

BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS PART 3 • Friday, November 19, 2009 • Instructor: Arminda Perch
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And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. (Revelation 8:12).

Campaigns of Odoacer, of Mixed Decent-Gothic/Heruli, 476-493

Pronounced: o-do-AY-sər (English)

--Striking of the heavenly bodies with darkness signifies judgment and punishment of God, destruction

Isaiah 13:9-11 “Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Ezekiel 32:7-9 “And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD. I will also vex the hearts of many people, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known.”

Joel 2:10-11 “The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?”

Isaiah 5:30 “And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.”

--Sun, moon, and stars signify ruling bodies

Genesis 1:16-18 “And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth. And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that [it was] good.”

Psalms 136:7-9. “To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever: The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever: The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

“The symbols sun, moon, and stars for they are undoubtedly here used as symbols evidently denote the great luminaries of the Roman government, its emperors, senators, and consuls.”(Smith, 1872, p. 192)

“On their demand for a third of the lands of Italy being refused by Orestes they instantly rose in revolt and on the defeat and death of Orestes they proclaimed their leader Odoacer the Rugian their king. Romulus Augustulus laid down his imperial dignity and the court at Constantinople was informed that there was no longer an emperor of the West.” (Pelham, 1901, p. 575)

Odoacer was “...first barbarian king of Italy. The date on which he assumed power, 476, is traditionally considered the end of the Western Roman Empire.” (Encyclopædia Britannica, 2009, ¶1)

Odoacer was a “Gothic chieftain who received his military training in the Roman army and became the first Germanic ruler of Italy. When Romulus Augustulus became emperor of the Western Roman Empire in AD 475, Odoacer led an uprising of the German troops in the Roman army and deposed the new emperor in 476. This event is usually said to have marked the end of the Roman Empire in the west. Odoacer, as king of Italy, made Ravenna his capital and conquered the historical region of Dalmatia in AD 482.” (Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia, 2009, ¶1)

“...Western Rome fell in AD 476. Still, however, though the Roman sun was extinguished, its subordinate luminaries shone faintly while the senate and consuls continued...” (Smith, 1872, p. 192)

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“With Odoacer's appointment as King, the system of Roman government, first Republic than Imperial ceases to exist. After over a century of near constant invasions and usurpations, the Roman system finally collapses, permanently” (Roman Timeline, 2009, ¶52)

“But, in their prophetic order, the consulship and the senate of Rome met their fate, though they fell not by the hands of Vandals or of Goths... The succession of the consuls finally ceased in the thirteenth year of Justinian... ‘The third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars.’ In the political firmament of the ancient world, while under the reign of imperial Rome, the emperorship, the consulate, and the senate shone like the sun, the moon, and the stars... and finally, as the fourth trumpet closes, we see the ‘extinction of that illustrious assembly,’ the Roman senate. The city that had ruled the world, as if in mockery of human greatness, was conquered by the eunuch Narses, the successor of Belisarius. He ... achieved ‘the conquest of Rome,’ and the fate of the senate was sealed.” (Keith, 1832, p. 280-283 & Smith, 1872, p. 193)

“Odoacer in 476 completed the destructions wrought in series by Alaric the Goth (410) Attila the Hun (452) and Genseric the Vandal (455).” (Rogers, 1878, p. 171)

“... imperial influence in Italy weakened the papacy...” (Richards, 1979, p. 30)

“... papal supremacy arose out of the struggle between popes and emperors... the Imperial set, when it fell vacant, would be assumed by the papacy and never thereafter returned to temporal control. Armed with Imperial power, the papacy would proceed to exact fealty oaths from princes and feudatories, to impose taxes and tribute, and to assert appellate jurisdiction over civil suits, such that no case at law could ever be resolved except by consent of the pope.” (Coby, 2009, p. 29)

Lights out = midnight of the world—the Rise of the Papal Power with the removal of Western Rome’s imperial gov’t

Job 34:20 “In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand.”

