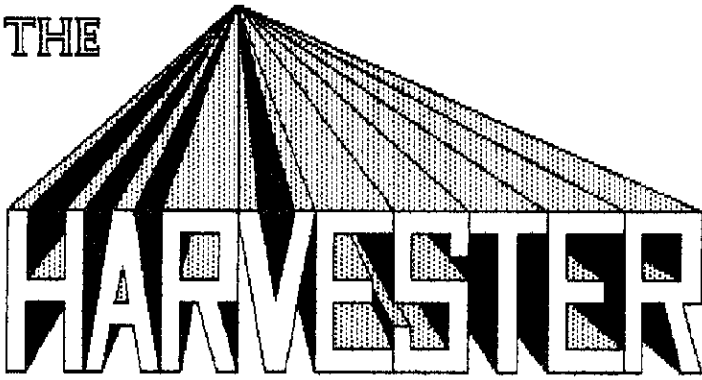


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

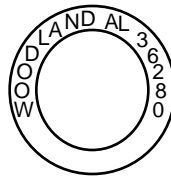
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THE "MAN OF SIN"

Certain matters in the field of religious thought appear to attract more than usual attention. This is especially true of a spectacular subject such as the end of time and events which relate to it. It is encouraging that increasing concern is being aroused about such matters -- but along with warranted concern have also arisen improper views. The matter of the "man of sin" or that "wicked" one of 2 Thess. 2:1-14 is one subject about which there is considerable misunderstanding, and it will be interesting to learn what

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the Bible really does say about this. This person is not antichrist, for his identifying characteristics are not the same as those identifying antichrist [See The Harvester, May 1999, for the article on antichrist]. This "wicked man" is to:

1. Appear in the "*falling away*" of the church (v.3)
2. Oppose God and exalt himself (v.4)
3. Appear when the presence of the Roman government ("*he who now letteth*") will cease to hinder the rise of this man (v.7)
4. Come with "*all power and signs and lying wonders, and ... deceivableness*" (vs. 8-9)

As to the "*falling away*" in which this man was to be a prominent factor, Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1-6 adds these marks of identity:

5. "*Forbidding to marry*" (v.3)
6. "*Commanding to abstain from meats*" (v.3)

In addition to these identifying characteristics, Daniel warns that this "wicked" one (the little horn which shall rise after ten others) is to:

7. Be "*diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings*" (7:24)
8. "*Speak great words against the most high*" (7:25)
9. "*Wear out the saints*" (7:25)
10. "*Think to change times and laws*" (7:25)
11. Have a dominating position for "*a time and times and the dividing of times*" (1260 years, 7:25)

John in Revelation further identifies this man as:

12. A beast with two horns (13:12)
13. One who would provide for making an image to the first beast (13:14)
14. One who has the number 666 (13:18)

Fulfillment of these characteristics has been complete in only one man -- he who sits in the papal chair of the Roman Catholic Church. Note the amazing fulfillment of these characteristics as foretold in the passages just mentioned.

1. To appear in the "*falling away*" of the church (2 Thes. 2:3).

**Designated "rector ecclesiae" by order of Emperor Justinian in 533 A.D., thus assuming a position at variance with Scripture and the pattern of the early church.

2. To oppose God and exalt himself (2 Thes. 2:4).

**The dogma of papal infallibility was officially adopted in 1870 (Pope Pius IX, 1846-1878).

**"We hold upon earth the place of God Almighty" (Pope Leo XIII, June 20, 1894). BABYLON MYSTERY RELIGION, Ralph Woodrow.

**The pope wears the title "vicarius fielii Dei," which denotes his claim to be the vicar of Christ.

**He claims authority to forgive sins.

**He professes to be superior to all earthly kings. Yet, Jesus is referred to as "*King of kings, and Lord of lords*" (Rev. 19:16).

3. To appear when the presence of the Roman government ("*he who now letteth*") will cease to hinder the rise of this man (2 Thes. 2:7).

**Rome fell to Odeacer in 476 A.D., preceding the appearance of this "man of sin," the pope, by 57 years. Emperor Justinian finally decreed in 533 A.D. that the bishop of Rome be recognized as "lord of the church." This occurred after Rome had completed its hindering

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role, thus allowing the apostate church to assume its rise in power and to continue its dominance for 1,260 years.

4. To come with "all power and signs and lying wonders, and ... deceivableness" (2 Thes. 2:8-9).

**History is literally filled with false claims of the Roman Catholic Church about crying statues, visions, and miraculous appearances -- designed to deceive the gullible and unlearned.

5. "Forbidding to marry" (1 Timothy 4:3).

**That priests are to be celibate is a recognized doctrine and practice of the Roman Catholic Church.

6. "Commanding to abstain from meats" (1 Timothy 4:3).

