Background

- Three Witnesses for the Baptists is a work by Curtis A. Pugh, a Baptist minister from Canada
- It was written in 1994
- It was motivated by efforts of liberal "Baptists" making efforts toward unification with Roman Catholicism.
- From a newspaper article: "Southern Baptist and Roman Catholic scholars have declared that they basically agreed on doctrinal issues."
- "Sponsored by the Catholic Bishop's Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Southern Baptist Department of Interfaith Witness, the dialogue group recently released a report in the "Theological Educator." Quoting Eph. 4:5, the group concluded "We not only confessed but experienced 'One Lord, one faith, and one baptism."

Three Witnesses For the Baptists Background

- The issue is not eternal salvation of the soul
- The issue is what does God consider acceptable worship
- Which body, Rome and her daughters, or Baptists, represent the doctrine of Jesus Christ and what He considers acceptable worship?
- Sincerity is not enough what system represents the form of doctrine and practice Jesus Christ commanded His apostles to teach?

Baptist History Versus Religious History

- Popularly accepted history is most often the recounting of events in a manner favorable to the dominant party
- Throughout history since the time of Christ the parties in power have been either a Protestant sect or a branch of Catholicism.
- Starting in the twentieth century, many who identify as Baptist have been taught that they are Protestants.
- "What is known and taught as Church History is in reality the history of Christianity rather than a history of the church Christ founded and promised perpetuity to. History reveals that the true Church as an institution was represented by local congregations as opposed by a developing and growing hierarchy until the bishop of Rome is made Pope or Supreme Bishop."

Three Witnesses For the Baptists Outline for our study

- Witness One: THE TESTIMONY OF THE BAPTISTS
- Witness Two: THE TESTIMONY OF NON-BAPTISTS
- Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

Three Witnesses For the Baptists Witness One: THE TESTIMONY OF THE BAPTISTS

- The Testimony of John T. Christian, Southern Baptist professor of history
- "I have no question in my own mind that there has been a historical succession of Baptists from the days of Christ to the present."
- The Southern Baptist Convention published Dr. Christian's two-volume history from its first edition in 1922 until they permitted it to go out of print after the non-Landmark or Protestant view took over their seminaries.

- The Testimony of T. G. Jones, Southern Baptist pastor & college president
- "...They [the Baptists] have always maintained that their churches are as ancient as Christianity itself. That their foundations were laid by no less honorable hands than those of Christ and his apostles.
- In all ages since the first, the Baptists have believed their denomination more ancient than themselves. The <u>American Baptists</u> deny that they owe their origin to Roger Williams.
- The <u>English Baptists</u> will not grant that John Smyth or Thomas Helwysse was their founder.
- The <u>Welsh Baptists</u> strenuously contend that they received their creed in the first century, from those who had obtained it, direct, from the apostles themselves.
- The <u>Dutch Baptists</u> trace their spiritual pedigree up to the same source.
- The <u>German Baptists</u> maintained that they were older than the <u>Reformation</u>, older than the corrupt hierarchy which it sought to reform. "

- The Testimony of T. G. Jones (continued)
- "The <u>Waldensian Baptists</u> boasted an ancestry far older than Waldo, older than the most ancient of their predecessors in the vales of Piedmont.
- So, too, may we say of the <u>Lollards</u>, <u>Henricians</u>, <u>Paterines</u>, <u>Paulicians</u>, <u>Donatists</u>, and other ancient Baptists, that they claim an origin more ancient than that of the men or the circumstances from which they derived their peculiar appellations.
- If in any instance the stream of descent is lost to human eye, in 'the remote depths of antiquity,' they maintain that it ultimately reappears, and reveals its source in Christ and his apostles."

