

1. The Antichrist comes from Rome (Dan. 7:7-8, 9:26, Rev. 17:9)

The Antichrist (represented by Dan. 7's little horn) came out of the fourth beast empire in Daniel 7 (Rome), Daniel 9:26 predicted the people of the Antichrist would destroy the Jewish Temple, which the Romans destroyed in 70 AD, and the Antichrist beast of Revelation is closely aligned with the Whore of Babylon in Revelation 17, which sits on seven hills. The "city of seven hills" is a nickname of the city of Rome.

The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Three of the ten kingdoms that came from Rome collapse before the Antichrist receives power (Dan. 7:8, 7:20)

The ten kingdoms that came to power out of the collapse of the Western Roman Empire were the Alemanni, Anglo-Saxons, Baiuvarii, Burgundians, Franks, Heruli, Ostrogoths, Suevi, Vandals, and Visigoths. The first three to fall were the Alemanni (c.496 AD), Heruli (c.508), and Burgundians (532). The Antichrist had to come to power **after 532** and **before March of 534** when the fourth kingdom (Vandals) fell. This leaves a two-year window when the Antichrist had to arrive (532-534). There can be no future Antichrist.

The Bishop of Rome was made the head of the Catholic Church for the first time by Emperor Justinian in 533.

3. The Antichrist shall subdue three kings (Dan. 7:24)

After coming to power, the Antichrist will defeat three of the remaining seven kingdoms.

Catholic armies allied with the papacy defeated the Vandals, Baiuvarii, and Ostrogoths.

4. The Antichrist would be diverse from the other ten kings that came out of the collapse of the Roman Empire (Dan. 7:24)

Daniel 7:24 prophesied the Antichrist would be a different kind of leader from the other ten kingdoms.

The ten kings of Daniel are political leaders, but the papal Antichrist is a religious leader.

5. He would "speak great things and blasphemies" would "opposeth and exalt himself above all that is called God," "shall also stand up against the Prince of princes," and "shall magnify himself in his heart" (Dan. 7:8, 7:11, 7:25, 8:25, II Thess. 2:4, Rev. 13:5)

Daniel, Paul, and John predicted the Antichrist would speak "great things," indicating he would be brash and boastful. The Antichrist would also compare himself against God and Jesus, and he would elevate himself above God's power.

Popes have made numerous heretical statements. They call themselves the "Vicar of Christ," meaning "substitute Christ." Innocent III: "The Roman Pontiff, who takes the place not of a pure man, but of the true God in the lands." Boniface VIII: "We declare, we proclaim, we define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff." Boniface VIII: "The pope is as God on earth." Pius V: "Christ entrusted his office to the chief Pontiff...but all power in heaven and in earth had been given to Christ...therefore the chief Pontiff, who is his vicar, will have this power." Leo XIII: "We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty." Pius X: "The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ himself, hidden under the veil of the flesh."

6. The Antichrist would wear out the saints (Dan. 7:25)

No one group or individual has persecuted and killed more Christians than the Roman Catholic Church and its papacy.

7. The Antichrist would change the times and laws (Dan. 7:25)

Popes have changed religious laws (Ten Commandments and many of God's other rules), and were closely involved with civil law in the Roman Empire after 312 AD and the Byzantine Empire's Code of Justinian. They changed Roman pagan religious holidays to Catholic holidays. Many holidays have pagan origins. Easter is named after the Babylonian sex goddess Ishtar. The popes changed the sabbath from Saturday to Sunday (due to Catholicism's origins in the Babylonian sun cult). Gregory XIII also changed the entire calendar in 1582.

8. The Antichrist would sit among the body of Christian believers (II Thess. 2:4)

Whenever Paul used the word "naos" for "temple" as in II Thess. 2:4, it was a metaphor for the body of Christian believers, not a building.

The pope claims to be a Christian, but his doctrine is based in paganism.

9. The Antichrist would be the eighth king of Rome (Rev. 17:10-11)

Like in Daniel 7, the kings represent leadership positions, not individual people. Rev. 17 says the sixth king "is" because it was in power in Rome when Revelation was written in 95 AD. The Antichrist would rule the city two kings later.