“... the emancipation of Italy and the western provinces from direct imperial control which is signaled by Odoacer's accession has rightly been regarded as marking the opening of a new epoch. It made possible in the West the development of a Romano German civilization; it facilitated the growth of new and distinct states and nationalities finally it gave a new impulse to the influence of the Christian Church and laid the foundations of the power of the bishops of Rome” (Pelham, 1901, p. 576)

“When both bishop and emperor resided as rival powers within her walls these were naturally the two centres round which this intellectual activity was grouped. But the emperor passed away the bishop remained and there was no longer any disturbing cause to prevent its concentration round a single figure.” (Sheppard, 1861, p. 758)

The success of the papacy “continued through seven centuries, [and] was audaciously interpreted into a proof of the divinity of the Papacy. Behold, it has been said, that when the throne of Caesar was overturned, how the chair of Peter stood erect! Behold, when the barbarous nations rushed like a torrent into Italy, overwhelming laws, extinguishing knowledge, and dissolving society itself, how the ark of the Church rode in safety on the flood!” (Wylie, 18??, p. 17)

“‘In each of the three leading objects which Rome has pursued,’ says Hallam —‘independent sovereignty, supremacy over the Christian Church, control over the princes of the earth—it was the fortune of this pontiff to conquer.’ ‘Rome,’ he says again, ‘inspired during this age all the terror of her ancient name; she was once more mistress of the world, and kings were her vassal.’ She had fought a great fight, and now she celebrated an unequalled triumph. Innocent appointed all bishops, he summoned to his tribunal all causes... He claimed all kingdoms as his fiefs, all monarchs as his vassals; and launches with unsparing hand the bolts of excommunication against all who withstood his pontifical will... The pontifical supremacy was beheld in its plentitude—the plentitude of spiritual power, and that of temporal power. It was the noon of the Papacy; but the noon of the Papacy was the midnight of the world.” (Wylie, 18??, p. 16)

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Note: The power and influence of the papacy grew to the point that the pope could depose Odoacer with the help of Rome's Eastern Emperor, Zeno, and Theodoric the Ostrogoth.

When “Odoacer both a barbarian invader and a heretic issued a decree forbidding the alienation of church lands and possessions this was represented as a presumptuous invasion of the rights of the bishop of Rome not only to do what he would with his own but above all as protector of the property and estates of the church ... The Catholic ecclesiastics of Italy began to plot for his overthrow and it was soon accomplished.” (Jones, 1891, p. 532-533) [**Note: papacy requested of Eastern Emperor Zeno for Theodoric to come and overthrow Odoacer**]

“Odoacer had not reigned many years when a barbarian chief named Theodoric who led a large army of Ostrogoths began to threaten the frontiers of the country...” (Lodge, 1906, p. 155)

Now that the Imperial Emperor was out of the way...What Next?

“...we must study the characteristics of the beast itself, —the papacy. When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel, and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people she sought the support of the secular power. **The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the State**, and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’” (GC88, p. 443)

What Events Marked the Papacy Gaining Control Over the State?

✓ Papacy Arises Amidst the Ruins of Western Rome, the 10 kings

“There were no fewer than eighteen distinct tribes of the barbarians who, by their active presence, were instrumental in the ruin of Western Rome. Of these, some, after their work of destruction was done, left the territories of the West, and established themselves elsewhere, or were lost among the other wild peoples of the northern and eastern Europe or Asia. Other coalesced and the names of lesser tribes were lost under the predominating one. **And so, when the last vestige of the Western Empire of Rome had vanished, the territory was found partitioned into exactly ten parts, occupied by exactly ten independent nations; no more no less.**” (Jones, 1901, p. 56)

“The history of the little horn ... is the Papacy—Yet it cannot be the temporal kingdom of the Papacy; but must be that spiritual kingdom of the Bishop of Rome, which, small as it originally was, grew at length into a catholic spiritual empire, symbolized by the second beast of the Apocalypse—**It was to arise during the period that the Roman empire was divided into ten kingdoms**... but after the saints had been given by the secular power into its hand, it was to become an universal ecclesiastical tyrant, utterly offensive in the eyes of God.” (Faber, 1806, p. xxviii)

“Medieval Europe and the Byzantine Empire were united in a single faith, Christianity. After the fall of Rome, popes gradually emerged as powerful figures in Western Europe. The popes claimed supreme religious authority over all Christians. The emperors and patriarchs of the east resisted such claims” (The Byzantine Empire, n.d., p. 7)

✓ Three Horns Plucked up to make way for the Papacy

“After this I saw in the night visions, 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 the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; **and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three 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 great things.” **Daniel 7:7, 8**

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Horns = power = kings = Arianism

“And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.” **Habakkuk 3:4**

“Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the **ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.**” **Daniel 7:23, 24**

“...As early as the beginning of the sixth century the bishops of Rome had become powerful enough to exert considerable of that influence at the imperial court which ere long exalted them to a station where they could command the kings of the earth. **There was only one hindrance to their supremacy,-- the opposition of the Arian powers to the doctrines of the Catholics, especially to that of the Trinity. These opposing powers were rooted up,** the Heruli in 493, the Vandals in 534, and the Ostrogoths in 538.” (Bible Readings for the Home Circle, 1889, p. 29)

According to Uriah Smith (1907), the Arians were “bitter enemies of the pope and of the Roman Catholic Church. From these facts it is evident **that the spread of Arianism would check the influence of the Catholics; and the possession of Rome and Italy by a people of the Arian persuasion, would be fatal to the supremacy of a Catholic bishop.** But the prophecy had declared that this horn would rise to supreme power, and that in reaching this position it would subdue three kings.” (p. 165-166).

