

The History of Antichrist

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Bible proof of his long existence and
historical belief of this fact.

II Thessalonians 2:1-15

The History of Antichrist

We had recent opportunity to condemn the RCC.
Such Bible passages should be known with confidence.
Do you and your family know our interpretation is historical?
Popular stories like *Left Behind* are modern inventions.
We know antichrist as Christians did for centuries.

The History of Antichrist

Daniel foretold facts about a little horn of Rome.

Paul called this blasphemous enemy the “man of sin” .

John combined both prophecies with his beasts and whore.

These three prophecies of antichrist are the RCC popes.

God loves us, so they told us history in advance.

The History of Antichrist

This prophecy of the “man of sin” is fabulous.
Europe’s Dark Ages ended with the pope as antichrist.
The greatest advances of mankind included cursing the RCC.
Ignorant tyranny gave way to Bible literacy and liberty.
Paul warned to not be deceived here. So focus.

- 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
- 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.
- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

II Thessalonians 2:1-3

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:4-8

Pastor, what does it mean,

*“he who now letteth will let,
until he be taken out of the way?”*

For the previous verse said that something withheld the man of sin being revealed ...
and the next verse says that he will be
revealed with the one letting gone.

LET

To hinder, prevent, obstruct, stand in the way
of (a person, thing, action, etc.).

Oxford English Dictionary

*"Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out
of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?"*

Isaiah 43:13

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:6-8

Pastor, why did Paul tell them to remember what he had told them in person, leaving the passage somewhat obscure?

Because to name the Roman Empire in writing would have brought great wrath on that church and other Christians, for Rome considered their empire eternal.

Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

II Thessalonians 2:5

Special Features of this Prophecy

- This church thought Christ's return could happen any day.
- False teachers, even a forged epistle, taught it any day.
- The church was troubled, so Paul comforted them here.
- *So: apostasy, Rome falls, antichrist ... then Jesus returns.*
- God saved them from unprecedented Christian delusion.

Five Key Issues to Remember

- The setting is the second coming return of Jesus Christ.
- The order is ... apostasy ... man of sin ... Jesus returns.
- A “man of sin” would come as part of Christian apostasy.
- He would only rule after a hindering power was removed.
- Beware of all kinds of means to confuse order of events.

Key Issue #1

**The setting or context is
the second coming of Jesus Christ.**

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels...

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints,
and to be admired in all them that believe
(because our testimony among you was believed)
in that day.

II Thessalonians 1:7-10

Now we beseech you, brethren,
by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and by our gathering together unto him,
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.

II Thessalonians 2:1-2

And then shall that Wicked be revealed,
whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth,
and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:8

Key Issue #2

The order is very clear and specific:

**Christians Go AWOL
Restrainer Removed
Man of Sin Revealed
Jesus Christ's Return**

Let no man deceive you by any means:
for that day shall not come,
except there come a falling away first,
and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

II Thessalonians 2:3

Key Issue #3

A “man of sin” appears with the apostasy that assumes to be God in the church, a “son of perdition” betrayer like Judas.

Who opposeth and exalteth himself
above all that is called God, or that is worshipped;
so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God,
shewing himself that he is God.

II Thessalonians 2:4

Key Issue #4

The “man of sin” cannot take his rule until a hindering power is removed.

Remember ye not,
that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

And now ye know what withholdeth that
he might be revealed in his time.

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work:
only he who now letteth will let,
until he be taken out of the way.

II Thessalonians 2:5-7

Five Key Issues to Remember

- The setting is the second coming return of Jesus Christ.
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Who is the Antichrist?

Only John used this name in his epistles.

The main antichrist was still future to John.

But the spirit of antichrist was already at work.

The little antichrists had departed from the apostles.

Little children, it is the last time:
and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come,
even now are there many antichrists;
whereby we know that it is the last time.
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.

I John 2:18-19

Who is the Antichrist?

It is Paul's "Man of Sin" in II Thess 2:1-8.

It is the "Little Horn" of Rome of Daniel 7.

It is the Dragon Beast of Rev 12-13 & 17-18.

Pagan Rome died and revived as Papal Rome .

