

**AMBASSADOR
COLLEGE**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Roman Coliseum of DEATH!

LESSON 31

What our STUDENTS SAY

Finished Lessons 31-32

"I want to tell you how much I have enjoyed the newly illustrated Correspondence Course. It gave my heart a thrill when I opened up the envelope and saw the picture on the front. It is almost like getting another PLAIN TRUTH.

"I don't know if the illustrations had anything to do with it or not, but I can say I learned more from these lessons (31 and 32) than any of the others. I had the . . . doctrine of the Mark of the Beast in my head and these lessons really cleared it up. I now have Bible proof for what I believe about the Mark of the Beast. I didn't have it before."

—J. S., Miami, Florida

The "Answer"

"It's a year since I first heard one of your broadcasts. Through your teachings I have learned more truths in this one year than I ever did with my 14 years in a convent; and then moving around from one denomination to another, always searching. Your Correspondence Course is the answer and I thank God for steering my path your way."

—Woman, California

Forsakes "Mark of the Beast"

"Your PLAIN TRUTH, Bible Course, and program have simply turned my religious beliefs bottom side up. Thanks to you, I am now keeping the Saturday Sabbath. I want to quit my church because I don't believe in their teachings anymore."

—Student, Canon City, Colorado

Opened His Mind

"Since I first wrote to ask for *The PLAIN TRUTH* and the other literature and booklets, I have truly learned a lot, and accomplished an immense amount of reading and studying. I am pleased with the Bible Course. It has opened my mind to a great deal of things. As I know and believe that these prophecies are true and are happening as they are predicted, I spend a great deal of time with my lessons. Many things are becoming clearer to me."

—Mr. V. W., Morrilton, Arkansas

(Please continue on page 16)

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 31

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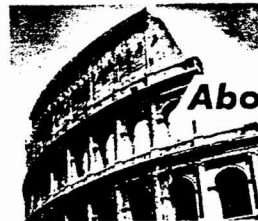
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About Our Cover . . .

The ancient Coliseum at Rome, Italy, has long been a famous tourist attraction.

It symbolizes the glory and might of the Ancient Roman Empire and its continuation—the "Holy Roman Empire" which ruled the world during the Middle Ages.

In this coliseum, thousands of helpless Christians were *brutally murdered* by Roman gladiators and wild beasts! It was "sporting entertainment" for the merciless Roman Caesars and citizens. This lesson tells WHY it happened!

Ambassador College Photo

WHAT IS THE "MARK OF THE BEAST"?

DO YOU realize that the "Mark of the Beast" BRANDS many today who believe themselves to be "Christians"?

You must be sure this brand is *not* upon YOU!—for it can mean your ETERNAL DEATH!

Very soon, Satan the Devil will inspire his agents to *enforce again*—by the sheer brutality of military might—the "Mark of the Beast" as he did during the Middle Ages!

WHY Called "Mark of the Beast"

Sunday observance is the "MARK of the BEAST"! Sunday is the day on which the ancient *pagans* assembled at sunrise, faced the east, and worshipped the rising sun.

It was Constantine "The Great," a *pagan* sun-worshipper and EMPEROR of the Roman Empire, who made Sunday the *official* national weekly day of *rest* in the Roman Empire!

Here are the words of Constantine's famous edict of 321 A.D.: "On the venerable day of the *sun* let all magistrates and people...

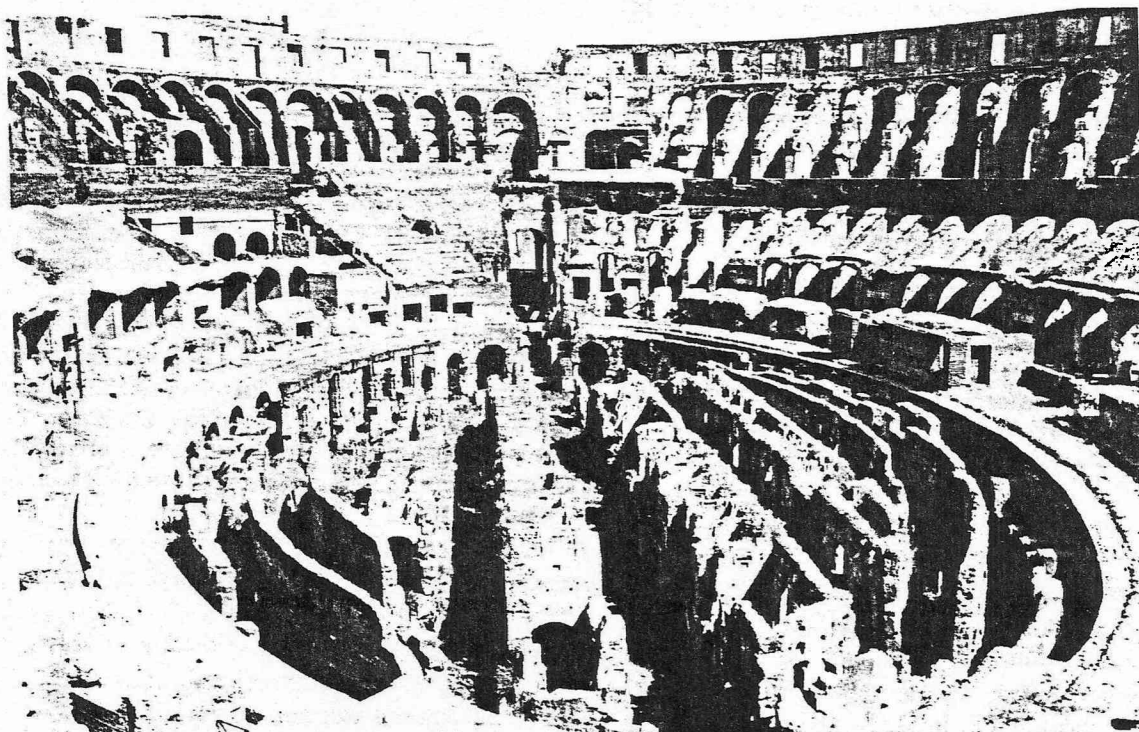
rest" (*Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, article "Sunday Legislation").

Notice that Constantine was a *civil* ruler—not a priest! Thus, a CIVIL Roman Government—not *ecclesiastical*—imposed Sunday as the accepted day of rest and worship upon the subjects of the kingdom.

In your Bible, that ancient Roman system is *pictured* as a wild animal—a WILD "BEAST." And it was the "Beast" which *enforced* its MARK—*Sunday observance*, the "MARK of the BEAST"—upon that ancient world!

Millions ORDERED Killed!

Once Constantine established Sunday as the day of worship, a *religious* power—a CHURCH other than the *True Church* Christ had established—took over the *furtherance* of Sunday observance. This great church has continued to be the champion of this day on down through the centuries into our time. It is a tremendous ecclesiastical power which is prophesied to *vigor-*



Ambassador College Photo

INSIDE COLISEUM — Interior view of the Coliseum at Rome. Notice excavated basement rooms which housed wild animals and prisoners!

ously continue the furtherance of Sunday observance to the end of this age!

This church also became responsible for causing the civil government of the empire to put people to DEATH if they refused to rest on Sunday. The church declared: "Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But, if any be found to be judaizing [keeping God's Sabbath], let them be declared anathema from Christ" (*A History of the Councils of the Church*, p. 316). This decree was passed by the Council of Laodicea, in about 365 A.D.!

Laws became so strict *no man could even hold a job*, or engage in any kind of business, unless he worked on Saturday and rested on Sunday. And when the Church declared one "anathema" (accursed as a heretic), the state police of the now Church-dominated Roman Empire (symbolically represented in the Bible as a "beast" being ridden by a fallen "woman"—Rev. 17) began torturing him. Unless he recanted his "heretical Sabbath keeping," he was TORTURED TO DEATH!

Yes, it was for obeying the fourth commandment—for keeping the Sabbath and refusing to observe Satan's Sunday—that MILLIONS (including numbers of true Christians) were tortured and killed during the Middle Ages.

