

Who is the Antichrist?



Amazing Facts
Study Guide

Who, or what, is the antichrist? Evil alliance, or sinister individual? Some say his appearance is still in the future. Others say he appeared long ago in the days of ancient Rome. But the Bible indicates that he is alive *today!* The Bible prophecies teach this antichrist power will play a crucial role in the final events of earth's history. Do you know who he is? Are you sure? You need to be, for you can't understand last-day events until you understand this evil power. Be prepared for one of the most intriguing Study Guides yet!



This Study Guide, based on Daniel chapter 7, clearly and unmistakably identifies the antichrist. But it is only an introduction. Future lessons will reveal details of some of his activities that will have worldwide impact. What you discover today may displease or sadden you, but please remember that the prophecy of Daniel chapter 7 comes from Jesus, who loves you. Pray for God's guidance as you delve into this urgent subject. Be sure to read Daniel 7 before studying this guide.



In prophecy, God uses beasts to symbolize nations.

1. As the chapter begins, Daniel sees four beasts coming up out of the sea. In prophecy, what does a beast represent? What does the sea represent?

“The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth” (Daniel 7:23). “The waters ... are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues” (Revelation 17:15).

Answer: Beasts represent kingdoms or nations. Water represents multitudes of people or large populations.

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2. The four beasts of Daniel 7 represent the four world kingdoms (verses 17, 18). Babylon, the first kingdom (Daniel 2:38, 39), is represented as a lion in Daniel 7:4. (See also Jeremiah 4:7; 50:17, 43, 44 for Babylon pictured as a lion elsewhere.) What do the “eagle’s wings” mean? What do the “four winds” of verse 2 represent?



“The LORD will bring a nation against you ... as swift as the eagle flies” (Deuteronomy 28:49). “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ... a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth. And ... the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth” (Jeremiah 25:32, 33).

Answer: The wings of eagles represent speed. (See also Jeremiah 4:13; Habakkuk 1:6-9.) Winds represent strife, commotion, and destruction. (See also Revelation 7:1-3.)

The lion beast of Daniel 7 represents the empire of Babylon.

3. What kingdom does the bear represent (Daniel 7:5)? What do the three ribs in its mouth symbolize?

Answer: Read Daniel 8. Notice that the beasts in chapter 8 parallel those in chapter 7. Daniel 8:20 specifically names Medo-Persia as the kingdom that precedes the rough goat, or Greece, of verse 21. It is the second world kingdom—the same power as the bear of Daniel 7. The empire was made up of two groups of people. The Medes came up first (represented in Daniel 7:5 by the bear coming up on one side), but the Persians eventually became stronger (represented in Daniel 8:3 by the ram’s second horn which grew “higher,” or taller). The three ribs represent the three principal powers conquered by Medo-Persia: Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.



The bear with three ribs in its mouth symbolizes Medo-Persia.



The leopard beast of Daniel 7 represents the world kingdom of Greece.

4. Greece, the third kingdom (Daniel 8:21), is represented by a leopard with four wings and four heads (Daniel 7:6). What do the heads represent? What do the four wings represent?

Answer: The four heads represent the four kingdoms into which the empire of Alexander the Great was divided when he died. The four generals who headed these areas were: Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus. The four wings (instead of two like the lion) represent super-speed, which was true of Alexander's conquests (Jeremiah 4:11-13).

5. The Roman empire, the fourth world kingdom, is represented by a horrible monster with iron teeth and 10 horns (Daniel 7:7). What do the horns represent?

Answer: The 10 horns represent the 10 kings or kingdoms into which pagan Rome was eventually split (Daniel 7:24). (These 10 kingdoms are the same as the 10 toes of the image described in Daniel 2:41-44.) Roving barbarian tribes swept in upon the Roman empire and carved out land niches for their people. Seven of those 10 tribes developed into the countries of modern Western Europe, while three were uprooted and destroyed. The next section will discuss those kingdoms that were rooted up.



The world empire of Rome is symbolized by the monster beast of Daniel chapter 7.

VISIGOTHS	Spain
ANGLO-SAXONS	England
FRANKS	France
ALEMANI	Germany
BURGUNDIANS	Switzerland
LOMBARDS	Italy
SUEVI	Portugal
HERULI	Rooted up
OSTROGOTHS	Rooted up
VANDALS	Rooted up

6. In the Daniel 7 prophecy, what happens next?

“I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words” (Daniel 7:8).

