

Let's open our Bibles, as we did in the previous study to Revelation 14.

We began by reading Revelation 14:9

⁹A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, ¹⁰he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

This has to be the most serious warning in all of Scripture! The Bible warns against worshipping the beast, his image or receiving his mark. In fact the Bible says that anyone that worships the beast or receives his mark will be lost. Now, if God in his love provides this strong warning, doesn't it make sense that God would then tell us how to identify the beast? Sure. So in the last study we started reading about the beast in Revelation 13.

Revelation 13:1-3 *¹And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. ²The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.*

After reading those verses we began to put together some clues to help us identify this beast.

The first thing we noticed was that the beast rises up out of the sea. Do you remember what water represents in Bible prophecy?

Revelation 17:15 says the water represents multitudes of people, nations and tongues.

Then as we started looking at the beast and noticed the different parts; head of the lion, feet of the bear, body of a leopard and the 10 horns we discovered that the entire chapter of Daniel chapter 7 speaks at length about this 'animals' which are actually kingdoms.

So let's turn again to Daniel Chapter 7.

You see, when you are studying Revelation and there is something you do not understand, there is a very good chance you will find it in Daniel. The same is true for Daniel. These two books go together like kiwifruit and spoons.

In Chapter 7, which is Daniel's vision, Daniel saw four great beasts that rose out of the sea.

- The first was a lion that we learned represented Babylon
- The second was a bear that we learned represented Media-Persia
- The third was a leopard that we learned represented Greece
- And the fourth, a non-descript beast representing Rome

Then Daniel wanted to know specifically about the fourth kingdom (see verses 19, 20) – almost like a pointer to the reader to pay more attention. Daniel 7:24 explained that these 10 horns are 10 kingdoms that shall arise out of the fall of the Roman Empire. And sure enough we learned last night that indeed when Rome fell in 476AD, it did not fall to a single power, but instead it was divided into 10 separate kingdoms.

And here we see those ten divisions of the Roman Empire:

The ALAMANNI (German), VISIGOTHS (Spanish), FRANKS (French), SUEVI (Portuguese), BURGUNDIANS (Swiss-Austrian), ANGLO SAXONS (English), LOMBARDS (Italian) and the HERULI, VANDALS, and OSTRO-GOTHS.

That alone was amazing enough, but then Dan 7:8 added something even more amazing.

Let's go back and look at Daniel 7:8

⁸ *"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.*

We became VERY interested in the little horn, why? Because this little horn of Daniel 7 is the very same power of the beast of Revelation 13. We saw in Daniel 7 that the Bible gave us several identifying points which would help us identify this little horn and thereby the beast. Here is a list of those points.

1. Rose up among the divide kingdoms
2. Rose after 476 A.D.
3. A little horn
4. Uproots 3 horns
5. Has the eyes of a man
6. Is different from the others
- 7 Speaks against the Most High
8. Oppresses His Saints
9. Try to change times and Laws
10. Rules the saints for time, times and half a time (1260 days/ years)

Take a moment to review the 10 characteristics the Bible gives us that identify the antichrist. After we went though all these points, it was obvious who the Bible was talking about. In fact, **there is only one power that fits all these identifying marks and that is the kingdom of papal Rome, or the Holy Roman Empire, which is the only religio-political power in the world that started back then and is still in existence today!!!**

Now it is very important that we make a very clear distinction between this kingdom – Papal Rome, and the people of the Catholic church. **God is not talking about the many God-fearing people who make up the body of the Catholic Church, He is talking about a kingdom or a power** – in this case the kingdom of Papal Rome – the Vatican, or the Papacy as it is also known.

I want to make that clear, because God makes that clear. The Catholic Church has many, many wonderful loving, dedicated Christians, and God is not talking about them.

So now I want to take it a step further. I want to go back to Revelation 13 and I want you to see the SIMILARITIES between this beast and the little horn of Dan 7.