If Not Confident of Those Facts

1. Five Kingdoms of Daniel 2 and 7 ... [here](#)
2. Antichrist – a Present Reality (1985) ... [here](#)
3. The Rome Connection (2005; Table) ... [here](#)
4. Daniel 7 and Little Horn Details ... [here](#)
5. Which Comes First? Christ or Antichrist? ... [here](#)
6. II Thessalonians 2 (2018; PPT) ... [here](#)
7. The Man of Sin (2023) ... [here](#), [here](#)
8. Revelation 17:1-6 (2024; RCC Baptism) ... [here](#)
9. Book ... Great Prophecies of the Bible ... [here](#)
10. Book ... Trail of Blood by J.M. Carroll ... [here](#)





KINGDOMS (POLITICAL POWERS)



Babylon



Medo-Persia



Greece



Rome

Daniel's First Vision – Chapter 7 (2)

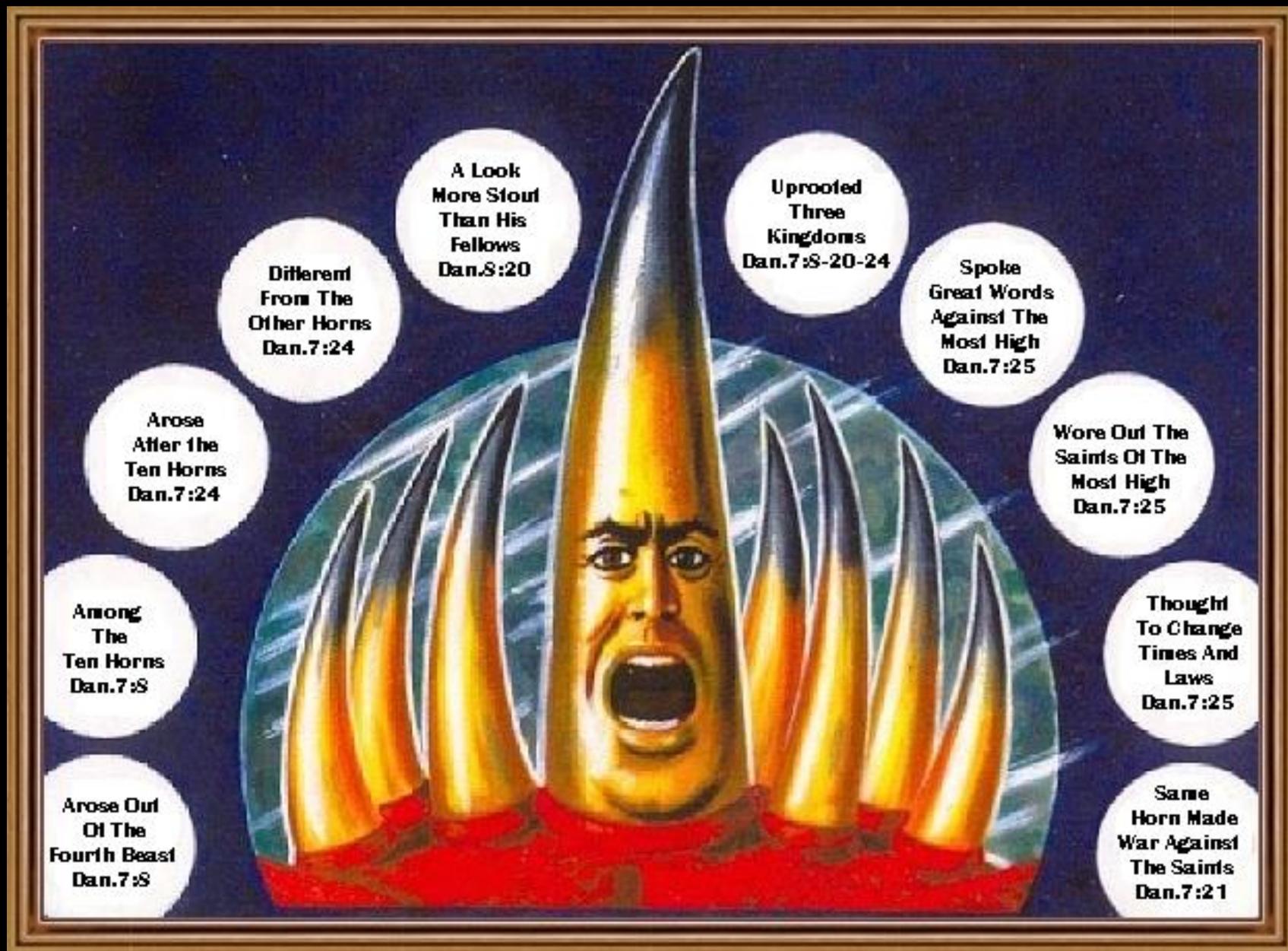
- Lion ... king of beasts and king of fowl ... **Babylon.**
- Bear ... rose on side with three ribs ... **Media-Persia.**
- Leopard ... four heads & wings, dominion ... **Greece.**
- Dragon ... dreadful, strong, iron, ten horns ... **Rome.**
- Emphasis is on a little horn coming out of Rome.

