

What does the Bible say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

Prophecy’s World Powers (Daniel 7 and Revelation 13)

Today's study is one I think you'll find very interesting. We will examine the identity of the little horn in Daniel 7 and the beast in Revelation 13. Our study starts in Daniel 7:1-3, where Daniel sees four beasts rising from the sea. What do these beasts symbolize? In Daniel 7:15-17 and 23, the angel explains to Daniel that the four beasts represent four kingdoms (powers).

This passage presents the important biblical interpretation principle called 'repeat and enlarge.' In Daniel 2, God showed Daniel the four main kingdoms, symbolized by four different metals, representing the succession from Babylon to Jesus' return: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, Western Europe, and ultimately, Christ's second coming. Daniel 7 revisits and expands on this vision, providing further details. I'll now illustrate how this process works.

In Daniel 2, Babylon is depicted as the first kingdom, symbolized by gold. In Daniel 7, the kingdom is represented by the king of beasts, a lion. Daniel 7:4 mentions that the king of Babylon employed a winged lion as a symbol of his empire. These winged-lion images were used on tiles lining the streets leading to the palace in ancient Babylon. Today, such tiles are on display at a museum in Istanbul.

The second kingdom in Daniel 2 is Media-Persia. Refer to Daniel 7:5, which shows that the bear's raised side represents Persia's dominance over Media, highlighting that Persia became the leading power while both ruled together. The three ribs stand for the three nations—Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt—that the Medes and Persians defeated as they gained dominance.

The third kingdom was Greece. Read Daniel 7:6, which describes it as a leopard with four heads. Leopards are known for their speed, and this particular one is even faster because it has four wings on its back. This illustrates how swiftly the Greeks expanded their

empire in just ten years. The four heads represent the four generals who divided the kingdom after Alexander the Great, Greece's first king, died.

The fourth kingdom is Rome. Refer to Daniel 7:7, where Rome is described as the “dreadful and terrible beast”, highlighting its reputation for cruelty and ruthless killing. Following Rome's fall, it was split into ten nations. Daniel 2 symbolizes this division with ten toes, while in this context, it is represented by ten horns.

Read Daniel 7:7 (focus on the last part of the verse). The angel explains to Daniel that these ten horns represent the ten kingdoms referenced in verse 24. Up to this point, Daniel 7 has echoed the themes of Daniel 2. However, it also elaborates, providing more details about events that will occur before God's kingdom is established.

See Daniel 7:8-10, which covers the little horn and the judgment, neither of which is mentioned in Daniel 2. As this information is new, Daniel explicitly inquires of the angel about the little horn, everything related to it, and the judgment.

Turn to Daniel 7:19-22, which describes a "little horn." For many years, people have debated its identity. In this analysis, we will review the passage to determine who it represents. We will examine every mention of the little horn and compare it with historical powers to identify the one that matches all 10 described traits.

Read Daniel 7:7, 8. The little horn originates from the fourth beast—Rome. The first part says that the little horn will come “AMONG” the ten horns, meaning he will emerge within Europe, among those ten nations.

Daniel 7:8 and 24 explain how the little horn will eliminate three of the horn nations to gain power. It will “pluck up three by their roots,” indicating that these “three kings” (vs. 24) will have no historical predecessors.

Notably, only seven of the original ten nations remain today.

<u>PAST</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>PAST</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>
Anglo-Saxons:	English	Suevi:	Portuguese
Lombards:	Italians	Alemanni:	Germans
Burgundians:	Swiss	Vandals:	doesn't exist
Visigoths:	Spanish	Heruli:	doesn't exist
Franks:	French	Ostrogoths:	doesn't exist

Read Daniel 7:8. It describes a man who leads by seeing and speaking for the little horn power. Daniel 7:24 states that the little horn appears "after" the ten European nations, signifying it emerged after 476 A.D., the year Rome fell and split into ten regions. It also

indicates that it must have risen by 538 A.D., when the last of the three horn nations was removed. Thus, the little horn achieved full power sometime in 538 A.D.

Turn to Daniel 7:24. He is distinct from other nations of Europe.

Read Daniel 7:21, 25. He will make war on God's true followers and overpower them.

In Daniel 7:25, it states he will speak "great words against the Most High," reign for "a time, times, and half a time," and attempt "to change times and laws." Here's a brief explanation of this period: a "time" equals one year, "times" refers to two years, and "half a time" is half a year, totaling up to three and a half years.

Before I clarify the meaning of verse 25, let's examine Revelation for further understanding. Read Revelation 13:1-2. Do you see the similarities with Daniel? The same beasts are mentioned, with the same number of heads and horns, except for the small horn. Note the role of the beast in Revelation 13. Revelation 13:4-7 explains that he will "make war with the saints and overcome them." He will wield power for 42 months and utter blasphemies.

