

# Evidences Of The Anti Christ

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**Bible Text:** 2 Thessalonians 2  
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Book of 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2. Good to have each of you with us this morning to worship. Brother Jim, I mentioned this in my prayer, we again want to mention it this morning, of course, we're keeping the 130th base up in Charleston, and that's been a tremendous matter of prayer from Brother Leon Harper works there, been there for a number of years and we certainly did pray that the Lord would keep that open. It's exciting when you make a list and specifically pray at the way that the Master answers prayers when you pray and keep track. So we're very thankful for that, of course, we give the Master all the praise and the glory and honor for that. Often we pray for things and then we fail to go back and mention them when we see them answered and certainly we need to do that.

What we're doing on Sunday mornings is, for right now anyway, we're looking at great prophetic misconceptions. Great prophetic misconceptions and we began this last week. I think there's a lot of misconceptions with regard to prophecy and with regard to the Second Coming. Last week's misconception we looked at is that the Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel in the tribulation period, and I think that's a misconception, and we dealt with Daniel's 70-week prophecy, and we showed the reason why that I believe that that is a misconception. This morning's misconception is going to be on another subject, and that is on the subject of the Antichrist. This is not a detailed study. I preached one time two months on the Antichrist, so I hope this is one sermon, if I have to do two, I will, but I hope it's one sermon. And the misconception, I believe, with regard to the Antichrist is that the Antichrist will be revealed in a tribulation, in the tribulation period, and this is a common view, and that is that Jesus is going to come and take, rapture his saints out, and then there will be a seven-year tribulation, and the Antichrist will be set up in a time following the Second Coming. Now folks, I believe that's a misconception. I think it's the most widely held view but I think there's two things you need to see. First of all, I think the Bible teaches that the Antichrist will come before the Second Coming, and I think the Bible makes that clear. And I think also the Bible makes clear that the Antichrist has a long history. Not just a three and a half year history, he has a long history. So I think those are two misconceptions with regard to the Antichrist that we need to see. So, is everybody clear on what the misconception is? That the Antichrist is revealed after Jesus comes and most people believe that today. Today, in 2005, most of the books you find written, most of the people who believe that, and that's the view that

they hold. The Antichrist is not here. The Antichrist is not revealed yet. He won't be revealed till after Jesus comes again.

All right, now what we're going to do in this is we're going to look at the Antichrist. I think the Bible reveals to us the time, the time that the Antichrist comes into power, and I wrote that on the board. I wrote that at 756 A.D. I think you can look at the Bible, and I think you can determine from what the Bible reveals the time frame that the Antichrist will come to power. Okay? I'm going to show that to you in this, I almost said in this broadcast or in this service this morning. But you're going to see that the Antichrist would be set up after the fall of Rome. He will come into power after the fall of Rome.

2. It would be during the time of the ten tribes. I think the Bible makes that clear. During the time it was ten tribes that conquered Rome. It's just a historical fact. Ten tribes conquered Rome. During the time of the ten tribes is when the Antichrist would be revealed. When in the exact time of the ten tribes would be after three of them falls, then he would be set up. Okay, is everybody with me? That's what I'm gonna prove this morning. Now if I'm right, then you can clearly see if he comes during the time of the ten tribes, then it's obviously, it's not gonna be out here after the Second Coming.

Now, the next thing we want to do with regard to the Antichrist is, and I don't know if I'm going to have time to do this in any detail or not, the Bible makes clear what describes him perfectly. It describes him to a T in Scripture and what we have to do then, after I'm done, is we have to look and see is there a man that fits this time frame, and is there a man that fits his description? Does that sound fair? Is there a man that fits the time and is there a man that fits the description? So that's what we're going to do in this morning's lesson, okay?

Now let's go ahead and look at 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 and let's look at the time of the Antichrist. When will he be revealed, what does the Bible teach? 2 Thessalonians 2 says, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." This is 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 and verse 1, "we beseech you by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him." Now stop there just a moment and look up at me just a moment. It's talking about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to him. Now folks, that's clearly talking about the rapture in that text. Does everybody agree with that? I mean, that's when he comes, we're going to be gathered together to him. Matthew 24, he will send forth his angels with the great sound of a trumpet, and he'll gather together his elect from the four winds and from one end of heaven to the other. That's just a description, of course, of the rapture. In Ephesians 1:10, he's going to gather together in one, all that are Christ's, both which are in heaven and are in earth. That's the rapture. It's called a gathering of his people. Are we waiting on that gathering to happen? That could happen today. He could come with the sound of the trumpet, and he could gather together his people unto him in heaven. Certainly, he can do that.