- The Testimony of **William Cathcart** education in the University of Glasgow, Scotland and in Rawdon College, Yorkshire, England. He arrived in North America in November of 1853 and in December that year became pastor of the Third Baptist Church of Groton in Mystic River, Connecticut. He was called to take the oversight of the Philadelphia church in 1857.
- "The Baptist denomination was founded by Jesus during his earthly ministry.
- Next to the Teacher of Nazareth, our great leaders were the apostles, and the elders, bishops, and evangelists, who preached Christ in their times.
- The instructions of our Founder are contained in the four Gospels, the heaven-given teachings of our earliest ministers are in the inspired Epistles.
- The first Baptist missionary journal was the Acts of the Apostles."

- The Testimony of Charles Spurgeon
- "I am not ashamed of the denomination to which I belong, sprung as we are, direct from the loins of Christ, having never passed through the turbid stream of Romanism, and having an origin apart from all dissent or Protestantism, because we have existed before all other sects..."
- "We believe that the Baptists are the original Christians. We did not commence our existence at the reformation, we were reformers before Luther or Calvin were born; we never came from the church of Rome, for we were never in it, but we have an unbroken line up to the apostles themselves. We have always existed from the very days of Christ, and our principles, sometimes veiled and forgotten, like a river which may travel underground for a little season, have always had honest and holy adherents."

- The Testimony of Charles Spurgeon continued
- "And now it seems to me, at this day, when any say to us, 'You, as a denomination, what great names can you mention? What fathers can you speak of?' We may reply, 'More than any other under heaven, for we are the old apostolic Church that have never bowed to the yoke of princes yet;
- we, known among men, in all ages, by various names, such as <u>Donatists</u>, <u>Novatians</u>, [sic] <u>Paulicians</u>, <u>Petrobrussians</u>, <u>Cathari</u>, <u>Arnoldists</u>, <u>Hussites</u>, <u>Waldenses</u>, <u>Lollards</u>, and <u>Anabaptists</u>, have always contended for the purity of the Church, and her distinctness and separation from human government.
- Our fathers were men inured to hardships, and unused to ease. They present to us, their children, an unbroken line which comes legitimately from the apostles, not through the filth of Rome, not by the manipulations of prelates, but by the Divine life, the Spirit's anointing, the fellowship of the Son in suffering and of the Father in truth."

- The Testimony of John Ashworth, a pastor in Plymouth, England in 1879
- "No such thing as Infant Baptism was known in England for the first six centuries."
- "Going back to the time of William the Conqueror, [A.D. 1066-1087] we find that the Baptists had spread so rapidly that the Archbishop of Canterbury, seeing that many of the nobles as well as of the poor had adopted their sentiments wrote a book against them, in which he complained, as Archbishop Egbert did of the <u>Cathari</u> (Puritans) about the same time, that they were 'very pernicious to the Catholic faith; FOR THEY MAINTAINED THEIR OPINIONS BY AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE:' a great crime in those days, and still a great inconvenience, off-times, to those who prefer the traditions and customs of men to the commandments of God! But the Baptists flourished, spite of the Archbishop's book; and therefore the King was induced to issue an edict, that 'those who denied the Pope should not trade with his subjects."

Witness One: THE TESTIMONY OF THE BAPTISTS

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM BAPTIST CLAIMS

- The conclusions at which all must arrive, if our witnesses are correct, are these:
- (1) among the people now called Baptists are to be found the true churches of Christ:
- (2) all other religious groups have too recent a beginning, were founded by some man and consequently are not churches of Christ at all:
- (3) all other religious groups lack Divine authority to perpetuate the ordinances or to carry out the commission. Therefore the baptisms of all other religious groups are null and void of any Heavenly recognition though they may carry much weight with religiously inclined people of this present time.

Three Witnesses For the Baptists Witness Two: THE TESTIMONY OF NON-BAPTISTS

- In opposing the old Baptists and their Biblical doctrines and practices, both Catholics and Protestants have unwittingly given witness to the perpetual existence of the very people they wished to extinguish.
- They have mentioned in their writings that there existed churches who would not conform to the wishes of the party in power.
- Churches outside the "established church" are mentioned: churches whose members refused to submit to non-Biblical teaching and polity.
- Due to the charge from Catholics that they have no claim to apostolic religion, Protestants have done us a favor by pointing to these groups throughout history to indicate that Biblical religion has always been in the earth ... outside of Rome!