Daniel's First Vision – Chapter 7 (3)

- 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 Roman power arose.

The Little Horn of Rome (1)

- It grew out of the fourth beast – it is truly Roman.
- It is unrelated to the little horn of Greece (8:8-9,21-23).
- It was different from political/military kingdoms.
- It had eyes for intelligence, knowledge, oversight.
- It had a mouth speaking great things of blasphemy.



The Little Horn of Rome (2)

- Roman.
- After fall of Roman Empire in 476 A.D.
- Came up among European kingdoms.
- Came up small but later waxed great.
- Eyes like a man for intelligence, wisdom, overseer.
- Mouth speaking blasphemous things against God.
- It was cast into the lake of fire at the judgment.
- Look was more stout than his peer horns.

The Little Horn of Rome (3)

- Made war with the saints.
- Prevailed against the saints in this war.
- Little horn kingdom overthrown at Judgment Day.
- 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.

What Is the Little Horn of Rome?

- 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.





*Historical Belief of **Antichrist***

These sample testimonies do not prove or confirm our interpretation of scripture. They are given to show the futuristic interpretation is very recent and confounds Paul's order of events starting with Christian apostasy. The Left Behind futurists have no idea their anti-Paul ideas are novel and contrary to the Bible and history.

Waldensians (1120) ... *Treatise on Antichrist*

"According to the apostle we may truly say, This is that man of sin complete, that lifts up himself against all that is called God, or worshipped, and that setteth himself in opposition against all truth, sitting down in the Temple of God, that is in his church, and shewing forth himself as if he were God, being come with all manner of deceivableness for those that perish, and since he is truly come, he must no longer be looked for; for he is grown old already by God's permission."

Eberhard II (1200-1246) ... Archbishop of Salzburg

"Ten kings exist at the same time, who have divided the circle of the earth, formerly the Roman empire.... And a little horn has sprung up under these, which has eyes and a mouth speaking great things.... With an unendurable lordship he plagues the people of Christ, and the saints of God; he mingles divine and human things, he sets in motion the abominable and the detestable things. What is more clear than this prophecy? All the signs and wonders which that heavenly teacher of ours pointed out to us have been fulfilled long ago."

John Wycliffe (1328-1384) ... Early English Reformer

"Why is it necessary in unbelief to look for another Antichrist? Hence in ... Daniel, Antichrist is forcefully described by a horn arising in the time of the fourth kingdom."

"The Pope is the head of Antichrist's kingdom, and his cardinals are his members."

John Hus (1369-1415) ... Early Czech Reformer

"Surely now the wickedness, iniquity, and baseness of Antichrist has been revealed in the Pope and his associates in the Council."

Martin Luther (1483-1546) ... Early German Reformer

"The man of sin and the son of perdition ... by his teaching and his ordinances increases the sin and perdition of souls in the Church; while he yet sits in the Church as if he were God. All these conditions have now for many ages been fulfilled by the papal tyranny."

John Calvin (1509-1564) ... Early French/Swiss Reformer

"Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman pontiff Antichrist. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself.... I shall briefly show that (Paul's words in II Thess 2) are not capable of any other interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy."