There's an illustration that's used in the Bible and every time you watch a nature show, I want you to think of what I'm about to show you. Turn to Matthew 24. It's an illustration

of the Second Coming and it sounds like an odd illustration to you. Matthew chapter 24, and talking about the gathering. Verse 28, here's an illustration or a picture. Have you ever seen in nature shows whenever a lion will kill a wildebeest or whatever it is and it's laying there and then the old carcass, old rotten carcass gets there and shows all, what, when the lions ain't there and there's a carcass left, what do you see happen? All those old buzzards come, vultures comes down on that carcass and just swarms it. Has everybody seen that? You know the Bible uses that as a picture of the Second Coming. Did you realize that? Let me share it with you. Here in the book of Matthew chapter 24, look at verse 27, "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Talking about the Second Coming. "For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles," that means the idea of that is buzzards or vultures. You've got a different translation, probably records that in there. But that's where the vultures will "be gathered together." So you have a picture of a carcass and all these vultures are gathered on it and he uses as an example when Jesus comes again, Jesus will come in the clouds and all of his people will be gathered on him or around him. Isn't that an awesome picture? We wouldn't think of it being pictured that way but all I want you to see is that's a gathering together unto him and that's what 2 Thessalonians 2 is speaking of. Everybody clear on that in verse 1? I mean, you can just look and see that. That's about as clear as crystal, I believe.

Verse 2, "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand." The Thessalonian church, like a lot of the churches then, thought Jesus was coming was imminent. I mean, by that, they thought he was coming back then, right there and then. And one thing it seemed the Thessalonian church did was a lot of people, since Jesus was coming, you know what they did? They quit working. Quit going out and working their fields or going out and working, period, and they just sat back and kind of waited on Jesus to come. A lot of people did that in 1988, whenever that man wrote that book and sold millions of copies, "88 Reasons Why Jesus is Coming in '88." Sold a lot of books in '88, but I bet you couldn't give one away now, could you? You ought to know right off the bat, since he guessed the date, that he didn't know what he was talking about, 88 reasons. So a lot of people, when they figured out that Jesus was coming in '88, they quit working and the Jehovah's Witnesses over the years have had, I forget, five or six different dates when Jesus was going to come, missed it all six times, and many of them quit working. And that's what this particular church did. A lot of them, they quit working. And what he's doing is he's going to teach them two things that has to happen before Jesus can come. Two things that has to happen before Jesus can come and these two events had not happened at the time that the book of Thessalonians was written, and here's what the two events are, verse 3, "Let no man deceive." Let no man, what? Deceive you. There's a lot of people deceived about the Second Coming. A lot of people, I believe, is deceived about it. So he warns you about that. "For that day shall not come, except." Everybody say except. So there's some things that has to happen before that day can come. Does everybody see that?

Now the day of the Lord is the day that he comes again. Have you ever heard that Jesus is coming as a thief in the night? Well let me show you a text that teaches that. Turn just

back a page to 1 Thessalonians chapter 5. It says in verse 2, "For yourselves know that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." What's it mean when it says Jesus is coming like a thief? He's coming unexpectedly. You don't know when he's coming. And since you don't, you know, a thief, he'll rob you in the daytime. I got robbed one time in the daytime. I really did. If they think you're not home and they come and hit you when you're unexpected, when you're not looking for it. And here the idea that Jesus is coming, since he's coming, if you knew a thief was coming, what would you do? You'd be ready. Yes, sir. I remember I seen a thing the other day, it said beware, it said, you know, where people have the "Beware of the dog" signs on their fences and stuff, it says, "Forget the dog. Beware of the shotgun." I thought that was pretty good. So if we realize that a thief's coming, we're going to be prepared for him. We'll be waiting on him, will we not? Jesus is coming like a thief. We don't know when he's coming, but we must be ready because he could come at any time.

So the day of the Lord is what I want you to see as it's referring to his Second Coming and it's encouraging us to be ready. It says in verse 4, "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you as a thief." He's talking to saved people. So the day of the Lord, the day of the Lord and the day of Christ's coming is the same day. It's not two different days, it's the same time. He's coming like a thief. That's why you always have to be ready. It's linked to the same day.

