



# Bible Prophecy Guide

## Dusty Bibles / Dirty Lives

Summary 7

### Keys to Interpreting Prophecy

**Daniel 7:23** – A beast represents a kingdom or nation in prophecy.

**Daniel 8:20** – Horns equal kings or kingdoms in prophecy.

**Revelation 17:15** – The sea represents peoples in prophecy.

**Ezekiel 4:6** – A day represents a year in prophecy.

**Revelation 7:1-3** – Wind equals war and strife in prophecy. See also Daniel 7:2.

### The Prophecy of Daniel 7

**Daniel 7:1-7, 15-17** – Daniel saw in his dream four beasts which the angel said represented four kingdoms. We see the lion represents Babylon and the bear represents the Medes & Persians. The leopard represents Greece and its four heads remind us of the four generals that took over Greece after Alexander the great died. The fourth beast is dreadful and has iron teeth reminding us of the iron legs of Rome in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Also, as with Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the iron doesn't disappear afterwards, it just mixes with the clay in the feet. So, this fourth beast has ten horns which arise out of it suggesting that the beast at some level continues on.

**Daniel 7:8, 19-25** – Of the ten horns that arise from the fourth beast, three would be plucked up by the roots and replaced by a little horn. This suggests that the three horns would never return to power and thus history confirms. Indeed, Rome divided into 10 tribes but three were overtaken. In trying to determine who the little horn is, we must add up the clues as stated here in the passage.

- Would arise in Western Europe
  - Because modern day western Europe arose from seven of these 10 tribes, the little horn which arises from within the 10 horns must arise within Europe.
- Would arise sometime after 476 AD

- Because Rome didn't divide into ten tribes until 476AD, we should not expect the little horn to arise until after this time.
- Would speak words of Blasphemy.
  - This little horn would speak against God.
- Would persecute the saints.
  - This power would persecute God's people.
- Would think to change times & laws.
  - This power would try to change God's law and His timing.
- Would pluck up three horns.
  - This power would not establish itself completely until three tribes (horns) were plucked up.
- Would reign for a time, times and ½ time.
  - This power would be in power for 1260 years which is established when we remember a day equals a year in prophecy (Ezek. 4:6) and when we read Rev. 12: 14 & 6 which demonstrates that a time, times and a half a time is equal to 1260. A time equals one Biblical year (360 days) and times equals two years (720 days) and a ½ a time equals (180 days) which total to 1260.

**Revelation 13:1-8** – This beast described here parallels closely the little horn of Daniel 7 and adds greater clarity to its character.

- Power given by Satan (Pagan Rome)
  - The power will have a connection with pagan Rome which it grows out of.
- One of its heads is wounded temporarily
  - It will look as though the power has fallen but it will be healed.
- Receives Worship
  - It's a religious power.
- Speaks Blasphemies
  - Like was stated in Daniel 7, it is blasphemous towards God.
- Continues for 42 months
  - A Biblical month equals 30 days and 42 x 30 equals 1260 years.
- Wars against saints
  - Will be a persecuting power.
- Whole world worships the beast
  - It is recognized and worshipped by the world.

When we look at history and compare the description of the Little Horn Power, there is only one system or power that matches the description. It's the Church of the Dark Ages. The reason it's referred to as the dark ages is because it was during this period of history that church and state united and the church grew corrupt. Notice how history correlates with Scripture:

- Arose amongst the 10 divisions of Rome
  - The church of the dark ages arose in Europe and helped to unite the tribes.
- Plucked up three horns
  - These three horns, the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths were all eradicated by 538AD. This was when the church had united firmly with government and took complete power.
- Blasphemed God
  - As we read in **Daniel 5**, blasphemy involves mixing paganism (false worship) with true worship (Christianity). Notice this quote as recorded by John Henry Cardinal Newman:

“We are told in various ways by Eusebius, that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own. . . The use of temples, and these dedicated to particular saints, and ornamented on occasions, with branches of trees, incense, lamps, and candles; votive offerings, recovery from illness, holy water; asylums; holy days and seasons, use of calendars, processions, blessings on the fields; sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure. . . Images at a later date. . . Are all of pagan origin, and sanctified by their adoption into the Church.” - John Henry Cardinal Newman, *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, Longmans, Green & Company, London: 1920, p. 373

- **Mark 2:7** says that blasphemy is when man tries to forgive sins in place of God. The church of the dark ages states:

“God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priest, and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse or give absolution . . . The sentence of the priest precedes, and God subscribes to it.” - *Dignity & Duties of the Priest*, by Liguori, Vol. 12. p. 2

- **John 10:33** states that blasphemy includes man trying to take the place of God. The church of the dark ages states:  
 “We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” – The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo, XIII, p. 304

- Made War with the Saints

- Conservative estimates say the church of the Dark Ages persecuted over 50 million people.
- "That the [Roman church-state] has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no protestant who has a competent knowledge of history." - WEH Lecky, *History of the Rise & Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, Vol. 2, p.35
- Changed times & laws
  - Just as Nebuchadnezzar tried to change the prophetic timeline of God by changing the image from several metals to just gold, so the church of the dark ages altered the prophetic calendar. They shifted the identify of the antichrist to refer to either someone in the past named Antiochus Epiphanes or some mysterious person who would appear in the future at the time of the end. The church of the dark ages used the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel 9 as a basis for their new prophetic teaching. However we saw in our recent study on Daniel 9 that the prophecy of the 70 weeks was ultimately a messianic prophecy pointing to Christ, not the antichrist.
  - The church of the dark ages removed the third commandment from God's law and divided the tenth commandment in order to preserve the number 10. We will cover this more in a future study.
  - "The [Bishop of Rome] is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws. . . The [Bishop of Rome] can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent [representative] of God upon earth." - Lucius Ferraris, *Prompta Bibliotheca*, article "Papa" II Vol VI p. 29
- Reigned Supreme for 1260 years
  - If you take the 538 AD as we established already and add 1260 years, you arrive at 1798. It was this year that Napoleon's general Berthea took the pope prisoner and indeed, the church received a deadly wound.
- Wounded, but later healed.
  - Since that time, the church has recovered and its Vatican headquarters are recognized as a sovereign state.
- People worship this power

- Indeed, this is a spiritual power and as a church, has received worship for hundreds of years.

No doubt, the church of the dark ages is depicted in Scripture as the Little Horn of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13. Indeed, the Christian church has a skeleton in its closet and we can all hang our heads in shame, regardless of our church affiliation.

**Revelation 5:6** – Jesus is depicted as the lamb in Revelation and when you compare this description and His ministry with that of the beast and Satan's work, you find that indeed, Satan is at war with Christ. Notice the comparison:

### **The Beast & The Lamb**

1. Rise out of water – Both began their ministry amidst people.
2. Three and a half years – Jesus public ministry on earth lasted 3 ½ yrs and the beast would be in power for 42 months or 3 ½ years.
3. Mortally wounded – Jesus was wounded on a cross, the beast was wounded in 1798.
4. Come back to life - Jesus resurrected, the church of the dark ages would be resurrected.
5. Horns – Both the lamb of Revelation 5 and the beast of Revelation 13 have horns.
6. Receive worship – Both the Christ and the church of the dark ages received worship.
7. Global Reach – Both call the entire world to follow after them.

**Daniel 7:28** – Daniel was troubled by the dream and so we still today find it to be a disturbing prophecy. While this study may create more questions than answers, understand that we also read in Daniel 7 that judgment is given in favor of the saints. If we reach faithfully for Christ daily through the study of His Word and in prayer seek after Him, we will find peace and strength to face whatever may come our way. Our church has a stain in its past, but praise God He forgives and restores us individually. Won't you surrender all to Him just now?