The sixth king was the Roman Emperors (27 BC-476 AD). The seventh king was Rex Italiae/King of Italy (476-538). After Rex Italiae was forced out of Rome in 538 AD, the Pope took temporal power in the city as the eighth type of king of Rome.

10. "By peace shall destroy many" (Dan. 8:25)

Catholicism deceives many people through false doctrine, which destroys their souls in the second death.

11. The Antichrist would "make war with the saints" (Rev. 13:7)

No one group or individual has killed more true Christians than the Roman Catholic Church and its papacy. Examples include the religious persecutions of the followers of Arius, the Donatists, Anabaptists, the Waldensians, punishment or martyrdom for owning, translating, or publishing the Bible, the Albigensian Crusade, the Inquisitions, the Counter-Reformation, and the European Wars of Religion.

12. He would persecute Christians for 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3, 12:6), 3.5 years (Dan. 7:25, 12:7, Rev. 12:14), 42 months (Rev. 11:2, 13:5)

Under the day-year principle (Daniel 9's Seventy Weeks Prophecy), 1,260 days = 1,260-year fulfillment. The pope held temporal (political) power for exactly 1,260 years (538-1798 AD). The Catholic Church used this power to persecute and martyr millions of Christians.

1. *The Whore of Babylon is a “Great Whore” (Rev. 17:1)*

In prophecy, a woman represents the church. A virgin or a woman with no sexual description represents the true Christian church, so a prostitute represents a false Christian church.

Roman Catholic doctrine is not Christian. It originated when Constantine infused Christian ideas into Roman-Babylonian paganism.

2. *The Whore of Babylon holds influence over world leaders (Rev. 17:2, 17:13)*

The Whore of Babylon would commit fornication with the kings of the earth, and they shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

The Catholic Church has always held significant political influence since Constantine created it in the fourth century.

3. *She wears purple and scarlet (Rev. 17:4)*

The Roman Catholic Church’s cardinals wear scarlet and non-cardinal bishops wear purple.

4. *Decked in gold, precious stones, pearls (Rev. 17:4)*

Papal vestments, the papal tiara, Catholic vessels, and Catholic Churches often contain gold, precious stones, and pearls.

5. *She holds a golden cup in her hand (Rev. 17:4)*

Catholic priests hold gold chalices when celebrating the Eucharist.

6. *“Drunken with the blood of the saints” (Rev. 17:6)*

The Catholic Church has martyred millions of Christians.

7. *Her beast “was, and is not, and yet is” (Rev. 17:8)*

“WAS”: Babylon’s sun cult was practiced until it was suppressed by Xerxes in 484 BC.

“IS NOT”: Babylon’s priests then fled to Pergamon. When Pergamon joined the Roman Empire, the Babylonian sun cult became a popular religion in Rome. “Is not” is in the present tense because the Babylonian cult was not Rome’s main religion when John wrote Revelation.

“AND YET IS”: After Constantine converted to Christianity, he created Roman Catholicism by merging the sun cult with Christian ideas.

8. *Located on seven hills (Rev. 17:9)*

The seven heads of the beast represent “seven hills on which the woman sits.” The nickname for Rome is “the city of seven hills.”

The Catholic Church is headquartered in Rome.

9. *She would receive her power from the ten kingdoms that arose from the Roman Empire (Rev. 17:12-13)*

The Catholic Church became the dominant religion in Europe where the ten kingdoms were located.

10. *Waters represent people, multitudes, languages, and nations from around the world (Rev. 17:15)*

The Catholic Church is a worldwide church with locations in many nations, and conducts mass in many languages globally.

11. *She is a “great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth” (Rev. 17:18)*

Rome was the most powerful city in the world and ruled over kings in 95 AD.

12. *Harpists, musicians, pipers, and trumpeters perform in Mystery Babylon (Rev. 18:22)*

Musicians regularly perform in Catholic masses.