Two things has to happen before Jesus comes. That day shall not come, and what word did I have y'all say a little while ago? Except. And we're talking about the Second Coming. Here's the two things that has to happen. The latter part of verse 3 says there has to be a falling away first. If you look the word falling away up in a Greek dictionary, where we get the word apostasy, and it means a defection from the truth. Look it up in a Greek dictionary. It puts both words together, falling away, as one Greek word, and it means a defection from the truth. So before Christ comes again, there will be a gross defection from the truth. Now, can I be honest with you all this morning? We're not waiting on that to happen. That already happened. That happened and began to happen. If you'll look in verse 7, it says, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work." It's already began to happen at the time that Paul wrote this book, and as a matter of fact, in the book of Acts chapter 20, in talking to the elders at the church of Ephesus, he said, "After I'm gone, there'll be grievous wolves come in and they won't spare the flock and they'll tear the flock apart with false teaching." And they did.

So many doctrinal errors began to creep in the church right during this first century and folks, I think you can clearly see we're not waiting on a falling away from the truth happening. It has happened, and there's been many different places started as a result of it. Many say, "Well, there ought to be only one church." There should be, and there would be only one church if there wasn't false gospels. There would be if there wasn't so many, so many, so many false gospels that peddle false gospels. Satan has to have a place to peddle it. Does that not make common sense that the devil would work that way? Jesus established his church as an institution of spreading the truth of the gospel and as an institution of teaching his word. Now, Satan is an imitator and in 1 Corinthians chapter 11 it says that he assumes the appearance of an angel of light and therefore it's not no

small thing that his ministers appear as angels or ministers of righteousness. But they're really not. They appear that way, but they're not because they peddle a false gospel, okay?

So this falling away from the truth, here's what it's saying: Jesus could not come unless this falling away happened. And I'm telling you, you can clearly look and see that it has, and it began to happen when he wrote this book, and around the first, second century, that's when it really... y'all heard me teach on the history of the church, remember? They had a baptism. They made baptism as a means of salvation, and they started sprinkling. They took church government away. Instead of the church being local, they made the universal church, and then instead of that, instead of having each church being independent, you had one man and one church ruling over the whole thing. So they changed everything about it, and it wasn't long after this that these things began to take place.

But here's the other thing I want you to see in verse 3, there has to be a falling away from the truth, but what else does it say? I want you to look at it, please, in the latter part of verse 3. There has to be a falling away first, "and that man of sin be revealed." Do y'all have a problem now? In order for Jesus to come again, the man of sin has to be revealed in this area right here. If he wasn't revealed, he couldn't come. You see, he's talking to a people that thought he's coming right then. He said, "Now wait a minute. Don't get all shook up. He's not going to come except there be a falling away from the truth and the man of sin be revealed." Those two things has to happen. Now right off the bat, you see a problem. The futurist view places him here after the coming, not before. That's why I said it's a great misconception. If you take 2 Thessalonians 2, that in and of itself, it caves around that. It caves completely around that.

The Antichrist doesn't come after the coming, he comes before, and you know what his strength is today? No one looks for him here today. They look for him later. So he can be here and no one recognize who he is or seek to expose to who he is or stand against what he teaches. That's his strength. That's his strength, one of his strengths. People don't look for him. They're still looking out here somewhere. The view that I'm teaching this morning is that he is here and he's been here and the Bible reveals his time, when he'll be set up, and the Bible reveals how long he'll last. He'll last till the Second Coming. The Second Coming will reveal him, because when Jesus comes, he'll still be here, okay? That's when he'll really be seen for what he is, is then, because when Jesus comes, he will still be here.

Okay, now let's move on. Everybody understand the text that we looked at? That day shall not come except there be a falling away from the truth and the man of sin be revealed. The Second Coming cannot take place till those two things has happened. As a minister of the gospel, I'm telling you that those two things have already happened. So you know what that means? He could come at any time. Now if the man of sin wasn't here, he couldn't come yet but since the man of sin is here, he can come. All God's people said. Now all I ask you to do is look at these things and give them a good check. I got a history of that view. I looked up a history of the view that the Antichrist is coming here. I

got a history of that. I went back and studied it back to see where it originated at. You'd be surprised where it originated at. You'd be surprised at the view that our forefathers held. You remember I taught on, y'all ever heard of the Waldenses? In the 1100s, remember I said that they were forefathers of the Baptists and I read to you a doctrinal statement. They believed salvation was by grace and that alone. Remember that story? They believed the Antichrist was still here. They believed the Antichrist was here at their time in 1100, the Waldenses did. John Wycliffe, same thing, he believed that the Antichrist was here. John Hus, Martin Luther, Zwingli, John Calvin, William Tyndale, John Knox, John Fox, Isaac Newton, Jonathan Edwards, all those believed the Antichrist was here in their day. Waldenses was in 1100, Martin Luther 1500, John Wycliffe 1300. They all believed that the Antichrist was there at their day. The view that the Antichrist comes in the future wasn't originated until the 1500s. Everyone basically before there knew who he was. So what I'm giving you is not new. What I'm giving you, if the Waldenses believed it in 1100, what I'm giving you is old, it's just been forgotten and set aside. I'll come back to this later.

