



# *discover authenticity*

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*Uncover the master counterfeit that challenges God's authority  
and learn how we can avoid deception*

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Amedeo Modigliani was an Italian painter and sculptor who became famous after his death at age 36, a death helped along by excessive drinking and drug use.

Around 1912, eight years before he died, Modigliani spent a summer in the Italian city of Livorno, where he pursued his sculpture. According to one story, he brought one of his sculptures to a cafe in order to show friends, who mocked it. Upset, Modigliani tossed it into a river outside the cafe. So ashamed at the ridicule, Modigliani, it was rumoured, then took a wheelbarrow with three more sculptures and dumped them all, wheelbarrow included, into a canal.

Well, in 1984, the curator of a museum in Livorno wanted the city to dredge the canal. They were celebrating the centenary of Modigliani's birth, and uncovering these works would be an incredible artistic coup. The city council agreed and, much to everyone's astonishment, an old wheelbarrow and three sculptures were brought out of the water - right in the spot where he had supposedly dumped them!

Not only did all the sculptures have all the special characteristics of Modigliani's work, they were suitably blackened in mud, showing apparently the decades of immersion. The experts agreed - these were real! One critic burst into tears upon seeing them. Prominent art historians declared them treasures, magical faces, splendid primitive heads, even a resurrection.

Only one problem. Weeks later, three local students said that they had built the counterfeits themselves, using hammers, chisels, screwdrivers, and a Black and Decker electric drill. They also explained what they did to age the fakes. The art critics, not ready to give up, demanded that the

students prove it. That was a mistake, because right on television the forgers reconstructed the Modiglianis in about four hours. The critic who had burst into tears upon first seeing the statues collapsed and had to be hospitalised. The experts - despite all their knowledge, authority and expertise - looked like fools. The big winner was Black and Decker, which ran an ad based on the stunt. It said: *It's easy to be talented with a Black and Decker.*

## THE DECEIVER

All this fits in very closely with a theme that runs through these booklets - that of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. As we have seen, we are all in a real battle, a real struggle for hearts and minds, and there are eternal consequences.

And, at the heart of this battle is deception, such as the kind pulled off by these art students.



***And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***

*Revelation 12:7-9*

Who deceives the whole world? That's an incredibly heavy, even frightful thought.

Of course, for a deception to work, those being deceived must not know it. Had the students not come forward, the fakes would be sitting in some museum as thousands of mesmerised visitors gaze at the fantastic masterworks of the great Modigliani.

What, then, about Satan's deceptions, the ones through which he deceives the entire world? Can we know what they are, and how to avoid being deceived ourselves? God warned us that the *lawless one* would come. See 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

## THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

So far, in these booklets, we have seen that salvation is by faith in Jesus alone, not by the works of the law. You'd have more chance of bringing a statue to life by stuffing food and water into its mouth than you do working your way to heaven.

At the same time, we can't forget Paul's words that, even though we are saved by grace, we cannot now sin with impunity:



***What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?***

*Romans 6:1-2*

Or:



***Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.***

*Romans 3:31*

Or the words of John:



***For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.***

*1 John 5:3*

Or James:



***For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.***

*James 2:10-11*

No question, grace does not nullify the law. On the contrary, the law which defines sin shows us our need of grace. Thus the law and the gospel are inseparable.

## THE GREAT IRONY REVISITED

As we have also seen, included in the heart of God's law is the Sabbath, the commandment to keep the *seventh day* - Saturday - holy.

The great irony is: Why is keeping the one commandment to rest, to refrain from works, deemed as salvation by works, when obedience to the other nine isn't?

## AMAZING ADMISSIONS

The issue of Sunday as the day of worship, as opposed to Saturday, gets even more interesting when many who keep Sunday admit that nothing in the Bible teaches that Sunday - the first day of the week, was to replace or to supersede Saturday - the seventh day.

