

The Leopard-like Beast of Revelation 13

"... and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." -Revelation 13:2.

Near the beginning of the fourth century, the emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium/Constantinople. Who was left in Rome to fill the vacuum that was created? Who took over when the emperor left?

"The Roman Church in this way privily pushed itself into the place of the Roman World-Empire, of which it is the actual continuation; the empire has not perished, but has only undergone a transformation. . . . That is no mere 'clever remark,' but the recognition of the true state of the matter historically, and the most appropriate and fruitful way of describing the character of this Church. It still governs the nations. . . . It is a political creation, and as imposing as a World-Empire, because of the continuation of the Roman Empire. The Pope, who calls himself 'King' and 'Pontifex Maximus,' is Caesar's successor."-Harnack, Adolf. *What Is Christianity?* trans. by Thomas Baily Saunders. 2nd ed. rev.; (New York: Putnam, 1901), pp. 269,270. [9BC 841 #1359].

"The mighty Catholic Church was little more than the Roman Empire baptized. Rome was transformed as well as converted. The very capitol of the old Empire became the capitol of the Christian Empire [p. 149]. The office of Pontifex Maximus was continued in that of Pope. . . . Even the Roman language of the Roman Catholic Church went down through the ages."-Flick, Alexander Clarence, *The Rise of the Medieval Church*, reprint (New York: Burt Franklin, 1959), pp. 148, 149. [9BC 841 #1358].

"By the eighth century the Bishop of Rome had become a temporal prince, so that the philosopher Hobbes could truthfully say of the Papacy that it was 'the ghost of the Roman Empire, crowned and seated on the grave thereof.'" -Hyde, Walter Woodburn, *Paganism to Christianity in the Roman Empire* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1946), pp. 6, 7. [9BC 842 #1360].

"... [Pope] Boniface VIII at the jubilee of 1300 . . . seated on the throne of Constantine, girded with the imperial sword, wearing a crown, and waving a sceptre, . . . shouted to the throng of loyal pilgrims: 'I am Caesar-I am Emperor.'" -Flick, Alexander Clarence, *The Rise of the Medieval Church*, reprint (New York: Burt Franklin, 1959), pp. 148, 149. [9BC 841 #1358].

[NOTE: See Chart on "The Two Sides at the End of Time" on the following page. This chart is based on a chart that appears on page 382 of *God Cares*, Vol. 2. Except for the two references to Daniel on the chart, all other texts are from the Book of Revelation.]