Revelation 13:1 ¹*And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. ²The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been*

healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. ⁴Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

⁵The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. ⁶He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. ⁷He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ⁸All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

⁹He who has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

Verse 16 ¹⁶He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, ¹⁷so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. ¹⁸This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

Do you catch the similarities? Let's list them.

The Beast of Rev 13	The Little Horn of Daniel 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the number of a man. • Makes war with the saints of the most High. • Opened his mouth in blasphemy against God. • Receives its power, seat, and authority after the break up of Rome. • Has characteristics of leopard, bear, lion and dragon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the eyes of a man. • Wears out the saints of the most High. • Speaks great words against the most High. • Comes up among the ten horns (divisions of Rome). • Follows lion, bear, leopard and unnamed terrible beast.

As we continue, we need to ask an important question—

Where did the beast get all its power to rule the world and its authority?

The answer is found in Revelation 13:2

²The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. **The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.**

Wow, now that is interesting. God said it is the dragon that gave this beast its power, its seat and great authority.

So the next obvious question is...**who is the dragon?** **The answer may in fact shock you and it is found in the previous chapter, Rev 12.**

Revelation 12:7 ⁷And **there was war in heaven**. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

The dragon is none other than the Devil and Satan himself! **Is God saying that it is the devil and Satan that is behind the beast power of Rev 13? How can this be?** To understand the relationship between the dragon and the beast we need to understand a little more about where the dragon came from.

The Bible says there was war in heaven. How did this war happen in a perfect place like heaven? Let me give you a little history – it's important to understand this as it helps us to understand a great deal about the great fight that rages between Christ and Satan. You see Satan wasn't always opposed to God. There was a time when he served and worshipped God. The Bible says that God created Lucifer as the highest of all angels, next to the throne of God.

Apparently one day Lucifer (Luci-light, fero-bearer) was not satisfied with simply being next to the throne of God, and iniquity/sin was found in him. You see he wanted to be No.1 – in the place of God. He wanted to be Most High

Isaiah describes it in detail...Isaiah 14:12

¹² *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star (KJV Lucifer), son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!* ¹³ *You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain."* ¹⁴ *I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."*

So sin and rebellion broke out in heaven. Lucifer began to raise questions among the angels about the will and character of God. Asking questions like, "God doesn't want the best for us – He just wants us to do what He asks because He's just scared that if we don't, we'll become like Him." And "God can't be trusted – He's not who He says He is."

He began to spread his discontent among the other angels in an effort to turn them against God. Lucifer spread his rebellion across heaven to many of the other angels. No doubt there were efforts on the part of God to reason with Lucifer to turn back from his rebellion, but to no avail – Lucifer hardened his heart and took his stand against God.

As a result there was war in heaven – between the Creator and the created – God and Lucifer. The Bible tells us that as a result, Lucifer/Satan and all of the angels that were loyal to him were cast out of heaven. Rev 12:7 indicates that up to a third of the angels joined forces with Lucifer and lost their place in heaven.

Where did they end up? They were cast to the earth - notice in **Verse 9**, ⁹*The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

And once here on earth he continued his work of rebellion against God. This really sums up what Satan is all about. His desire was to be worshipped in the place of God. His evil trade among the angels only continued when he reached our planet – he set to work trying to lead humanity to rebel against God.

Now this may very well be the most important thing you can learn in this seminar. He trades in rebellion against the will and character of God (because he hates God and he hates anyone that is important to God) and his favorite tool is DECEPTION.

In fact, this verse says the devil which deceives the whole world. Incidentally, has there ever been a time when the devil has in fact, deceived the entire world? Yes, in the garden of Eden.

You remember when God created Adam and Eve; he put them in the Garden of Eden. And there God also created the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He told Adam and Eve not to go near it, not to touch it and not to eat it. So long as they stayed within God's will they would live in the garden and enjoy it for ever.

But the devil deceived Eve into eating the fruit from the tree, and then she gave the fruit to her husband. After having fallen into sin, God then gives the very first prophecy in the entire Bible. Let's read it together Genesis 3:15...

Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵ *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

Notice the differences. There is Satan, and the woman. Satan will bring forth a seed, so will the woman. God was saying that the serpent would strike at the seed of the woman, but that same seed would deal a death-blow to Satan. Of course this was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

Now when God speaks prophetically, a woman always represents the church, or God's faithful people. Also throughout scripture, Jesus is referred to as the Bridegroom; His church is referred to as His Bride

And these two seeds – the seed of the woman and the seed of the dragon can be seen throughout the history of the Bible – those who did things their way, and those who did things God's way. Those who worship God their way and those who worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

These two sides were immediately seen in the first two children born.

Cain and Abel. Abel obeyed God's word and offered the proper sacrifice – the lamb – and it was accepted by God. Cain substituted or used a counterfeit of God's word and brought his own sacrifice – vegetables – and God did not accept it.

This has always been the trademark of the devil's side, to substitute, to counterfeit the will and character of God.

'Doing it my way' instead of God's way usually appeals to human reasoning instead of faith, doesn't it? Think about the issue of the sacrifice that Cain and Abel made. You can begin to reason and justify Cain bringing a sacrifice of fruits and vegetables as being a whole lot better than killing a little innocent animal. I mean we are talking about a gory, bloody scene—it seems to make sense, but it was contrary to the will of God. That's why Hebrews 11:4 reminds us that "*By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did...*" FAITH IN GOD'S WORD, NOT FEELING OR CONVENIENCE IS THE HALLMARK OF TRUE FOLLOWERS OF GOD. Wouldn't you agree?

After Cain murdered his brother Abel, his descendants began to corrupt the earth until the time of Noah. The devil tried hard to lead the whole world astray again, for if he was successful then the

prophecy of the "seed of the woman" would never come. He very nearly succeeded! How do we know this?

There were only eight people left on earth who were true to God: Noah and his family. So in order to preserve humanity, God had to intervene and start again with Noah's family and so he had them build the ark. But then after destroying the earth and its inhabitants, in the flood, almost immediately, we see the two sides emerge again.

Not content to worship God, the people of the earth began to build the tower of Babel to make a name for themselves. Again God intervened, and partway through the construction of the city with a huge tower, God confused the languages of all the people. In their confusion they had to stop work. Incidentally that's where the city got its name – Babel / Babylon which means 'confusion'. (When we encounter **Babylon** in the book of Revelation it **refers to Spiritual Confusion – a mixture of truth and error** – something God calls His people to come out of to worship Him in Spirit and in truth).

We've talked a little about Babylon already, but here in Babylon, Satan began a new plan for destroying the knowledge of God in the world. He began a new system of worship, revolving around the planetary gods of the sun, moon, and stars.

Here astrology was born. Idolatry began. The occult, pagan philosophies and false teachings were all created in Babylon, all for one purpose: to lead the world away from the truth of the Bible and the knowledge of God.

This system of falsehood began to spread rapidly. Many of the teachings of Babylon very naturally were also part of successive kingdoms – Medo-Persia, then Greece, and finally Rome.

By this time we find that even God's chosen people, the Jews have been duped into worshipping God their way instead of His way, and confusion about God and how to truly worship Him was all but lost.

It was then, at earth's darkest hour that God again intervened. The prophecy of Genesis 3:15 was about to be fulfilled. The seed of the woman was to come. Let's see it happen.

Revelation 12:1-5, *¹A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. ⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.*

Let's see what this is. The dragon is Satan. The woman is the church. Notice though, the dragon has seven heads. What do these seven heads represent?

Revelation 17:9 *⁹"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.*

These heads represent seven mountains. Rome is the place on earth is known as the city of seven hills.

So we have Satan (the dragon) waiting to devour the seed of the woman when He is born and the Bible says the dragon would use the power of Rome to do it.

The seed of the woman is obviously Jesus Christ. And true to the prophecy, the devil tried to kill him THROUGH ROME before he could carry out his mission.