Answer: The “little horn” power appears next. We must identify it carefully because God takes more space describing it than the other four kingdoms combined. Why? Because the biblical characteristics identify it as the antichrist of prophecy and history. There must be no mistake in making this identification.



The little horn of Daniel 7:8 represents antichrist.

7. Are there clear points of identification?

Answer: Yes, God's Word gives us nine characteristics of antichrist in Daniel 7 so we can be certain of his identity. And even though some may find these truths painful, we must be honest enough to accept them as His revealed will. Now let's discover what these nine points are:

- A. The “little horn” or kingdom “came up among them”—the 10 horns which were the kingdoms of Western Europe (Daniel 7:8). So it would be a little kingdom somewhere in Western Europe.
- B. It would have a man at its head who could speak for it (Daniel 7:8).
- C. It would pluck up or uproot three kingdoms (Daniel 7:8).
- D. It would be “diverse” or different from the other 10 kingdoms (Daniel 7:24).
- E. It would make war with and “wear out” or persecute the saints (Daniel 7:21, 25).
- F. It would emerge from the pagan Roman empire—the fourth world kingdom (Daniel 7:7, 8).
- G. God's people (the saints) would “be given into his hand” for “a time and times and the dividing of time” (Daniel 7:25).
- H. It would “speak great words against” or blaspheme God (Daniel 7:25). In Revelation 13:5, the Bible says the same power speaks “great things and blasphemies.”
- I. It would “think to change times and laws.” Daniel 7:25.

(continued on next page)

Don't forget—all these identification points come directly from the Bible. They are not some human opinion or speculation. Historians could tell you quickly what power is being described. These points can fit only one power—the papacy. But in order to be certain, let us carefully examine all nine points, one by one. There must be no room left for doubt.



The Bible says antichrist would persecute God's people.

8. Does the papacy fit these points?

Answer: Yes, it fits every point perfectly. See items A through I below.

A. It “came up among” the 10 kingdoms of Western Europe.

The geographical location of the papal power was in Rome, Italy—the very heart of the territory of Western Europe.

B. It would have a man at its head who speaks for it.

The papacy meets this identifying mark because it does have one man at the head (the pope) who speaks for it.

C. Three kingdoms were plucked up to make way for the rise of the papacy.

The emperors of Western Europe were largely Catholic and supported the papacy in its growth and authority. Three Arian kingdoms, however, did not support the papacy—the Vandals, Heruli, and Ostrogoths. So the Catholic emperors decided they must be subdued or destroyed. Here is how Dr. Mervyn

Maxwell, a theologian and historian, described the results in volume 1, page 129, of his book *God Cares*: “The Catholic emperor Zeno (474-491) arranged a treaty with the Ostrogoths in 487 which resulted in the eradication of the kingdom of the Arian Heruls in 493. And the Catholic emperor Justinian (527-565) exterminated the Arian Vandals in 534 and significantly broke the power of the Arian Ostrogoths in 538. Thus were Daniel’s three horns—the Heruls, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths—‘plucked up by the roots.’” It is not difficult to recognize that the papacy fits this point.

D. It would be “diverse” or different from the other kingdoms.

The papacy clearly fits this description, also. It came on the scene as a religious power and was totally different from the secular nature of the other 10 kingdoms.

E. It would make war with and persecute the saints.

That the church did persecute is a well-known fact. The papacy clearly admits doing so. Much supportive evidence exists. Even conservative historians claim the church probably destroyed at least 50 million people over matters of religious conviction. We will quote here from two sources:

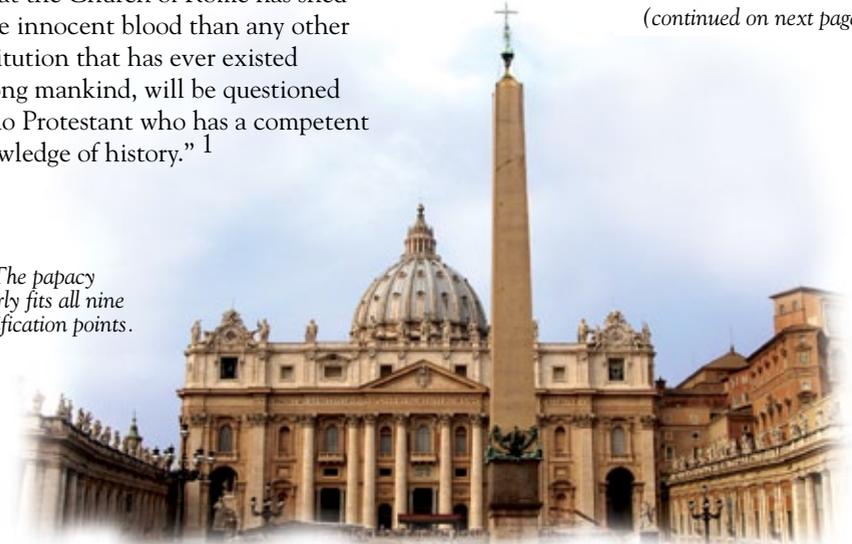
1. “That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history.”¹

2. In *The History of the Inquisition of Spain*, D. Ivan Antonio Llorente provides these figures from the Spanish Inquisition alone:

- 31,912 persons were condemned and perished in the flames.
- 241,450 persons were condemned to severe penalties.

(continued on next page)

The papacy clearly fits all nine identification points.



Words of Care and Concern

Lest some should think that we are attacking fellow Christians by identifying this little-horn power, please keep in mind that the prophecy is aimed at a system and not individuals. There are sincere, devout Christians in all churches, including the Catholic faith. Daniel chapter 7 is simply a message of judgment and correction upon a large religious institution which compromised with paganism, like so many other churches that arose after her.

Prophecy Reveals Faults of All Faiths

Other prophecies point out the faults of Protestant and Jewish faiths. God has true people in all religions. His true people (no matter what their faith) will always humbly accept the correction of the Lord and will not shut their ears and hearts against Him by self-defensiveness. We should be very thankful that God's Word speaks with impartial honesty on every subject.

F. It would emerge from the fourth kingdom of iron—the pagan Roman Empire.

We are quoting two authorities on this point:

1. “The mighty Catholic Church was little more than the Roman Empire baptised ... The very capital of the old Roman Empire became the capital of the Christian empire. The office of Pontifex Maximus was continued in that of the pope.”²
2. “Whatever Roman elements the barbarians and Arians left ... [came] under the protection of the Bishop of Rome, who was the chief person there after the emperor’s disappearance. The Roman church in this way privily pushed itself into the place of the Roman World-Empire, of which it is the actual continuation.”³ So, once again, the point fits the papacy.

G. God’s people (the saints) would “be given into his hand” for “a time and times and half a time” (Daniel 7:25).

Several things need clarification in connection with this point:

1. A time is a year, times is two years, and the dividing of time is a half-year. *The Amplified Bible* translates it: “Three and one-half years.”⁴
2. This same time period is mentioned seven times (Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5) in the books of Daniel and Revelation: three times as a time, times, and half a time; twice as 42 months; and twice as 1,260 days. Based on the 30-day calendar used by the Jews, these time periods are all the same amount of time: 3½ years = 42 months = 1,260 days.

3. One prophetic day equals one literal year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34).
4. Thus, the little horn (antichrist) was to have power over the saints for 1,260 prophetic days or 1,260 literal years.
5. The rule of the papacy began in A.D. 538, when the last of the three opposing Arian kingdoms was uprooted. Its rule continued until 1798 when Napoleon’s general, Berthier, took the pope captive with hopes of destroying both Pope Pius VI and the political, secular power of the papacy. This period of time is an exact fulfillment of the 1,260-year prophecy.

Prophetic Time	
Time	= 1 year
Times	= 2 years
½ Time	= ½ year

The blow was a deadly wound for the papacy, but that wound began to heal and continues healing today.

6. This same period of persecution is mentioned in Matthew 24:21 as the worst period of persecution God’s people will ever experience. Verse 22 tells us it was so devastating that not one soul would have survived if God had not shortened it. But God did shorten it. The persecution ended long before the pope was taken captive in 1798. It is plain to see that this point, likewise, fits the papacy.

H. It would speak “pompous [great] words” of blasphemy “against the most High [God].”

Blasphemy has two definitions in Scripture:

1. Claiming to forgive sins (Luke 5:21).
2. Claiming to be God (John 10:33).

Does this point fit the papacy? Yes! Let’s first look at the evidence for it claiming to forgive sins: “Does the Priest truly forgive the sins, or does he only declare that they are remitted? The Priest does really and truly forgive the sins in virtue of the power given to him by Christ.”⁵ The papacy further undermines Jesus by setting up a system of confession to an earthly priest, thus bypassing Jesus, our High Priest (Hebrews 3:1; 8:1, 2) and only Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).