So it was the Roman Church which finally gained political dominance over the "Beast"—the Roman Empire—that ordered the state to ENFORCE universal Sunday observance!

Greater Tribulation Just Ahead!

This tribulation of the Middle Ages was only a small forerunner of "the GREAT tribulation" which is yet to come!

God shows this same satanically inspired religio-political system is to be in existence at the close of this age—in our time NOW—in just a FEW SHORT YEARS! And through it, the Devil will once again enforce the "Mark of the Beast" with more FIENDISH BRUTALITY than ever dreamed possible!

Notice the grim warning in your Bible: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the Devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12:12). This is for the days now just immediately ahead of us!

Millions will suffer through this gruesome time of Satan's wrath: "I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb,

clothed with white robes These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9, 14).

Yes, millions are to suffer through this terrible period of great tribulation that is just ahead! Multiplied thousands of them will be the ones who are now spiritually ASLEEP as they hear the warning message of God's true servants today!

They could have avoided this terrifying, calamitous experience had they acted in time by beginning a personal spiritual exodus to God beforehand—by keeping now His key test Sabbath Day commandment and His other commandments. They could have been spared all of this suffering had they turned to God and come under His divine protection now—heeding the warning of these very Bible lessons about observing Sunday.

But you see here—you have God's very Word for it here—that hundreds of thousands of a great multitude, a multitude that "no man can number," will neglect this warning! They will voluntarily take the dreadful "Mark of the Beast"!

LESSON 31

The Four Prophetic "Beasts"

God warned there would consecutively arise four great world-dominating, destructive kingdoms. He pictured these four kingdoms by a huge terrible-looking four-sectioned IMAGE.

To make it even clearer, God also pictured these same kingdoms by four ferocious-looking DESTRUCTIVE BEASTS.

The first of these four kingdoms was Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Empire. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was located in the same geographical location as the ancient "Babylonian" kingdom of pagan Nimrod, on the River Euphrates. His kingdom continued the same old Satan-inspired system of Nimrod!

The following three world-ruling kingdoms continued to be satanically inspired. Its rulers were the tools of the devil.

Now we are ready to study God's warning!

1. What did the "terrible image," with its four contiguous sections, look like? Dan. 2:28, 31-33, 36-40. What four "terrible" kingdoms were they to be?

COMMENT: Here are symbolically described



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Ruins of the ancient city of Babylon—all that remains of the world-ruling Chaldean Empire, pictured by the first "beast" of Daniel 7.

the four consecutive world-ruling Gentile empires. The *first* kingdom, or empire, was Nebuchadnezzar's then-existent kingdom. Since God expects us to look into this world's history books to learn additional related facts about fulfilled prophecies, we find that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom—the CHALDEAN EMPIRE, called "Babylon" after the name of its capital city—existed from 625-538 B.C.

We also know from history that the following *second* kingdom was to be the PERSIAN EMPIRE (558-330 B.C.), often called Medo-Persian because it was composed of the Medes and Persians.

The *third* world-ruling kingdom was to be GREECE (333-31 B.C.), under Alexander the Great who conquered the Persian Empire.

And the *fourth* kingdom was to be the ROMAN EMPIRE (31 B.C.-476 A.D.).

2. What was the *description* of the four "beasts" God showed Daniel in vision? Dan. 7:3-7.

COMMENT: Note that the *first* beast was like a "lion" (Dan. 7:4), the *second* was like a "bear" (v. 5), the *third* like a "leopard" (v.6), and the

fourth beast was so dreadful and terrible looking (v.7), that it could *not be compared* to any wild beast that inhabited the earth!

3. Did these four beasts clearly represent the four bestial-minded world-ruling kingdoms that were to arise consecutively? Dan. 7:17, 23.

COMMENT: The word "king" is synonymous with kingdom, as clearly shown in verses 17 and 23. Therefore Daniel 7 reveals that these "beasts," these wild animals, symbolize *consecutive* world governments—world empires.

4. Why was the fourth beast—the Roman Empire—so "dreadful and terrible [looking] and *strong exceedingly*; and . . . DIVERSE [different] from all of the [three] beasts that were before it"? Dan. 7:7, 23; 2:40. Notice the words "devour the *whole* earth" in Dan. 7:23.

COMMENT: The Roman Empire, which the fourth beast represents, began at Rome, then spread out and gradually absorbed—"devoured and brake in pieces"—all the remnants of the other preceding kingdoms, occupying all their territory. It became extremely powerful because it embodied the strongest MILITARY CHARACTERISTICS of all its predecessor kingdoms.

Truly, the fourth beast was a very strange and mysterious-looking animal, for "dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly" was the Roman Empire *to become!*

WHY Roman Empire Became EXCEEDINGLY Destructive!

So important was the fourth beast—the Roman Empire—to become, that God deals in great detail with its awesome destructive power. For this beast is to *exist again* in our time!

God shows the *great culminative* destructive power of this fourth world "empire"—an "empire" at this very moment arising *again* in Europe—by means of a great *composite* "beast." It is comprised of the most powerful parts of each of the three successive previous beasts, or world empires. Thus, it was to possess the *combined strength* of all the other three.

God also warns us, through this weird-looking composite beast, that *today's exceedingly great ROMISH RELIGION* is once again to *dominate* a political revival of the Roman Empire. It will be none other than the *climactic age-end* prophesied RESURRECTION of the destructive fourth beast to which the *fiery "red dragon"* (Satan—Rev.

12:3, 9) *has given his power through the centuries!*

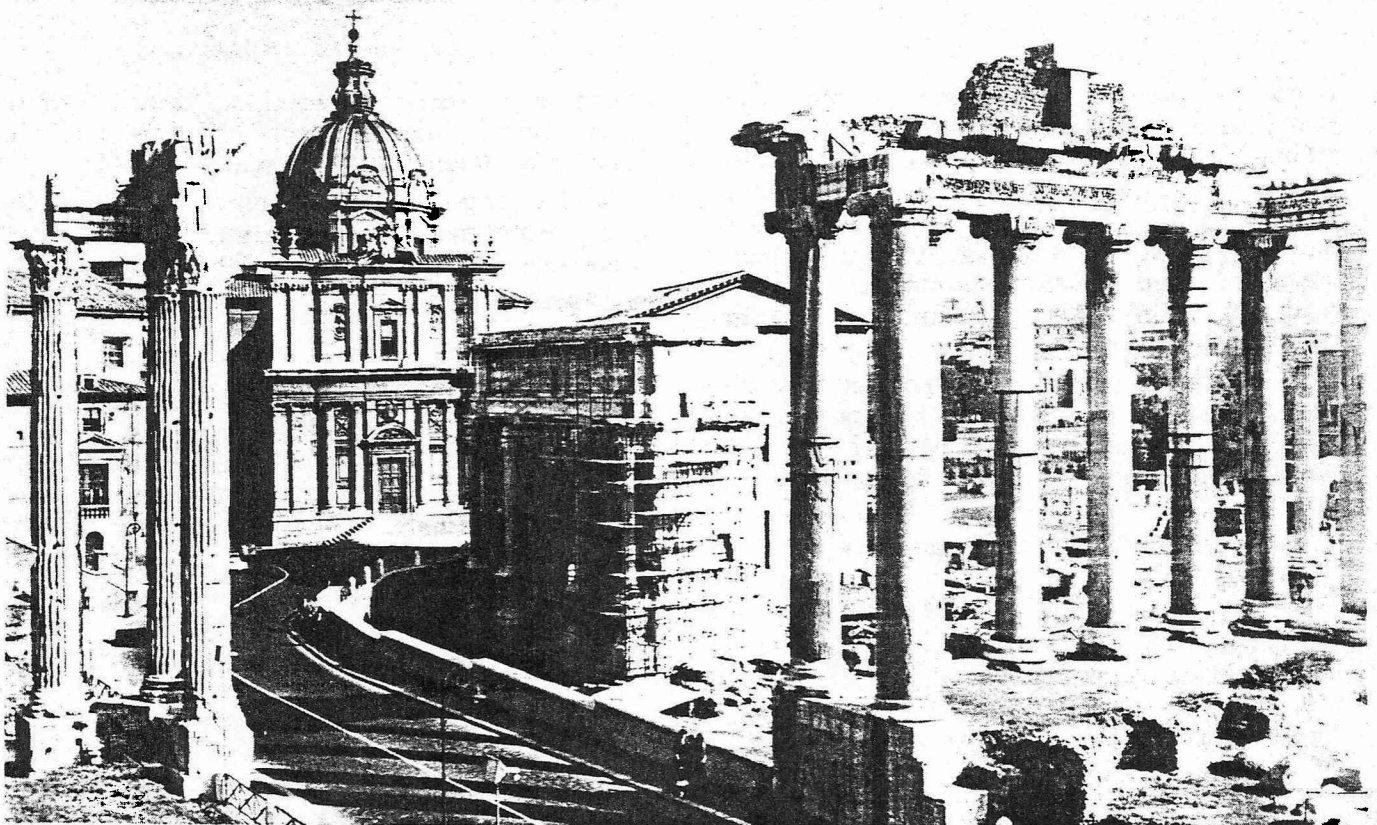
At this very moment, Satan is preparing the smashing *climax* of his destructiveness through this great *modern "Beast"*—for it is the "Beast" which will soon ENFORCE its "Mark" upon the world! Understand fully!