The Gospels tell us of a Roman Census (see Luke 2:1-7). At 9 months pregnant Mary had to ride 100km on the back of a donkey. This was enough to kill a child. Once born, Satan used the Roman ruler Herod, to try killing Jesus by slaughtering all the boys under the age of 2. However, Jesus was protected (see Matthew 2:13-18).

Jesus grew up, he lived and then died on the cross of Calvary. This was the temporary wound or "bruised heel," that was prophesied. In dying for our sins on the cross he defeated the Devil's plans to keep people out of heaven thus crushing the serpent's head.

The tables were turned. Jesus Christ had restored the good news that God loves sinful people and has done everything to try and save them.

With this good news, Christianity began to spread rapidly and the knowledge of God and His Word was quickly carried to the world. The devil's plan had again been thwarted, and he was unhappy about it. In the early years of the Christian church, Satan tried to stop God's truth by persecution, by force. Through which power? ROME!

Unfortunately, his plan again backfired because 'the blood of the martyrs were the seed of the Gospel'. It all failed. Now what was Satan to do? It was then that he came up with his greatest strategy of all. "If you can't beat them, JOIN THEM!" Satan then began his MASTER PLAN. You remember his favorite tool is leading people away from God. His DECEPTION. We see that as time developed, many of the errors of Spiritual Babylon made their way to centre stage in the church of the day, effectively leading the world into an age of spiritual darkness. In fact we know it as the DARK AGES.

As Satan introduced pagan ideas and teachings into the Church, the result was spiritual confusion and darkness with all sorts of counterfeits for the truth of God. This is why the beast of Revelation 13 is pictured as being made up of the four beasts of Daniel 7, with the body of the leopard, feet of the bear, heads of the lion, and ten horns from the fourth beast. The pagan teachings of Babylon and the kingdoms that followed Babylon had made their way into the church to the point where the church was no longer his pure bride. She had become a prostitute, as depicted in Revelation 17. The beast power of Revelation 13 became a persecuting power herself during the 1260 years. Satan's plan was successful, for a time.

(On night 15 we're going to see how God restored a knowledge of truth to the church and brought his people out of the dark ages), but you may be wondering how error found it's way into the church so easily. The reason the Dark Ages got that name was because there was no light. Yet verse 6 tells us that God still had his faithful people all through this time. The Scriptures were not commonly available to the people, so they were dependent on whatever the church told them to believe. In an environment like that it doesn't take much at all for error to creep into the church. Without the Bible we have no way of knowing any better. Hence our FOREVER series!

Here are a few examples to illustrate how a teaching from Babylon can walk into our homes and churches and we don't even realize it. We'll select two examples everyone can be comfortable with.

Every year the entire Christian community celebrates Easter as the resurrection of Jesus. We know it cannot be the day of His resurrection because Easter is seldom on the same DATE. Easter always

comes the first Sunday after the first full moon, after the equinox. Long before Christianity, Babylon had a goddess named "Ishtar," the goddess of reproduction. In the spring she was honored as the giver of all new life. Eggs, a symbol of fertility, were worshipped, and rabbits, prolific reproducers, were also worshipped. That's where we get Easter rabbits and Easter eggs! Ishtar's day was always celebrated the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the equinox. As we progress through history, we come to Rome around 300 A.D. Constantine, the ruler, claimed he had become a Christian. He simply took Ishtar's day and transferred it to honor JESUS CHRIST the giver of life, on EASTER. Papal Rome continued this, and during the time that it ruled this teaching simply became a tradition that the Christian church followed.

That's why all Christians celebrate Easter. Now nothing is wrong with a celebration of the Lord's resurrection, this is just one illustration of how a pagan teaching can easily come into the church, and no one even questions it! You want one more? What about Christmas on December 25? Do you know where it comes from?—you guessed it, Babylon.

In Babylon the SUN was worshipped as the supreme god. As the year progressed and the days grew shorter the people feared the sun was leaving them.