- The Catholics and Protestants (depending on which group was in power at the time) called themselves "orthodox" and all others "heretics," especially the Baptists.
- They falsely accused our Baptist forefathers of the most gross sins: things too disgusting and mean to be believed. These powerful religious interests categorized our Baptist forefathers with the worst of heretics because they refused to compromise the truth of God.

- ► **Heinrich** (sometimes Henry) **Bullinger** (1504-1575), Protestant Swiss reformer
- "Now, I think it not labour lost to speak somewhat of anabaptism. In the time that Decius (201-251) and Gallus Caesar were Emperors, there arose a question in the parts of Africa of rebaptising heretics; and St. Cyprian, and the rest of the Bishops, being assembled together in the council of Carthage, liked well of anabaptism...
- Against the Donatists St. Augustine, with other learned men, disputed. There is also an Imperial Law made by Honorius and Theodosius, that holy Baptism should not be iterated [repeated].
- Justinian Caesar (483-565) hath published the same, in Cod. lib. I. Tit. 6, in these words. 'If any Minister of the Catholic Church be detected to have rebaptised any, let both him which committed the unappeasable offence, (if at least by age he be punishable) and he, also, that is won and persuaded thereunto, suffer punishment of death."

- The Testimony of Peter Allix, (A.D. 1641-1717) a scholar and historian of the Church of England
- Between A.D. 800 and 1000, some European Anabaptists were ridiculed with the name "Waldenses" from their geographic location in the valleys of the Alps.
- Some were also nicknamed "<u>Cathari</u>" which means "pure ones" this because they insisted on a regenerate church membership evidenced by holy living.
- "...THEY AFFIRM THAT THEY ALONE ARE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST and his disciples. They declare themselves... to have apostolic authority and the keys of binding and loosing.

- The Testimony of Peter Allix, continued
- They hold the Church of Rome to be the Great Whore of Babylon [mentioned in Revelation chapters 17, 18] and all that obey her are damned...
- They hold that none of the ordinances of the [Roman Catholic] Church, that have been introduced since Christ's ascension ought to be observed, as being of no worth: the feasts, fasts, orders, blessings, offices of the [Roman Catholic] Church, and the like, they utterly reject...
- THEY SAY, THAT THEN FIRST A MAN IS BAPTIZED, WHEN HE IS RECEIVED INTO THEIR SECT...
- They do not believe the body and blood of Christ to be the true sacrament, but only blessed bread, which by a figure only is called the body of Christ, in like manner as it is said, "and the rock was Christ," and such like...

- The Testimony of Ulrich Zwingli, Swiss Reformer, (1484-1531) a contemporary with Luther and Calvin
- "The institution of Anabaptism is no novelty, but for thirteen hundred years has caused great disturbance in the church, and has acquired such a strength that the attempt in this age to contend with it appears futile for a time."

- The testimony of **Cardinal Stanislaus Hosius** (1504-1579) one of the most significant figures of the Roman Catholic "Counter Reformation." The official representative of the pope and presiding officer of the Council of Trent
- "If the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and cheerfulness which a man of any sect shows in suffering, the opinions and persuasions of no sect can be truer or surer than those of the <u>Anabaptists</u>, whence there have been none for these twelve hundred years past that have been more grievously punished, or that have more cheerfully and steadfastly undergone and even offered themselves to the most cruel sorts of punishment than these people."

- The Testimony of An Educated Host
- J. Cardinal Gibbons, Primate of the Roman Catholic Church in America; Patrick J. Healy, D.D., Catholic University of America; Theodore Roosevelt, LL.D and some eleven other eminent scholars served as contributors to the volume entitled Crossing the Centuries.
- "Of the Baptists it may be said that they are not reformers.
- These people, comprising bodies of Christian believers known under various names in different countries, are entirely distinct and independent of the Roman and Greek churches, have had an unbroken continuity of existence from Apostolic days down through the centuries.