13. *Artists and craftsmen work in Mystery Babylon (Rev. 18:22)*

The Catholic Church commissioned architects, masons, carpenters, painters, jewelers, sculptors, glassmakers, metallurgists, etc.

14. *The sound of a millstone can be heard in Mystery Babylon (Rev. 18:22)*

A reference to the deception of little children in Mark 9:42.

The Catholic Church deceives children through its false doctrine.

15. *Candles can be found in her (Rev. 18:23)*

The Catholic Church uses votive, paschal, baptismal, advent candles, etc.

16. *Brides and grooms can be found in Mystery Babylon (Rev. 18:23)*

Catholic Churches are commonly used as wedding venues.

17. *Her sorcery has deceived all nations (Rev. 18:23)*

False doctrine and false miracles have deceived all nations around the world into believing Catholicism is Christian. Sorcery is defined as taking a specific action (such as repeating a spell) to cause a specific supernatural result (i.e., placing a curse on someone). Performing the sacraments does not result in salvation, as the Bible clearly states that our works alone do not get us to heaven. Repeating the Rosary a certain number of times to earn forgiveness from sin is the same as repeating a spell to place a curse.

18. *Prophets and saints were killed by Mystery Babylon (Rev. 18:24)*

The Catholic Church has martyred millions of Christians. Examples include the persecutions of the followers of Arius, the Donatists, Anabaptists, the Waldensians, punishment or martyrdom for owning, translating, or publishing the Bible, the Albigensian Crusade, the Inquisitions, the Counter-Reformation, and the European Wars of Religion to attempt to suppress Christianity in Protestant nations.

1. *He has two horns (Rev. 13:11)*

Horns in Bible prophecy represent positions of power (see: Dan. 7, Rev. 17), so the two horns represent a dual power structure.

The pope and the Jesuit superior general are the two most powerful people in Catholicism. The pope and superior general even have dual nicknames based on their attire – the white pope and the black pope.

2. *He comes from the “earth” (Rev. 13:11)*

The Antichrist came out of the sea in Rev. 13, while the False Prophet beast comes from the earth. The earth represents a stable foundation.

The Jesuit superior general was created in 1540, a more stable time in both the Catholic Church and world history than 533.

3. *He speaks like a dragon (Satan) (Rev. 13:11)*

The dragon in Revelation 12 is clearly named as Satan. Because the False Prophet speaks as a dragon, his words and doctrine are Satanic.

The Jesuit superior general supports and advances Catholicism’s false doctrine.

4. *He exercises the power of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:12)*

The Jesuit superior general was created and empowered by the Pope.

5. *He causes people to worship the papal Antichrist (Rev. 13:12)*

The Jesuit superior general was created in 1540, early in the Reformation as people began realizing the papacy was the Antichrist. The

Jesuits’ mission was “reconciliation.” This did not mean reconciling people with God, but reconciling Protestants back into Catholicism.

The purpose of the Jesuits was to get Protestant Christians to follow the papal Antichrist again, just as they did before the Reformation.

6. *He does miracles, including making fire come down from Heaven “in the sight of men” (Rev. 13:13)*

The False Prophet would perform false miracles to attempt to legitimize the pope as a servant of God.

One example that fits this description is the “Miracle of the Sun” in Fatima, Portugal. After three children told the world that they were visited by Mary in 1917, 30,000-100,000 people gathered to see what Mary would do. The sun appeared to spin, then zig-zagged towards earth and shot back into place. This could easily be described as “making fire come down from Heaven in the sight of men.”

7. *He deceives people (Rev. 13:14)*

The Jesuit superior general uses false miracles and false doctrine to deceive people into believing Catholicism is Christian.

8. *He gives life unto the image of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:15)*

During the Reformation, the Reformers began to identify the papacy as the Antichrist. People were leaving Catholicism for Protestantism by the millions. The pope created the Jesuits and the superior general to save Catholicism and the pope from the existential crisis of the Reformation. The Jesuits created the false theory of a future Antichrist to protect the pope from being exposed as the Antichrist.