Next consider the evidence for it claiming to be God: “We [the popes] hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.”⁶ Here is another: “The pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ, Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh.”⁷

It’s obvious this point, likewise, fits the papacy.

I. It would “intend to change times and law.”

In a future Study Guide we will deal with the “times” of this point. It is a major topic and needs separate consideration. But what about changing the “laws”? *The Amplified Bible* translates “laws” as “the law.” The reference is to changing God’s law. Of course, no one can really change it, but has the papacy attempted to do so? The answer is “yes.”

In its catechisms, the papacy has omitted the second commandment against veneration of images and has shortened the fourth commandment from 94 words to eight and divided the tenth commandment into two commandments. (Check this for yourself. Compare the Ten Commandments in any Catholic catechism with God’s list of the commandments in Exodus 20:3-17.)

There is no doubt that the little horn power of Daniel chapter 7 (the antichrist)



The Bible says antichrist would attempt to change God’s law.

is the papacy. No other organization could possibly fit these nine points. And incidentally, this is no new teaching. Every Reformer, without exception, spoke of the papacy as antichrist.⁸

¹ W. E. H. Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, Volume 2, p. 40.
² Alexander Clarence Flick, *The Rise of the Medieval Church*, pp. 148, 149.
³ Adolf Harnack, *What is Christianity?* (New York: Putnam, second edition, revised, 1901), pp. 269, 270.
⁴ *The Amplified Bible*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan 1962.
⁵ Joseph Deharbe, S.J., *A Complete Catechism of the Catholic Religion* (New York: Schwartz, Kirwin & Fauss, 1924), p. 279.
⁶ Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter “The Reunion of Christendom” (dated June 20, 1894) trans. in the *Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII* (New York: Benziger, 1903), p. 304.
⁷ *Catholic National*, July 1895.
⁸ R. Allen Anderson, *Unfolding the Revelation*, p. 137.



The angel told Daniel that the prophecies of this book would be sealed until 1798, the time of the end.

9. Wasn't Daniel told to seal up his book until "the time of the end" (Daniel 12:4)? When will Daniel's prophecies be opened to our understanding?

Answer: In Daniel 12:4, the prophet was told to seal parts of the book till "the time of the end." In

verse 6 an angelic voice asked, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?" Verse 7 says, "it shall be for a time, times, and half a time." The angel assured Daniel that the section of the book dealing with end-time prophecies would be opened after the end of the 1260-year period of papal control which was, as we learned earlier in this Study Guide, 1798. So the time of the end began in the year 1798. Obviously, the book of Daniel contains crucial messages from heaven for us *today*. We absolutely must understand it.

10. Many Christians today have been tragically misinformed regarding the antichrist. To believe an untruth about the antichrist could easily cause a person to be deceived and lost. What should a person do when new Bible teachings are encountered?

"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Answer: When a new Bible teaching is encountered, the only safe procedure is to compare it carefully with Scripture to see if it is in harmony with God's Word.



All religious teachings must be compared with Scripture to determine their accuracy.

11. Are you willing to follow where Jesus leads, even though it may be painful?

Your Answer: _____



Concluding Remarks

Many momentous prophecies from the Bible books of Daniel and Revelation will be featured in upcoming Amazing Facts Study Guides. God has given these prophecies to:

- A. Reveal earth's closing events.
- B. Identify the participants in the final phase of the battle between Jesus and Satan.
- C. Clearly reveal Satan's sinister plans to ensnare and destroy us all.
- D. Present the security and love of the judgment; God's saints will be vindicated!
- E. Uplift Jesus—His salvation, love, power, mercy, and justice.

Major Participants Will Appear Repeatedly

Key participants in the closing war between Jesus and Satan will appear repeatedly in these prophecies. These include: Satan, Jesus, the United States, the papacy, Protestantism, and spiritism. Jesus repeats and expands His messages from the prophets to make certain His warnings of love and protection come through with clarity and certainty.

YOUR THOUGHT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1 I always thought antichrist was a person rather than an organization. Am I wrong?