1. What was the description of the COMPOSITE BEAST God showed John in vision approximately 650 years *after* Daniel's vision? Rev. 13:1-2.

COMMENT: Here, again, is described a very strange and mysterious-looking animal! God showed John a symbolic beast which looked as though it had *swallowed* three different animals—a lion, leopard, and a bear—which in turn manifested parts of themselves so as to make up the *total* body of the beast. Therefore, John's total beast (Rev. 13:2) is a *FOURTH* beast composed of the *most powerful parts*—is a composite—of each of the other three beasts.

2. Then do both John's total beast and Daniel's fourth beast each symbolically represent the Roman Empire? Dan. 7:7. Each does!

COMMENT: Daniel's and John's visions both actually portray a *succession* of world-ruling kingdoms which *climax* with the Roman Empire! To fully understand this, we must notice the *point of view* of both visions.



Wide World Photo

Ancient ruins in Rome, Italy—reminders of the past glory and great military power of the world-ruling Roman Empire.

Daniel's vision—about 650 years *before* John's vision—was mainly prophetic. Three of the four empires pictured by Daniel's four beasts had not yet existed. Only the Babylonian Empire, pictured by the first beast—a lion—was in existence at the time of Daniel's vision.

But by the time of John's vision of a composite beast—about 96 A.D., 650 years *after* Daniel's vision—John was living in the days of the *fourth* kingdom, which was the Roman Empire. The preceding three great empires had already risen to power and fallen. By that time, the Roman Empire had overspread—*swallowed up and absorbed*—all vestiges of the preceding three kingdoms. Therefore it had all the royal splendor and *power* of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom of Babylon—so it had the **HEAD**, the *strongest* part of the "lion." Also, it had all the massiveness and *numerically powerful* army of the Persian Empire—symbolized by the **LEGS**, the *most powerful* part of the "bear."

And the Roman Empire was the greatest war-making machine the world had ever seen, for it possessed the *swiftness*, the *cunning*, and the *cruelty* of Alexander's army, symbolized by the **BODY** of the "leopard."

Now we can see *why* God showed John a beast which was composed of the first three animals Daniel saw; for John's total beast—the Roman Empire — **EMBODIED** all the *dominant characteristics* of the other three kingdoms.

So John's total beast plainly pictured the *fulfillment* of Daniel's prophetic beasts! It is very clear that *both* John's total beast and Daniel's fourth beast represent the **ROMAN EMPIRE** which became *exceedingly destructive*! (If you haven't done so already, then *send* for Mr. Armstrong's **FREE** booklet, *Who Is the Beast?*, for additional information about the identity of the prophetic "beasts.")

3. Was the Devil the lethal *motivating force* directing and empowering this Beast—the Roman Empire? Rev. 13:2 and 12:9.

COMMENT: Satan the Devil was the *spiritual* power behind the "Beast"—the Roman Empire—the political instrument through which he has worked in deceiving the world. And it is he who is now inspiring and guiding the formation of the greatest and most powerful religio-political government this world has ever known—a space-age "Holy Roman Empire"—a satanically inspired system which has its root beginnings in the ancient "Babylon" of Nimrod! *And has for its purpose the ETERNAL DESTRUCTION of man!*

History shows that the religion-dominated "Holy Roman Empire" of the Middle Ages, exterminated all known Sabbath-keeping Christians! And it is for this very same purpose that

Satan is now reviving this powerful Romish system!

Roman BEAST Institutes Sunday Law

Let's learn how Satan, through this diabolical political instrumentality—the Roman Empire—*began* to force under threat of *death*, Sunday observance upon millions in the Roman world. For it is a **TYPE** of what is *just ahead*!

The Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, Vol. IV, pp. 2259-60, art. "Sunday," informs us: "Sunday (*dies solis*, of the Roman Calendar, 'day of the sun,' because dedicated to the sun), the first day of the week, was adopted by the early [apostatizing] Christians as a day of worship... It was called the 'Lord's Day' [Satan is the 'Lord'—the god of this world—II Cor. 4:4]... No regulations for its observance are laid down in the New Testament, nor indeed, is its observance even enjoined [by the *true* God—it is a day of observance furthered by the Devil and his servants!]. . . ."

In 321 A.D., Sunday observance was *commanded* by Roman state *decree*! History reveals that it was the Roman Emperor Constantine "The Great," who made the decree to **FORCE** the world to observe Sunday.

Constantine's edict reads as follows: "On the venerable day of the *sun* [SUNDAY] let the magistrates and people residing in cities *rest*, and let all workshops be closed" (Codex Justinianus, lib. 3, tit. 12:3; translated in *History of the Christian Church*, by Schaff, Vol. III, p. 380).

What was Constantine's specific reason for making this decree? It was his *mode of harmonizing the discordant religions* of the empire *under one common institution* (*Lectures on the History of the Eastern Church*, by Dean Arthur P. Stanley, Scribner's printing of 1884, p. 184). (Isn't there a *movement by a great Roman church today to "harmonize" discordant religions?*)

So Sunday observance became the "Mark of the Beast," for it was the *state*—the "Beast," or Roman *Empire*—which declared *Sun-day* to be observed as an imperial holiday!

History tells us that *death* resulted for those who steadfastly opposed the Sunday observance dictates of the Roman government! (Send for the *free* booklet, *The Mark of the Beast*, to learn more details about the Beast's enforcement of its Sunday "Mark.")

Roman STATE Religion Enforced!

Very soon after 321 A.D., Emperor Constantine chose a Christian-professing church with headquarters at Rome—one which observed his pagan day of the Sun—to further strengthen his rule and promote sun worship.

In 325 A.D., Constantine issued another decree and enforced it with armed MILITARY MIGHT! Notice what he warned all—including *true* Sabbath-keeping Christians who *refused* to observe *Sunday*—who did not bow to his and the Church's dictates:

"To speak of your *criminality* as it deserves demands more time and leisure than I can give... Why not at once *strike*, as it were, at the root of so great a mischief by a *public manifestation of displeasure*? Forasmuch, then, as it is no longer possible to bear with your pernicious errors [refusal to join and submit to Constantine's state church] we give warning by this present statute that none of you henceforth presume to assemble yourselves together. We have directed, accordingly, that you be deprived of all the houses in which you are accustomed to hold your assemblies: and... [we] forbid the holding of your superstitious and senseless meetings not in public merely, but in any private house or place whatsoever... take the far better course of entering the Catholic Church... And in order that this remedy may be applied with effectual power, we have commanded, as before said, that you be *positively* deprived of every gathering point for your superstitious meetings, I mean all the houses of prayer... and that these be made over without delay to the Catholic Church; that any other places be confiscated to the public service, and no facility whatever be left for any future gathering in order that from this day forward none of your unlawful [in the sight of the Roman government] assemblies may presume to appear in any public or private place" (from Eusebius' *Life of Constantine*, Book III).