9. *He causes those who do not worship the Antichrist to be killed (Rev. 13:15)*

During the Counter-Reformation, the Jesuits martyred many Christians who refused to follow the papal Antichrist.

10. *He forces people to take a mark in their foreheads or right hands to buy or sell (Rev. 13:16-17)*

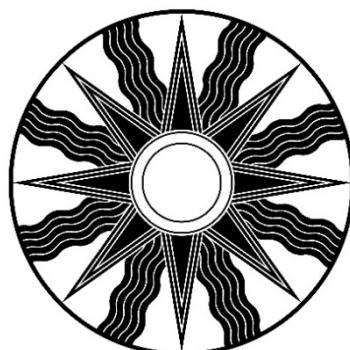
Just like God sealed his servants in the sixth seal (Rev. 7) with a figurative mark, the Antichrist’s mark is also not a physical mark. The forehead represents thoughts and the right hand represents actions.

Popes Alexander III and Martin V decreed that Catholics could not trade with Protestants, who had refused to follow the papal Antichrist with their minds or their actions, and therefore did not have the figurative mark of the beast.

11. *His number (666) is “that of man” (Rev. 13:18)*

The Greek and Hebrew languages have numerological systems that assign numerical values to letters (similar to Roman numerals).

Because the mark of the beast is figurative, its interpretation is somewhat irrelevant. However, the second century Christian writer Irenaeus, a disciple of one of John’s disciples, observed that the letters in the Greek and Hebrew words for “Romans” both equal 666 (Greek: ΛΑΤΕΙΝΟΣ 30+1+300+5+10+50+70+200 = 666, Hebrew: רֹמְנִיָּת 400+10+10+40+6+200 = 666).



Solar emblems of the ancient pagan Babylonian sun god Shamash (left, Source: Louvre stele) and the Catholic Jesuit Order (right).

Catholicism has misled Catholics with false doctrine in many ways, preventing them from achieving salvation:

1. *Claiming the Roman Catholic Church is the gatekeeper of salvation.*

This ridiculous claim elevates the Catholic Church over God's power to grant salvation.

2. *Preaching salvation comes through performing the seven sacraments.*

Witchcraft is defined as taking a specific action (such as repeating a spell) to cause a specific supernatural result (i.e., placing a curse on someone). This is an example of the papal Antichrist "causing craft to prosper" (Daniel 8:25). Performing the sacraments does not result in salvation, as the Bible clearly states that our works alone do not get us to heaven.

3. *Forgiveness of sin through penance instead of repentance to God.*

This is another example of Catholic witchcraft, as repeating the Rosary a certain number of times to gain forgiveness from sin is the same as repeating a spell to place a curse, and the Bible does not claim sins are forgiven through penance.

4. *The pope claims to be the head of the church and have the authority of Jesus Christ.*

The Bible repeatedly states that Jesus is the head of the church, not any man.

5. *Veneration of Mary and saints.*

The veneration of saints is a form of polytheism that is derived from the pagan Roman origins of Catholicism. The ancient Roman imperial cult deified mortal emperors who were prayed just as saints are in Catholicism.

6. *Claiming that Mary is a mediator between God and man.*

I Timothy 2:5 says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Mary is not a mediator. Any prayers directed to or through Mary or any other saints are not directed to God.

7. *Catholicism encourages prayer to saints rather than God.*

Just as Mary cannot bring prayers to God, neither can other saints. Anthony of Padua cannot help you find your keys, no matter what the Catholic Church will have you believe.

8. *The idolatry of religious iconography.*

God is clear throughout the Bible: do not bow down to graven images and pray. We know that the Antichrist's followers practice idolatry (Revelation 9:20, 13:4, and 13:14-15). All Catholic Churches have graven images of Mary and other saints with prayer candles in front of them to encourage Catholics to pray through these idols. Ancient pagans knew their idols were not the gods themselves, but they prayed to the gods through their images, just as the Catholic Church encourages its parishioners to do. The Catechism of the Catholic Church 2132 falsely claims, "The Christian veneration of images is not contrary to the first commandment which proscribes idols. Indeed, 'the honor rendered to an image passes to its prototype,' and 'whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it.' The honor paid to sacred images is a 'respectful veneration,' not the adoration due to God alone." The Catholic church even changed the numbering of the Ten Commandments to make it appear as if you need to both 1.) pray to a graven image and 2.) consider that image a god to violate the commandment against idols. In reality, "Thou shalt not make any graven images" is a separate commandment, not part of the first (Exodus 20:2-6, Deuteronomy 5:8-10).