- The Testimony of An Educated Host continued
- Throughout this long period they were bitterly persecuted for heresy, driven from country to country, disfranchised, deprived of their property, imprisoned, tortured and slain by the thousands, yet they swerved not from their New Testament Faith, Doctrine and Adherence.
- The extreme conditions of the Reformation served to develop an organized denominational unity among the Baptists in Switzerland in 1523, which extended into Germany, then spread to Holland and other countries of Europe, also to England and Wales. The Baptist church of modern times may properly claim its "organized" denominational activities as beginning with the Switzerland movement."

- The testimony of Robert Barclay, a Scottish apologist for the Society of Friends (Quakers), lived from 1648-1690, governor of New Jersey
- "We shall afterwards show that the rise of the <u>Anabaptists</u> took place prior to the reformation of the Church of England, and there are also reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe small hidden Christian societies, who have held many of the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the times of the apostles. In the sense of the direct transmission of divine truth, and the true nature of spiritual religion, it seems probable that these churches have a lineage or succession more ancient than that of the Roman Church."

- The Testimony of Drs. Ypeij and Dermout
- Professor of Theology at Graningen and Chaplain to the king of Holland. They received a royal commission to prepare a history of the Dutch Reformed Church in 1819.
- "We have now seen that the <u>Baptists</u>, who were formerly called <u>Anabaptists</u>, and in later times, Mennonites, were the original Waldenses... On this account, the Baptists may be considered as **the only religious community which has stood since the days of the apostles**, and as a Christian society which has preserved pure the doctrines of the gospel through all ages. The perfectly correct external and internal economy of the Baptist denomination tends to confirm the truth, disputed by the Romish Church, that the Reformation brought about in the sixteenth century was in the highest degree necessary, and at the same time goes to refute the erroneous notion of the Catholics, that their denomination is the most ancient."

- The Testimony of Alexander Campbell
- Alexander Campbell, founder of the various Campbellite groups now known as "The Churches of Christ," "The Disciples," "The Christian Churches," etc., in his debate with MacCalla, a Presbyterian, had this word of testimony for the Baptists:
- "...from the apostolic age to the present time, the sentiments of Baptists, and the practice of baptism has had a continued chain of advocates, and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced."

Baptist History Chart

Baptist Church History Chart Church Group																		
Century	Montanists	Nov ations	Donatists	Paulicians	Albigenses	Paterines	Catharists	Petrobrussians O	Henricians Jan	Arnoldists	Waldenses	Anabaptists	English Baptists	Welsh Baptists	American Baptists	Regular Baptists	Primitive Baptists	Minneapolis Church
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Three Witnesses For the Baptists Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

- There were those corrupting the church of Jesus Christ in the days of the apostles
- 2 Cor. 2:17 "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."
- 2 Cor. 4:2 "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."
- 1 John 2:19 "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

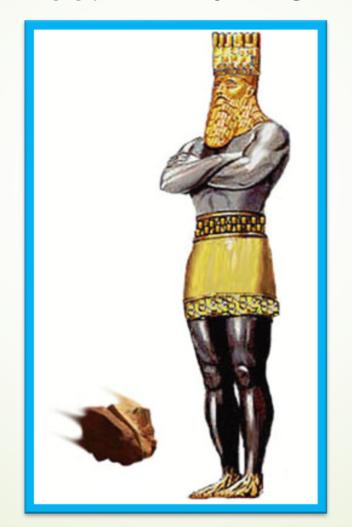
- Jesus said Daniel helps when interpreting His return.
- Speaking of His coming in judgment in 70 AD He said:
- When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand). Matthew 24:15
- God in Daniel took special note of five kingdoms on earth.
- They cover 2500+ years (530 B.C. to 2019 A.D.).
- They are fascinating world history ... in advance!
- They explain much church history and doctrine.
- They glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as King of kings!

- Daniel is a key prophet for understanding
- Chap 2 is Nebuchadnezzar's dream told by Daniel.
- Chapters 7-12 are Daniel's own visions of the future.
- Jesus said Daniel helps interpretation (Matt 24:15).
- Daniel explains several symbols of Revelation.
- Daniel's are fulfilled or fulfilling for confirmation.