On December 22 the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, they began conducting long rituals and sacrifices to the sun god, appealing for it to return for another year.

On December 25 they could determine the day was getting longer again and on this day they held a great celebration rejoicing in the re-birth of the sun! This was practiced from the time of Babylon up to Rome.

Constantine did the same thing here. He substituted the birth of the sun in the sky for the birth of the Son of God - Jesus Christ. Papal Rome continued the practice and it became accepted as truth, and that's why many Christians celebrate December 25! Again, there's nothing wrong with celebrating the birth of Christ. There are some good things about Christmas and there are some bad things.

Let me say, I don't get too excited over Easter and Christmas, but it should raise our conscious level to ask the question, "If these things slipped in so easily, could there be other things too?"

Could there be teachings and practices that DO contradict the Word of God? Yes! There is MUCH more than you might EVER imagine!

God warns the world of it in these words of Revelation 18:2-3 *²With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. ³For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."*

God says the nations are DRUNK with the wine of Babylon and its false teachings. And through this drunken stupor God's Word shines giving the invitation of **verse 4**, *⁴Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;*

Come out of her MY people. God says HIS people are in Babylon, and He invites them to come out and worship in spirit and TRUTH. We are not able to cover everything in detail in this lesson, but this issue affects you more that you will ever know. I will be getting into that more in future subjects.

Well, there is one last mark of identification. Revelation 13:16-18 *¹⁶He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, ¹⁷so that*

no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. ¹⁸This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

Bible prophecy has told us the Antichrist beast has a man at its head. That man is the one who speaks for it - the Pope. The Bible says his number is 666.

The Latin alphabet is used a lot by the Church of Rome. As you know, Roman letters have numerical value. Every person's name also had a number because of the Roman alphabet having numerical value. God is simply telling us it is the number of a man, and his number adds up to 666.

In the official Roman Catholic weekly magazine, OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, April 18, 1915, this question was asked in the question and answer column: "What are the letters inscribed in the Pope's crown, and what do they signify if anything." Here's the answer given according to the Catholic magazine itself: "The letters inscribed in the Pope's miter are these: VICARIUS FILII DEI which is the Latin for Vicar of the Son of God."

VICARIUS FILII DEI is one of the most exalted titles of the Roman pontiff and is the official name of the Pope. Computing the value of the Roman Numerals, we discover an amazing fact:

V = 5

I = 1

C = 100

A = no value

R = no value

I = 1

U = 5

S = no value

112

F = no value

I = 1

L = 50

I = 1

I = 1

53

D = 500

E = no value

I = 1

501

Total = 666

If you add up the numerical value, you'll find out Vicarius = 112, Filii = 53, Dei = 501 - and it equals the number 666. Now, that in itself is amazing. But he has four more names in Latin - official titles given in Catholic literature - every one of them adds up to 666; he has three names in Greek, two names in Hebrew, all adding up to 666. Here in Greek and Hebrew transliterations are other names or titles of the Pope.

LATEINOS in Greek means Latin man or Church.

L = 30 lambda

A = 1 alpha
 T = 300 tau
 E = 5 epsilon
 I = 10 iota
 N = 50 nu
 O = 70 omicron
 S = 200 sigma

666

ROMIITH in Hebrew means Roman Kingdom.

R = 200 resh
 O = 6 waw (vav)
 M = 40 mem
 I = 10 yod
 I = 10 yod
 TH = 400 taw

666

The Greek **HE LATINE BASILEIA**, means the Latin Kingdom.

H = 0 (transliterated)
 E = 8 eta
 L = 30 lambda
 A = 1 alpha
 T = 300 tau
 I = 10 iota
 N = 50 nu
 E = 8 eta
 B = 2 beta
 A = 1 alpha
 S = 200 sigma
 I = 10 iota
 L = 30 lambda
 E = 5 epsilon
 I = 10 iota
 A = 1 alpha

666

Here is the Papal Church in Greek with its numeral values. **ITALIKA EKKLESIA**, which means Italian Church.