This same Eusebius, a *Catholic* historian who lived during the time of Emperor Constantine, sums up Constantine's work by declaring: "And the credit of having achieved this mighty work [of driving out all non-Catholics] our heaven-protected Emperor alone, of all who had gone before him, was able to attribute to himself" (Book III, chap. 66).

For some 40 years the *false* Christians professed to observe both God's Sabbath and Constantine's Sun Day. But everywhere the Catholic "Church Fathers" attempted to degrade the Sabbath as "Jewish," though forced tacitly to admit that true Sabbath keepers did *not* observe the Jewish rituals. Then soon it was made absolutely *illegal* to keep God's Sabbath. This will shortly be made very plain.

Roman CHURCH RULED the Beast

Satan has his destructive *civil* government on earth doing his will. He gives it "his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Rev. 13:2).

But the Devil also has an *ecclesiastical* organ-

ization—a great CHURCH—which is his *religious* instrumentality in deceiving the world.

God uses *wild* beasts to picture *destruction*. So God uses *another* "beast" to picture this great destructive false church. For it, too, is a ruling, devouring government!

Here is God's astounding revelation, from His Word, which positively identifies the "second beast" of Revelation 13 as the "Papacy" of the Roman Church which ruled the Roman Empire during the Middle Ages.

1. Did God, in vision, show John another "beast"? Rev. 13:11.

COMMENT: Do *not* confuse this beast with the first beast of Revelation 13 which you have proven to be the civil Roman Empire.

2. Does this second beast appear "like a lamb"? Rev. 13:11. What does the word "lamb" symbolize in the Bible? John 1:29 and Rev. 17:14. *But* is this beast's *true* character of the DEVIL himself? Rev. 13:11 and 12:9.

COMMENT: This two-horned "beast" appears as a lamb, *falsely* impersonating Christ and His true teachings of salvation. It actually speaks the lies of the Devil! (This beast is *not* the United States as some claim.)

3. Was this second beast—that is, this Godly-appearing, but actually Devil-inspired false church—to utilize all of the power of the first beast—that is, use all the *civil* government's might? Rev. 13:12. How and when did it begin to exercise the first beast's power? Verse 3.

COMMENT: It was when the *first* beast's deadly "wound"—the Western Roman Empire's fall (476 A.D.) when the barbarians overran it, thus ending its government—was "healed" in 554 A.D. by Justinian's *restoration* of the Roman government, that this *religious* government completely took over all the power of the Roman civil government and *exercised* it to rule the Roman Empire!

Here is how it was accomplished. Prior to 554 A.D., JUSTINIAN, Emperor of the eastern division of the Roman Empire, had written a letter to the pope, acknowledging his supremacy. He, as *civil* governor, was willing to be ruled by the *ecclesiastical* head.

And when he ascended the throne in 554, he was accepted by the *pope*, whose authority the Emperor acknowledged. Church and state were now united. Here for the *first* time in history, the CHURCH was ruling the *state*, instead of the state controlling the church! Truly, it was a new thing in the world—church over state. A pattern being striven for again in our time!

We read in history that the popes were accepted as the "Vicars of Christ," which means "in place of Christ"! The Catholic teaching was that the Second Coming of Christ had occurred

—Christ had returned to earth. as King of kings and Lord of lords, *in the person of the popes!* The Millennium had (supposedly) begun.

For the entire duration of the "healed" church-dominated beast's existence, the emperors accepted the popes as **RULING** in *Christ's place*, ruling all nations with a "rod of iron" as Christ is to do at His real coming! Consequently the Roman emperors gave their power to the popes.

In the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, article "Millennium," you will find the history of how the "Holy Roman Empire" came to be called the "Kingdom of God on earth."

Papacy Patterned After Roman Civil Government

Let's notice exactly how the Papacy of the Roman Church was organized into an ecclesiastical government.

1. Did the Roman church make an "image" of the first beast? Rev. 13:14. What is this "image" of the first beast?

COMMENT: According to the dictionary, an image is a "copy, representation, model, semblance, counterpart." It is a "likeness."

So here is a great church saying to the people, "Let us make an *image*—a *model*, a copy of the civil Roman government"! They patterned their ecclesiastical government after the *most efficient* government they knew. They patterned it after the Roman *civil* government so they could administer their "*religious*" government more effectively.

"The first pope, in the real sense of the word, was Leo I (440-461 A.D.)," says the *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, Vol. VII, page 629. To him the form of government of the Roman Empire was the most marvelous thing on earth. It became an obsession with him.

Pope Leo advocated the complete organization of the church on the *model* or *image* of the Roman civil government, *with the Pope as its religious head*. He said that resistance to his will was worthy of "hell," and advocated the death penalty for heresy. He finally accomplished his goal by organizing the church into a government, thus forming the "Papacy."

Says Myer's *Ancient History*: "During the reign of Leo I, the church set up, within the Roman Empire, an ecclesiastical state (government) which, in its constitution and its administrative system, was shaping itself upon the imperial model. This [counterfeit] spiritual empire, like the secular empire, possessed a hierarchy of officers" (p. 582). The *Britannica* calls it an "Ecclesiastical World Empire!"

The Papacy is called by Catholics the "Hierarchy of Jurisdiction." It is "the GOVERNING BODY of the Catholic Church consisting of the Pope and the other bishops throughout the world." They possess, according to Catholic sources, "the power to make laws, to sit in judgment, and to fix *spiritual* penalties when necessary."



Wide World Photo

The "Papacy," headed by the Pope, is the governing body of the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope is shown surrounded by Catholic Bishops who attended Ecumenical Council meetings.

Notice its claimed attributes belong *only* to God. To attribute them to any organization of men is to set that organization in the place of God! —to commit idolatry—to worship the "image" of the beast!

So the Papacy, according to these historians, is a model, a counterpart—an image of the bestial pagan Roman Government. This ecclesiastical government compelled people, at the threat of death, to worship a *man-ruled* church organized by men into a worldly government.

