

Reading: Daniel 7:7 - 8 & 19 - 25

Introduction

- Daniel sees 4 terrible beasts symbolising 4 successive great empires/powers:
- 1st The Babylonian Kingdom.
- 2nd The Media/Persian Empire.
- 3rd The Grecian Empire.
- 4th The Pagan Roman Empire.
- All of them arrayed against the Kingdom/rule of God on earth.

1 The 4th Beast Of Pagan Rome

- This kingdom had its genesis on the 7 hills of Rome.
- Encompassed most of continental Europe, western Asia and N. Africa.
- Ruled by it's Caesars who developed Caesar worship.
- Caesars used the title 'Pontifex Maximus.'
- Massacred over 1 million Jews in AD70.
- Declared Christianity as 'illegal religion.'
- Up until 312AD responsible for killing 10/12 million Christians.

- In 313AD emperor Constantine 'converts' to Christianity.
- Within 10 years Christianity is the official religion of the empire.
- However the church becomes 'paganised'. (The 'falling away' of 2 Thessalonians 2:3)
- The bishop of Rome becomes the dominant bishop.

2 The 10 Horns

- In AD476 Roman empire fragmented into 10 kingdoms.
- [Vs 8]. A 'little horn' emerging from the beast subdues 3 of those kingdoms.
- Emperor Justinian (head of government) and bishop of Rome (head of church) unite.
- Led to the pope's dictatorship.

3 The Little Horn - The Papacy

- The little horn emerged from the 4th beast.
- History identifies the 'papacy' as emerging from pagan Rome.
- The mouth of this 'little horn' would speak pompous things and blasphemies. [Revelation 13:5].
- [Matthew 23:5] Not to call any man 'father' in a religious sense.
- The 'doctrines' of Rome are its pompous words.

4 The Little Horn Makes War With The Saints

- In AD1184 the Council of Verona instituted the 'Inquisition'.
- History charges the papacy with the deaths of some 50 million of the saints.
- NB. [Vs 25] 'a time (360) times (360x2=720) & half a time (180).'
 TOTAL 1260.
- 1260 prophetic days/1260 literal years.