother), interceding for men with a wrathful

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.ramsheadpress.com/messiah/ch10.html>;

<https://books.google.com/books?id=2WuMyEzani8C&pg=PA6#v=onepage&q&f=false>

<sup>25</sup> Newman, Cardinal J. H.; *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, 1920 edition, p.373 [Roman Catholic].



god. And thus ancient paganism was brought into the churches and lives of Christians.<sup>26</sup> Laing mentions several other corruptions by which the mother goddess was worshiped by heathens, and which Rome adopted into Christianity: holy water, votive offerings, elevation of sacred objects (lifting of the host), the priests' bells, the decking of images, processions, festivals, prayers for the dead, the worship of relics and the statues of saints.<sup>27</sup>

During the time that *Theodosius I* oversaw these religious changes, the Bishop of Rome was, again, *Damasus I*. As the Nicene Creed Christianity was adopted by the Empire, this man was identified as its supreme head.<sup>28</sup>

### **The Devastating Clue that the Antichrist is Papal Rome**

There appears to be more that Daniel witnessed that was not recorded. A clue comes in his questioning of the unidentified being who explains the dream's meaning.

- *“And 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**”* (Daniel 7:20).
- This suggests that this *“little horn”* becomes greater than the ten horns ever were, even though it was identified initially as *“little.”*
- Then Daniel notes: *“I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them”* (Daniel 7:21). Later, it says that he *“wears out the saints”* (vs 25).

If this is indeed the ***Antichrist***, there must be expectations that this little horn's influence would become a world power against God's true people (7:21, 25). That, in turn, suggests that his “Christianity” would be capable of reaching out wherever the saints resided. The Roman Church's unrivaled power blossomed after the Western Roman Empire fell in 476 A.D.

It is not fully clear when the religious leaders of Rome ***initiated*** persecution against the saints. Major conflict between the Roman and Constantinople churches began at the first Council of Constantinople, called by Roman Emperor Theodosius I in 381 A.D.<sup>29</sup> By the time the Council of Ephesus was called in 431 A.D. by Theodosius II, the word “heretic” was freely used.<sup>30</sup>

History documents that when Pope Innocent III rose to power (1198-1216) he began to hunt down anyone with religious dissent against the Roman brand of Christianity. That began the torture of tens of thousands of Biblical Christians, including the Albigensians and the Waldensians. It is estimated that over the next 500 years many millions lost their lives due to the Roman Catholic Church.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Langdon, S.H.; *Semitic Mythology*, 1931 edition, pp. 12-34, 108-111, 341-344.

<sup>27</sup> Laing, Gordon J.; *Survivals of Roman Religion*, 1931 edition, pp. 92-95, 123-131, 238-241; <http://www.remnantofgod.org/whoreofbabylon.htm>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04613a.htm>

<sup>29</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First\\_Council\\_of\\_Constantinople\\_heretic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Constantinople_heretic)

<sup>30</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council\\_of\\_Ephesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Ephesus)

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.wayoflife.org/database/persecutionofbible.html>

Many historical documents address this history of true lethal hatred by this church against those of the true apostolic faith. The tyranny against opposition and their sins is well documented.<sup>32</sup> This now fulfills a final clue of who the Antichrist is and when he arose the first time.

***It is important to know that:***

- Quietly and privately, there were thousands who were devoted to the pure Christian beliefs during these Dark Ages. They were loyal to the early meaning of the Christian faith. Yet they were hunted down and seen as heretics by the Roman Church.

Admitting the guilt of the past, at least to the Waldensian Church, recently, in a surreal address, Pope Francis apologized to these “first evangelicals” for its persecution. The Waldensians suffered years of massacre, rape and pillaging during the Catholic Church’s attempt to stomp it out.<sup>33</sup> That “apology” was pure religious politics. Rome never changes.

Intriguingly, this pope asked Christians to pray for the persecuted Christians around the globe. It was estimated that over 200 million are at risk for physical violence because of their beliefs.<sup>34</sup> Yet prophecy states that in its end-time second rise, such persecution, as during the Middle Ages, will be more than duplicated by this Antichrist power.

A deep Protestant thinker and former Jesuit priest has commented on this element of the Roman Faith.

