

## LESSON I. – July 7, 1888.

### THE TIME OF THE MESSAGE.

1. WHAT four kingdoms are represented in Dan. 2 : 31-40 and Dan. 7 : 1-7 ?

*Ans.*

Babylon (Dan. 2 : 37, 38);

Medo-Persia (Dan. 5 : 28);

Grecia (Dan. 8 : 20, 21);

Rome (Luke 2 : 1).

2. What is represented by the ten horns upon the fourth beast? Dan. 7 : 7, 24.

3. To what date did the kingdom of Babylon continue?

*Ans.—B. C. 538*

4. To what date did Medo-Persia continue?

*Ans.—B. C. 331.*

5. Grecia?

*Ans.—B. C. 168.*

6. Rome?

*Ans.—A. D. 476.*

7. When Rome fell, what stood in its place? Dan. 7 : 24, first part.

8. What was to arise after them and yet among them? Dan. 7 : 8, first part, and verse 24, last part.

9. What was the nature of this power as compared with the ten? Verse 20, last clause.

10. What else was peculiar about the horn? Verses 8 and 20, last clause of each.

11. What did he both speak and do? Verse 25.

12. What power of all the earth has done to the greatest extent what is here said?

*Ans.—The Papacy.*

13. Upon the rise of this horn, what was done with three of the ten? Dan. 7 : 8, 20.

14. What three of the ten kingdoms fell?

*Ans.—The Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths.*

[See "Thoughts on Daniel," 7: 24. Those who wish to study the history on this point, see Gibbon, chap. 39, par. 6-8; 41:7-12, 21-28.]

15. At what dates?

*Ans.—Heruli A. D. 493, Vandals 534, Ostrogoths 538.*

16. What then is the date of the establishment of the Papacy? See note.

17. How long was the Papacy to have power over the saints, the times, and the laws? Dan. 7 : 25.

18. Literally what length of time is this? Rev. 12 : 14, 6; Eze. 4 : 4-6. See note.

19. Beginning as it did, in A. D. 538, when should it end?

*Ans.*—A. D. 1798.

20. What historical event marks the end; of the 1260 years of Papal supremacy?

*Ans.* —The French army under Berthier abolished the Papacy in Rome, proclaimed a republic there, A. D. 1798, and carried Pope Pius VI. a captive from place to place till he died at Valence, France, August 28, 1799.

## NOTES.

*QUESTION 16.*—As this little horn power, the Papacy, was to be established by the fall of *three* of the ten, and as the last of the three fell in 538, it is clear that A. D. 538 is the date from which the establishment of the Papacy must be reckoned.

*QUESTION 18.*—Rev. 12 : 14 uses the same expression as that in Dan. 7 : 25, saying, "To the women were given two wings of a great eagle, 'that she might fly into the wilderness, . . . for a time, and times, and half a time ;' and verse 6 says, "The woman fled into the wilderness, . . . that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." These texts make it positive that the words "time, and times, and the dividing of time" signify 1260 days. But as these days are used as symbols, each day signifies a year, because that is the law. The Lord told Ezekiel that in conducting a symbolical siege against Jerusalem, he should lie on his left side "three hundred and ninety days;" and on his right side "forty days;" because this was to be a "sign" to the house of Israel and Judah, and the Lord had laid upon him, and by this signified to them, "the years of their iniquity according to the number of the days," because, "I have appointed thee each day for a year." It is the appointment of God, that when days are used in connection with symbols, each day shall stand for a year.

*QUESTION 20.*—In A. D. 1797, Napoleon was ordered by the French Directory to destroy the Papal Government. The Pope was helpless, but instead of obeying orders, Napoleon, on his own responsibility, made peace with him, and returned to France. The words of the history are as follows:—  
"Bonaparte now invaded the Papal territories and rapidly overran them. He had orders from the Directory to destroy the Papal Government, but, on his own responsibility, he disregarded these instructions, and concluded with the helpless Pontiff the peace of Tolentino on the 19th of February, 1797. "Upon the return of Bonaparte from Italy, General Berthier was ordered by the Directory to carry out its instructions respecting the Papal Government, which Bonaparte had declined to execute. The people of the Papal States were thoroughly discontented. Berthier marched to Rome and was received as a deliverer. He proclaimed the restoration of the Roman Republic ; made Pope Pius VI. a prisoner, and stripped him of all his property, . . . and removed him to France, where he was detained in captivity." —Pictorial \_History of the World, p. 756. The Pope was just as helpless in 1797 as he was in 1798, but 1797 was too early; the time did not expire till 1798; and "the' Scriptures cannot be broken." John 10 : 35.

### Ellen White Notes Compiled:

Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that the fact might be determined whether it would fulfill the purposes of the Watcher and the Holy One. Prophecy has traced the rise and progress of the world's great empires--Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with the nations of less power, history has repeated itself. Each has had its period of test; each has failed, its glory faded, its power departed. {PK 535.1}

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 held by the ancient Roman empire. Of the leopardlike beast it is declared: "There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. . . . 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." This prophecy, which is nearly identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7, unquestionably points to the papacy. {GC 439.1}

Of the great apostate power which is the representative of Satan, it is declared, "He shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand." Daniel 7:25. {DA 763.1}

The periods here mentioned--"forty and two months," and "a thousand two hundred and threescore days"--are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798. (See Appendix note for page 54.) At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed. {GC 266.3}

The French reformers, eager to see their country keeping pace with Germany and Switzerland, determined to strike a bold blow against the superstitions of Rome, that should arouse the whole nation. Accordingly placards attacking the mass were in one night posted all over France. Instead of advancing the reform, this zealous but ill-judged movement brought ruin, not only upon its propagators, but upon the friends of the reformed faith throughout France. It gave the Romanists what they had long desired,—a pretext for demanding the utter destruction of the heretics as agitators dangerous to the stability of the throne and the peace of the nation. {GC88 224.2}