9. *Confession of sin to a priest rather than to God and other Christians.*

The Bible declares that Christians are the "royal priesthood" (I Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:6), and we are to confess our sins "to one another" (James 5:16). In fact, Jesus specifically forbade priests in Matthew 23:8-9: "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

10. *Infant baptism.*

Every example of baptism in the Bible occurs after the individual believed in Jesus and asked forgiveness for their sins. Infant baptism occurs before a person is old enough to believe in Jesus for themselves. Because infant christenings occur before a baby is old enough to have faith, it does not represent that child's faith and is not a valid baptism. Jesus said in John 3:5, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Infant christening prevents Catholics from going to Heaven, as they are never baptized.

11. *Only the Catholic Church can interpret scripture.*

This claim was designed to protect the Catholic Church from being exposed as the Whore of Babylon and the papacy as the Antichrist.

12. *Preventing people from owning or reading the Bible for centuries and conducting masses in Latin until the 1960s.*

For over a millennium, the Catholic Church punished and even killed people who were found with Bibles or excerpts of scripture in their possession. The Bible was added to the *Index of Prohibited Books* to prevent anyone from realizing the many ways that Catholicism is not a Christian religion, or identifying the Catholic Church as the Whore of Babylon and the papacy as the Antichrist.

- **Belief in Jesus is required for salvation:** *Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
- **We cannot get to Heaven through works alone:** *Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
- **But we also cannot get to Heaven through faith alone:** *James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*
- **Our words contribute to our salvation:** *Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Matthew 12:36-37 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*
- **Our actions contribute to our salvation:** *II Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. Galatians 5:22-24 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*
- **Our actions can keep us out of Heaven:** *Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. I Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:16-21 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. II Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. II Timothy 3:1-5 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unhol, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. Revelation 21:7-8 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*
- **Baptism is a requirement for salvation. When Christians were baptized in the Bible, they first believed in Jesus, then confessed their sins and were baptized. This means infant baptism/christenings are not valid baptisms, as they do not symbolize the child's personal faith:** *Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
- **Evangelism is a command from Jesus:** *Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*
- **We must confess our sins to one another:** *Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Acts 19:18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*
- **Repent to God and ask him for forgiveness:** *Psalms 32:5 I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- **Forgive those who sin against you:** *Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

Ephesus: The Apostolic Church [30-100 AD]

Compliment: Works, labour, patience, cannot bear evil, tried false apostles and found them liars, hates Nicolaitanes

Condemnation: Thou hast left thy first love

Challenge: Remember where you fell from, repent, and do the first works

Reward: Eat of the tree of life

Smyrna: The Church Under Roman Persecution [100-313 AD]

Compliment: Works, tribulation, and poverty (but thou art rich)

Condemnation: None

Challenge: Do not fear suffering, tribulation, be faithful unto death

Reward: I will give you a crown of life, you will not be hurt of the second death

Pergamon: The Church During Early Catholicism [313-533 AD]

Compliment: Works, thou holdest fast my name, hast not denied my faith

Condemnation: Hast there them that hold doctrines of Balaam and Nicolaitanes

Challenge: Repent

Reward: Eat the hidden manna, give him white stone with a new name written

Thyatira: Papal Power Expands [533-1517 AD]

Compliment: Works, charity, service, faith, patience, and works

Condemnation: Sufferest the false prophetess Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication, eat things sacrificed to idols

Challenge: Have not the doctrine of Jezebel, hold fast till I come

Reward: No other burden, power over nations, will give him the morning star

Sardis: The Protestant Reformation Church [1517-1730 AD]

