

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 1260 DAYS PROPHECY

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There are several references to a time period in Revelation for a period of 1260 days. There are also references to a 42 month period, which are 30 day long months, and therefore also equal 1260 days. The time period relates to the operation of a particular beast, which is a symbol for a world empire.

“AND I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.” (Revelation 13:1).

This beast rises up out of the sea, that is, out of the mass of mankind. The beast has seven heads, which Revelation 17:9 shows are seven mountains — the seven mountains on which Rome is built. The ten horns represent ten kingdoms and their kings, which form the main body of the Empire. It is clear that the prophecy is speaking of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire has become the basis for which a religion which blasphemes God’s Word can use. The Roman authority has been used to support a false Church reigning over the kings of the earth and persecuting true Christianity. This beast represents Rome, and this particular prophecy relates to Roman Catholicism.

“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” (Revelation 13:5–7).

The power of the religious operation of this beast is limited to a time period of 42 months, that is, 1260 days. Since Bible prophecy interpretation shows that days can equal years (see Ezekiel 4:6), it may be calculated that the particular period is for 1260 years.

“But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months. And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.” (Revelation 11:2, 3).

The true Church is called the tabernacle or temple. The prophecy showed that the Roman beast would directly tread upon the true Church. This would be fulfilled if the Roman Empire was outworking a false religion, that is, Roman Catholicism as ruled by the Popes. This religion would be designed to preserve and propagate ancient errors, and would continually speak in opposition to the true Church. Yet, the Lord shows that His two witnesses, that is, the Old and New Testaments, or the Bible, would continue throughout the time of Roman Catholicism. Romanists had various editions of the Latin Bible, but other witnesses for the Bible were being preserved both by the Eastern Orthodox, and by various other minority Christian groups. These included the Celtic Christian tradition and the Waldenses in Piedmont. There were numerous others who were also not part of the Papal system, such as the Albigenses of southern France, the Hussites in Bohemia and the Lollards in England. During the Papal oppression a great movement rose up in support of the true Bible, namely, the Protestant Reformation.

The beast is the Roman Empire, but the specific period shows that it must be when the Papal succession were directly ruling, showing them to be antichrists. Thus, for a certain period this Roman Catholic Whore of Babylon was in power on the Roman beast, where it directly ruled in Europe. The true Church was persecuted, as represented by a chaste virgin, “And the woman fled

into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.” (Revelation 12:6).

Satan has been using the Roman system as his primary vehicle since 275 B.C., and although ten barbarian nations descended upon and destroyed the old pagan Roman Empire, a new papal Roman Empire was able to carry on, having great power in the affairs of the European nations, which came out of those barbarians, namely, the Huns, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons and Lombards. The nations those barbarians fathered are well known, such as the Franks in France, the Anglo-Saxons in England, and so on.

The time period of 1260 years of direct Papal rule began after the fall of pagan Rome. Rome was under the control of the barbarian Ostrogoths, who held to the Arian heresy that says that Christ was created. The succession of ruling bishops of Rome had begun to extend themselves, eventually claiming that they were bishops of the whole Church, that is to say, Popes. But as long as the Ostrogoths were in charge, the Pope could not effectively enforce his full doctrine or rule. Justinian the Emperor of Constantinople (527–565) wanted the other (Western) half of the Roman Empire to be rid of the barbarian threat, and so he dispatched General Belisarius to Italy. Belisarius held Rome against a siege led by Witigis king of the Goths. The Goths abandoned their siege in 538 A.D., and rather than taking the rule of Rome, Belisarius handed it over to the Pope.

The papacy was able to hold lands, servants, possessions and wealth for many years, all the while proclaiming various anti-Biblical doctrines, persecuting believers, burning Bibles and the like, until the year 1798. Thus, for 1260 years, as the prophecy showed, the Popes operated as blasphemers, until the demise of the Papal States and the fall of Rome to the armies of the French Revolution in 1798. All through this time, the true Church was in a spiritual wilderness and suffered direct persecution by this false papal religion. In 1798, General Berthier came and proclaimed Rome a republic and nullified the papacy. The wealth of the Vatican was looted, and the Pope was taken prisoner. Thus, the Roman beast received a “deadly wound” (see Revelation 13:3).

It was no coincidence that around 1800 there were great moves concerning the increase of the Gospel, such as Cambridge University Press utilising stereo-type printing technology, the founding of the British and Foreign Bible society, and the result of millions of King James Bibles being printed and disseminated. The colony of New South Wales had been founded, with Protestantism and the King James Bible as the basis.