Okay, are you interested? I hope you're interested. I'm not boring anybody, am I? This is very important that you see this because prophecy sells a lot of books. Prophecy sells a lot of books and as dramatic as you make it, more people is going to be interested in it. My, my, my. He's coming out here in the future and all these things. I'm telling you, he's here, and if he wasn't here, Jesus couldn't come.

Now turn to Daniel chapter 7. Here's probably where I'm going to have my trouble at because I'm trying to be brief and sometimes it's hard to be brief, but I want to be brief. Daniel chapter 7. Remember, what I'm doing is showing you the time that the Bible reveals about the Antichrist. Remember, the first part of that time is that the Antichrist has to come before the Second Coming. He has to. He has to be here, according to 2 Thessalonians 2. Okay? Now the second part of this time that I want to look at, I should have wrote that on the board but I didn't, but the second part of this time I want to look at is he has to come after the fall of Rome and the Bible indicates that. Now I'm going to read you some verses then I'll explain them.

Daniel chapter 7, let's begin at verse 4. Here's a vision, or verse 3, a vision that Daniel saw. "And four great beasts came up from the sea, different from one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And another beast, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth and in between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. And then I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth, a dreadful and terrible beast, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all them," latter part of verse 7, "and it had ten horns. And I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another little horn." Everybody say, little horn. One more time, little horn. Very important that you remember this little horn. Let's do that one more time. Little horn.

Remember him. Little horn's the Antichrist. Anybody will tell you that. Anybody will tell you that. The little horn here is the Antichrist. He's the same as the man of sin in 2 Thessalonians 2, and he's the same as the beast in Revelations 13. They're all the same person and anybody will tell you that. You know what the difference is, don't you? The difference is where they put him at. So about anyone you want to read after, tell you the little horn is the Antichrist, but where they have the little horn come into being is right out here. So there's no debate on what I've just given you. Really, there is not, because everybody believes the little horn's the Antichrist, all right? Now, that's four beasts we just looked at, the context tells you what they picture. Notice verse 17, "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth."

Now, look up or at me just a moment. Four beasts represent four kings or kingdoms that will arise. Now, anybody what I'm giving you right now, you can read, just about anybody would tell you what I'm giving you right now. Those four kingdoms, the first kingdom was like a lion with eagle's wings is the kingdom of Babylon. Ancient insignia of Babylon was a lion with eagle's wings. I think that is peculiar, but it is a fact. Babylon was the first dominant nation that's mentioned here in this context. Babylon was a nation that came down and conquered Judah and broke down their walls and destroyed their temple. That's why they're named. After Babylon comes a nation it was likened to a bear, and it says it was raised on one side. So one side of it was stronger than the other. You know who conquered the Babylonian empire? The Medes and the Persians but the Persians were stronger than the Medes. That's why it's raised on one side. Then eventually it became a kingdom of just Persia. Kingdom of the leopard, of course, is Greece under Alexander the Great. You notice it had four wings on it because Alexander, he died at 33. They weren't prepared for his death and his kingdom was broken up between four Generals. Remember he's writing to these things centuries before they came to pass. Greece was the next dominant kingdom and then the terrible kingdom that came up after that was the kingdom of iron that was terrible and that was the nation of Rome, the Roman Empire come after that. Anyone, anyone you can read on prophecy will tell you what I just told you. Pick it. They'll tell you what I just said. There's no disagreement there. The disagreement comes after Rome.

Now if you're reading this text and it talks about these four beasts and then 10 horns, and then amongst these 10 horns comes up the little horn, now would you think that they just run concurrently or would you say there's a gap there? There's no gap there. Right after the beast of the lion come the beast of the bear, and right after the bear come the leopard, and right after the leopard came the terrible beast, and right after the terrible beast came the 10. Does that not make, is that not common rule? I mean, look at the text, it doesn't indicate no gap. Now notice what it says in verse 24. What are these 10 horns pictures of? "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten," what? Ten kings or kingdoms. And if you look at a history book, and most of you know that, that the Roman Empire was conquered by 10 Germanic tribes. It's a fact of history. Now, there were some more, sometimes there was more and sometimes there was less, but the number was basically, in the beginning, ten, just like God's word says. It was 10 Germanic tribes that conquered Rome.