- Daniel Chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
- He saw a terrible image made of various metals.
- The head was of gold a valuable, precious metal.
- The chest was silver a lesser precious metal.
- The loins were brass a lesser, but stronger metal.
- The legs were iron a very strong metal to crush.
- The feet were part iron and clay a weak mixture.
- A supernatural stone came and struck its feet.
- It broke the whole image to pieces and dust.
- The stone became a great mountain to fill the earth.
- There are four kingdoms plus a final different one.

Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

Daniel 2 Vision



- The dream was "what shall be in the latter days."
- The dream and interpretation were certain and sure.
- The dream covers world history to the very end.
- Daniel's other visions are based on this foundation.
- There are only a total of five kingdoms. Believe it.

Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

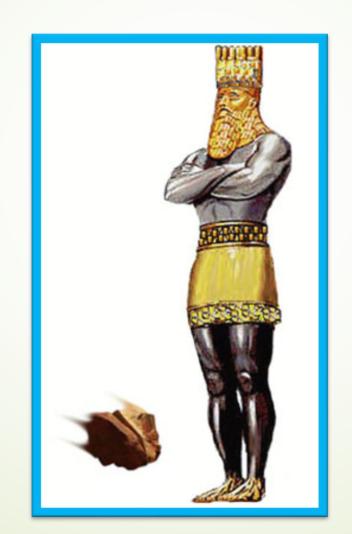
Gold

Silver

Brass

Iron

Stone



Daniel 2 Vision

Babylon

Media-Persia

Greece

Rome

Kingdom of God

Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

■ THE GOD OF HEAVEN SETUP A KINGDOM

- The stone was "without hands" divine / spiritual.
- It hit the image in the feet the fourth kingdom.
- Jesus was born in the days of Caesar Augustus.
- John and Jesus began preaching in the 15th year of Tiberius.
- They both announced the kingdom of God at hand.
- The kingdom is clearly kingdom of God and heaven.
- The kingdom was present and men pressed into it.
- It was not visible, for it was a spiritual kingdom.
- Jesus was crowned king of it at His ascension.
- God brought Gentiles worldwide into it (Acts 15:16).

- THE GOD OF HEAVEN SETUP A KINGDOM
- It began small, but it filled the earth (Matt 13:31-33).
- Enemies said it turned the world upside down!
- Constantine became "Christian" for political ends.
- It left only small nations (chaff) instead of empires.
- It has a presence today throughout the whole world.
- Jesus presently reigns with a rod of iron (Re 2:25-27).
- This is the kingdom Paul offered Jews (Heb 12:22-29).
- In a day soon He will show who He is (I Tim 6:13-16).
- Citizenship is by repentance, faith, and baptism.
- He will reign forever and soon deliver it up to God.

- Daniel 7
- Daniel 7-12 has closer views of parts of Daniel 2.
- Here, the four kingdoms are seen as four <u>beasts</u>.
- There are only four: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome.
- Jesus Christ's kingdom began during the Roman.
- This prophecy focuses on a latter power of Rome.

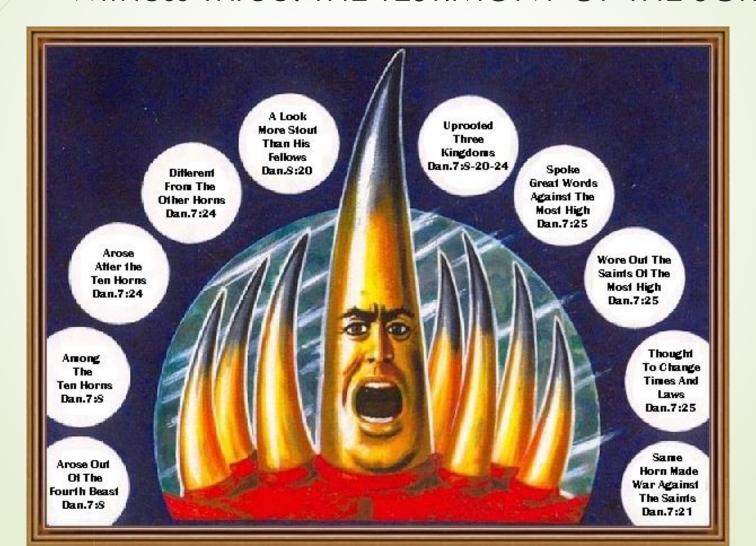
Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES



Daniel 7 Vision

- Lion ... king of beasts and king of fowl ... Babylon.
- Bear ... rose on side with three ribs ... Media-Persia.
- Leopard ... four heads & wings, dominion ... Greece.
- Dragon ... dreadful, strong, iron, ten horns ... Rome.
- Emphasis is on a <u>little horn</u> coming out of <u>Rome</u>.
- Horns existing together are contemporaries (8:3).
- The ten horns are ten kings or kingdoms (7:24; 8:8).
- The little horn would not come until after the ten.
- Rome fell in 476 A.D. into ten European kingdoms.
- After this date a different <u>Roman</u> power arose.

Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

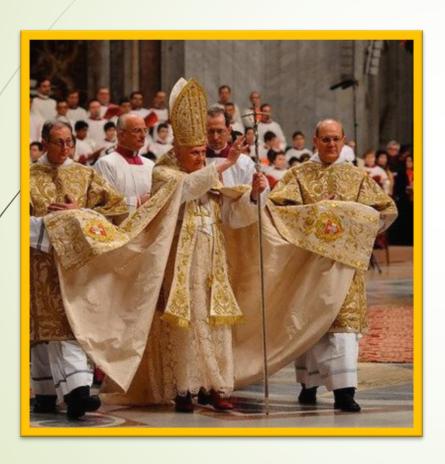


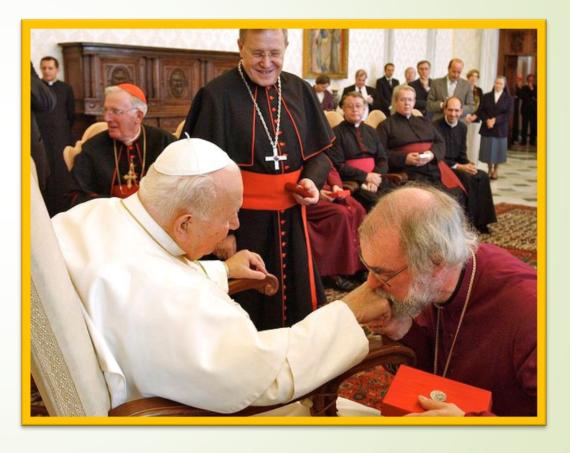
The Little Horn

- THE LITTLE HORN
- Roman.
- After fall of Roman Empire in 476 A.D.
- Came up among European kingdoms.
- Came up small but later waxed great.
- Plucked up three of the ten European kingdoms.
- Eyes like a man for intelligence, wisdom, overseer.
- Mouth speaking blasphemous things against God.
- Look was more stout than his peer horns.

- THE LITTLE HORN
- Made war with the saints.
- Prevailed against the saints in this war.
- The little horn was a different kind of kingdom.
- Shall wear out the saints of the most high.
- Think he can change God's times and laws.
- He shall have dominion over saints for 3.5 times.
- God will consume his kingdom until judgment.
- Little horn kingdom overthrown at Judgment Day.
- The saints will get the kingdom of God in the end.

- WHAT IS THE LITTLE HORN?
- It must be Roman, so forget everything else.
- It must date from shortly after 476 A.D.
- It is a religious power that persecuted the saints.
- It was able to wear out the saints for 1260 years.
- It is destroyed at the second coming of Christ.





Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

A MOUTH SPEAKING GREAT THINGS

"All must be subject to Him Who has had all things put under Him" (Evangelical Christendom, 1895).

"The Pope is of so great dignity, and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God" (Ferraris Ecclesiastical Dictionary).