King James I of England (1566-1625) ... Authorized the KJV

By the age of 18 he had written a commentary on Revelation with the Protestant interpretation of that time. In 1609 he wrote to all the monarchs of Christendom, "For the Pope, I acknowledge him for the Antichrist, and the Sonne of perdition, described in the Scripture."

King James Translators (1611)

"The zeal of Your Majesty toward the house of God, manifesting itself abroad in the farthest parts of Christendom, by writing in defence of the Truth, (which hath given such a blow unto that man of sin, as will not be healed.)"

Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) ... Lord Protector of England

"I could wish that all honest men would be of one mind, and that all the power of the nation might be employed to suppress that antichristian and popish power."

He sent Samuel Morland to Italy in 1655 to protest the slaughter of Waldensians. He desired the kings of Europe to unite and destroy Rome. The resulting book is a detailed record of those martyrs, with drawings, The History of the Evangelical Churches of the Valleys of Piemont.

Westminster Confession of Faith (Presbyterian; 1647)

"Nor can the Pope of Rome in any sense be the head thereof; but is that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God."

London Confession of Faith (Baptist; 1689)

“Neither can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof, but is that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalts himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God; whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”

John Gill (1697-1771) ... English Particular Baptist

"So here it intends the whole hierarchy of Rome, monks, friars, priests, bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and especially popes, who may well be called the man of sin, because notoriously sinful."

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) ... American Congregationalist

“The rise of Antichrist was gradual. The Christian church corrupted itself in many things. . . . The clergy in general, and especially the bishop of Rome, assumed more and more authority to himself. . . . See how well this agrees with the prophecies, 2 Thess. ii. 3,4. Dan. vii. 20,21. Rev. xiii. 6,7. and chap. xvii. 3,4.”

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) ... English Baptist Pastor

"The Pope is Antichrist, and the system of Popery is the masterpiece of Satan."

Le Roy Froom (1890-1974) ... Prophetic Historian of SDA

The noted historian of prophetic interpretation, concludes after nearly three volumes of carefully documented proof for his statement, "The futurist view of an individual Jewish Antichrist was unknown among the Protestants of North America prior to the nineteenth century."

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Historical Belief of *Antichrist*

Many more quotations like these may easily be found:

Great Prophecies of the Bible by Ralph Woodrow

The Prophetic Interpretation of our Fathers by Le Roy Froom

Any good AI chatbot with prompts pertaining to this topic.

Key Issue #5

**Beware of all kinds of means to confuse
the plain order of events by Paul.**

- 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
- 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.
- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

II Thessalonians 2:1-3

Prophetic Deception Began Then

Hymenaeus and Philetus were heretics that said the resurrection was past and overthrew the faith of some believers.

But shun profane and vain babblings:
for they will increase unto more ungodliness.
And their word will eat as doth a canker:
of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;
Who concerning the truth have erred,
saying that the resurrection is past already;
and overthrow the faith of some.

II Timothy 2:16

Three Interpretations of Prophecy

Historicism = much in history by Bible timing; antichrist is past but Christ's return yet future.

Futurism = invented by RCC to divert attention from pope to future UN monster after rapture.

Preterism = invented by Rome to divert attention away from pope by 70 A.D. and Nero fulfilling all.

Historicism – *Fulfilled Prophecies*

Daniel 2	Kingdom of God of heaven set up.
Daniel 7	Five world kingdoms by four beasts.
Daniel 8	Greek Antiochus IV beat by Maccabees.
Daniel 9	70-Weeks totally fulfilled by 70 A.D.
Daniel 11	King of north/south only Greek kings.
Matt 24	Abomination of Desolation in 70 A.D.
II Thess 2	Man of sin is popes for last 1800 years.
I Tim 4	RCC doctrines of devils (celibacy, meat)
Rev 12-13	Pagan and then Papal Rome kills saints
Rev 17-18	Great Whore reduced to nothing

Historicism – *Future Prophecies*

Matt 25	Christ's judgment of sheep and goats
Acts 1	Visible, bodily return of the Lord for us
Romans 8	Whole creation renovated from curse
I Cor 15	Resurrection of dead and all changed
II Cor 5	New bodies for our souls for all eternity
I Thess 4	Return of Christ in the air for believers.
II Thess 2	Jesus returns to fully destroy antichrist
II Peter 3	New heaven and new earth for us
Rev 20	Devil cast into the lake of fire forever
Rev 20	White throne judgment & book of life

Easiest Ways to Refute Futurism

Matthew 24:32-35 says the abomination of desolation occurred to that generation, and Paul in our passage here put the antichrist before the return of Jesus Christ for saints.