Compliment: Hast a few names which have not defiled their garments

Condemnation: Works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead

Challenge: Be watchful, strengthen things which remain

Reward: Clothed in white, will not blot out his name from Book of Life

Philadelphia: The Missionary and Revival Church [1730-1930 AD]

Compliment: Works, a little strength, kept my word, has not denied my name

Condemnation: None

Challenge: Hold that fast which thou hast

Reward: Make a pillar in the temple of God, write upon him the name of God

Laodicea: The Modern Lukewarm Church [1930 AD-Present]

Compliment: None

Condemnation: Works, thou art neither cold nor hot

Challenge: Buy me gold tried in fire and white raiment, anoint thine eyes

Reward: Sit with me in my throne

What Should We Learn from the Seven Churches of Revelation?

The answer lies in Jesus' messages to the only two churches with no criticism—Smyrna and Philadelphia. The members of the Smyrna church age suffered greatly for their beliefs. Yet, throughout their persecution, they continued serving God and remained "faithful unto death." Because of their devotion, Jesus said he would give them a "crown of life" and promised they would not be "hurt of the second death."

The Philadelphia church represents the era most on fire for Jesus. During this age, the Roman Catholic Church lost its power to persecute Christians and suppress Bible ownership. As a result, Bible Societies spread worldwide, missionaries were dispatched, Protestant church membership grew, and new denominations were founded. Jesus was proud of Philadelphia, as evidenced by his profuse praise of their works, his open declaration of love for them, and his lack of a condemnation.

Each of us can personally benefit from Jesus' advice in these chapters. Mimic the things he says the churches are doing well and avoid their spiritual failures. Read your Bible regularly, especially the New Testament. Emulate the Smyrnaean and Philadelphian Christians. Do not fear bigotry, ridicule, or persecution. Keep God's Word, and do not deny his name. Vigorously share your faith with others, and avoid being the type of person Paul warned us to turn away from in II Timothy 3:1-5.

It is also critical that we do not succumb to the many temptations that Jesus warned would come during the Laodicean period. Recent technological advances have led to new enticements and distractions. Movies, television, music, social media, and the internet are some of the ways we prioritize our entertainment when we should be sharing God with others. Our desire for wealth and luxury has caused us to lose sight of what is important: spreading the gospel and living the Christian life that would make Jesus proud.

Day-year principle (Daniel 9): Based on Seventy Weeks prophecy. One day in an end times prophecy equals one year in its fulfillment.

THE SEVEN SEALS (Revelation 5:1-8:1)

- Conquering hero on a white horse:** Represents Trajan, who expanded the Roman Empire to its greatest extent, 98 AD.
- Red horseman takes peace from the earth:** The 206-year Pax Romana (Roman Peace) ends, and the Roman civil wars begin, 193 AD.
- Black horseman holding a pair of balances:** Caracalla's *Constitutio Antoniniana* increases taxes and causes food insecurity, 212 AD.
- Pale horseman brings death:** *Sword*: Crisis of the Third Century, *Hunger*: currency debasement/inflation, *Illness*: Plague of Cyprian, 235 AD.
- Souls of martyrs under altar in Heaven ask God to stop Rome's Christian persecution:** Diocletianic Persecution begins, 303 AD.
- Great earthquake, sun darkened, moon turns red, stars fall from sky:** Constantine converts to pagan-Christian hybrid religion, 312 AD.
- Sealing of 144,000:** God "marks" his followers after Constantine created a false religion (Catholicism), making identifying Christians difficult.
- Half-hour silence in Heaven:** Under the day-year principle, a half hour equals 7.5 days. Approximately 7.5 days before the first trumpet, Theodosius I died. The Roman Empire remained peaceful for about a week until word of his death reached the Goths in Illyricum, 395 AD.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (Revelation 8:2-11:19)

