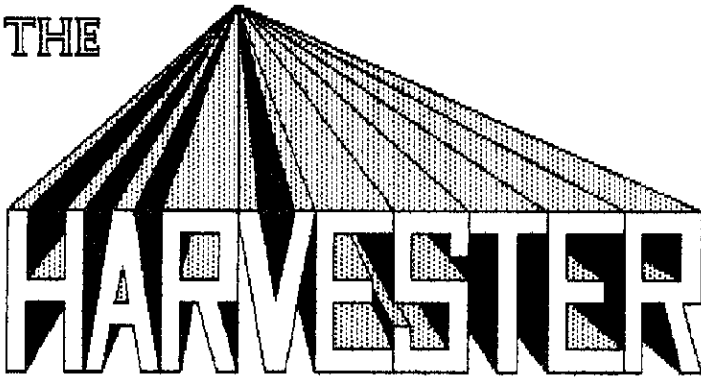


THE



"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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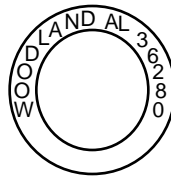
THE "MAN OF SIN"

[Editor's Note: This concludes last month's article. Items #1-9 were discussed in January.]

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 the Bible really does say about this. 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

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hinder the rise of this man (v.7)

4. Come with *"all power and signs and lying wonders, and ... deceivableness"* (vs. 8-9)

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, Daniel warns that this *"wicked"* one 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)

Now let us examine items #10-14:

10. *"Think to change times and laws"* (Dan. 7:25)

**Times --

The papacy claims to have changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. But simply consider the recorded practice of early Christians (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). The Sabbath was fulfilled and ceased to be observed. The first day of the week (Sunday) was recognized by early Christians.

Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar in

1582 from October 5 to October 15. This was done to adjust the Vernal Equinox from March 11 to March 21. He was correct in making this adjustment, but the fact is, HE DID IT as the Scriptures predicted he would. The calendar is no longer called the Julian Calendar, but rather the Gregorian. All sorts of days, seasons, and festivals are commonplace among the Roman Catholics (Gal. 4:10-11).

Laws--

****Prohibition against priests marrying.**

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry" (1 Tim. 4:1-3).

****Prohibition against eating red meat on Friday.**

Continuing 1 Tim. 4:3-5, *"And commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."*

Catholics again were permitted to eat December 5, 1966. Note that prohibition against red meat was a law contrary to God's will in the first place, but then the pope made another law authorizing it.

Instigating of all sorts of pagan and unscriptural practices such as image adoration, praying to saints, and sprinkling. *"Thus have ye made the*

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commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Matt. 15:6).

11. *"Have a dominating position for "a time and times and the dividing of times" (1260 years, Dan. 7:25).*

******Prophetic time is often counted as a day in prophecy to equal a year in actual time. *"Each day for a year"* (Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:6), and *"Till seven times pass over him"* (Dan. 4:23). Time would amount to 360 days/year, times to 720 days/year, and a *"dividing of times"* (half of a time) to 180 days/year, for a total of 1260 years.

Emperor Justinian decreed in his Justinian Code (533 A.D.) that the bishop of Rome be recognized *"rector ecclesia"* (lord of the church). *"Until"* (Dan. 7:25) indicated a limit to the pope's dominance. 1260 years beyond 533 A.D., therefore, would place that limit at the year 1793 A.D. (Rev. 11, 12, 13). It was at this very predicted time the French Revolution finally brought the papacy to its knees.

12. A beast with two horns (Rev. 13:12)

******"From the year 800 the master of this

vast domination was the emperor. During the Christmas festivities of that year Pope Leo III had placed upon his head the crown of the Caesars. Thus was consummated the alliance of the supreme head of German society and of the supreme head of the Church" (NEW AND COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, Francis T. Furney, Copyright 1906 by W.E. Scull, Page 110).

Repeating earlier comments at item 7, which also apply here, 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*" (Dan. 7:24) well predicted the pope's role as a spiritual, rather than a civil king. One horn symbolizes the papacy, the other the Holy Roman Empire.

13. One who would provide for making an image to the first beast (Rev. 13:14).

**The Holy Roman Empire, composed of ten countries which were basically Europe, existed in the same territory, assumed the same name, and in cooperation with the papacy, asserted itself in the same authoritative way as did the old Roman Empire.

14. One who has the number 666 (Rev. 13:18).

**While this number can be properly applied to numerous men throughout history:

Nero Caesar, whose name in Hebrew totals 666

Lateinos, whose name in Greek totals 666

Ronald Wilson Reagan, whose three names each contain six letters totaling 666

But when this number is considered in harmony with all the other required characteristics previously considered, it can apply to but one person in all history -- the pope.

The title often used by him and by those who refer to him is "vicarius fielii Dei." Using Latin numerical values for each of the letters used in Latin to denote numbers, this title totals 666.

Conclusion: The "man of sin" spoken of in the Scriptures can be only one man -- he who sits in the papal chair of the Roman Catholic Church.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What man made Solomon king over Israel?
2. What will happen to everyone who exalts himself?
3. What does Exodus 28 say would happen to Aaron if he did not wear the robe into the holy place of the tabernacle?
4. Which bird is not mentioned in the Bible: Dove, Falcon, Hawk, or Seagull?

5. From what family did Esau take his second wife?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. How old was Abraham when he died?
175 YEARS (Gen. 25:7)

2. What did Joshua tell the people concerning the good words spoken by God regarding them? NOT ONE WORD HAD FAILED (Josh. 23:14)

3. To what may Christians look forward, according to 1 Peter? AN INHERITANCE INCORRUPTIBLE (1 Pet. 1:4)

4. Who said, "Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people"? THE LORD (Jer. 15:1)

5. Into a herd of which kind of animal did Jesus cast the devils who possessed the two men from Gadarenes? A HERD OF SWINE (Matt. 8:32)

A BUSY LIFE

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
(2 Tim. 2:3-4)

(continued on page 8)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES

March
5 - 10

PLACE & TIME

Jigger, LA

SPEAKER

Wilbur Bass
(Auburn, AL)

* * * * *

(continued from page 7)

In this passage, Paul explains to Timothy the importance of not becoming too busy to follow the Lord. He speaks in the parable form as Jesus did, and makes his point well through the example of a soldier's life. No man who would go to battle for a certain cause would take his pet goldfish with him to the trenches. This would be crazy! Neither would he take along anything that would remove his efforts from the cause of the battle. To do this would be to "*entangle himself with the affairs of this life*" and increase his chances of losing the battle.

Paul told Timothy to be a "*good soldier of Jesus Christ*". He follows this with the soldier example, intending for Timothy to make a connection between the life of the soldier and the life of a Christian. Have we made the connection?

Yes, our lives are busy. Perhaps this is all the more reason why we should take Paul's advice and admonition to Timothy to heart. Let's not be so busy that we have no time for God! And remember the last part of the verse -- "*... that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*" Certainly we want Him to be pleased with us!

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