Easiest Ways to Refute Preterism

Daniel 7's ten horns are contemporary, not consecutive, from a fallen Rome in 476 A.D., and Paul's man of sin comes with a falling away and sits in a church like John's whore.

Paul Was Not Kidding

Great efforts were made to confuse Bible prophecy and the timing of events in II Thess 2, and they have been very successful with most Christians.

Paul vs. Scofield & Others

Paul's Order in Thess 2

Order by Scofield & Others

A Falling Away – Christians Apostatize

A Falling Away – Christians Apostatize

Restraint of Roman Empire Removed

Jesus Comes Second Time (Day of Christ)

Man of Sin Revealed as Papal Rome

Holy Spirit Restraint Removed in Rapture

Jesus Christ Returns to Destroy RCC

Antichrist During Tribulation after Rapture

Jesus Comes Third Time (Day of Lord)

*How does C.I. Scofield get Christ's
second coming in front of antichrist,
contrary to what Paul wrote so clearly?*

Let no man deceive you by any means:
for that day shall not come,
except there come a falling away first,
and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
II Thessalonians 2:3

Scofield Introduces II Thessalonians This Way

Theme. The theme of Second Thessalonians is, unfortunately, obscured by a mistranslation in the A.V. of 2:2, where “day of Christ is at hand” should be, “day of the LORD is now present.” The Thessalonians converts were “shaken in mind” and “troubled” ... that the persecutions from which they were suffering were those of the “great and terrible day of the LORD,” from which they had been taught to expect deliverance by “the day of Christ, and our gathering together unto him.”

So he created two comings (not counting yet another after the millennium), the “day of Christ” before antichrist, and the “day of the Lord” after the antichrist.

For an expose of 19 Scofield Lies ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2013/scofield-lies/>

Historical Belief of Restraining Power

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Tertullian (about 200) ... *Christian Author in Carthage*

"What is the restraining power? What but the Roman State, the breaking up of which, by being scattered into ten kingdoms, shall introduce Antichrist."

Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem (about 300)

"The predicted Antichrist will come when the times of the Roman Empire shall be fulfilled.... Ten kings of the Romans shall arise together.... Among these the eleventh is Antichrist, who, by magical and wicked artifices, shall seize the Roman power."

John Chrysostom (347-407) ... of Constantinople

"Some say that the Roman Empire is what restrains, and I agree. For as long as the Roman Empire stands, the Antichrist will not come. But when it is dissolved, he will come."

Jerome, Latin Bible Translator (about 400)

Quotation (from his Commentary on Daniel): "For the Roman Empire must first be desolated, and then the Antichrist shall appear."

"He (Paul) shows that that which restrains is the Roman Empire; for unless it shall have been destroyed, and taken out of the midst, according to the prophet Daniel, Antichrist will not come before that."

"Let us therefore say what all ecclesiastical writers have delivered to us, that when the Roman Empire is destroyed, ten kings will divide the Roman world among themselves, and then will be revealed the man of sin."

John Gill (1697-1771) ... English Particular Baptist

"By that which withheld, let, or hindered the open appearance of antichrist, were the Roman empire and emperors; these stood in his way, and whilst this empire lasted, and the emperors wore the imperial crown, and sat on the throne, and held the government in their hands, the popes could not come at the height of their ambition, dignity, and authority, nor shine in their glory; nor could the whore of Babylon take her seat, and sit upon the seven hills of Rome until the Roman emperor was taken out of the way: this therefore hindered, that he might be revealed in his time. . . . 'Only he who now letteth, will let, until he be taken out of the way'; that is, the Roman empire and Roman emperors, and which were by degrees entirely removed, and so made way for the revelation of this wicked one."