How, When, and By Whom Were the Arians Plucked Up?

“The conversion of the Merovingian chieftain, Clovis, to the Catholic faith is an event of primary importance in the history of the papacy. Starting out with a mere handful of followers, Clovis had by his military prowess attached a number of tribes to himself. As he expected, the Catholics rallied around him as the only Catholic prince in the West, and assisted him in conquering the Arian princes. The Goths had become luxurious and disinclined to the hardships of war and were easily overcome by the Frankish warrior. Victory followed victory until Gaul Burgundy and Bavaria were more or less firmly united under one government. Thus was established a vigorous Catholic power which found its interest in promoting the papacy and which in turn was zealously supported by it.” (Newman, 1906, p. 404)

“... the see of Rome received its chief temporal support from the connexion [*sic*] thus formed with the monarchy of France” (Miller, 1832, p. 85)

Speaking of Clovis, Westermann (1912) writes, “The Frankish king seemed to the orthodox Christians in Gaul to be their defender and leader against the German tribes of the Arian belief especially the Visigoths... He was able to conquer the Arian rulers of southwestern Gaul, the Visigoths, and add their territory to his Frankish kingdom...” (p. 484)

“In 533 A.D. Justinian, emperor of Eastern Rome, issued a decree declaring the bishop of Rome the corrector of heretics and head over all the churches. Immediately the work of putting down Arianism was begun with new vengeance in order that the decree might become effective and the very next year the Vandals were subjugated this work being followed in 538 by **the uprooting of the Ostrogoths** in 538 A.D.” (Taylor, 1922, p. 109)

“...Justinian, emperor of Rome, with his capital at Constantinople, espoused the cause of the bishop of Rome; and in 533 A.D. issued a decree which constituted that prelate head of all the churches. But the Arian Ostrogoths had possession of Rome, **and it was not until they had been rooted up** that the city was accessible to the bishop. This was accomplished in 538, by Belisarius, Justinian's celebrated general...” (White, 1895, p. 39)

“While Catholics were thus feeling the restraining power of an Arian king in Italy, they were suffering violent persecution from the Arian Vandals in Africa. Elliot says: ‘The Vandal kings were not only Arians, but persecutors of Catholics; in Sardinia and Corsica under the Roman Episcopate, we may presume, as well as in Africa.

“Such was the position of affairs, when, A.D. 533, Justinian entered upon his Vandal and Gothic wars. Wishing to obtain the influence of the pope and the Catholic party, he issued that memorable decree which was to constitute the pope the head of all churches, **and from the carrying out of which, A.D. 538, the period of papal supremacy is to be dated.**...” (Smith, 1944, p. 127)

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“No decree of this nature could be carried into effect until the Arian hordes which stood in its way were overthrown. A turn came, however, in the tide of affairs, for in the military campaign in Africa and Italy, the victorious legions of Belisarius dealt a crushing blow to Arianism, so much so that its final supporters were vanquished.” (Smith, 1944, p. 127)

“As a comment on Rev 13: 2, 3, in regard to giving the power of the empire to the beast, we have found that the last step in the full establishing of the Catholic Church was taken by Justinian in subjecting to the pope all the churches of the East, and extending the civil powers of the Roman see. **The act of Justinian became effective** to accomplish its purpose in A.D. 538...” (Waggoner, 1888, p. 162)

“...Whereas evidently the prophecy of verses 24-25 refers not to his civil power but to his power to domineer over the minds and consciences of men and the pope reached this position as will hereafter appear in A.D. 538 and **the plucking up of the three horns took place before this and to make way for this very exaltation to spiritual dominion.**” (Smith, 1907, p. 169)

“According to the historian Gibbon, who has never been accused of partiality for the claims of Christianity, the Emperor Justinian was induced by the Catholic party to undertake the subjugation of Africa A.D. 533. The following letter from Justinian to John, Bishop of Rome, bearing date A.D. 533, sufficiently explains the purposes and designs of the Emperor, and his obsequious services to the Roman Hierarchy. ‘Rendering honour to the apostolic see, and to your holiness, (as always was and is our desire,) and as it becomes us, honoring your blessedness as a father, we have laid without delay, before the notice of your holiness, all things pertaining to the state of the church.—Since it has always been our earnest study to preserve the unity of your holy see, and the state of the holy churches of God which has hitherto obtained, and will remain without any interfering opposition. **Therefore we hasten to subject and to unite to your holiness all the priests of the whole East.**”

“As to the matters which are presently agitated, although clear and undoubted, and, according to the doctrine of your apostolic see, held assuredly, resolved and decided upon by all the priests, we have yet deemed it necessary to lay them before your holiness. Nor do we suffer anything which belongs to the state of the church, however manifest and undoubted, that is agitated, to pass without the knowledge of your holiness, **who is the Head of all the churches.** For in all things (as been said or resolved) we are prompt increase the honour and authority your see.