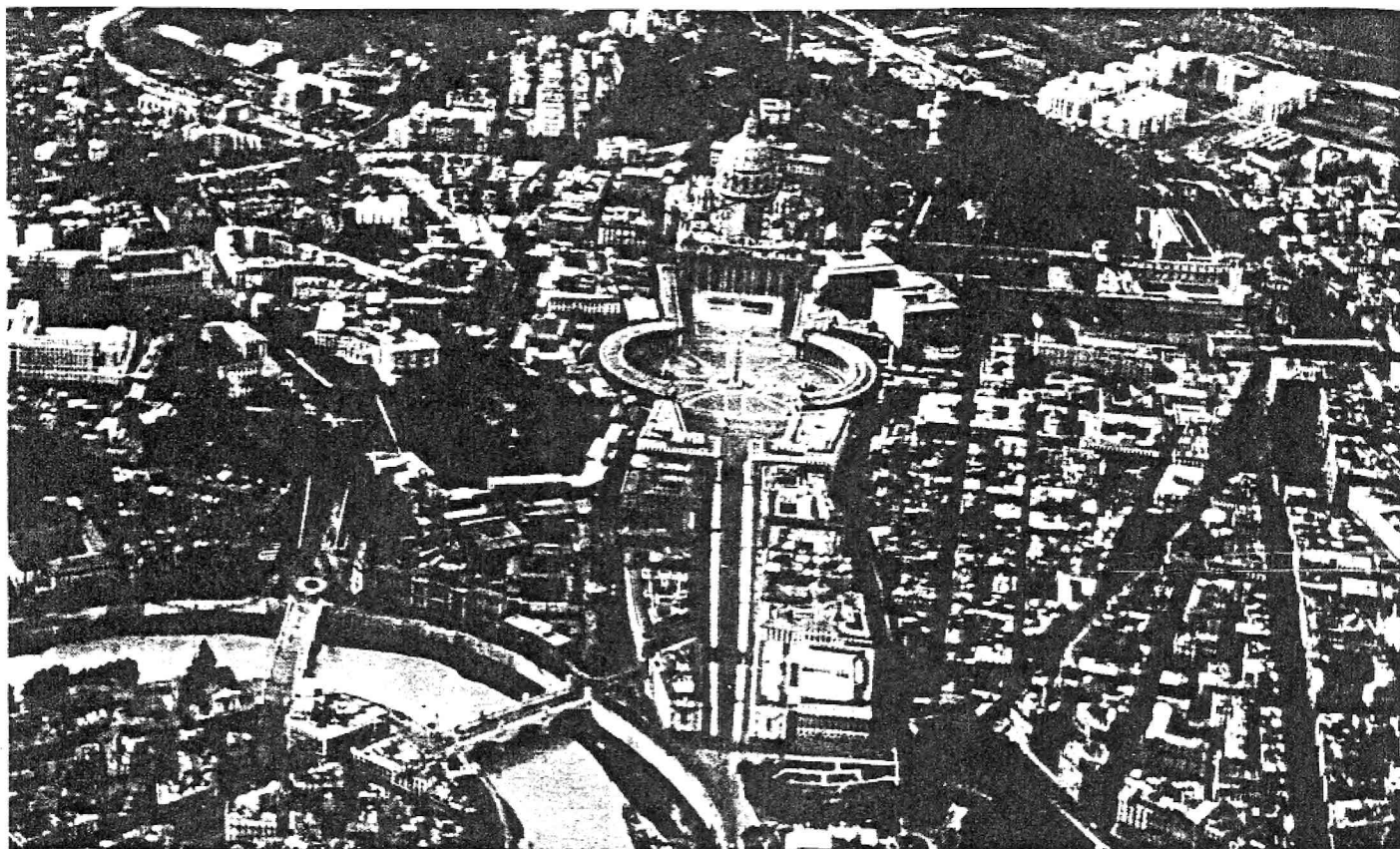
Although palmed off as the government of God, *it is in reality only an "IMAGE" of a HUMAN government!*

Church Became a DUAL Government

1. Do the two "horns" of the second beast of Rev. 13:11 symbolize *two types* of government? Dan. 7:24.

COMMENT: A "horn" represents a king or government. There were *two* horns—*two* governments.

The Catholic Church was organized as a *dual*, two-fold government. It embodied church gov-



Wide World Photo

Air view of Rome, Italy. In center is "Vatican City" and St. Peter's Basilica. The Vatican is a separate, independent, sovereign state, as well as a church government.

ernment, and it also was a state, or civil government, always occupying a certain amount of territory in Italy over which it, alone, ruled as an independent sovereign state—in addition to actually ruling over the vast *civil* kingdom called "The Roman Empire."

Even today the Catholic Church is a separate, independent, sovereign state. Most nations send ambassadors to it, just as they do to the United States, to Italy, England, or Russia.

So this "second beast" was—and is today—a CHURCH-STATE GOVERNMENT! And it plans to soon expand its rule and Sunday observance around the *earth*!

2. Where else in Bible prophecies do we find described the same identical facts which represent this Catholic church-state government? Rev. 17:1-7, 15, 18. What does the symbol of a "woman" mean? II Cor. 11:2.

COMMENT: In II Cor. 11:2 Paul is comparing God's Church to a *virtuous woman*.

But in Rev. 17:1-7 God pictures a *fallen* woman—an apostate church—as a great church called "the great whore" and *ruling* over many nations!

It is well known by those who understand Bible prophecy that the *woman* in the 17th chapter of Revelation pictures the *Roman Catholic Church* ruling over Satan's civil kingdom—

the blasphemously so-called "Holy" Roman Empire.

This great counterfeit church—instead of becoming "engaged" to the true Christ, and keeping herself true to Him as coming world ruler—formed an illicit union with the governments of this world by entering into world politics. The church sought to *dominate* this world's governments by taking an active part in their affairs! Thus she committed *spiritual* "fornication"—illicit union prior to marriage.

In verse 18 she is also called "that great city [Rome] . . . which reigneth over the kings of the earth." And in verse 2, God says the inhabitants of the earth have been *DECEIVED* by this great false church! A great worldwide religious-political *system* for promoting SUNDAY OBSERVANCE!

Church Caused Enforcement of "Mark"

By 365 A.D. there still were many Sabbath-keeping Christians who kept all of God's commandments. And by this time, the Catholic Church had gained considerable influence in the governmental affairs of the Roman Empire, especially after Emperor Constantine's professed

conversion to the "Christianity" of Catholicism in later life.

See now how Satan, who is wroth with God's people, began stepping up his work of putting the pressure on to destroy God's true Sabbath keepers through his political and religious organizations!

1. Did God prophesy that the satanically inspired Roman Church would claim to *change* His divine laws and days of worship? Dan. 7:20, 25. What was one major "time" and "law" that was "changed" by this church, and when was it done?

COMMENT: Around 365 A.D., the Sabbath became an *ecclesiastical* issue. So the Catholic Council of Laodicea was called to settle, among other matters, the Sabbath question! The most famous canon from this council—the twenty-ninth—reads thus: "Christians must *not* judaize by resting on the SABBATH [God's true rest day], but must *work* on that day . . . and, if they can, resting then [on Sunday] as [professing] Christians. *But* if any be found to be judaizers [God's true Sabbath keepers], let them be anathema [ecclesiastically accursed] from Christ" (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. XIX, p. 148).

It was the *church*—the "*little horn*"—which sanctioned the pagan Roman *Sunday* as the day of rest and worship. Yes, and it also was the Catholic Church which claimed to "change" God's Law—*claiming* it had authority from God to "officially" transfer the true Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday!

The Roman Sunday law now had the force of an *ecclesiastical* law.

2. Did the Roman church *cause* people of all classes to receive the "mark" of the "beastial" Roman Empire—observe the Roman Empire's Sunday—under threat of *death* for disobedience? Rev. 13:15, 16.

COMMENT: The force of the Roman State had already been utilized in 325 A.D. by Emperor Constantine to confiscate the property and destroy the lives of any who obeyed God's commandments. But now, in 365 A.D., the heavy hand of the Roman *church*-influenced STATE really began to *fall hard* upon those who continued to be faithful in resting on the Sabbath as *God commanded*.

A little later, around 400 A.D., Augustine declared: "The holy doctors of the church have decreed [*not* a decree of the Bible, but of *men*] that all glory of the Jewish [God's] Sabbath is *transferred* to it [*Sunday!!*]. Let us therefore keep the Lord's Day [*their* "lord's" day] *as the* ancients [the true worshippers of God] were commanded [by God] to do the Sabbath" (*Sabbath Laws*, p. 284).

Yes, *men* presumptuously transferred God's commanded set time to worship Him from the *true Sabbath* to *another day*—*Sunday!*

Pope Gregory of Rome, in the West, anathematized "Those who taught that it was not lawful to do work on the day of the Sabbath" (*History of the Popes*, Vol. II, p. 378). Sabbath keeping was completely obliterated from Rome by the sixth century (Andrews, *History of the Sabbath*, p. 375). And the Eastern churches extirpated Sabbath observance in another four hundred years, about 1000 A.D.

COMMENT: The Roman Catholic Church *caused* to be KILLED as many as would not worship the "*image*"—would not *worship* and *obey* the *Roman Catholic Church itself*, whose *government* is *patterned* after, formed in the likeness of, the *Roman civil government*.

Note carefully that this false church did *not* kill them itself, for *such destruction would have been too limited*. It CAUSED the mighty power of the *civil government* to kill them! History shows that the military of the civil Roman government martyred nearly 50,000,000—*fifty million* who were declared "anathema from Christ"—called "heretics" by the church!