Matthew Poole (1624-1679) ... English Commentator

"Expositors, both popish and protestant, pitch upon the Roman emperor and empire as most probably meant here by the apostle; and therefore he wrote not plainly, lest by writing of the taking away that empire, which the Romans thought to be eternal, he might stir up their hatred against the Christians."

The Roman Empire being "divided into ten distinct kingdoms under distinct governments ... and Italy and Rome wholly in the pope's possession: and hence this man of sin hath been long since revealed."

Matthew Henry (1662-1714) ... English Commentator

"There was something that hindered or withheld, or let, until it was taken away. This is supposed to be the power of the Roman empire, which the apostle did not think fit to mention more plainly at that time; and it is notorious that, while this power continued, it prevented the advances of the bishops of Rome to that height of tyranny to which soon afterwards they arrived."

Albert Barnes (1798-1870) ... American Presbyterian

"To any one acquainted with the decline and fall of the Roman empire, nothing can be more manifest than the correspondence of the facts in history respecting the rise of the papacy, and the statement of the apostle Paul here. ... In all history there cannot, probably, be found a series of events corresponding more accurately with a prophetic statement than this; and there is every evidence, therefore, that these are the events to which the Spirit of inspiration referred."

Daniel Whedon (1808-1885) ... American Methodist

"Now there is a universal Christian tradition, held in the Greek, Roman, and Protestant Churches alike, which explains both the hinderer and the reason for this mysterious silence. The hindering thing was the Roman empire, and the hindering person was the emperor. And says Chrysostom, 'If St. Paul had said that the Roman empire was to be destroyed, the heathen would have destroyed him as a rebel, and all the faithful with him as persons who took up arms against the Roman empire'.... The Roman-pagan empire must disappear, before the Roman-papal power can disclose itself. The Roman emperor must cease before the Roman pope can commence supremacy."

Encyclopedia Britannica (1961)

"... the power which was 'universally' believed by Christians to be that which was retarding the revelation of the Antichrist was the Roman Empire."

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For Further Study

CATHOLICISM DIRECTLY:

1. Five Kingdoms of Daniel 2 and 7 ... [here](#).
2. Antichrist – a Present Reality (1985) ... [here](#).
3. The Rome Connection (2005; Table) ... [here](#).
4. Daniel 7 and Little Horn Details ... [here](#).
5. Is Catholicism Anti-Christ? ... [here](#).
6. Is Catholicism Christian? ... [here](#).
7. RCC Baptism (2024; Revelation 17:1-6) ... [here](#).
8. Which Comes First? Christ or Antichrist? ... [here](#).
9. II Thessalonians 2 (2018; PPT) ... [here](#).
10. The Man of Sin (2023) ... [here](#), [here](#).
11. Revelation 17:1-6 (2024; RCC Baptism) ... [here](#).
12. Pope Frank (2015; Sermons) ... [here](#).
13. Book ... [Great Prophecies of the Bible](#) ... [here](#).
14. Book ... [Babylon Mystery Religion](#)
15. Rebaptism & Reordination ... [here](#).
16. *Roman Catholicism* by David Cloud ... [here](#).
17. Richard Bennett – Converted Priest ... [here](#).
18. [Fifty Years in the Church of Rome](#) ... [here](#).
19. [Trail of Blood](#) by Dr. James M. Carroll ... [here](#).
20. Song ... *That Man of Sin* ... [here](#).

CATHOLICISM HERESIES:

1. Seven Sacraments of Rome (2019 PPT) ... [here](#), [here](#), [here](#).
2. Movie ... *The Passion of the Christ* (2004) ... [here](#).
3. Ash Wednesday and Lent ... [here](#).
4. The Shroud of Turin ... [here](#).
5. The Rosary ... [here](#).
6. Pagan Holidays ... [here](#).
7. Scriptural Baptism ... [here](#).
8. Instrumental Music in Church ... [here](#).
9. Drink Ye All of It ... [here](#).
10. The Mother Church ... [here](#).