Writing in a book entitled *The Lord's Day*, which promoted the keeping of Sunday, Samuel A. Cartledge conceded: *We must admit that we can point to no direct command that we cease observing the seventh day and begin using the first day.*

Concerning the change of Sabbath to Sunday, James Westberry - at one time the head of an organisation devoted to the promotion of Sunday worship - confessed: *There is no record or statement on the part of Jesus authorising such a change, nor is there recorded such a statement on the part of the apostles.*

Evangelical author Harold Lindsell, writing in the prestigious magazine *Christianity Today*, said: *There is nothing in the Scriptures that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day.*

And Roman Catholic James Cardinal Gibbons wrote: *You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorising the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.*

# THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL

Why, then, do most Christians keep the first day of the week when even those who keep it admit there's no biblical basis for the change from the seventh day to the first?

The key is found in the Old Testament book of Daniel, which, in an amazing prophecy, predicted many years beforehand that there would be an attempted change.

In Booklet 3, we studied a bit of Daniel 2, a prophecy covering the sweep of world history, starting in ancient Babylon and then finally ending with God's eternal kingdom.

To summarise the fulfilment of Daniel 2, the sequence of kingdoms was:

Babylon

Media-Persia

Greece

Rome - broken into the nations of Europe

God's kingdom

In the book of Daniel, this sequence of kingdoms is repeated in Chapter 7. But Chapter 7 gives more details, especially concerning the fourth kingdom, almost universally understood by Bible students through the centuries as Rome.

In Daniel 7, the prophet has a dream in which he sees four beasts rise out of the sea.



***In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. Daniel spoke, saying, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.***

*Daniel 7:1-3*

Later in the chapter, he is told that these four beasts represent *four kings* (Daniel 7:17), or kingdoms that will arise over the centuries - and these are the same four kingdoms of Daniel 2: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The chapter then ends with God's eternal kingdom, as did Daniel 2.

Daniel 7, however, spends a great deal of time on the fourth kingdom, Rome, and especially the little horn power that arises out of it:



***Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law.***

*Daniel 7:23-25*

## THE LITTLE HORN

There's so much in these texts worth exploring, but for now we will touch on only a few points.

Firstly, this little horn power, as it is called in Daniel 7:8, is a Roman power. It is not a separate beast, a separate power, as were the three beasts that preceded the fourth. This little horn power is, simply, another phase of Rome, and remains part of it.

The fourth beast is described earlier in the chapter as having *ten horns*. Daniel 7:7 The above verses interpret them as ten kings, or kingdoms, that will arise out of this fourth beast. This is reminiscent of the feet of Daniel 2 - ten toes. Daniel 7, as did Daniel 2, is predicting the breakup of the great pagan Roman Empire here. And, according to the text, this little horn power is described as uprooting three of those kingdoms in order to attain power.

It is also described as speaking *pompous words against the Most High*. This shows a religious dimension to this power, a dimension not emphasised in any of the other kingdoms.

This little horn will be different from the other kingdoms.

The little horn power will *persecute the saints of the Most High*.

And it will *intend to change times and law*.

Finally, this little horn power is described in the chapter as being in existence until the end of time, when God establishes His eternal kingdom, the same one described in Daniel 2:



***Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast ... and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.***

*Daniel 7:19-22*

Thus, because the little horn power is destroyed at the end of time, it must exist until the end of time.

## SOLELY, TOTALLY AND ONLY ROME

What one power alone fits this description? Only one - Papal Rome. It is a Roman power, coming directly out of pagan Rome. As political philosopher Thomas Hobbes wrote in one of the great political treatises of all time, *The Leviathan: If a man considers the origin of this great ecclesiastical dominion, he will easily perceive that the papacy is no other than the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned on the grace thereof.*

History shows that the papacy uprooted three kings in order to consolidate its position.

The papacy certainly was different from the other kingdoms.

The papacy is a religious power.

The papacy has persecuted people, such as in the Inquisition.