Those millions of martyrs were killed because they would not worship the *Roman Catholic Church: conform to its idolatry*, its pagan beliefs and its customs, or worship the so-called "Holy" Roman Empire. And *because they refused to receive the commanded "Mark of the Beast"*—refused to observe *Sunday!!*

So Satan, through his religious and political instrumentalities, successfully *stamped out* all known Sabbath keeping and ENFORCED the "*Mark of the Beast*"—enforced *Sunday* observance in the empire. No wonder these were called the "*Dark Ages*," for God's Truth was all but completely stamped out!

Beast Was To Continue

The pagan Roman government of the Middle Ages indeed successfully *enforced* the "Mark of the Beast"—Sunday observance—on all the civilized world! People were thus *branded* through the efforts of Satan's ecclesiastical and civil governments. The world had actually *surrendered* to Satan, for "HIS [Satan, in this case] ye are to whom ye *obey*" (Rom. 6:16).

That's exactly why the former satanic tribulation occurred—to *force* mankind to obey Satan so he would OWN and do with humanity as *he pleases*—to mankind's ETERNAL DESTRUCTION!

Understand now how this *same* satanic Roman system has actively continued on down into our times, and for what *purpose!* Under-

stand how it is laying its plans to *force* man by a far greater tribulation—a great tribulation now almost upon us—to come under Satan's rule and acknowledge his Sunday in such vast numbers and with such great fervor, that there would be NONE ready to receive eternal salvation!!

1. Is the Roman Empire, which is also symbolized by the legs and feet of Nebuchadnezzar's great *image*, prophesied to be in *existence* at the end of this age—*until* the Second Coming of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God? Dan. 2:33-35. Who is the *stone*?—Does the great “stone” clearly picture that it is *Christ* who will smash the empire? Acts 4:10-11.

2. But did the beast John saw receive a deadly wound? Rev. 13:3. Was it the *head* that specifically represented the *Roman Empire* that was “wounded to death”?

COMMENT: The first six of the seven heads of the beast John saw stood for the Babylonian Empire, Medo-Persian and the Grecian Empire with its four divisions. The only “head” existing at the time John saw this beast in vision was the Roman Empire; and so, the *Roman Empire* is the “one of his [seven] heads” that was wounded to death in the vision!

The deadly wound, then, was the one administered to the Roman Empire by the barbarians who overran it in its last decaying stages, thus ending its government in 476 A.D.

3. When the seventh head—the Roman Empire—received its deadly wound in 476 A.D., was this the end of Satan's Beast, Satan's political system, or was its wound “healed”? Rev. 13:3.

COMMENT: Notice that the text does *not* say the *whole* Beast died—it says only *one* of his *heads* was wounded to death. The *one head* died. But the *Beast itself* CONTINUED, for his—the Beast's—“deadly wound was *healed*.”

4. Do the ten horns of the fourth beast of Daniel 7:7 and the ten horns of the beast of Revelation 13:1-2 represent the *successive* kingdoms, or governments, which were to rule in the *territory* of the Roman Empire *after* its fall? Dan. 7:23-24. Was the *last* horn or government to be in existence *at the time* of Christ's second coming and be given to Him? Verse 27.

COMMENT: These ten horns are TEN *succeeding governments*—kingdoms—which were to rule the Roman Empire after its fall in 476 A.D. until the time when the “Stone,” Christ, comes to destroy the last stage of the Roman Empire, and establish His kingdom.

We know these are ten *successive*—not contemporaneous—kingdoms because in actual history there have never been ten contemporaneous governments that have ruled the Roman Em-

pire, side by side, down to the present. But so far, there have been *nine successive* kingdoms ruling that territory from 476 A.D. to the present. ONE MORE is yet to arise before Christ comes.

5. Which three governments comprise the *first three* “horns”? See comment.

COMMENT: By 476 A.D., the Roman Empire was overrun by the Vandals (represented by the *first horn*), of Northern Africa, who sacked Rome in 455 A.D. and ruled it for a brief space of time. Then Odoacer set up his government at Rome which was called the Heruli (the *second horn*). It ruled in and over Rome (476-493 A.D.), but it did not heal the deadly wound because it was only a barbarian—not a Roman—government.

Finally, there was the kingdom of the Ostrogoths, 493-554 A.D. (the *third horn*), another outside foreign people who ruled in the territory. But they were shortly driven out of Italy and disappeared.

Though essentially independent and *non-Catholic*, these three nations did profess to carry on the Roman Empire by continuing the *principle* of Roman government and Roman law. These three kingdoms (“horns”), or governments sweeping into the Roman territory, filled the period known in history as the “transition age”—that is, the transition between the “deadly wound” and its “healing.”

6. Did Daniel's prophetic vision include a separate “little horn” which came up among the other ten? Dan. 7:8. What was the description of this “little horn” and what did it do to the first three horns? Same verse, and verses 20, 24.

COMMENT: The Roman Catholic Papacy, which this “little horn” represents, was responsible for uprooting the first three “horns.”

7. When and by whom was the Beast's wound “healed”? Remember, it would have to be by a *Roman* government. See comment.

COMMENT: It was the *fourth* horn, or government of Daniel 7, which, succeeding the fall of the Roman Empire, really “healed” the deadly wound and restored, or *resurrected*, the Roman Empire. In 554 A.D., Justinian, from Constantinople and Emperor of the Eastern Division of the Empire, set up his government at Rome, bringing about what is known in history as the “Imperial Restoration” of the Roman Empire in the West, thus “healing” the wound.

Beast Continues Into OUR TIME!

1. How long was the now *church-ruled* Beast to *continue* after its wound was healed? Rev. 13:5. Does God clearly show exactly how

long this symbolic time period is? Ezek. 4:4-6 and Num. 14:34.

COMMENT: This is the well-known *day-for-a-year* principle which the Bible gives us in understanding many prophetic lengths of time. So "forty and two months" equals 1260 days (42 times 30)—the equivalent of 1260 years in Bible prophecy—the length of time the Catholic Church-dominated "healed" Beast was to continue.

2. What governments were the *following four "horns"* that reigned in the territorial Roman Empire *after* the "Imperial Restoration" of the Roman government? See Comment.

COMMENT: Following the "healing" in 554 A.D. by Justinian's government, came the *fifth* "horn," the Frankish Kingdom (French); then the "Holy Roman Empire" (German) was the *sixth* horn; the *seventh* horn was the Hapsburg dynasty (Austrian); and Napoleon's kingdom (French) was the *eighth* horn.

But, when Napoleon was crushed in 1814, the healed beast's existence was *suspended*. And from 554 A.D. to 1814 A.D.—the duration of the church-ruled "healed beast"—was exactly 1260 years! "So closed," says West's *Modern History*, page 377, "a government that dated from Augustus Caesar" (from 31 B.C.).

3. What was to be the condition of the Beast after the 1260 years were fulfilled? Was its existence to be only *temporarily* suspended until its ninth and tenth "horns," or governments, would reign? Rev. 17:8. Remember that this great Beast, which was ruled by the Roman Catholic Church, is to be in existence at the return of Christ—the "Stone"—who will destroy it!

COMMENT: Eight of the "horns" having arisen and fallen, the Beast then *temporarily* went into the non-existent condition *symbolized* in Rev. 17:8 as the "bottomless pit."

But in 1870, Garibaldi had *united* the many little divisions of the peninsula of Italy into ONE NATION, and the kingdom thus established began the *ninth* "horn," which culminated in the Fascist-Nazi Axis rule of Mussolini and Hitler.

But take heed and don't be caught in Satan's snare! This religio-political bestial system of Satan the Devil is REVIVING RIGHT NOW, arising *once more* out of the symbolic "bottomless pit" to form the *tenth* and FINAL "horn"!! And through it the Devil will cause the "*Mark of the Beast*" to be RUTHLESSLY ENFORCED ONCE AGAIN!