“The same supreme authority is ascribed to the Bishop of Rome by Justinian in his celebrated code of Roman laws published about the same time. In the 131st Novella, the Emperor says, **‘We, therefore, decree that the most holy Pope of the elder Rome is the first of all the priesthood;** and that the most blessed archbishop of Constantinople, the new Rome, shall be second in rank after the holy apostolic chair of the elder Rome.” (Wallis & King, 1857, p. 377-378)

✓ Paganism Gives Its Seat to Papacy

“Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered.” Daniel 8: 11, 12

“And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” Daniel 11: 31, 32

“Then I saw in relation to the ‘daily’ (Daniel 8:12) that the word “sacrifice” was supplied by man’s wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. **When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the “daily”; but in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed.** Time has not been a test since 1844, and it will never again be a test.” (EW, p 74)

“A host was given him against the daily. The barbarians that subverted the Roman Empire in the changes, attritions, and transformation of those times, became converts to the Catholic faith, and the instruments of the dethronement of their former religion. Though conquering Rome politically, they were themselves vanquished by the religion of Rome and became the perpetrators of the same empire in another phase. And this was brought about by reason of transgression that is by the working of the mystery of iniquity.” (Smith, 1881, p. 187)

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“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.” Revelation 13:2

“The dragon is said to be Satan; [Revelation 12:9.] he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and his people during the first centuries of the Christian era, was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. **Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.**” (GC88, p. 438)

“In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established. Its *seat of power was fixed in the imperial city*, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. **Paganism had given place to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’** [Revelation 13:2; SEE APPENDIX, NOTE 2.] And now *began the 1260 years of papal oppression* foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation.” (GC88, p. 54)

“In chapter 13 [VERSES 1-10.] is described another beast, ‘like unto a leopard,’ **to which the dragon gave ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’** This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once possessed by the ancient Roman Empire.” (GC88, p. 439)

“It was then ‘the belief of Christians in early times’—it is the recorded testimony of the Church Universal assembled in council—that Rome’s position as the seat of empire was the cause of her ecclesiastical preeminence.” (Meyrick, 1857, p. 51)

“To the Byzantines, Christianity was more than a religion. It was the very foundation of their empire. . . . **In Byzantine times, the emperor had supreme authority over the church**” (The Byzantine Empire, n.d., p. 5)

“Paganism represented a system where the State controlled the religion. The Papacy represents a system where the religion controls the State. The visible head of the first was the Emperor of Rome; the visible head of the latter is the Pope. . . .” (F.C. Gilbert in A Scriptural Exposition of H-T-Mid, The Daily, Daniel 8:11-13).

What did the Papacy Do With Its Power?

“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**

“And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.” Daniel 11:33

“Power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.’ And, says the prophet, ‘I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death.’ And again: ‘He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword.’ The forty and two months are the same as the ‘time and times and the dividing of time,’ three years and a half, or 1260 days, of Daniel 7 -- **the time during which the papal power was to oppress God’s people**. This period, as stated in preceding chapters, **began with the supremacy of the papacy, A.D. 538, and terminated in 1798.**” (GC, p. 439) [Note: The supremacy that she gained was spiritual authority]

Referring to the year A.D. 538, Gunner (1851) writes, “in that year the Ostrogoths were overthrown by Belesarius, the Greek general under Justinian, for the express purpose of establishing the Papal church, and of carrying into effect the ‘Justinian Code of Laws,’ which invested the Pope with supreme authority, and constituted him *head* of the Eastern churches, **with power to punish and pardon at will, whomsoever he might choose**” (p. 108).

“Through the great powers controlled by paganism and the papacy, symbolized by the dragon and the leopard-like beast, Satan for many centuries destroyed God’s faithful witnesses. Under the dominion of Rome, they were tortured and slain for more than a thousand years; but the papacy was at last deprived of its strength, and forced to desist from persecution. [Revelation 13:3, 10].” (4SP, p. 276)