"The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth" (Pius V).

"Don't go to God for forgiveness of sins, come to me" (Pope John Paul II, 1984).

"The power of the priest is the power of the divine person; for the transubstantiation of the bread requires as much power as the creation of the world" (Liguori, Dignity of the Priesthood).

Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

A MOUTH SPEAKING GREAT THINGS

Infant baptism by immersion (416)

Extreme Unction (526)

Musical instruments (1054)

Celibacy enforced (1079)

Transubstantiation (1215)

Sprinkling universal method (1311)

Laity no longer get the cup (1414)

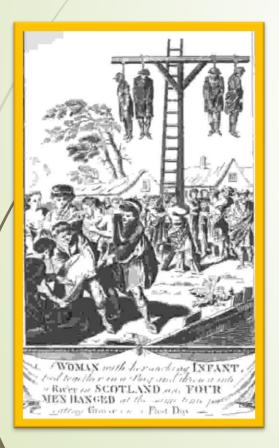
Infallibility of Pope (1870)

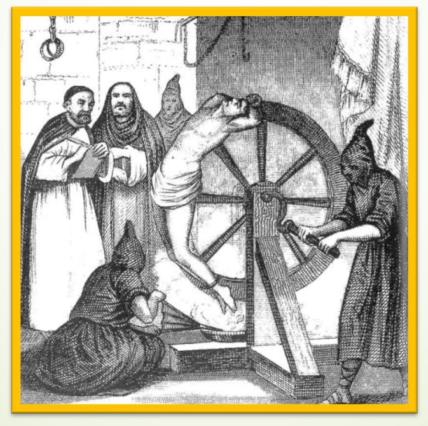
Assumption of Mary (1950)

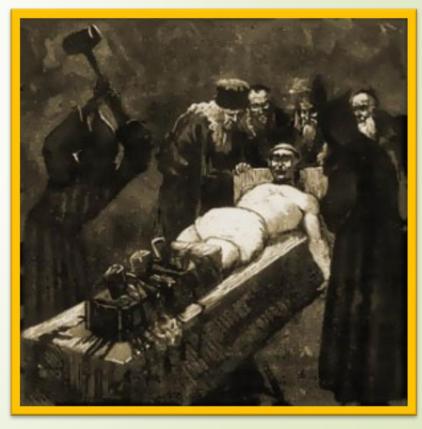
Immaculate conception of Mary (1954)

Witness Three: THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES

He would wear out the saints.







- Daniel 2 and 7 in the New Testament
- John and Jesus announced God's kingdom present.
- Daniel identified Paul's "man of sin" (II Thess 2:1-12).
- Paul identified little horn law changes (1 Tim 4:1-3).
- John built on Daniel's fourth beast (Rev 12-13,17-18).
- John built on Daniel's little horn (Rev 12-13,17-18).

Witness Three: The Summation

- God's kingdom has been here about 2000 years.
- There is no other kingdom, not Roman or Christ's.
- Daniel's 1260 years in Dark Ages destroys Futurism.
- Daniel's little horn after 476 AD destroys Preterism.
- Daniel and Paul's antichrist destroys Left Behind!
- The prophesies of Scripture seen through the eyes of history as testified to by our enemies shows the Baptists to be the church of Jesus Christ.

Other Resources

Outline of Daniel ... www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/prophecy/daniel.php.

Great Prophecies of the Bible ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/prophecy/great-prophecies-of-the-bible.php.

Rome Connection ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/prophecy/rome-connection/sermon.php.

Il Thessalonians 2 ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/second-thess-2.pdf.

Is Catholicism Christian? ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/is-catholicism-christian.pdf.

Is Catholicism Antichrist? ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/is-catholicism-antichrist.pdf.

Is the Catholic Church the Mother Church ... www.letgodbetrue.com/faq/mother-church.php.

Blasphemous Quotes of Popery ... http://www.remnantofgod.org/beastword.htm#earthgod.

Guy Fawkes the Catholic ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/guy-fawkes.pdf.