

THE APOSTACY

THE APOSTASY OF THE ORIGINAL CHURCH

1. "Upon this rock I will build The Bible and the Book of description of that church. (See By this time the temple had been 2:19-22 tells us that the church temple, or the abode of God.



my church" (Mat. 16:18) Mormon contain the Revelation 11:1) John and those who worship in it. destroyed, but Ephesians was now considered the

Christ had called

His ministry, taught **His doctrine**, placed **special ordinances**, **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Apostles	Faith	Baptism	Prophecy
Prophets	Repentance	Laying on of Hands	Word of Knowledge
Evangelists	Become as Child	- Receive Holy Ghost	Word of Wisdom
Elders (Pastors)	Baptism	- Bless Children	Healing
Priests	Endure to End	- Healing sick	Discerning Spirits
Teachers	Resurrection	- Ordination	Diverse tongues
	Eternal Judgement	Communion	Interpretation

(Less than 20 years later, the Apostle Paul wrote a warning to the church:)

2. - Let's read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3.

Verse 3 speaks of an apostasy.

Just what is an apostasy?

Amos 8: 11, 12 ("shall not find the words of the Lord.")

II Timothy 4: 3, 4 ("will turn away from the truth")

In John 14:6 Jesus told us, "I am the truth." So it is to move away from Christ!

Acts 20:29 - 31 ("men shall arise speaking perverse things.")

(the church will change the doctrines and ordinances of Christ.)

3. - Let's now return to 2 Thessalonians 2: 3:

It says that "a man of sin shall be revealed."

Verse 4 tells us "he will oppose God." And "he will sit in the temple of God, pretending to be as God."

Later we will better understand the

meaning of these words. Now we shall read the words of another prophet:

Daniel 7:1 - 3

- The winds signify wars and tumults.

- The great sea refers to nations and peoples of the world.

- A beast refers to a king or a kingdom.

- Daniel saw **four beasts coming up from the sea;**

(These represent kingdoms that shall rise out of the nations of the world.)



4. - Verse 4 - The first beast.

Represents the empire of **Babylonia.**

(This took place during the days of Daniel, Jeremiah and Ezequiel.)

The symbol of a lion indicates it was brave and furious. (rose to power 7th century B.C.)

Its **two wings** signify the speed of her conquest of the world.

Later her wings were plucked off and she was given the **heart of a man.** This shows the empire growing weaker. It was conquered and fell in the year 539 B.C.



5. - **Verse 5 - The second beast.** Represents the empire of **Media-Persia**.

Media Persia rose to dominate the world in 539 B.C.

(This took place during the time of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.)

Just as the **bear** is inferior to the lion (See Daniel 2:39), so this nation was inferior to Babylon.

The **three ribs** in its mouth represent the nations of Babylon, Lidia and Egypt.

This kingdom was conquered and fell in the year 334 B.C.



6. - **Verse 6 - The third beast.** Represents the empire of **Greece**.

Greece, led by Alexander the Great, rose to power in 334 B. C.

(This took place after the book of Malachi and before the New Testament.)

The **leopard** was an animal very furious & rapid in its attack.

The **four wings** indicate the speed of the conquest of the world by Alexander.

The **four heads** show that when Alexander died, his kingdom was divided among his four generals. Africa, Middle East, Asia and Europe

All were conquered and fell in the year 197 B.C.

ROMA



7. - **Verse 7. - The fourth beast.** This beast represents the great empire of **Rome**.

This kingdom rose to power in 197 B.C. and lasted until 570 A.D. (more later)

(All of the New Testament took place during the years of its world domination.)

Daniel said, "It had ten horns." : **Vs. 24** explains "**And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise.**" (These ten nations shall arise after the collapse of the Roman Empire.)

He also said, "**and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse**

(Different) **from the first.**"

How will he be different?

8. - **Daniel 7: 8** calls this different ruler that shall come out of Rome the "**little horn**".

He had "**the eyes of man and a mouth speaking great things.**" He shall be the ruler of a kingdom that is both **political** and **ecclesiastical**.

Vs. 20 tells us, **"...his look was more stout than his fellows."** (This tells us that he will be stronger than all the other kings of Europe that come out of the Roman Empire.) What kind of things shall he speak?

Verse 25 says, **"great words against the most High,,,,"**

He shall **"think to change times and laws..."**

He shall **"wear out the saints of the most High..."**

Keep these words in your mind while we look at another witness that spoke of this **"little horn"**. Let's turn to **Revelation 13:1**



9. - **Revelation 13:1** (This is a prophecy to be fulfilled in the future of John, 96 A.D.)

Vs. 1 - This beast had **"seven heads and ten horns..."** This beast had characteristics of the four previous beasts. Now, let's read

Revelation 17:9: **"The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth."** Everyone in John's day knew this was Rome, built on seven mountains.