Of the Inquisitions: “From the beginning of the Papacy to the present time, it is estimated by reputable and trustworthy historians that tens of millions of people have been tortured and killed by Papal persecutors for the crime of believing God’s word in the Bible, rather than the dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church. While the majority of those who suffered were true believers, Papal Rome also persecuted Jews, Muslims, Knights Templar, and those that she called ‘witches.’ Through the Inquisition was demonstrated the grace and divine power that the Lord gave to His people to survive those horrific years with their faith strengthened. Also shown was the inner heart of ritualistic Catholicism and the lengths to which it will go to enforce its will. It is truly a warning for succeeding generations.”<sup>35</sup>

Many claim that those historical atrocities were of a “backward people” and not applicable to today. We only have to look back to the World War II era in Yugoslavia. Roman Catholic Ante Pavelic became this country’s leader and head of the Ustasi movement.

“During Pavelic’s four-year reign, he and Roman Catholic Prelate, Archbishop Alois Stepinac, pursued a ‘convert or die’ policy among the 900,000 Greek Orthodox Serbs, Jews, and others in Croatia. 200,000 were converted; the 700,000 who chose to die were tortured, burned, buried alive, or shot after digging their own graves.

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<sup>32</sup> [http://www.cs.unc.edu/~plaisted/estimates.html#\\_Toc135810597](http://www.cs.unc.edu/~plaisted/estimates.html#_Toc135810597)

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2015/july/pope-apologizes-to-first-evangelicals-for-persecution.html>

<sup>34</sup> <https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2017/03/02/pope-francis-pray-persecuted-christians/>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.bereanbeacon.org/new-blog/2015/6/13/systematic-murder-of-believers-the-untold-history-of-the-inquisition>

“The mutilations were horrific, the tortures vicious, and the savagery terrible. The Catholic Church did not leave the execution of a religious war to the secular arm. She was there herself, openly ignoring precautions and bolder than she had been for a very long time. Wielding the hatchet or dagger, pulling the trigger, organizing the massacre, the Roman Catholic priests became their own instruments of the Inquisition.”<sup>36</sup>

Note: This occurred **after** the second rise of the papacy began. It happened when many readers of this document were living.

The sinister work of the first rise of Papal Rome is later enhanced by Daniel in a review of that first papal rise, with several key descriptive Hebrew words (11:21-28):

1. “*Vile person*” (vs 21): “vile” or despised is *baza* (H). It refers to a deeply negative reaction toward someone because they have contempt for God.<sup>37</sup>
2. “*Flattery*” (vs 21): he makes deceitful promises.<sup>38</sup>
3. “*Deceitfully*” (vs 23): he was treacherous and deceitful,<sup>39</sup> falsifying what they say or do.<sup>40</sup>
4. “*Spoil*” (vs 24): he plunders others’ possessions and takes their riches.<sup>41</sup>
5. “*Overflows*” (vss 26, 28): he leads an army that conquers and obtains great riches from the spoils.
6. “*Mischief*” (vs 27): he is filled with wickedness.
7. “*Against holy covenant*” (vs 28): he pointedly undermines God’s redemption plan.

This all encapsulates who the Antichrist that Daniel introduces really is. The timing also unequivocally points to the rise of Papal Rome and the Roman Catholic Church **during the era** of the Rome Empire.

We end this article and a summation of Daniel’s final visionary note of 7:21 with the previously noted former Jesuit Richard Bennett’s concluding remarks in his inquisition article:

“The Lord in His Word has foretold the destruction of Antichrist’s reign; the Word of the Lord will reduce it to nothing. The Antichrist will be completely and in every respect destroyed on the final day of the restoration of all things. Christ will be manifested from heaven as the Judge. In the meantime, the victory of the gospel Word is seen for those who wait on Him. His power has always been greatest in the day of utmost need. The character of God in His gracious Gospel is ‘*the spirit of his mouth*’. This has been understood and lived out as ‘*the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth*.’ We see his power as we boldly proclaim His graciousness, every individual who is saved ‘*being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*.’

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.jesus-is-lord.com/croatia.htm>

<sup>37</sup> *Theological Word Dictionary of the Old Testament (TWOT)*

<sup>38</sup> *Brown, Driver and Briggs Lexicon (BDB)*

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> *Theological Word Dictionary of the Old Testament (TWOT)*

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

“Our prayerful duty is to fear the All Holy God, to obey His great commission, and to trust His victory now and hereafter. ***‘And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.’***<sup>42</sup>

When did the papacy begin to rise in its end-time power? Daniel 8, 11:39-45; Revelation 13 and 17 give the answer!

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.jesus-is-lord.com/inquisit.htm>