Do we know that? Does that not make sense? Does it not run concurrently, one right after the other? Here's the division. There's a gap here and this is a revived European nations out here that the Antichrist rules over in tribulation. There's no reason to think that because that text doesn't teach that. This is a historical position that shows you the dominant nations on the earth until Jesus comes. Right after Rome, 10 tribes would conquer Rome. And there's something I want you to notice. Let me go ahead and read these to you. The lists are sometimes different. Depends on the historian you read after, but there's still 10. The Visigoths, the Alemanni, the Vandals, the Anglo-Saxons, the Jutes, the Burgundians, the Franks, the Herules, the Lombards, the Ostrogoths. There's 10 and these 10 Germanic tribes, you can look at history books, they came to...that's who finally and completely defeated Roman in the end.

Let me read out of Brother Opie's book. There were 10 tribes who invaded from the north, the east, and established kingdoms in western Roman Empire. The Anglo-Saxon and the Jutes, you know great kingdoms came from these 10 Germanic tribes? The Anglo-Saxons, who came from them? Angoland/England, Franks/France, Germany, all the kingdoms in Africa. Kingdoms in Spain, kingdoms in Portugal, all come from these ten Germanic tribes. The European nations came from these tribes and these 10 tribes are the ones that conquered Rome. And folks, that's a fact of history. I mean, you wouldn't think there's a gap between the leopard and the terrible beast, would you? Why would you think there's a gap between the terrible beast and the 10 tribes? There's no reason to think that way unless you read your Bible from the bottom up, by that I mean unless you've got notes in your Bible that tells you it's that way. If you just read your Bible, you would follow them concurrently just like this text does.

Okay, everybody still with me? We know who are the 10 horns. We know they're the 10 Germanic tribes. We know from history that's who conquered Rome. I said on this thing that the Antichrist comes after the fall of Rome during the time of the 10 tribes. Why did I say it came during the time of the 10 tribes? Because during the time of the 10 tribes is when this little horn comes up. What kind of horn? A little horn. A little horn with a big mouth, okay?

Now notice, let me prove that to you one more time real quick. Back to Daniel chapter 7. Verse 8, he said, "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them, " there came up among them. Everybody say among them. Among the 10, "there came up among them a little horn." All God's people say it. So among the 10 tribes comes a little horn. Now it calls it a horn because the 10 horns were all, what? They're all political kingdoms. So this little horn is a little kingdom with a big mouth, okay?

Notice it says in the latter part of verse 8, he has a mouth speaking great things. Notice what else it says about him in verse 21, "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints of God and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came." You see, this little horn, I want you to see something in verse 21. This little horn would make war with God's people. He would come up during the times of the 10 tribes and he would last till the Ancient of days comes. You see, one of the things the future limits him to a little three and a half year period. The little horn began during the times of the 10 tribes and



goes all the way down to the Second Coming. The little horn has been here for about 1,200 years and he will continue to be here until King Jesus comes and then he will be no more. He will be exposed for what he is and his organization will be exposed for what it is. Okay?

Everybody with me? You interested yet? Okay, let's move on. Now, it says in verse 24, "the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be different from the first, and he shall subdue three kings." Everybody sees it says he shall subdue three kings? Look down at verse 20, "And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom," everybody say before whom, "before whom three fell."

All right, let's look back up at my board. This little horn would come up during the time of the 10 tribes, and he would come up after three fell. Everybody hear that? He would come up during the times of the 10 tribes, and he would come up after three fell. All right. Now, of those 10 tribes, three did fall. The Roman area there, the city of Rome and the surrounding area, in the beginning after Rome fell in 476. Let me go ahead and read that to you. I had a little, I hate to read a lot, because I'm afraid it bores you to death, but let me read this to you anyway. It says, Odacer and his people, the Herules, came to power in Rome and most of Italy in 476, and he removed the last Caesar, Romulus Augustulus, and another tribe, the Ostrogoths, with their leader Theodoric, overcame and uprooted the Herules in about 493 and ruled in Rome, okay? Gelasius was the pope of the Roman Catholic Church, which was the state religion of the Western Roman Empire. He knew the situation at the time, felt safe in claiming to be Christ and God on earth, and did so. All popes have made the same claim since then. Theodoric ruled the Ostrogoths in Italy, and he died in 526. After the Ostrogoths just end, the ruler of the Eastern Empire defeated the Ostrogoths in 555, and then the Lombards took over Rome.

