



Papal Rome – The Empire strikes back

Study guide # 5

Description	Verse	Details
<p>533 AD: Emperor Justinian declares Roman Catholicism as the official religion</p>	<p>Vs. 30b - ...and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.</p>	<p>In 533, Justinian begins updating the laws for the empire. However, in so doing, he also decrees the Bishop of Rome as the head of the Church and makes Catholicism the official religion. According to Hebrews 8:10, the Holy Covenant ultimately makes us God’s people. Therefore, we understand that when Justinian made this edict, he placed the Church into the hands of the Roman Pontiff.</p> <p>In the original language, the word for <i>intelligence</i> is <i>bîn</i>. It can mean <i>understand, consider, or regard</i>. Here, it likely means Justinian had consideration or regard for those of the Catholic faith.</p>
<p>538 AD: The Bishop of Rome obtains the seat of the eternal city with the help of the Roman armies.</p>	<p>Vs. 31 - And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.</p>	<p>This verse reveals that there are three components to its fulfillment:</p> <p>1) Arms shall stand on his part Here, arms represent the power of the empire. This can be its king, but more likely represents its armies.</p> <p>2) He shall pollute the sanctuary of strength Some individuals believe this refers to the Heavenly Sanctuary, as the Papacy would eventually place man’s focus on earthly priests instead of the Heavenly High Priest. However, when used in conjunction with the word “strength,” we see it has a different connotation. In the original language, Daniel typically translates strength as <i>Fort, Fortress, or Stronghold</i>. These words typically relate to a city, not a heavenly sanctuary. Thus, we understand the Sanctuary of Strength is the Church of the fortified city of Rome.</p> <p>3) He shall take away the Daily Sacrifice and replace it with the Abomination of Desolation The word <i>sacrifice</i> was supplied by the translators and thus we understand it’s not part of the original text. The word Daily means <i>Continuation</i>. This continuation is the continuation of Israel, which is the New Testament Church. The Abomination of Desolation is a term that refers to the Roman Catholic system that was manifested in the dark ages due to the fact it mixed Pagan traditions with Christian doctrines.</p>



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<p>Continued...</p> <p>538 AD: The Bishop of Rome obtains the seat of the eternal city with the help of the Roman armies.</p>	<p>Vs. 31 - And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.</p>	<p>A closer look at Revelation reveals that these three components of Daniel 11:31 also are nestled inside of Revelation 13:2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Power = Arms 2) Seat = Sanctuary of strength 3) Great Authority = Daily replaced by Abomination of Desolation <p>Once we understand these three components, we will see that the criteria for the fulfillment of Daniel 11:31 must be when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Armies stand for the Bishop of Rome 2) He is placed in the city of Rome as the head 3) Catholicism replaces the Church <p>This criteria began in 533 AD but appears to have been made official in 538 AD when 1) The Roman armies were used towards the benefit of the Roman Pontiff. 2) When those armies defeated the Goths at Rome, which in essence gave the Roman Pontiff his seat in the eternal city. 3) The Papacy was born and was now authorized to fully replace the Christian Church.</p>
<p>Persecution of the Dark Ages</p>	<p>Vs. 32 - And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.</p>	<p>The persecution of the Church began with Emperor Justinian as he began enacting civil penalties against those who refused to be Roman Catholic. However, God had a remnant of people who realized the Church was being corrupted.</p>
<p>The rise of the Reformers</p>	<p>Vs. 33 - And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.</p>	<p>During the dark ages, many reformers would rise up in protest against the Papacy. However, the civil penalties initially decreed would ultimately transition to corporal punishment, and some of these reformers who <i>instructed many</i>, would die by sword, flame, be taken captive, or hunted like prey.</p>
<p>1517 AD: The Protestant Reformation</p>	<p>Vs. 34 - Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.</p>	<p>The help that God would give to the Church came in the form of a Catholic priest named Martin Luther. He would raise up in protest over Papal Indulgences (payment for pardon of sins). This reformer would nail 95 theses (statements) on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany and this would catch fire and produce a protest against the Catholic Church.</p>



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Martyrs are seen as pure in the eyes of God	Vs. 35 - And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.	Those who joined Luther’s protest against Catholicism became known as Protestant Christians. This movement became a thorn in the side of the Papacy, who tried to destroy it through persecution. Many people were killed for their faith, but they were made pure in God’s sight. Prophecy declared that the time of Papal dominance would last for 1260 years, thus the domination would not come to a close until the <i>time appointed</i> .
1798 AD: The Papacy’s civil power comes to an end	Vs. 36 - And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.	Pope after Pope continued to magnify himself above God. Elevating himself as the representative of Christ, calling himself Holy Father, forgiving sins, and placing idols within the Church are a few examples of how this power would continue to speak unimaginable things against the God of gods until the indignation was accomplished. Students of Bible prophecy should know that this indignation was accomplished at the end of the 1260 years. In 1798, we see the Papacy’s rule coming to an end. Although the power of the Pontiff had already been diminishing, Napoleon placed the nail in the coffin (maybe literally) for the Roman Pontiff when he captured the Pope, and he died in captivity. Once the Roman Bishop was removed from his “throne,” the Papacy’s civil power ended. Even though another Pope was elected, the Papacy’s authority as a ruler of church and state has yet to be restored as it was in previous times. However, remember Revelation 13 talks about a revival of his power in the near future.

Study and Discussion

Some place the 1260-period as beginning in 533AD and ending in 1793 AD? Look up the events of 1793 and write or discuss your thoughts on this possibility.