ANSWER: Here is the evidence that the antichrist is an organization—the papacy. The words “eyes of a man” in Daniel 7:8, however, do point to a leader. Revelation 13:18 speaks of a man with a number being involved. In Daniel chapter 8, Greece is represented by a goat and its leader, Alexander the Great, is symbolized by a horn. The same is true of antichrist. The organization is the papacy. The pope in office is its representative. The prophecy of Daniel chapter 7 is not saying that popes are evil and that Catholics are not Christians. There are many warm, loving Catholic Christians. The system, however, is called antichrist because it has usurped Jesus’ authority and attempted to change His law.

2 Do you think it is wise or Christian to pass laws to enforce Christianity?

ANSWER: No. The Bible is clear that all should have freedom to choose the direction they wish to go in matters

of conscience (Joshua 24:15)—even if they choose to deny God and be atheists. God permitted Adam and Eve to choose to disobey even though it hurt both them and Him. Forced worship is not acceptable to God. Forced worship is the devil’s way. God’s way is loving persuasion. History shows that virtually every time the church passed laws to enforce its beliefs, persecution and murder of others resulted. This is a lesson we can learn from the Middle Ages history of the little horn.

3 Perhaps I have misunderstood, but my concept has always been that antichrist would be an evil being who openly opposed God. Is this concept incorrect?

ANSWER: We usually consider the word “anti” to mean “against.” It can also mean “in the place of” or “instead of.” Antichrist is guilty of assuming the prerogatives of God. It claims:

- A. Its priests can forgive sins—which only God can do (Luke 5:21).
- B. To have changed God’s law by dropping out the second commandment (on worshiping

images) and splitting the tenth into two parts. God’s law cannot be changed (Matthew 5:18).

C. That the pope is God on earth.

Satan’s Original Plan

Satan’s original plan (in heaven) was to assume God’s position and authority. His aim was to oust God and rule in His place. (See Study Guide 2.) When Satan was ejected from heaven, his aim did not change, but rather intensified. Through the centuries he has endeavored (using various human agencies) to discredit God and take over His position.

Antichrist Appears to Be Spiritual

Satan aims to replace God in these last days by deceiving people into following antichrist, who appears spiritual and holy. The main purpose of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation is to expose Satan’s traps and strategies and lead people to anchor in Jesus and His Word for safety.

Antichrist Will Deceive Many

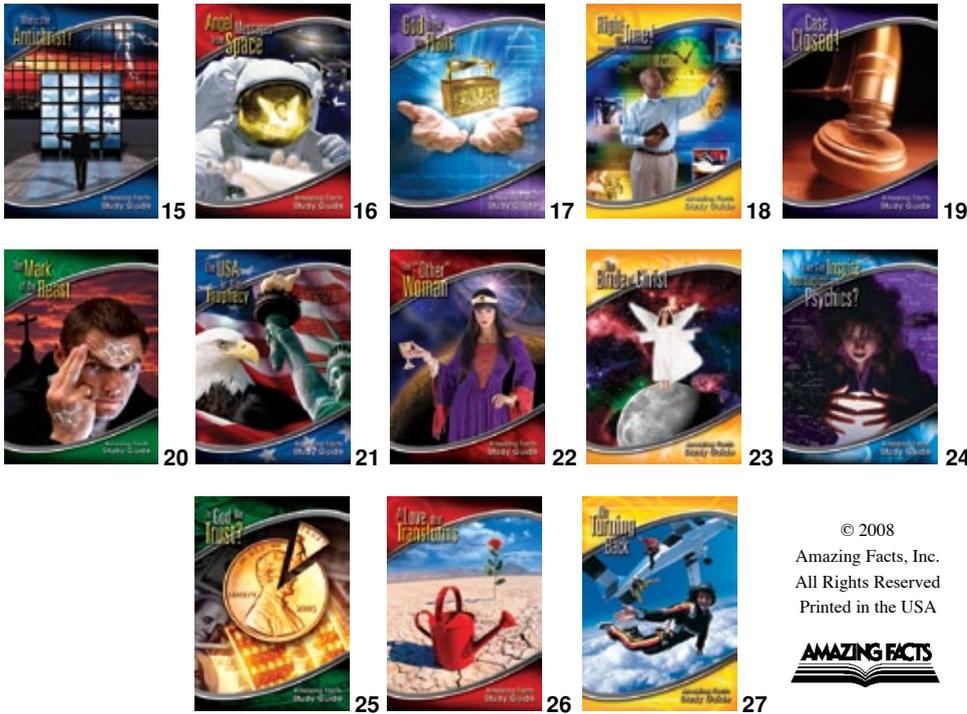
Most people will follow the antichrist (Revelation 13:3), thinking they are following Christ. Only the very elect will be safe (Matthew 24:23, 24). They will be safe because they test every spiritual teaching and leader by Scripture (Isaiah 8:20). Religious deception is everywhere today. We cannot be too careful.

