



THE Little Horn

Have you ever heard some disturbing news about a person you respected or admired? Did it make you feel sad and "let down"?

- 1 When we look at other people, we will often be disappointed. Why?
1 Samuel 16:7 "Man looks at the _____ appearance, but the Lord looks at the _____."

We cannot tell if someone is trustworthy by how he looks.

Tonya went with her church youth group to visit a prison. The pastor told the young people to take note of who they thought they could trust the most. Tonya picked out a man who *looked* very trustworthy and innocent. After leaving the prison, Tonya was shocked when the pastor shared that the man who *looked* so innocent and good was *actually* the most dangerous man in the prison!

It is impossible to tell if someone is trustworthy just by how he or she looks.



- 2 What does the Bible warn us about that?
Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that _____ right to a man, but its end is the way of _____."

God gives us prophecies so we can avoid things that seem right, but actually lead to death. In this lesson, we will discover important prophetic warnings about a system that looks good on the outside, but is actually very dangerous.

- 3 In lesson 5, we studied about four beasts that represented four kingdoms. What was different about the fourth beast?
Daniel 7:7 "It had _____ horns."

Daniel was very interested in these horns; and we should be, too, because these horns contain a special warning message for us.



- 4 What warning did Jesus give us?
Matthew 24:5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the _____,' and will _____ many."

- 5 What will these deceivers look like?
Matthew 7:15 "Beware of _____ prophets, who come to you in _____ clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous _____."



These false prophets will seem to be as innocent and harmless as sheep. Really, though, they are dangerous like wolves and can't be trusted.

- 6 What does Paul warn us?
2 Corinthians 11:14, 15 "For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of _____. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of _____."

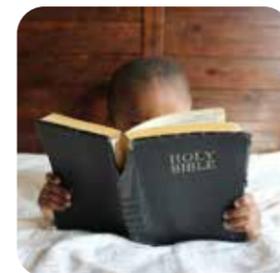
In the desert, when Satan tempted Jesus to sin, Satan made himself look like an angel of light. He hoped that Jesus would be deceived. Can we trust everyone who says he is coming in Jesus' name? No!

- 7 So how do we know if someone is trustworthy?
Isaiah 8:20 "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this _____, it is because there is no light in them."

We should not trust people who say anything contrary to what the Bible says. Jesus sends those who value the Bible and let it be a lamp to their feet and a light to their path. (Psalm 119:105.)

Jesus warns us in Daniel 7 about a kingdom that would claim to represent Jesus. But this power (called the little horn) wouldn't be like Jesus at all.

- 8 What would this little horn be like?
Daniel 7:25 "He shall _____ pompous words against the Most High, shall _____ the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to _____ times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time."



The book of Daniel gives more details about this little horn power than about any of the other kingdoms. God wants us to be able to identify this little horn and know what it represents.

Daniel 7 starts with Daniel seeing four beasts coming up out of the stormy sea. We already learned about them in lesson 5. Remember, the last beast had ten horns.



- 9 What happened to three of the horns?
Daniel 7:8 "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 _____ by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words."

Daniel was very interested in this vision Jesus was giving him. He asked for an explanation, especially about those ten horns and the little horn that came up among them. And God sent an angel to answer his questions.

- 10 What did the angel say these horns represented?
Daniel 7:24 "The ten _____ are ten _____ who shall arise from this kingdom."

Remember King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great metal image? All four of the beasts in Daniel 7 represent the same kingdoms that we learned about in the metal image King Nebuchadnezzar saw.



We know the last beast with iron teeth represents **Rome**, so all these horns must be kingdoms that come from **Rome**. Otherwise, they would be represented as more beasts coming out of the water.

- 11 The iron legs in Daniel 2 represent Rome. The iron went all the way to the feet. But what got mixed with the iron in the feet?
Daniel 2:33 "Its feet partly of iron and partly of _____."
- 12 How many toes did that image have? How many toes do you have? _____. The ten horns are the same kingdoms represented by the feet and toes of iron and clay in the image of Daniel 2. These kingdoms come out of Rome.

How do we figure out what kingdom the little horn represents? The Bible gives several big clues. Let's look at them:



- 13 CLUE #1: Daniel 7:8, 20** It starts out as a little horn that becomes great, so it is a kingdom that will start out **big / small** but then grows **more powerful / weaker** than all the other kingdoms.
- 14 CLUE #2: Daniel 7:8** It comes up **among / away from** the ten horns. So this kingdom will be in the same area as the ten kingdoms represented by the ten horns.
- 15 CLUE #3: Daniel 7:7, 8** It comes up **before / after** the ten horns are already in place, so it comes after Rome is divided into ten kingdoms.
 - Rome divided into ten different kingdoms in A.D. 476. This little horn kingdom must have come up after A.D. 476.
 - It cannot be Antiochus Epiphanes as some claim, because he was a king that ruled hundreds of years earlier in the time of Greece. The little horn power reigns after Rome is divided.
- 16 CLUE #4: Daniel 7:8** It plucks up **three / four** horns by the roots when it comes up, meaning this kingdom will completely destroy three kingdoms when it begins to reign.
 - History tells us that three kingdoms—the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths—were completely destroyed by this little horn power as it became a kingdom.
- 17 CLUE #5: Daniel 7:23** It will be the **same / different** from the other kingdoms.
 - This kingdom will be a church kingdom—a religious kingdom—because it blasphemes God. (Daniel 7:25)
 - Jesus warns us of this because it might be easier for us to trust a religious kingdom and be deceived by it.
- 18 CLUE #6: Daniel 7:8** It has a **man / woman** in charge of it. Unlike a kingdom where a queen may rule, this kingdom will always have a man at its head. And it must be a *succession* of men ruling, since it rules 1,260 years. One man can't live that long!
- 19 CLUE #7: Daniel 7:8, 11, 20** It blasphemes or speaks **kind / pompous** words against God. All the other kingdoms have been political kingdoms; they don't claim to speak for God. They have been pagan, idol-worshipping kingdoms, but this kingdom will lift itself above God and speak great words against the Most High.
- 20 CLUE #8: Daniel 7:25** It **helps / persecutes** God's people. Revelation 12:17 and 14:12 describe God's people as those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony or faith of Jesus. What will they keep? God's Ten Commandments—all of them. Yes, God's people will follow the Bible and do what it says, and obey Jesus instead of this little horn.
- 21 CLUE #9: Daniel 7:25** It "intends" to **change / enforce** God's times and law. He only "intends" to change them because no one can really change a law that God made.
- 22 CLUE #10: Daniel 7:25** It rules for a _____, _____ and half a _____. You can easily see this is 1,260 days by comparing Revelation 12:6 with Revelation 12:14. We know a day equals a year in time prophecies, so that is actually 1,260 years.

If a detective is given many clues with very detailed descriptions, it is easier to find the answer to a mystery. There is only one kingdom that fits all these clues, and that is the Roman Catholic Church. This kingdom reigned for 1,260 years. It gained political power in the year A.D. 538.

23 What year comes 1,260 years after A.D. 538?

$$\begin{array}{r} 1,260 \\ + 538 \\ = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \end{array}$$



Did anything important happen in the year A.D. 1798?

We know from history that in A.D. 1798, a ruler in France named Napoleon got tired of taking orders from the pope. Napoleon sent General Berthier to take Pope Pius captive. At that time, Pope Pius VI was ruling over the countries of Europe from his tiny kingdom in Rome called the Vatican. This pope was just one of a long line of popes—men who had reigned like kings one after another. The Vatican (also called papal Rome) rose to power in A.D. 538 and reigned until A.D. 1798, **exactly 1,260 years**. We sometimes refer to this time period as "the Dark Ages."

- 24** So who reigned for exactly 1,260 years, from a small kingdom that became powerful enough to control the countries of Europe? It was the **EOSPP**. (unscramble) _____ (also called the Papacy)



Are you sad to hear it was the popes who were represented as the little horn on the beast? We don't like to hear bad reports of anyone we admire or respect, do we?

The papal system is probably the most well-known and most respected religious organization in the Christian world. Yet Jesus,

through His Word the Bible, warns that we cannot trust that system.

Did Jesus give us this information to be mean to the popes? No, of course not! Jesus warned His disciples not to trust the religious leaders of His day (Matthew 16:6, 12), and pointed out Judas as His betrayer (John 13:26). Jesus loved the priests, rulers, and Judas; but He did not want His disciples to be deceived by the wrong things they said and did.

Jesus is warning us that, contrary to what the pope claims, He has not appointed any man to make decisions for Him or to represent Him or to take His place on earth.

Jesus did not want the papacy to kill millions of people during the Dark Ages. Sadly, the popes portrayed God as being cruel and mean. They tried to take away Jesus' right to forgive sins, sending people to a priest instead. They persecuted God's true people almost to extinction.

Do you like to skip to the end of a scary book to know how it ends? Jesus doesn't want us to be scared, so He gives us the ending to the story. And it is a happy ending!

- 25 Daniel 7:25–27** "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the _____ of the Most High. His _____ is an everlasting kingdom, and _____ dominions shall serve and obey Him."



- 26** The scary story ends with Jesus setting up His everlasting kingdom. After that, nothing will ever happen to make someone hurt or afraid. Do you want to be part of that wonderful kingdom? _____



- 27** We can trust Jesus and His Word, the Bible, to lead us in the way we should go. Are you willing to trust the Bible even more than what you see, hear, or feel? _____

Answers

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. outward / heart | 7. word | powerful | 21. change |
| 2. seems / death | 8. speak / persecute / change | 14. among | 22. time, times, time |
| 3. ten | 9. plucked out | 15. after | 23. 1798 |
| 4. Christ / deceive | 10. horns / kings | 16. three | 24. popes |
| 5. false / sheep's / wolves | 11. clay | 17. different | 25. saints / kingdom / all |
| 6. light / righteousness | 12. ten | 18. man | |
| | 13. small / more | 19. pompous | |
| | | 20. persecutes | |