

Choose This Day...

A Bible study designed to bring understanding and decision.

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of 28

The Man of Sin

The Bible identifies a “man of sin.” Who or what is the “man of sin,” what are his characteristics, and what part in the world does he play? What is the outcome of this power as outlined in the prophetic word? We have learned that the word of God is pure and it is a shield to those who trust in him, Proverbs 30:5. Let’s open His word to discover what God would reveal to us.

Opening prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the surety of Your word. You have provided and protected it through the ages for our benefit. Guide us now as we learn who the “man of sin” is that we might use Your word as our shield against darkness. In the precious name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Using the King James Bible, read each verse, filling in the missing words. What are you learning from each verse about the “man of sin.”

1. *2 Thessalonians 2:1-4* “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 day of Christ is at hand. Let no man _____ 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; Who opposeth and _____ himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God _____ in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” **The Bible gives us 9 identifying characteristics of the “man of sin” or antichrist. Horns in these prophetic passages signify kingdoms. The ten kingdoms or horns are the same as the toes mentioned in Daniel 2:42, Nebuchadnezzar’s dream interpreted by Daniel.**

2. *Daniel 7:7-8* “After this I saw in the night _____, and behold a **fourth beast**, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with feet of it: and it was **diverse** from all the beasts that were _____ it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and behold, there **came up among them** _____ little horn, before whom there were _____ of the first horns **plucked up** by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the **eyes of man**, and a **mouth speaking** _____ things.”

3. *Daniel 7:25* “And he shall **speak great words against** the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to **change** _____ and _____: and they shall be given into his hand until a **time and times and the dividing of time.**”

4. *Revelation 13:5* “And there was _____ unto him a **mouth speaking great things and blasphemies**; and _____ was given unto him to continue forty and two months.”

5. *Daniel 7:21* “I beheld, and the _____ horn **made war** with the _____, and prevailed **against** them.”

6. *Revelation 13:3-4* “And I saw one of his heads as it were _____ to **death**; and his **deadly wound** was _____: and **all the world wondered** after the beast. And they _____ the dragon which gave power unto the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”

For many centuries, Protestant denominations have identified the Papacy as the antichrist, man of perdition, man of sin. Do these characteristics given in the scripture agree with this interpretation?

1. The papal power rose in Western Europe; Rome, Italy. It was one of the ten horns.
2. The papacy has a man at its head that speaks for it, the pope.
3. There were three Arian kingdoms at the time of its rise that were plucked out because they did not support the papacy. This is an historical fact.
4. Because the papacy was a religious as well as civil power, that made it very different from any other kingdom.
5. Affirmed by the Catholic Church’s own sources; “That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind.” W.E.H. Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, Volume 2, 40.
6. The papacy emerged from the kingdom of iron, the pagan Roman Empire. “The mighty Catholic Church was little more than the Roman Empire baptized.” Alexander Clarence Flick, *The Rise of the Mediaeval Church*, 148, 149
7. The persecution lasted a time (year), times (2 years) and ½ time (half a year). One prophetic day equals one literal year. (Ezekiel 4:6, Numbers 14:34) Three and one half years equals 42 months or 1260 days. This time period began at the rule of the papacy AD 538 and continued its rule through 1798, when the pope was taken captive by Napoleon’s General Berthier. This was a deadly wound to the papacy that has continued to heal since that event.
8. The blasphemies of the papacy include: claiming the ability to forgive sins, (*Luke 5:21* “And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?”) and claiming to be God. (*John 10:33* “The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not, but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makes thyself God.”)
9. As we read in *Daniel 7:25*, it will “think to change times and laws.” The papacy has sought to change the Lord’s day, Sabbath, from Saturday to Sunday. It also changed the reading of the ten commandments by eliminating the 2nd commandment. It divided the 10th commandment into two commandments to keep the original number. This is easily verified in its own sources and catechism.

7. *Isaiah 56:1-2* “Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. _____ is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that _____ the _____ from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing evil.”

8. *1 Peter 1:5* “Who are _____ by the _____ of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

9. *Revelation 14:12* “Here is the _____ of the saints: here are they that _____ the commandments of God, and the _____ of Jesus.”

From God’s word studied above, can you find the correct missing words in the list below to complete this fundamental principle?

That as the man of sin, the _____, has thought to change _____ and _____ (the law of God, Daniel 7:25), and has _____ almost all Christendom in regard to the _____ commandment, we find a _____ of a reform in this respect to be wrought among believers _____ before the coming of Christ.

just | prophecy | papacy | laws | fourth | times | misled

Closing prayer: Merciful Father, thank You for revealing the deceptions that have infiltrated and subverted the gospel message. Give us Your power to be one of the patient saints that keep the commandments in truth and have the faith of Jesus. We pray for those that are deceived, that Your ministering angels will bring this revelation to them as well, before it is too late. Help us to spread this truth in love to our brothers and sisters. We pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.

Further Study: Daniel chapters 2, 7, 8 and Revelation 13 and 17

Answers: 1. deceive, exalteth, sitteth 2. visions, before, another, three, great 3. times, laws 4. given, power 5. same, saints 6. wounded, healed, worshipped 7. Blessed, keepeth, Sabbath 8. kept, power 9. patience, keep, faith

It’s Jewish! (author unknown)

When we present God’s holy law, and arguments from scripture draw, Objectors say, to pick a flaw, **“It’s Jewish.”**

Though at the first Jehovah blessed and sanctified His day of rest, The same belief is still expressed, **“It’s Jewish.”**

Though with the world this rest began, and thence through all Scriptures ran, and Jesus said ’twas made for man - **“It’s Jewish.”**

Though not with Jewish rites, which passed, but with the moral law ’twas classed, which must exist while time shall last, **“It’s Jewish.”**

If from the Bible we present the Sabbath’s meaning and intent, this answers every argument - **“It’s Jewish.”**

Though the disciples, Luke and Paul, continue still this rest to call the “Sabbath day,” this answers all, **“It’s Jewish.”**

The gospel teacher’s plain expression, that “Sin is of the law transgression,” seems not to make the least impression - **“It’s Jewish.”**

They love the rest of man’s invention, but if Jehovah’s day we mention, this puts an end to all contention, **“It’s Jewish.”**

O ye who thus God’s day abuse, simply because ’twas kept by Jews, the Saviour, too, you must refuse, **“He’s Jewish.”**

The Scriptures, then, we may expect for the same reason you’ll reject; for if you will but recollect, **“They’re Jewish.”**

Thus the apostles, too, must fall; for Andrew, Peter, James, and Paul, Thomas, Matthew, John, and all **“Were Jewish.”**

So to your helpless state resign yourself in wretchedness to pine; salvation, surely you’ll decline, **“It’s Jewish.”**