I = 10 iota
 T = 300 tau
 A = 1 alpha
 L = 30 lambda
 I = 10 iota
 K = 20 kappa

A = 1 alpha
E = 5 epsilon
K = 20 kappa
K = 20 kappa
L = 30 lambda
E = 8 eta
S = 200 sigma
I = 10 iota
A = 1 alpha

666

One of the early names for the Pope was **PONTIFEX MAXIMUS**. This in Latin means Supreme Pontifex. The Pope has had a number of titles down through the centuries. Here are two in Latin with their meanings:

DUX CLERI - Captain of the Clergy.

LUDO VICUS - Chief Vicar of the Court of Rome.

Here are the titles of the Pope with numerical values for the Roman numerals:

D = 500
U = 5
X = 10
C = 100
L = 50
E = no value
R = no value
I = 1

666

L = 50
U = 5
D = 500
O = no value
V = 5
I = 1
C = 100
U = 5
S = no value

666

I know you don't hear much about this anymore, but did you know 30 years ago, this same message was preached in just about every protestant church. Read these quotes....

Martin Luther (1483-1546) (Lutheran): Based on prophetic studies, Martin Luther finally declared, "We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the

seat of the true and real Antichrist." (Aug. 18, 1520). Taken from *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, by LeRoy Froom. Vol. 2., pg. 121.

John Calvin (1509-1564) (Presbyterian): "Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman pontiff Antichrist. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself, after whom we speak and whose language we adopt... I shall briefly show that (Paul's words in II Thess. 2) are not capable of any other interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy." Taken from *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, by John Calvin.

Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) (Anglican): "Whereof it followeth Rome to be the seat of antichrist, and the pope to be very antichrist himself. I could prove the same by many other scriptures, old writers, and strong reasons." (Referring to prophecies in Revelation and Daniel.) *Works by Cranmer*, Vol. 1, pp. 6-7.

Roger Williams (1603-1683) (First Baptist Pastor in America): Pastor Williams spoke of the Pope as "the pretended Vicar of Christ on earth, who sits as God over the Temple of God, exalting himself not only above all that is called God, but over the souls and consciences of all his vassals, yea over the Spirit of Christ, over the Holy Spirit, yea, and God himself...speaking against the God of heaven, thinking to change times and laws; but he is the son of perdition (II Thess. 2)." *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, by Froom, Vol. 3, pg. 52.

John Wesley (1703-1791) (Methodist): Speaking of the Papacy, John Wesley wrote, "He is in an emphatical sense, the Man of Sin, as he increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is, too, properly styled the Son of Perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his opposers and followers... He it is...that exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped...claiming the highest power, and highest honour...claiming the prerogatives which belong to God alone." *Antichrist and His Ten Kingdoms*, by John Wesley, pg. 110.

In closing this lesson, let's read the same warning from God we read at the beginning

Revelation 14: 9-10 ⁹*A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, ¹⁰he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.*

This lesson carries a serious warning. Let us remind ourselves of Satan's strategy to lead us to rebel against the will and character of God - his favorite tool is DECEPTION.

"We're not hearing much about the antichrist today instead, what are we hearing? "You don't have to be concerned about the Antichrist, because you are not even going to be here". Jesus is going to come and rapture his people and take them to heaven, then the antichrist will rise." DON'T BELIEVE THIS LIE!!

It sounds so favorable, but in fact it will prove to be a deadly error - We have seen how Satan will attempt again to lead the whole world astray – our only surety is in understanding the Bible. It is a sure foundation.

Application:

Psalm 119: 11 *"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You."* Is this your desire?

In John 8: 32 Jesus said *"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."*

And verse 36 *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*

Are you one of God's children caught in the bondage of Babylonian teachings? His desire is to set you free through a relationship with Jesus.

Will you accept His invitation in Revelation 18:4 ?

"Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues."