

Study for the Month of April 2015

By Nathaniel Fajardo  
Whole Gospel Ministries  
PO Box 1764 Loma Linda, CA 92354  
Tel (951) 685-1956 (leave a message) email: [natfajardo777@yahoo.com](mailto:natfajardo777@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.wholegospelministries.org](http://www.wholegospelministries.org)

---

## **The ‘Man of Sin’ of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career - Part II**

A periodic reminder to the reader: aside from other carefully chosen scholarly and authoritative writings of well-respected and eminent authors and official sources whose works and insights agree with and affirm the Biblical principles of prophetic interpretation and eschatology, including those that by comparison and contrast the reveal the stark distinction between the counterfeit and genuine, the “traditions of the elders and the sayings of man” from that which is “unto the law and testimony” (Isaiah 8: 20) that we will continue, as in all our past, present and future studies and articles to quote liberally from the pen of Ellen G. White, specially from her classic *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan* or “*The Great Controversy*” as well as from compilations of her other articles and manuscripts dealing with the prophecies for these last days, both published and unpublished yet are available in print.

This compiler/commentator’s conviction and delight from the enlightenment received in progressively understanding the two interconnected major prophetic books---Daniel in the Old and Revelation in the New---has strengthened and become even more unwavering and hope-filled through years of systematic and prayerful study of her multi-topic, undoubtedly inspired writings based on the Bible and her lifelong dedication to “breaking the bread of life” by “magnifying the law and making it honorable” (Isaiah 42; 21), expounding on the true meaning and applications of the three angels’ messages of the everlasting gospel (Revelation 14) as earth’s final merciful warnings, more than any book on Bible prophecy written by eminent and godly Christian eschatology scholars. This, in fact, has been the logical conclusion by comparing and contrasting hers to that of mainstream Christianity’s widely-popular yet often conflicting and unbiblically-sound interpretations and views which Jesus aptly described as built on shifting sand, not on the unmovable Rock. Matthew 7: 24-27.

The *Great Controversy* far surpasses them all in its comprehensive and constant revelation of the spiritually profound aspects of the prophecies pointing to its real Author---Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of man, God manifest in the flesh--and the plan of salvation (or plan of redemption) taught in great detail in the sanctuary doctrine in the typical services of the ceremonial law of the Mosaic or Jewish dispensation, particularly the closing work of the atonement and the pre-advent judgment—that grows more critically relevant as each day passes. It

explains with clarity and uncluttered language the whys and wherefores of all the dramatic changes taking place in the religious and political world, separating the counterfeit prophecies and popular interpretations of it from the genuine, reckoned from the destruction and desolation of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 as Jesus prophesied (Matthew 24 and Luke 21) to the very present time, and on to the close of time--- as the type of the final destruction of a unalterably impenitent world and churches.

Together with her book *The Desire of Ages*, which, to this compiler contains the greatest, clearest, and most sublime revelation of who the real “historical Jesus” is, and His mission on earth as the promised ‘Seed,” the Messiah was, at such a time when subtle and not-so-subtle attacks against Him and His person coming from sectors of the religious, academe, and openly Jesus-haters, is at an all time high, the *Great Controversy* has become more precious to me since I first read it in 1990s. (It was first published as Volume 4 of the Conflict of the Ages Series by the same author and was followed by subsequent editions—the 1888 and 1911 editions, etc. My favorite editions are the original and the 1911 editions.)

I consider it, and doubtless countless others (now rapidly increasing in numbers), as the events prophesied unfold before their very eyes, as my personal “Handbook for the Last Days.” Read it for yourself and see if you don’t reach the same conclusion. It should not come as a surprise, however, that many, as with the very chosen people—the Jewish nation, will knowingly choose to close their eyes and harden their hearts not to believe the Biblical testing truths it magnifies and clarifies, for, as following the blood-stained, self-denying, self-sacrificing life-path that Jesus modeled as man’s Example and Patter, it will require giving up all practices, beliefs, and lifestyles that do not please God but are certainly self-pleasing, self-centered, and self-aggrandizing.

Every major truth that the Christian living in these last days need to know regarding the true nature of the war between Christ and Satan that started in heaven and continued on earth, and its imagination-defying closing chapters that clearly identify their respective specific and special agencies---is given in this book. Anyone and everyone, regardless of religious persuasion, culture, walk in life, level of education who reads it with no preconceived ideas, possessing a humble and teachable spirit, a genuine desire to know the truth regardless of how unpopular--will emerge every time he reads and studies this book prayerfully, better informed, better prepared for the searching, salvation-determining pre-advent judgment denied by practically all monotheistic and polytheistic world religions and Christian denominations, except the faithful members of the Seventh-day Adventist church as well as smaller churches and fellowships who believe in the fundamental pillar doctrines of the remnant church described in Revelation as, “Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Rev. 14: 12. Satan’s prophesied venomous enmity and devilish hatred against them for simply being faithful followers of the meek and lowly Jesus—“the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world” (John 1: 29, 36)---is summed up in these prophetic words:

“And the dragon [Satan] was wroth with the woman [the true church through the ages], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony [character witness] of Jesus.”

They are particularly identified as keeping holy the seventh day Sabbath of the week of the fourth commandment as the Creator’s appointed weekly memorial of the literal six-day creation of the earth, thus, establishing His exclusive right to be worshipped alone by all His creatures. As diligent and humble students of the Word, they are better informed intellectually and spiritually regarding earth’s final stupendous closing events that will be played out in the religious, political, and physical realms preceding Christ glorious Second Advent as He promised His first disciples then and particularly now in this final generation.