"Mark" BRANDS Daughter Churches!

1. How does God picture the Devil's great false church? Rev. 17:3-5. Does this church

have "harlot" daughters? Verse 5. How did her *daughter churches* come out of her—in *protest*?

COMMENT: This great false church which rules over many nations and commits *spiritual fornication* by political relationships with civil governments, is also a great "mother" church! She has "harlot" *daughters* who have come out of her in *protest* to some of her doctrines.

But these protesting daughters have *retained many* DOCTRINES of their "mother"—the "great WHORE" (Rev. 17:2). *That is why God calls these daughter churches "harlots"!*

Yes, the early *Protest-ant* Churches came "out of" the Catholic Church *protesting* against some of her *false* doctrines—but they did NOT "protest" greatly—for they still *continue* to observe the SAME ROMAN CATHOLIC SUNDAY!! *The key day of disobedience!*

Protestant ADMISSIONS!

The modern Protestant "daughter" Churches of the Catholic Church *freely admit* the reason they observe Sunday is because they *follow their Mother*. They *recognize* that Sunday observance is NOT COMMANDED by God in the Bible!

Here is a frank admission from the Lutheran Church:

"They (the Catholics) allege the Sabbath changed into Sunday, the Lord's day, contrary to the decalogue, as it appears; neither is there any example more boasted of than the changing of the Sabbath day. Great, say they, is the power and authority of the [Catholic] church since it dispensed with one of the ten commandments" (from the "Augsburg Confession," article 28).

What a fulfillment of Daniel 7:25!

The early Protestant reformers continued to accept that Catholic claim, even while suspecting it was wrong. Carlstadt, Luther's associate, wrote: "Concerning Sunday, one feels uneasy, because *men* have established it."

And what was Luther's reply? He attacked his friend furiously. "Indeed," he wrote in a pamphlet entitled *Against the Celestial Prophets*, "if Carlstadt were to write further about the Sabbath, Sunday would have to give way, and the Sabbath, i.e., SATURDAY, *must be kept holy*."

The Church of England (in one of its catechisms) makes the following *frank statement* regarding Sunday: "And where are we told in Scripture that we are to keep the first day [Sunday] at all? We *are commanded* to keep the seventh; *but* we are *nowhere* commanded to keep the first day... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the

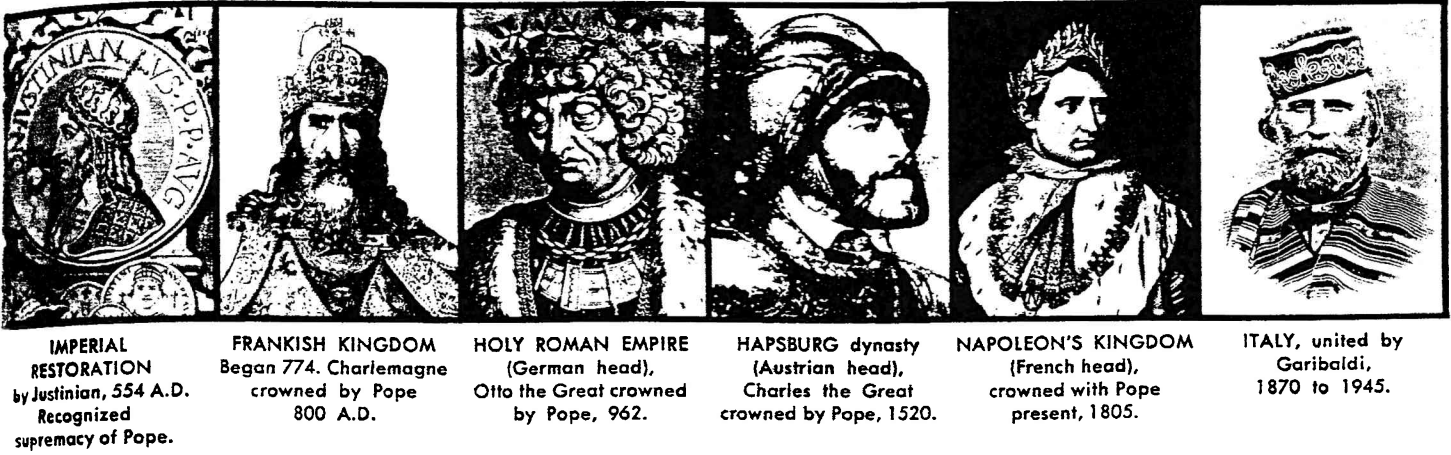
(Please continue on page 16)

A CHART SHOWING PROPHECIES OF REIGN OF GENTILE KINGDOMS								
Dan. 2 The IMAGE	Daniel 7 The FOUR BEASTS (State) (Church)		Dan. 8 The RAM and GOAT	Revelation 13 The BEAST and IMAGE (State) (Church)		Rev. 17 BABYLON and BEAST	EXPLANA- TION of Symbols	The EVENTS Fulfilled in HISTORY
Head of GOLD v. 32, 39	1st BEAST like LION v. 4						1st HEAD of prophetic BABYLON	The CHALDEAN EMPIRE (Babylon) 625-538 B.C.
Breast and arms of SILVER v. 32, 39	2nd BEAST (BEAR) v. 5		RAM with 2 horns v. 3, 4, 20				2nd head of prophetic BABYLON	The PERSIAN EMPIRE (Medo-Persia) 558-330 B.C.
Belly and Thighs of BRASS v. 32, 39	3rd BEAST (LEOPARD) 4 heads v. 6		HE-GOAT with great horn and 4 notable ones v. 5-8, 21, 22				3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th HEADS of prophetic BABYLON	GREECE, under Alexander the Great, and four divisions, 333-31 B.C.
Legs of IRON v. 33, 40-43	4th BEAST strong like IRON with 10 HORNS v. 7, 23, 24			The BEAST with 7 HEADS and 10 HORNS v. 1, 2			7th HEAD of prophetic BABYLON, with ten HORNS	The ROMAN EMPIRE, 31 B.C.-476 A.D., in 2 divisions, West and East
				The DEADLY WOUND v. 3				Fall of the ROMAN EMPIRE 476 A.D.
	1st HORN (plucked) by roots)			1st HORN			These three horns, destroyed at behest of Pope, fill the "Transition Age" (Myers)	The VANDALS 429-533 A.D.
	2nd HORN (rooted up)			2nd HORN				The HERULI, Odoacer's government, 476-493 A.D.
	3rd HORN (rooted up)			3rd HORN				The OSTROGOTHS 493-554 A.D.
		LITTLE HORN among ten v. 8, 20-22, 24-27			2-horned "LAMB- DRAGON" and "IMAGE" v. 11-18	SCARLET WOMAN who rode the BEAST v. 1, 2	Ruled the Beast, so- called BABYLON the GREAT	ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH and PAPACY, "image" of Roman Empire government
	4th HORN			1st of remaining 7 horns— DEADLY WOUND HEALED (to continue 1260 years) v. 5	554-1814 1260 YEARS BEAST CONTINUED	1st HEAD of BEAST (healed) ridden by Scarlet Woman	Since the "Great Whore" never rode any of the 7 heads of the 1st 4 Beasts, but did mount and ride the last 7 horns of Daniel's 4th Beast, it follows that the last 7 horns of Dan. 7 and Rev. 13 are the 7 HEADS of Rev. 17 (5 are now fallen)	"IMPERIAL RESTORATION" of empire by Justinian, 554 A.D. He recognized supremacy of the Pope, submitted to him
	5th HORN			2nd of remaining 7 HORNS		2nd HEAD ridden by Woman		FRANKISH KINGDOM Began 774. Charlemagne crowned by Pope 800 A.D.
	6th HORN			3rd of remaining 7 HORNS		3rd HEAD ridden by Woman		HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE (German head), Otto the Great crowned by Pope, 962
	7th HORN			4th of remaining 7 HORNS		4th HEAD ridden by "BAB- YLON"		HAPSBURG dynasty (Austrian head), Charles the Great crowned by Pope, 1520
	8th HORN			5th of remaining 7 HORNS		5th HEAD ridden by Woman		NAPOLEON'S KINGDOM (French head), crowned with Pope present, 1805
In 1814, just 1260 years after "deadly wound" was healed, the "HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE" was dissolved. "So closed a government that dated from Augustus Caesar" (West, p. 377).								
	9th HORN			6th of remaining 7 HORNS		6th HEAD ridden by Woman	(One IS) Rev. 17:10	ITALY, united by Garibaldi, 1870 to 1945
The Ten TOES	10th HORN			7th and last HORN	Beast ascends out of pit	7th head and ten HORNS	(One yet to come)	Revived ROMAN EMPIRE, by 10 dictators

This chart will help you understand and correlate various prophecies concerning the stages or revivals of the Roman Empire. Use it with this lesson and Lesson 32, which will deal specifically with the LAST REVIVAL of the "Holy Roman Empire" and ENFORCEMENT of its "Mark."