And it is still in existence today. And it would have to be, because according to the texts above it will exist until the end of this world.

Then, finally, another crucial characteristic is that it would think to change *times and law*. Daniel 7:25

Did the papacy do that as well? Though historically the change of the Sabbath to Sunday is rather involved, these few quotes - all from Roman Catholic sources - answer the question:

*Question - Which is the Sabbath day?*

*Answer - Saturday is the Sabbath day.*

*Question - Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?*

*Answer - We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea A.D. 364, transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, p.50, 3rd Edition, 1957*

*Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. The Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian worship from the biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday, and that to try to argue that the change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority. If Protestantism wants to base its teachings only on the Bible, it should worship on Saturday. Rome's Challenge, www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline, December 2003*

*Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts: 1) That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion,*

*should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man. 2) We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws. It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible. Peter R. Kraemer - Catholic Church Extension Society, 1975, Chicago, Illinois*

Many quotes like this exist, which show the origin of Sunday keeping, a practice that has no sanction in the Bible.

## DOES IT MATTER?

For starters, this is not an attack on individuals, particularly on those in the Roman church. This study is simply on what the Bible teaches about a religio-political system that has gone awry, and that has sought to usurp the authority belonging only to God.

Look at these texts:



***Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the***

***man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.***

*2 Thessalonians 2:3-4*

Paul here warns about a deception in which a power claims the prerogatives that belong only to God. This is what is meant by Anti-Christ, which means not merely against Christ but in place of Christ, usurpation of Christ - and what could be a greater usurpation than seeking to change God's law, especially the part that specifically points to Him as the Creator?

As we already saw, the seventh day is the biblical symbol, the biblical sign, the foundational sign of God as God Himself! In the creation story, embedded deep in it, is this sign of that work of creation, the seventh day. You can't get any farther back, without going to God Himself.



***And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.***

*Genesis 2: 2-3*

Thus, to usurp that sign of God as Creator is to usurp the role of God Himself!

Of course, the millions of folks who go to church on Sunday are not consciously seeking to usurp the role of God as Creator. Most simply don't

know. But that shouldn't be surprising, because, as we have read, Satan manages to deceive the whole world.

During the 2008 presidential election in the United States, the Obama campaign caused a ruckus when someone had created for candidate Obama his own version of a presidential seal - the sign, the symbol of the presidency.

Why the fuss? Because even though it was a fake - not even looking exactly like the real thing - it came close enough in symbolising the power, the authority, and office of the President of the United States, and at that time Barak Obama didn't have that power, authority or office.

Imagine, though, if the Obama campaign had made one that looked real and tried to pawn it off that way?

This is what has happened with the seventh-day Sabbath, the original sign of God's creative power and authority, being replaced with the first day, which is symbolic of another power, one seeking to usurp the place of God Himself.

Thus, the issue isn't merely about a day. Instead, it is about loyalty to the God who has called upon us to *worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water*. Revelation 14:7 This is language taken almost directly from the Sabbath commandment itself (Exodus 20:11) and, as such, is further reason why we should keep it, and by so doing, enjoy the rest in Christ that the seventh-day Sabbath has offered since the foundation of the world.

So how does this counterfeit fit into the epic story, this great controversy between Christ and Satan that is unfolding around us? Many major

events in this epic story are already history, but there are more to come. This counterfeit undermines God's authority, and it strikes at the very foundations of worship - who to worship, when to worship and why to worship. We are going to see how these issues of worship are played out on a global scale in the final warning, and the final struggle between right and wrong, truth and error, before Jesus comes the second time.

Is it important? Is this a serious matter? Deadly serious!!

# 1260 DAYS

What's so special about 21 May 1988, 6 September 1994, 21 May 2011 and 21 Oct 2011? Nothing much, except that those were the days that the world was supposed to have ended. Claiming to have discovered a numeric code in the Bible, radio preacher Harold Camping gave these as the dates on which true Christians were to be taken to heaven, while those remaining on terra firma would face ultimate destruction.