4 Doesn’t the Bible say in 1 John 2:18-22 that there are many antichrists?

ANSWER: Yes, there have been many antichrists down through history who have worked against the kingdom of God. However, there is only *one* entity that specifically fulfills all the prophesied characteristics of the antichrist. In Daniel chapters 7 and 8 and in Revelation chapter 13, you will find at least 10 identifying traits of the antichrist. These 10 identifying marks can be fulfilled in only one entity, the papacy.

5 In prophecy, does the symbol “beast” mean “bestly” characteristics?

ANSWER: Not at all. God uses the symbolism of a beast to signify a ruler, nation, government, or kingdom. It is His way of depicting governments in prophecy. We do this ourselves to some degree: We have depicted Russia as a bear, the United States as an eagle, etc. The symbol “beast” is not a demeaning, disrespectful term. It is synonymous with “animal” or “creature.” Even Christ is portrayed as a Lamb by John the Baptist (John 1:29) and the apostle John (Revelation 5:6, 9, 12, 13). The term “beast” is utilized by God to give us a message about nations and leaders, good and evil.



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SUMMARY SHEET

Please read the Study Guide before completing this Summary Sheet. All answers to the questions below can be found in the Study Guide. Place a check in the box by the correct answer. Numbers in parentheses (1) indicate the number of correct answers.

1. Which four world kingdoms are represented by beast symbols in Daniel chapter 7? (4)
 - Sweden.
 - Egypt.
 - Greece.
 - China.
 - Medo-Persia.
 - Japan.
 - Babylon.
 - Iraq.
 - Rome.
2. In the following four sentences, fill in the literal meaning of each prophetic symbol using one of the words given in the list below:

destruction
 year
 nations
 people
 speed

Sample: Beasts represent kingdoms or nations.

Water represents multitudes of _____.

Wings represent _____.

Winds represent strife, commotion, and _____.

One prophetic day equals one literal _____.
3. The 10 horns on the monster beast represent (1)
 - Ten years.
 - Ten special cities.
 - Angels.
 - Riches.
 - The kingdoms into which pagan Rome eventually split.
4. How many tribes or nations were "rooted up" by the little horn power? (1)
 - Eight.
 - One.
 - Six.
 - Three.
5. The little horn power, or antichrist, represents (1)
 - One of Babylon's generals.
 - An evil ruler from the days of old pagan Rome.
 - An evil power that will arise after the second coming of Jesus.
 - Atheism.
 - The papacy.
6. Check the true statements about the little horn (antichrist) power from the list below: (3)
 - It came from Egypt.
 - It would persecute God's people.
 - It arose immediately after Babylon fell.
 - It speaks great words against God.
 - It attempted to change God's law.
7. In prophecy, "time, times, and a half time" is symbolic of (1)
 - Three and one-half literal days.
 - 42 years.
 - 1,260 literal years.
8. When did "the time of the end" begin? (1)
 - A.D. 31.
 - A.D. 1991.
 - A.D. 588.
 - A.D. 1798.



- 9. Antichrist is an organization, rather than a person. (1)
 - Yes.
 - No.
- 10. Antichrist exists today. (1)
 - Yes.
 - No.
- 11. God approves of enforcing true worship by law. (1)
 - Yes.
 - No.
- 12. General Berthier's capture of the pope only wounded the papacy. Its deadly wound began to heal and continues healing today. (1)
 - Yes.
 - No.
- 13. What item from the list below is essential for the spiritual safety of God's people in these end-time days? (1)
 - Learn to preach.
 - Pray much in public.
 - Test every religious teaching by the Bible.
- 14. Are you willing to follow where Jesus leads, even though it may be painful?
 - Yes.
 - No.

Study Guide 15 **PLEASE BE SURE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON BOTH SIDES.** Printed in USA

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