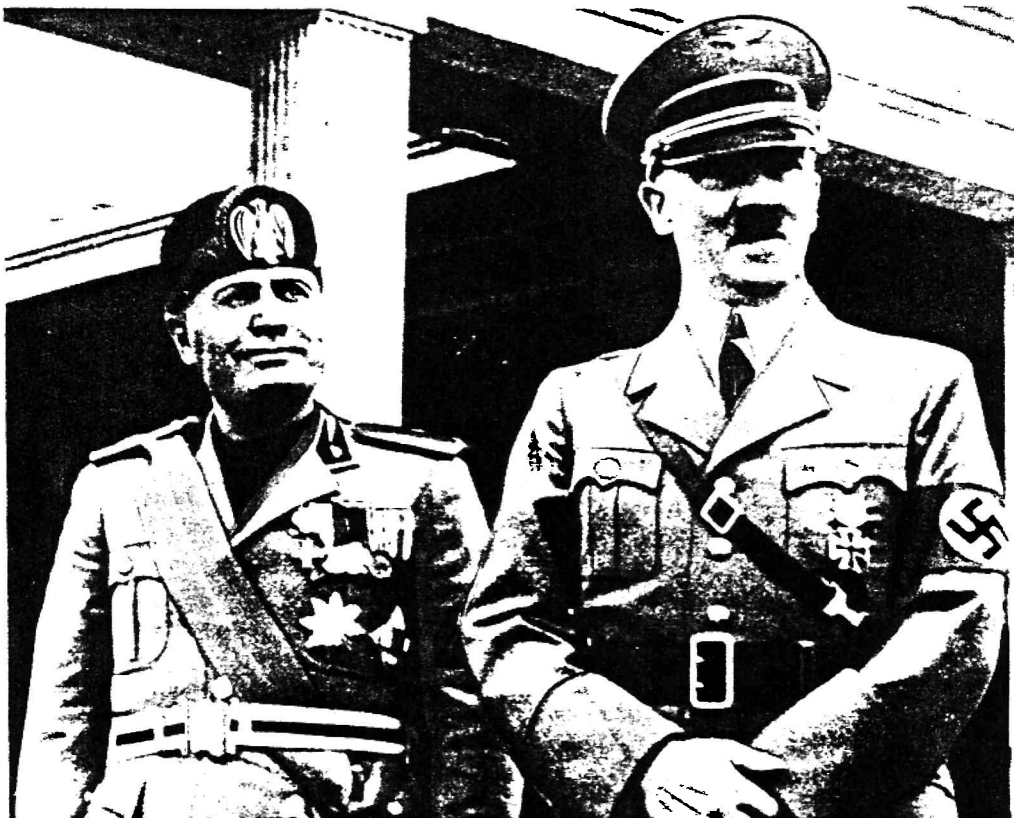
These Men Led the First Six Revivals of the Roman Empire

PIP Photos



BUT WHO will usher in the seventh revival of the Roman Empire?

Already the plot is far advanced to unite Europe politically, the world religiously—and to restore the diabolical Middle Age system of religious persecution!



American Stock Photo

The sixth revival—ninth "horn"—of the Roman Empire was established by Garibaldi in 1870. It culminated in the Fascist-Nazi Axis of Mussolini and Hitler.

(Continued from page 13)

seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because the Bible, but because the [Catholic] Church, has enjoined it" ("Plain Sermons on the Catechism," by Mr. Isaac Williams, D.D., Vol. 1, pp. 334-36).

That is quite an admission!

The following *confession*, by Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, author of "The Baptist Manual," was made before a New York ministers' conference on Nov. 13, 1893. "Of course, I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian [Catholic] fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it [Sunday] comes branded with the mark of *paganism* and christened with the name of the SUN GOD, when adopted and sanctioned by the papal apostasy, and *bequeathed* as a sacred legacy to PROTESTANTISM!"

WHAT A REVELATION!

Yes, the Catholic Church bequeathed this pagan first day of the week, all wrapped up in a Sunday wrapper, to the Protestant Churches—her daughters. They have followed Mother Rome to this very day!

From the beginning, the Protestants were *not* interested in obedience to God, or in the Gospel of the Kingdom. Exactly as the early Catholics, they were seeking to convert the kingdoms of this world to their own religions. The truth that was open to them passed through their fingers! This is why Protestants observe Sunday today! They have *voluntarily* BRANDED themselves with the "MARK of the BEAST"—the Roman Empire's national holiday—the day which the Roman Catholic Church *voluntarily* accepted and later caused to be ENFORCED by the might of steel!

BEWARE!

1. What is God's *warning* to YOU regarding this entire satanically inspired and empowered Babylonish religio-political system of the Devil? Rev. 18:4.

2. What will be the just punishment of all those who *persistently* follow the Devil's false teachings? Rev. 20:15 and II Pet. 3:10.

COMMENT: Today, Catholics and Protestants alike are voluntarily taking the "Mark of the Beast"—even to this hour. Therefore, they unknowingly, but *perilously*, OBEY SATAN THE DEVIL—not the true God and Creator of all things! "His *servants* ye are to whom ye OBEY . . ."! (Rom. 6:16.)

And just as Sabbath keeping is the "*sign*" which distinguishes the true worshippers of God and pictures their destiny of eternal life with

glorified spirit bodies in the Kingdom of God Sunday observance is the "*mark*" or "*brand*" which *identifies* the worshippers and followers of Satan the Devil! They are observing a day in commemoration of the eternal destiny Satan has *planned* for them—ETERNAL DEATH. For God will cast the incorrigible wicked into the "LAKE OF FIRE" (Rev. 20:15)—a time when the surface of this earth shall *burn* as the surface of the sun, CONSUMING all the *disobedient* upon it!

This is the *ironic destiny* of those who observe Satan's Sun-day—*unless* they REPENT! Don't YOU observe Sunday—the "Mark of the Beast"!

(To be continued in Lesson 32)

What our STUDENTS SAY

(Continued from page 2)

Twelve-year-old Writes

"I would like to express to you how much I appreciate your home study Correspondence Course. It has been a great help to me. Now I know why so many don't understand the Bible and answers to other questions. I also enjoy your PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I am 12 years of age."

—Girl, North Carolina

40 Years Later . . .

"I wish I could put in words how I feel about the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. I have gotten more from it in eight months than I did in 40 years of going to church and Sunday school steadily. The only thing I am sorry about is that I didn't know about it sooner. I am nearly 70 years old."

—Mrs. S. C., Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania

Whole Life Has Changed

"I don't know of any Bible study, written or personal, that I have gotten so much truth and understanding from like I have the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. I'll never be able to put into words my thanks for these truths you've made possible for me to study each month. Since starting this Bible study, my whole way of life has been changed. I have come to know God and depend on His help in my life. I know that He hears and answers my prayers for I've had proof of this many, many times."

—J. P., Algood, Tennessee

• So have thousands of other students.