Didn't quite happen though, did it?

All through history people have used the Bible to come up with dates for various end-time events. In most cases - and in all cases where they have predicted the end of the world - they have obviously been wrong. Yet hardly a year goes by when someone isn't making bold predictions about some future event, all based upon some supposed numeric code that they have discovered in the Bible.

Such predictions deceive gullible people, confuse others, destroy the faith of many, and in general make all Christians look bad - even the vast majority who don't believe such predictions any more than a typical atheist does. Jesus said of His second coming: *... of that day and hour no one knows ...* Matthew 24:36 He said we could tell when it is *near* - not when it is here. Matthew 24:33

But God has included a time element in many prophecies, none of which refer to the time of His second coming. So as we take God's word seriously, we need to consider these time prophecies.

## PURPOSE OF PROPHECY

Failed predictions help show just how right physicist Niels Bohr was when he quipped: *It is very hard to make an accurate prediction - especially about the future.*

Those who make these predictions, as well as those deceived by them, could spare themselves a lot of embarrassment and hurt if they understood the purpose of Bible prophecy and why God gave prophecy to us.



***So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near - at the doors!***

*Mark 13:29*



***Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.***

*John 13:19*



***And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.***

*John 14:29*

Jesus is saying that the purpose of prophecy is to help affirm faith when we see it fulfilled. Those who have heard the prophecies, then see them fulfilled, have their faith strengthened. Prophecy isn't so much to help us tell the future, though that's part of it. But rather prophecy becomes most powerful when predicted events come to pass, even events that have happened long ago.

In a sense, prophecy is as much about the past as it is the future.

## DANIEL 2

For instance, we have already studied the amazing prophecy of Daniel 2, which covered the scope of world history, from ancient Babylon - more than six hundred years before Christ - right up to our day and beyond.

The sequence of Daniel 2, which was symbolised by a statue made of various metals, could be summarised like this:

Babylon

Media-Persia

Greece

Rome

Kingdom of God

Looking back today, we can see how accurately all those predictions about the earthly kingdoms - made 600 years before Christ – were fulfilled.

Think, though, about the advantage we have today in regard to these prophecies in contrast to someone who lived, for instance, in the time of Media-Persia. They didn't have anywhere near the historical confirmation of the prophecies that we do living in our day and age. The predictions, which were fulfilled, help confirm our faith in the Word of God.

## DANIEL 7

We also saw in the study on the change of the Sabbath to Sunday, that Daniel 7 presents the same sequence as did Daniel 2, only in more detail. In that chapter, Daniel the prophet had a dream in which four beasts rose out of the sea.



***In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. Daniel spoke, saying, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.***

*Daniel 7:1-3*

Later in the chapter, he is told that these four beasts represent *four kings* (Daniel 7:17) or kingdoms that will arise over the centuries - the same kingdoms of Daniel 2: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The chapter then ends with God's eternal kingdom, as did Daniel 2.

Daniel 7, however, spends a great deal of time on the fourth kingdom - Rome - and especially the little horn power that arises out of it, which we saw was Papal Rome. Daniel 7 also gave a depiction of a heavenly judgment that takes place after a phase of Rome but before the kingdom of God at the Second Coming.



***I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and***

***ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.***

*Daniel 7:8-10 (KJV)*

It's after this judgment in this prophecy that God sets up his eternal kingdom. Thus, if you were to place Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 together, they would look like this:

<b>Daniel 2</b>	<b>Daniel 7</b>
Babylon	Babylon
Media-Persia	Media-Persia
Greece	Greece
Rome	Rome (pagan/papal)
	<b>Heavenly Judgment</b>
God's Eternal Kingdom	God's Eternal Kingdom

## A TIME PROPHECY

If we go back to Daniel 7, specifically the little horn power that is part of the fourth beast - Rome - we are given the first prophetic time prophecy in the book of Daniel. This is crucial because it helps us understand firstly how time prophecies work, and secondly how to decode many of the time prophecies in the Bible.