**Even as a boy, I can well remember that in the school lunch room we could always expect fish on Friday. Although this restriction about red meat was lifted by papal decree on December 5, 1966, fish on Friday continues to be a prominent practice. This restriction did definitely mark the pope and the Roman Catholic Church as "commanding to abstain from meats" (1 Timothy 4:3)

7. To be *"diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings"* (Daniel 7:24).

**As the papacy approached the year 800 and the beginning of the Holy Roman Empire, which was pictured as one of the two horns of the second beast in Revelation 13:11-17 and the eighth head of Revelation 17:11, the prophecy of Daniel 7:20 reached fulfillment. The papacy in Daniel, however, was spoken of as a *"little horn"* (v.8,20). *"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."*

The Roman church gained added strength by joining hand-in-hand with secular kings. Not only was the pope the voice of authority in spiritual matters, but he also began to wield the secular sword as well through secular kings who served his purposes. This little horn being *"diverse from the first"* (v.24) well predicted the pope's role as a spiritual, rather than a civil king. Note the fulfillment of the little horn subduing three of the original ten horns.

**The French ruler Pepin, in 755 A.D., granted to pope Stephen III the principality of Ravenna.

**In 774 A.D., Charles the Great conquered the Lombards and granted them and their territory to pope Adrian I.

**Lewis the Pious, son of Charles the Great of France, conferred the state of Rome to pope Paschal I in 817 A.D.

(Reference: Wayne Jackson in THE CHRISTIAN COURIER, June, 1993.)

The little horn which subdued three kings vividly describes the rise of the papacy, which emerged in 533, the way having been prepared by the fall of three of the ten kings. Adam Clarke (p.594) explains them to have been:

****The exarchate of Ravenna, given in 755 to the pope, Stephen II (III), by Pepin, King of France.**

****Lombardy, given to Peter in 774 by Charlemagne.**

****State of Rome, vested in the pope by Lewis the pious.**

This territory perhaps later became known as the Papal States.

8. *"Speak great words against the most high"* (Daniel 7:25).

****Fulfillment of this prediction receives the same answer as item 2.**

9. *"Wear out the saints"* (Daniel 7:25).

****History records in most horrible details persecution by the papacy against those who opposed and would not submit to its unscriptural and ungodly reign. This includes such men and movements as Peter Waldo (1179), the Albigenses (1208), John Wycliff (1320-1384), and Jan (John) Hus (1374-1415).**

FOX'S BOOK OF MARTYRS (Winston Co., 1926) contains 370 pages of terrible atrocities committed by the authority of the papacy.

[Editor's Note: Due to the length of this article, items #10-14 will appear in next month's issue.]

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. How old was Abraham when he died?
2. What did Joshua tell the people concerning the good words spoken by God regarding them?
3. To what may Christians look forward, according to 1 Peter?
4. Who said, "Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people"?
5. Into a herd of which kind of animal did Jesus cast the devils who possessed the two men from Gadarenes?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Before following Jesus, one man said he first wanted to bury whom? HIS FATHER (Lk. 9:59)
2. What kind of sacrifices does God require of man, according to Psalm 51? SACRIFICES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Psa. 51:19)
3. What was Jeremiah to break after he told the elders and the priests what the Lord was going to do to them? A POTTER'S EARTHEN BOTTLE (Jer. 19:10)
4. In what book of the Bible are these four Aramaic words found: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Peres? DANIEL (Dan. 5:25-28)
5. With whose sword did David cut off the head of Goliath? GOLIATH'S SWORD (1 Sam. 17:51)

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16)



WHAT YEAR IS IT, ANYWAY?

In the Western world, January 1 marks the beginning of a new year. (In fact, some see it as the start of a new millennium!) But that's only according to one calendar. Here's a culture-by-culture comparison of what year it is on January 1:

Jewish calendar -- Year 5760

This number represents the approximate years since the Earth was created. The year officially begins on the first day of the month of Tishrei, which falls some time in September.

Gregorian calendar -- Year 2000

The Western calendar used today is based on the movements of the sun. It was created by Pope Gregory XII in 1582, as an improvement on the Julian calendar, a blend of Roman and Egyptian ideas about time formulated by Julius Caesar. The number represents the approximate years since the birth of Jesus.

Muslim calendar -- Year 1420

Based on the only purely lunar calendar in wide use, the Muslim new year begins on the first day of the month of Murharram, typically in late spring or early summer. The number represents the approximate years since the emigration of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina.

Chinese calendar -- Year of the Rabbit

Each year of the Chinese calendar is represented by one of 12 animal symbols, similar to the zodiac. The Chinese new year begins some time in midwinter. Around Feb. 1, 2000, the year of the rabbit gives way to the year of the dragon.

Source: Columbia Encyclopedia