This passage reflects what we read in Daniel 7 about the little horn. It describes how the little horn fought against the saints, defeated them, and would rule for the same duration: three and a half years, equivalent to 42 months. The beast described in Revelation 13 is identical to the little horn in Daniel 7. Since God uses the same beasts in both prophecies, the connection between these chapters becomes clear. Let's clarify some of these symbols.

This 42-month period is significant. Notice how this period is converted to days.

In Revelation 12:14, 6 1,260 days equals three and a half years

In Revelation 11:2, 3 The 42 months are the same as 1,260 days.

The equation is straightforward: $3\frac{1}{2}$ years equals 42 months, each with 1260 days. Why does God emphasize this period? Because it holds symbolic importance. In biblical prophecy, when symbols are used, a day often represents a year—much like how one inch on a map can represent 10 miles. Let's examine this concept through two Bible verses: Turn to Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34.

This 1,260-day period represents 1,260 years. It indicates that this power will hold dominance for a long time, then suffer a deadly wound symbolizing the loss of global authority, and finally recover in the last days when the wound is healed. (Revelation 13:3)

Observe our next point. This kingdom serves as both a religious and political authority, receiving worship rather than just exercising political power. As shown in Revelation 13:4, 8, its religious character distinguishes it from other European nations, consistent with the description in Daniel 7:24. Now, let's proceed to the next point.

Read Revelation 13:3, 7-8, “All the world.” This power will have a worldwide scope. This is another way it is different. It has no national boundaries.

The last characteristic is that it will speak blasphemy. What is blasphemy?

Read John 10:33 A man claiming to be God is blasphemy.

Read Luke 5:21 A man claiming the power to forgive sins is blasphemy.

Let’s review that the little horn of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13 are the same power. This power will:

- 1. Arise out of pagan Rome. Roman roots. Daniel 7:7, 8, 23, 24.**
- 2. Come up after pagan Rome fell in A.D. 476. Daniel 7:24.**
- 3. Come up in Europe. Daniel 7:8.**
- 4. Overthrow three kingdoms. The third kingdom of the original ten was overthrown in 538 AD. This is when the little horn came to power. Daniel 7:8, 20, 24.**
- 5. Reign for 1,260 years from A.D. 538 to 1798 and then lose its world power. In the last days, it regains its world power. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5.**
- 6. Make war with and persecute true Christians during the 1,260 years. Daniel 7:21, 25; Revelation 13:7.**
- 7. Have a man at its head who speaks and sees for it. Daniel 7:8.**
- 8. Speak great words: claiming to be God on earth and having the power to forgive sins. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5; John 10:33; Luke 5:21.**
- 9. Be diverse from the other nations of Europe: a religious and political power. Daniel 7:24; Revelation 13:4, 8.**
- 10. Be universal and worldwide. With no national boundaries, it will permeate all nations. Revelation 13:3, 7-8.**

The Bible explains this clearly. By studying history, we can identify who meets these ten points, which may involve understanding who the little horn is. This approach encourages you to reach your own Spirit-guided conclusion. These points are fulfilled in the Roman Church. God is not referring to the people, as many are good. Prophecy mentions all major world religious systems; the systems are the focus, not the people.

- 1. The Medieval Roman Church came out of Rome itself.**
- 2. It gained power over Europe in A.D. 538, after Rome fell.**
- 3. It came up in Europe.**
- 4. The three kingdoms that were overthrown held different religious beliefs from the papacy and were removed.**
- 5. The Medieval papacy ruled from A.D. 538 to 1798, when the French General Berthier took the pope captive and led him back to France. It looked to the world that the papacy had died. Bible scholars predicted the fall of the papacy in 1798, citing this prophecy.**
- 6. The papacy was responsible for martyring millions of faithful Christians during the Dark Ages because they would not follow the unbiblical teachings of the church.**
- 7. The Medieval pope was the head of the church and saw and spoke for it.**

- 8. The papacy claims to have the power of God to forgive sins and acts as His representative. Pope Leo XIII said, “We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty” (The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII, p. 304). “Does the priest merely pray that your sins will be forgiven? No, acting as God’s instrument and ordained minister, he truly forgives the sins” [Reverend William J. Cogan, A Catechism for Adults, (Chicago, IL: Adult Catechetical Teaching Aids Foundation, 1975), p. 78].**
- 9. Even today, Vatican City is the center of the Roman church and an independent state. The church is the only denomination that is also a political empire.**
- 10. The Roman Church is universal and worldwide.**

I believe Jesus is coming soon, and I am eager for that day. I hope you feel the same. Let’s prepare and be ready. I urge you to pray that the Lord will give you a love for His truth!

As you prayerfully consider this topic, I want you to know that we are here to help answer any questions you might have. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at <https://freechristianbooks.us/questions>