Here again, for review, is part of the prophecy concerning the fourth power of Daniel 7 - Rome - both in its pagan and then papal stage:



***Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.***

*Daniel 7:23-25*

Talking about the second phase of Rome, it says that *the saints* - a term for God's faithful people - will be persecuted by the little horn power. Those who know European history know the sad story of the centuries of persecution by the official church upon those who based their beliefs on the Word of God rather than tradition.

For how long?



***Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.***

*Daniel 7:25*

What is this *time and times and half a time*?

Firstly, it's obviously a reference to time!

Secondly, this is the first prophetic time period introduced into the symbolism of Daniel 2 and Daniel 7.

Thirdly, this time period does not point to the destruction of the little horn power or the second coming of Jesus.

What does *a time and times and half a time* mean? A *time* is simply one year, *times two years*, and *half a time* half a year. Thus it is a prophetic way of saying three and a half years.

Let's see the evidence for this.

## THE DANIEL – REVELATION CONNECTION

It is saying that for this period - this three and a half years - the saints will be given into the little horn's hands, a reference to the verse when it said that he would *persecute the saints of the Most High*. Daniel 7:25 The persecution would last for this time period. Revelation 13 depicts this same power (using different symbols) resurging in the end times and playing a role in the final crisis. The point is, Rome doesn't end here; just this phase of its persecution does. It will return.

Talking about the same event - the persecution of the church - though using different symbolic language, the book of Revelation reads:



***But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.***

*Revelation 12:14*

Notice the *time, times and half a time*, just as in Daniel 7:25.

## SAME TIME – DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS

Again, the same picture - the woman in the wilderness, for the same length of time - is depicted a few verses earlier in Revelation like this:



***Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.***

*Revelation 12:6*

So the Bible begins to interpret itself as we compare texts together. Thus we have the same period of time for the same event expressed differently here: a time, times, and dividing of time = a thousand two hundred and three score days (1260 days).

Further, notice that in the following text from the book of Revelation, the language is very similar to Daniel 7 in talking about the little horn. Notice, too, the time frame given in this text as well:



***And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.***

*Revelation 13:5*

Remember what Daniel said about the little horn?



***He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.***

*Daniel 7:25*

Now, look at this verse again:



***And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.***

*Revelation 13:5*

How long is 42 months?

12 months                      1 year

24 months                      2 years

6 months                      Half a year

**TOTAL:** 42 months                      3½ years!

And, as we have already seen, three and a half years equals 1260 days. Thus, the 42 months, the three and half years, and the 1260 days of these prophecies are all talking about the same time span.

3½ years = 42 months = 1260 days

Thus we can confidently conclude that in prophetic time, a year is 360 days, because three and half years equals 1260 days. We are not talking about years in our calendar, but biblical prophetic years, which are 360 days each.

One year                      360 days

Two years                      720 days

Half a year                      180 days

**TOTAL:** 3½ years                      1260 days

These verses taken together give us a firm foundation for understanding the meaning of the prophetic time given in these parallel texts.

## JESUS AND HIS PEOPLE

Notice this: Revelation 12:1-4 talks about the dragon attacking the boy child - who was Jesus. This attack started at His birth, was unleashed with ferocity from the time of Jesus' baptism, and continued for the three and a half years of His ministry - 27 to 31AD. This was literally 3½ years, or 42 months, or 1260 days. That's interesting!

Then the texts (Revelation 12: 6,14) say that the dragon (Satan) turns his attack on the woman (the church). And how long does he do this for? As we have seen – 3½ years, 42 months or 1260 days.

## THE DAY-YEAR PRINCIPLE

If taken literally however, these verses, talking about the period of persecution inflicted by the established church in Daniel and Revelation, show we have a big problem. Anyone who knows history knows that the church held political and religious dominance for almost all European history - from the establishment of the Roman Church about half a millennium after the cross up until practically the 19th century. How could the text say that persecution lasted only three and a half literal years?

