

HISTORY'S GREATEST COVER UP!

On May 7, 1915, the British ocean liner Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine, drowning more than 1,200 innocent men, women and children. It was one of the events that drew the United States into World War 1. For decades, history books all took the same position: The Germans had savagely sunk an innocent ship filled only with civilian passengers.

However, 50 years later, the world learned about an incredible cover up. Inside the hold of this luxury liner were 4,200 cases of small-arms ammunition. The “innocent passenger ship” had been carrying weapons of war and was in fact a legitimate target for the U boats in the Atlantic. People were astonished to know that they had been led to believe a lie for decades!

Do you ever wonder if some of the things you have believed all your life are flat-out wrong? It’s not always easy to accept new truth. And that’s what we want to talk about today: a traditional belief, a habit that has been long entrenched in Christianity that is, unfortunately wrong. We need to be careful about holding onto tradition over truth. Jesus Himself warned about this: “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:9)

KEY POINTS

In Daniel chapter 2, we saw how the prophet Daniel was given a view of world history. A great image represented four great world kingdoms which began in Daniel’s day and came right down to our time and beyond. You will remember they were, Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome, then a splintering of nations culminating in the Second Coming of Jesus. In Daniel chapter 7 another vision is recorded that covers the same sequence of kingdoms, only this prophecy provides more detail for the same historical events.

“Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.” (Daniel 7:2,3) Notice the elements in his dream:

Symbol	Interpretation
Four winds of heaven	War & strife (Jeremiah 49:36, 37)
A great sea	Peoples, nations (Revelation 17:15)
Four beasts coming up from the sea	Kings or kingdoms (Dan. 7:17)

Like the kingdoms in Daniel 2, which were represented by precious metals, here the kingdoms are represented by animals or beasts. These kingdoms are:

- Head of Gold and Lion: Babylon 605-539 B.C. - (Dan. 7:4)
- Chest of Silver and Bear: Medo-Persia 539-331 B.C. - (Dan. 7:5)
- Thighs of Bronze and Leopard: Greece 331-168 B.C. - (Dan. 7:6)
- Legs of Iron and Terrible Beast: Pagan Rome 168 B.C. - 476 A.D.

Here is where the similarities stop. Daniel is given greater details of this final beast – the one that not only is terrible, but also has 10 horns (like the image of Dan. 2 had ten toes) and out of which grew a “little horn” that “spoke great things” against the Most High (Dan. 7:8). So, what is this little horn power? Here are nine characteristics from the Bible:

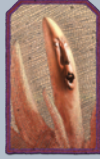


A false belief has been long entrenched in Christianity



Daniel 7's beasts represent four kingdoms

Nine Characteristics of the Little Horn Power



1. It was part of the fourth beast – Rome.
2. It uproots three kings.
3. It has eyes like a man.
4. It speaks great things “against the most High.” (Dan. 7:25) It is a blasphemous power – speaking against God. It has a definite religious element.
5. Stronger than the other horn powers (Dan. 7:20)
6. It would be different from the other horn powers (Dan. 7:23)
7. Will persecute the saints (Dan. 7:25)
8. God’s people would be given into the hands of this power for a certain amount of time – “a time, times and the dividing of times.” (Dan. 7:25) We saw that using the day-for-a-year method of interpretation (Num. 14:34; Ez. 4:6), this time period is 1260 years.
9. This power would try to change times and laws (Dan. 7:25)

Nine Characteristics of the Papal Power



1. It followed after pagan Rome.
2. The church destroyed three kingdoms. The Ostrogoths, the Vandals, and the Heruli.
3. It has a man at its head – the Pope.
4. It speaks great things against God. For example the church claims it can forgive sins! “There is no offense, no matter how serious, that the Church cannot forgive.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church. No 982.)
5. The Roman Catholic Church was stronger than the others. It still is a major force in the world.
6. It is different than the others as it is a religious power.
7. The Roman Catholic Church did persecute all those that disagreed with it. Millions died at the hands of this institution.
8. It persecuted and had undisputed power for a period of 1260 years, from 538 to 1798, when the Pope was taken captive by General Berthier.
9. It tried to change God’s law dealing with time.

So what power arises up after Pagan Rome? History is clear. It is Papal Rome. That’s why it is called the Roman Catholic Church. One of the most famous political philosophers of all times, Thomas Hobbes, wrote centuries ago: “If a man consider the origin of this great ecclesiastical dominion, he will easily perceive that the papacy is no other than the ghost of the deceased Roman empire, sitting crowned on the grave thereof.” (Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*.)

Papal Rome fits all the characteristics listed for the Little Horn as shown above, exactly.

Note in particular number 9 in the list above. The Roman Catholic Church claims to have changed the fourth commandment – the only commandment dealing with time. Here is what their own writings state: “The Church of God has thought it well to transfer the celebration and observance of the Sabbath to Sunday.” (*Catechism of the Council of Trent*, p. 402).

Here is another Catholic source: “Q: Which is the Sabbath day? A: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? A: Because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” (Cardinal Peter Gierman – *Convert’s Catechism*).

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Mark 7:7) Keeping holy the seventh day Sabbath is a command of God; doing so on the first day is a commandment of men. Is it your desire to put God’s will first in your life? John wrote, “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” (1 John 2:4)

Do you know that right now, all over the world, millions and millions of Christians are keeping holy the seventh day Sabbath? They do it not to be saved or to earn merit with God, but because they love God and want to obey His commandments rather than the commandments of man. (John 14:15) They want to show their loyalty to God by obeying His commandments, including the one that goes against almost all the traditions of men.

BETWEEN YOU AND GOD

The question each of us must answer is whether we choose to follow man-made traditions or God’s commandments. I would like to call your attention to the Bible text we saw earlier that describes God’s faithful people living near the end of time. “Here is the patience of the saints, they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12) My friend, don’t you want to be numbered among God’s people?