- Bloody, fiery hail burns a third of plants:** Goths revolt against the Roman Empire and eventually sack Rome, 395 AD.
"The third part": Represents the Roman Empire, which contained 1/3 of the world's population in 95 AD when Revelation was written.
- Burning mountain cast into sea:** Vandals (lived in Carpathian Mountains in 95) to Carthage (in 429), build ships, raid Roman cities, 429 AD.
- Great burning star poisons rivers:** Attila and Huns attack cities on major rivers in Roman Gaul, corpses left in rivers poison water, 451 AD.
- A third of sun, moon, stars darkened:** Represents fall of a political system (*Isa. 13, Isa. 34, Eze. 32*). Fall of Western Roman Empire, 476 AD.
- Star falls from Heaven, opens bottomless pit, smoke obscures sun:** Mohammad begins preaching false religion of Islam publicly, 612 AD.
Locusts hurt third part of men for five months: Five months under day-year principle = 150 years, which ends when the Muslims stopped their military campaigns against Eastern Roman Empire and founded a new capital (modern Baghdad), 762 AD.
- Angels loosed from Euphrates for an hour, day, month, and year to slay the third part of men:** 391 years, 15 days under day-year principle.
391 years began: Seljuk Turks conquered Buyid Dynasty (which held the Euphrates), 1062.
391 years ended: Ottoman Turks defeated the Eastern Roman Empire, the last part of the "third part of men" (Roman Empire), 1453.
Power is in their mouths and tails: Ottomans were the first to use long guns (held against their cheeks) and long-range cannons in Europe.
Little book: The invention of the printing press makes the Bible more accessible, 1455.
Measuring the Temple: Pre-Reformation Protestants examine scripture, determine Catholic doctrine is not Christian, late-1400s.
Two witnesses: The Old and New Testaments. Killed when no one defended scripture at the Fifth Lateran Council, May 5, 1514, resurrected 3.5 years (under day-year principle) later when Martin Luther published the *Ninety-Five Theses*, defending God's Word, October 31, 1517.
- Temple of God opened in Heaven:** Reformation quickly follows *Ninety-Five Theses*, Catholicism's false doctrine made clear, November 1517.

THE INTERLUDE (Revelation 12:1-14:20)

Dragon and the woman: The woman represents the church/followers of God (Jews, then Christians), the dragon represents Satan.

Literal interpretation: Satan tried to kill Jesus in infancy, but he was protected in Egypt. *Figurative:* Christianity was birthed from Judaism, and Satan tried to kill it during the Tribulation. God kept Christianity alive, flood was swallowed when papacy lost temporal power in 1798.

The two beasts: Sea beast is the Antichrist (papacy), earth beast is the False Prophet (Jesuit superior general).

The Lamb and 144,000 first fruits: The 144,000 Christians with the seal of God in Revelation 7 "were redeemed from the earth."

Angel 1: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him."

Angel 2: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Angel 3: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God." There is now no excuse for being Catholic because the Reformation has identified papacy as the Antichrist.

First harvest: Jesus harvests the souls of the Christians who remained faithful, worshipped God, and did not take the Antichrist's mark.

Second harvest: Angel from altar (represents atonement) throws non-Christians into winepress of God's wrath as punishment for sins.

THE SEVEN VIALS (Revelation 15:1-16:21)

- Noisome and grievous sore on followers of the Antichrist:** Age of Reason spreads atheism and anti-Catholic sentiment in France, 1715.
- Sea becomes blood:** Haitian Revolution and numerous naval defeats cost France important overseas colonies, 1791.
- Rivers become blood:** French Revolution spreads to rural France, forced drownings of Catholics in Loire River, 1793.
- Sun scorches men with fire:** Napoleon becomes a general, takes command of the French Army of Italy, 1796.
- Seat of the Antichrist darkened:** Pius VI deposed, papacy loses temporal (political) power and can no longer persecute Christians, 1798.
- Three unclean spirits gather the whole world to war:** World Wars I, II, and III, 1914.
Battle of Armageddon: Battle of Megiddo, 1918.
Euphrates dries up, prepares way for kings of east: Ottoman Empire (held Euphrates) collapses, nine nations eventually take its land, 1918.
- Rome and cities destroyed, earthquake:** Nuclear World War III destroys Rome and other cities, nuclear winter causes famine, *FUTURE*.