God has used a symbolic representation of time. We have discovered, by comparing texts, that a symbolic period represents a longer literal period. This is known as the day-year principle. It simply means that, in prophetic time, a day equals a year.

For instance, look at these texts:



***According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.***

*Numbers 14:34*

Each day was paralleled to a year. One day, one year. Forty days, forty years. Hence, we see the day-year key to time prophecy.

Here is another:



***And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.***

*Ezekiel 4:6*

Again, we see a day for a year; hence, the day-year principle.

## ANOTHER QUESTION

How can we be sure that this principle should be applied to the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation?

Good question.

As pointed out earlier in this booklet, the purpose of prophecy has just as much to do with confirming our faith, as it has for giving us hope for the future. Also in Booklet 4 we have seen that there are hundreds of prophecies that pointed to the Messiah - the anointed one, and were fulfilled in Jesus Christ - the anointed one.

One of those Messianic prophecies includes a time prophecy found in Daniel 9. It pin points the time of Jesus' baptism and of His crucifixion.

The Daniel 9 prophecy is for 70 weeks. If taken literally - one year 18 weeks, or 490 literal days - it makes no sense at all. But being part of a symbolic prophecy, it makes good sense to interpret it prophetically - one prophetic day representing one literal year. When we do that, then it makes perfect sense. And Jesus fulfilled that symbolic prophecy exactly when the day-year principle is understood and applied. That is history now. The fulfillment of that prophecy confirms our faith, and gives us assurance that we are on safe ground in interpreting prophetic time by applying the day-year principle.

Further, Daniel 7, as did Daniel 2, covers thousands of years of history - from the Babylonian empire, to the time of Christ, through the dark ages, to our time and beyond into the future. More than 2600 years are covered here.

Taken literally as 1260 days, 42 months or 3½ years - the prophecy makes no sense. The persecution and exploits of the little horn power were played out over centuries - even more than a millennium! But when we use the biblical day-year key to symbolic time prophecy, then history fulfills the prophecy.

Remember, this is symbolic prophecy - look again at Daniel 7. The prophecy is not about a lion that has eagle's wings, or about a leopard with four heads, or about a beast with iron teeth, or about a talking horn. Those are all symbols, images pointing to things larger and other than themselves.

So amid all these prophetic symbols, none of which are to be taken literally, does it not make sense to take the time prophecy as symbolic and not literal as well?

The same is true for the prophecy in the book of Revelation in Chapter 13. That refers to the same power doing the same things for the same period of time. And notice - it was still future in John the Revelator's day!



***But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.***

*Revelation 12:14*



***Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.***

*Revelation 12:6*

Revelation isn't talking about a literal woman with the wings of an eagle hiding from a serpent. Those are symbols of the church being persecuted and having to flee and hide. If all those are symbolic, it's both biblical and logical for the time prophecy to be symbolic as well.

## THE PERSECUTION

What do we have here?

Regarding the little horn, we have a religious power, an extension of Roman power, a persecuting power, a power that arises directly out of

pagan Rome, a power that extends across a span of time covering at least 1260 years.

What else is there other than Papal Rome? It fits perfectly. If one begins the 1260 years in the 6th century, the beginning of Papal political control, then the 1260 years end somewhere in the late 18th or early 19th century, when Papal political control pretty much ended. In fact, some scholars have given exact dates: 538 AD - a pivotal year in Papal Rome's ascension to political power, to the year 1798 - when French General Berthier entered Rome and took the Pope captive.

The important point for us here is - with the application of the day-year principle, we can see how this prophecy spans through much of European history and into the beginning of the modern age.

The rise of the antichrist power and the long period of persecution were prophesied by God. God is telling us that in this Epic story He is still in control. All these prophecies end with the establishment of God's eternal kingdom and the end of rebellion. Now that gives us hope; that's something to which we can look forward.









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