Do you remember the 4th kingdom in the prophecy of Daniel 7? It also had 10 horns. It was Rome, and this beast is Rome. Read **Revelation 13: 5 - 7:**

a. **"...a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies..."**

b. **"...he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God,..."**

c. **"to continue forty and two months."**

d. **"to make war with the saints, and to overcome them."**

10. **Making A Comparison:**

"The Beast" - Revelation 13:6 - **"...he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God,..."**

"The Little Horn" - Daniel 7:25 - **"great words against the most High,,,,"**
"think to change times and laws..."

"The Man of Sin" - II Thes. 2:4 - **"opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God."**
"showing himself that he is God."

These three terms all speak of the same power, the same person. The three prophecies speak of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. Let's examine the history to see if the Pope has really spoken in such a manner: Words of Pope Bonifacio VIII (1300 A.D.): **"The pope is of so great dignity and power...so that whatever the pope does seems to proceed from the mouth of God."** Now we read the words of a papal decree: **"If these things that I do be said to be done not of man, but of God, what do you make me but God? ...whereupon no marvel if it be in my power to change times and abrogate laws, to dispense with all things, yea, the precepts of Christ."** (MacGreggor, Daniel, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, 1971, pp. 56, 57.)

11. - II Thessalonians 2:6 - 8

In the Apostle Paul's time, what was the power in the world that could prevent the Pope's rise into a position of supreme power and authority?

Surely, it was the Caesar and the Roman Empire! In the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John, Christ said in Chapter 1, verse 19, "**Write the things that shall be hereafter.**" Which things are they?

Let's read **I Nephi 3: 88-90, 94, 95** about the first enemies of Christ and His church. They were Israel, Rome and her Caesar. He speaks of the complete destruction of those nations that fight against Christ and the church. Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A. D., so the destruction of Rome is will be next.

In **Revelation 1:1** it says **"...things which must shortly come to pass..."**

12. - Chapters 6 through 9 of the book of Revelation give us a vivid prophetic view of the destruction of the Roman Empire. These prophecies have long been fulfilled. We do not have to expect them to be repeated again.

A Roman Catholic historian, Cardinal Manning, wrote, "**Her final destruction was completed by the invasion of the Lombards. This took place en the year 570 A. D.**" Remember this important date!

(It is the date when the last Roman Emperor was dethroned and the Pope rose to power over the kings and peoples of the gentile nations of the former Roman Empire.) It was the time when the prophecies concerning the Apostasy would be fulfilled.

During this period of time, the Reformer, John Wesley, wrote, "**The gifts of the Spirit had ceased; only a dead form remained.**" (Perhaps his words could be viewed as another definition of the apostasy.)



13. - Revelation 12:1, 2, 5

The woman represents the Church of Christ.

The rays of the sun represent the glory of the New Covenant.

The moon below her feet is symbolic of the Old Mosaic Covenant.

The crown of twelve stars represents the twelve apostles.

The woman gave birth to a man child. This signifies the authority of the priesthood of the Kingdom of God.

concerning the meaning of the rod of iron.

See **Revelation 2:26, 27**.



14. – Revelation 12: 6 & 14

There were given to the woman, or to the Church of Christ, **two wings of an eagle**. These **two wings** represent the Roman Catholic Church of the West, and the Eastern Orthodox Church of the East.

These two churches, with their false teachings and doctrines, were the power that carried the original church into the **desert of apostasy**.

Neither the Church of Christ, nor the authority of a ministry called of God, could any longer be found in the world, fulfilling the prophecy of Amos.

15. – Steps Into Apostasy, or How the Church Departed From the Truth

200 A. D. – Prayers for the Dead.

254 A. D. – Baptism of Children.

360 A. D. – The Adoration of Saints.

593 A. D. – Prayers to Mary.

1229 A. D. – Reading the Bible Prohibited by the Pope.

1231 A. D. – Pope Innocent began the Inquisition:

Read 1 Nephi 3:139 – 141 – p. 33.

Read Revelation 13:7 and Daniel 7:25 (What do the historians say?)

“No computation can reach the numbers of those who have been put to the death in different ways on account of their maintaining the profession of the gospel and opposing the corruption of the Church of Rome. A million the poor Waldenses perished in France; nine hundred thousand orthodox Christian were slain in less than thirty years after the institution of the Jesuits. The Duke of Alva boasted of having put thirty-six thousand to death in the Netherlands ...during the space of a few years. The Inquisition destroyed by tortures, one hundred fifty thousand Christian, within thirty years.” (Scott, *The Seven Kingdoms*, p. 76.)

The famous historian, Will Durant, wrote, *“Compared with the persecution of heresy in Europe between 1227 and 1492, the persecution of Christians by the Romans in the first three centuries after Christ was a mild and humane procedure.”* (Durant, Will, *The History of Civilization*, Vol. 4, p. 784.)

1311 A. D. – Baptism by Sprinkling.

1870 A. D. – Infallibility of the Pope.