Now, as I've just described to describe three of the Germanic tribes, the Herules, one of the 10 tribes ruled Rome. Then they were defeated by the Ostrogoths. The Eastern Empire was still in effect and they come over and they defeated the Ostrogoths. Then another Germanic tribe come over and took over Rome, which was called the Lombards. You can look all this stuff up on the internet if you'd like. Three of the 10, Herules, then the Ostrogoths, then the Lombards. Each one of those Germanic tribes had a time that they ruled Rome and the surrounding areas. Everybody with me so far? Let me name them again. Of the original 10, Herules ruled the area and they were set. Now the other 10 ruled other areas in the empire but Rome and the surrounding area was ruled by the Herules, then the Ostrogoths, then the Lombards. And then you know what happened? In 756, the Pope sent for the Franks, and Pepin the Short. Look up in your history book, Pepin the Short. Look up the Donation of Pepin. He came in and he brought, and of course the Franks became France, and he marched in Rome, he marched in Italy, and he set down the Lombards, and he moved them out and he took over Rome and the surrounding area. You know what he did with it? He gave it to the Pope. It's called the Donation of Pepin and he gave Rome and the surrounding area to him. It's a fact of history, 756, the Donation of Pepin.

Now how was that different? Well, the Pope was a religious power, major religious power in the world at that time, but when he was given the city of Rome and the surrounding area, it became known as the Papal States. And not only was he a religious power then, but he was also a what? A political power. Everybody in the house knows that the Antichrist would be both a religious power and a political power. And he still is. He still has a lot of power, but he don't have the power that he had in the Dark Ages. My friend, in 756, at the Donation of Pepin, that's when he began to rule over the Papal States and he is a little horn. He came up during the time of the 10. Does he fit that time frame? Who else fits that time frame? Who else came up during the time of the 10 after three fell? There's only one. That's when the little horn came up and I'm telling you this morning, that's the papacy. It's not one single man. When this one dies, another one pops up. You can't kill it. We had a popular one die, another one comes up. Then he'll die, and then another, and it'll continue that way until King Jesus comes.

So it's a little horn. It fits the time. I'm just telling you, it fits the time. You look at it and see. It's before the Second Coming. It's during the time of the 10 tribes. It's after the fall of Rome, and it's after three of the Germanic tribes failed. There's only one man that fits that, and that's him. And he does fit it. And all God's people said. That's a real popular viewpoint, too. That's why you hear it preached on so much. That's why you hear so many books wrote on it. People scared to death of that. Very few preach it anymore, but I'm telling you, that's the oldest view.

I mentioned the Waldenses. The Waldensds held that view, y'all know why they held that view? They were in the Alps and in Switzerland or in France and the Pope, I read it to you, he wrote a Bull that they'd be exterminated. He tried to stamp out the church. I got churches in the Valley of Piedmont and show you pictures of what they did. They hung the people, they beat the preachers, they hung them. It was unbelievable what they did to people under the command of the papacy. The Waldenses believed it was the Antichrist. John Hus did. Wycliffe did. All the Reformers did. All the old saints and forefathers of the church believed that.

Can I read you a little something? I studied the history of the futurist view in comparison to the history of the historical view, which is what I'm giving to you, which makes the most sense if you read just the scriptures for yourself and not listen to somebody else from the bottom up, so to speak. So I read a history of it, and I found something really interesting. Around 1500, there was a lot of heat on the pope as being the Antichrist, from the Reformers and before there. Can y'all understand why such heat would be there? From the ranks of the Jesuits, arose two stalwarts determined to lift the stigma from the papacy by locating the Antichrist at some point where he could not be applied to the Roman Church. It was clearly a crisis of major proportions. Through the Jesuit Ribera, Jesuit Ribera, look him up. Let me spell it for you right and you can write this down, look it up. R-I-B-E-R-A. Jesuit Ribera of Spain. He was a Jesuit priest and what he was wanting to do is back the Pope and get all this heat off him from being the Antichrist. In about 1590, Ribera published a 500-page commentary on Revelation, or on the Apocalypse, denying the Protestant application of the Antichrist to the Church of Rome. Ribera's death at 54 halted the preparation of further commentaries, so you only have one

written by him. Those that were printed passed through several revised editions. Here is the view held by Jesuit Ribera. Since its inception, his basic thesis has been virtually unchanged. He assigned the first few chapters of the book of Revelation to ancient Rome in John's own time. The rest, he restricted to a literal three and a half year reign of an infidel Antichrist who would bitterly oppose and blaspheme the saints just before the second Advent. He taught that the Antichrist would be a single individual who would rebuild a temple in Jerusalem, abolish Christian religion, deny Christ, received by the Jews, pretend to be God, and conquer the world in a brief time of three and a half years.

That was put forth and began by a Jesuit priest to take the heat off the Pope as being the Antichrist, and that's the same most 99% of people hold that view today. And I'm telling you, the forefathers never held that view. That's not the oldest view. That didn't get popular until around the 1800s. I got a little historical digest up here if you want to look at it. I showed it to Brother Mike and Brother Bill before the services starts, and it shows you what the historical views, who held these historical views, and when the futurist view began. It began with Jesuit priests and can you understand why it would be? Who would want to take this and say, "Wait a minute now, these 10 tribes and this little hornet, oh no, it's not him. That's all future." To take all the spotlight off the Pope and to put it out here in the future somewhere on somebody else.

Well folks, that's what I'm not done. Don't get excited, but I will be done here in just a little bit. I present that to you to look at. You don't even have to believe it, but I think that makes more sense than anything. That's history. That's why it's called a historical view. It's the oldest view. Futurist view is in the beginning. I got other things you can look at. There's another, I believe, another Jesuit, Lacunza, if y'all heard Jesuit, Lacunza, he published a book, "The Coming of Messiah and Glory and Majesty," and he used Ben Ezra, a converted Jew, as a false author. He didn't even write it. He said this was written by a Jew. And he had great influence on the Protestants. The Protestants didn't accept the futurist view until 1773, in that time frame. Okay, I'm telling you this morning, he fits the time. He came before the Second Coming. He came after the fall of Rome. He came during the times of the 10 tribes, and he came after three failed, and the Donation of Pepin in history points that out in 756 AD. He's still here today, and he will continue to be here to the Second Coming.

Okay, just give me five minutes, maybe. Five minutes, not a whole lot. The Bible gives you a great description. I can give you a 10 point description of the Antichrist. What we have to do is, he fits the time, but does he fit the description? Alright, is he a little horn? That's my first question. Is he a little horn? Is he a political power? Somebody say yes. If you say no, how else to say it, you're wrong. The Vatican is an independent nation. We know that it sends ambassadors to the United States and we send people to them. I watched the history on the biography channel, if you want to get that, and it showed, I don't want to name them all, but it showed all of our presidents walking down a special place in the Vatican to meet with the Pope. Not just one, all of them. Democrat and Republican. I'm telling you, walking down a special place to have an audience with the Pope. Man, you've got to be a pretty important man for the president. You know he's

never come to my house as important a man as I am? But they go to him because they realize his worldwide influence.

That's a little kingdom. It's a little horn. But you know what, it has a big mouth. Is that not another description of it? It says in verse, back in the book of Daniel 7, he had a mouth speaking great things. That means that this little horn would make great claims. Make great claims and he's called the Holy Father. Is that a great claim? You best not call me the Holy Father. Mike will come this morning after service and say, "Jeff, we're going to change your title from pastor to Holy Father." I'd say, "I'll see you." I mean, would you want to be called the Holy Father? You know why I don't want to be called? Because there's only one Holy Father. Holy Father is our God. You don't have to take my, they just buried one or entombed one. How many times did you hear him called the Holy Father? The pontiff, Papa.

He's called the vicar of Christ. The vicar of Christ means instead of or in place of Christ. Jesus said that he, when he went back to heaven, was going to send someone to replace him. Do you all know who that someone that would replace him here on earth was? The Holy Spirit. Vicar means in place of. He represents Christ here today on earth. So the vicar of Christ is a very close name to the word anti from the Latin. Very close. They basically mean the same thing. He even has the name. Vicar of Christ, Antichrist basically means the same thing.

From a catechism book, I've read this to you in the past. Does it sound like, for someone to claim to be the Holy Father, the vicar of Christ, the shepherd of all of God's people, the head of the church? I would be afraid that the Lord would strike me down if I said I was the head of the church. Or if I said that I was the shepherd of all of God's people. I'm an under-shepherd, but the main shepherd is Christ. That's a big mouth. That's great claims.

Let me read this text to you. This is not from a Baptist book or a Protestant book, this is a book from the New York Catechism. It's a Roman Catholic book. The pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth. By divine right, the pope has supreme and full power and faith and morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true vicar of Christ, the head of the entire Church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of, judge of councils, the universal ruler of truth, the arbiter of the world, the supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one. God himself on earth. That's a pretty big mouth. That's from a New York Catechism. There's a lot of other things you can look back and see over history.

Does he fit that description? Is he a little horn? Does he make great claims? Does he make the claims that I just said? You look it up. He fits that description. That's a pretty big mouth. But you know another thing that it says is that he would wear out. Look at verse 20 of Daniel chapter 7, I'm sorry, verse 25, I believe it is, "he shall speak great words against the most High and he shall," do what? He'll "wear out the saints of God." Ever heard of the Inquisition? Look that up in a history book. The Inquisition was instituted by Pope Innocence III. It was a Church court established by the popes for the trying and the punishing of heretics. A heretic was anyone who did not agree with the

Catholicism. Folks, I'm not giving you nothing that people don't know. That's a fact of history. Brother Raynes is a history teacher, ask him. These things are true. Under this court, everyone was required to inform against heretics and the proceedings were held in secret. The suspected were subject to torture without knowing the name of their accuser. I could turn Brother Bill in and he wouldn't have to know that I did it, and then they'd go and they'd get his property. They would confiscate your property and you couldn't buy or sell either. The victim's property was confiscated and divided between the Church and the state. Vast multitudes of true believers were slain in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands. The picture is really difficult to believe, but the pages of history record it in stark reality, monks and priests directing with heartless cruelty, the inhumane brutality, the work of torturing and burning alive innocent men and women by the order of the Pope in the name of Christ. The Inquisition was devised by the Popes and used by them for 500 years to maintain their power. Ever seen that thing that had knives in it that people got in and they shut them up in it? You know what that was called? It was called an Iron Mary. It was used by the Inquisitioners against people that believed just like you.

Listen to these comments. More people were killed by the Papacy during its reign throughout the Middle Ages than by Hitler during World War II. In fact, about 50 million people who refused to recognize his authority were killed by the papacy in the Middle Ages. And you remember in Baptist history, I taught there 50 million were put to death in the Dark Ages. Daniel 7 said the little horn would make war and wear out the saints of God. Does he fit that description? Sure does. Does he make great claims? He fits that description. He fits the time. He fits it all.

There's something interesting. I'll close with this. It's my third closing, isn't it? Hey, folks, I've done this two months last time. I'm doing this one. You ought to be glad. I must be learning or getting quicker or something. Verse 25. Daniel 7:25, "he shall speak great words against the most High. He shall wear out the saints of God, think to change times and laws." Now we know the Pope ain't changed no laws, has he? You know the greatest laws he's changed? He's changed this book. Second commandment says, "Thou shalt not make any graven image." That religion's got graven images all over the place. Virgin Mary, Saint this, Saint that, and they make statues and they pray to them and they bow before them. Folks, that's a violation of the second commandment. But that's okay because they say it, so he says it. As long as he says it's okay, it's okay. But it's a violation of the second commandment. That's a change of law. It's a union of paganism and Christianity together. They just kept the idols. It's an idol worshiping religion, is it or is it not? I'm just asking you to look at it and see. How many statues do you see them bow before? And the greatest image of all is that of Christ still on the cross and you know what that means.

He's changed the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a memorial service. The Lord's Supper points back to what Jesus did 2,000 years ago but at the Mass, Jesus is brought back to life and he's being sacrificed. That's a change. Do y'all agree that's a big change?

The way of salvation's been changed. It's not by grace. It's by works. And then again, that's no guarantee. Salvation is through the Church, that church. I'm telling you this

morning, salvation is through the blood of Jesus Christ and that alone. It's not what they teach. They can tell you they just like it or not. It's not all the blood there. Most of them will tell you that, to be honest with you. It's through their Church.

They changed hell. The Bible talks about heaven or hell. He's got a middle place there.

These things are not in the Bible, worshiping Mary, that's not in the Bible. He's changed times and laws. Many of the holidays that we observe today, he originated them. And as a matter of fact, does anybody know who designed our calendars? The calendar that we go by, somebody say who designed it, who set it forward? It's called the Gregorian calendar. The Pope did that. Changed times and laws. Make great claims. Vicar of Christ, all these things. I'm telling you folks, this morning he fits the time and he fits the description. He's here, he's here now, he's been here, he'll continue to be here. But this futurist view originated with his Jesuit priest to take all the heat off him and no one looks at that today. They've done their job, have they not? They've done what it's intended to do. What I give you, if you've never heard that before, it's just, you'll have to look it up. I mean, you don't have to believe it, because I said I don't want you to, but you'll have to look it up and see.

Let's all stand.