It provides precious and invaluable guidance on how and when the remnant church of prophecy yet currently *spiritually* militant will finally emerge as the church triumphant with faithful members purified from sin “by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony” (Rev. 12: 11), and sealed *in* their foreheads (Rev. 14:1; 22: 4)—which means spiritually and intellectually settled in the truth such that they cannot be moved to yield their faith and convictions by any institution, church or state, more specifically the prophesied final church and state, religious and civil powers combined globally to enforce Sunday as the day of worship declared as the law of the land with the ultimate penalty of death.

### **Identifying the Man of Sin from different authoritative sources:**

#### **THE “MAN OF SIN” IS THE “LITTLE HORN” POWER OF DANIEL 7**

Quoting from Facts of Faith by Christian Edwardson, pp. 34-43,

“The prophecies of the Bible are not difficult to understand, if we follow the rules laid down in Scripture for interpreting prophecy. These rules are few in number, and they are not complicated. When used in connection with prophetic symbols, ‘sea,’ of ‘waters,’ stand for ‘multitudes’ of people (Revelation 17: 15; Isaiah 8: 7; 17: 12; Jeremiah 6: 23); ‘wind’ stands for ‘war’ (Jeremiah 4: 12, 13; 25: 31, 32); ‘beasts’ stand for ‘kingdoms’ (Daniel 7: 23); and ‘days’ for ‘years.’ (Ezekiel 4: 6; Num. 4: 34).

“The prophet Daniel saw in vision four winds of war, which strove upon the great sea of people, and four great beasts, or kingdoms, come up one after the other. ‘The first was like unto a lion, and had eagle’s wings.’ Daniel 7: 2-4. In Jeremiah 49: 19, 22, 28, a lion is used to symbolize the kingdom of Babylon (606-538 B.C.). The second beast was like a bear (Daniel 7:5), and denoted Medo-Persia, the next world empire (538-331 B.C.). The ‘three ribs of the mouth of it’ were the three chief countries which it conquered, Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.

“He next saw a leopard having four heads and four wings (v.6), symbolizing the Grecian Empire (331-168 B.C.). A leopard is very alert, and adding to this symbol four wings would indicate that Grecia would make rapid conquest, which

was true. Alexander the Great marched his army 5, 100 miles in eight years and conquered the then known civilized world. The four heads on the leopard denote the four divisions into which that empire was split up after the death of Alexander.

“The fourth beast,’ the angel explained, ‘shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth.’ V. 23. The fourth empire from Babylon was Rome (168 B.C. to 476 A.D.). The angel also informs us that ‘the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise.’ V. 24. The Roman empire was split up into just ten smaller kingdoms between the years 351 and 475 A.D. The following are their ancient and modern names”

1. Alemanni—Germany. 2. Franks—France. 3. Anglo-Saxons—England. 4. Burgudians—Switzerland. 5. Visigoths—Spain. 6. Suevi—Portugal. 7. Lombards—Italy. 8. Heruli. 9. Vandal. 10. Ostrogoths.

“This prophecy is also so plain, and the explanation so natural and easy to understand, that all commentators, both Protestant and Catholic, fully agree on it. (See Sir Isaac Newton’s ‘Observations upon the Prophecies,’ pp. 157-159’ Bishop Thomas Newton, ‘Dissertations on the Prophecies,’ pp. 201-221; Joseph Tanner on ‘Daniel and the Revelation,’ pp. 165-174; Martin Luther’s ‘Introduction,’ pp. 32, 33, Frederikshald, 1853).

“The Douay, or Catholic version of the Bible, has the following notes on Daniel 7: 3, 7, 8. ‘*Four great beasts. Viz., the Chaldean Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires.*’ ‘*Ten horns.*’ That is, ten kingdoms, (as Apoc. 17. 12,) among which the empire of the fourth beast shall be parceled.’ ‘*Another little horn.*’ This is commonly understood of Antichrist.’

“In regard to these ten kingdoms, Sir Isaac Newton says: ‘Whatever was their number afterwards, they are still called the Ten Kings from their first number.’ – ‘*Daniel and the Apocalypse,*’ p. 187; *first printed, 1733; reprinted, London: 1922.*

**NOTE:** It should be worthy of special notice that that the Douay or Catholic version of the Bible itself says that that “the other little horn” is also “commonly understood of Antichrist.”

## **TRACING THE CAREER OF “THE MAN OF SIN,” ALSO KNOWN AS “the Little Horn,” “the “Son of Perdition,” the Antichrist FROM HISTORY**

“I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up *among them* another little horn.’ Daniel 7: 8. Let us now consider all the characteristics this prophecy gives to the little horn, and we shall be forced by weight of evidence to settle on just one power as the fulfillment of these prophecies.

- (1) It was to come up ‘among’ the ten European kingdoms into which the Roman Empire was spilt. (V. 8).
- (2) It ‘shall rise’ to power ‘*after them.*’ (V. 24)
- (3) ‘And he shall be *diverse* from the first ten kingdoms; that is, different from ordinary, secular kingdoms. (V. 24). Any one acquainted with history knows that the Papacy is the only power that answers to these specifications. It rose ‘among’ the kingdoms of Western Rome, ‘after’ they

were established in A.D. 476, and it differed from a purely civil power. But the angel gives still another mark of identity to the little horn.

- (4) Before it 'there were *three of the first horns plucked up by the roots.*' (V. 8). That is, in coming up it pushed out before it three of the former horns by the roots. Thus three kingdoms were to be plucked up to give place for the Papacy [the "little horn," "the man of sin," the son of perdition," the Antichrist.']. This prediction found its exact fulfillment in the destruction of the **three Arian kingdoms: the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths**, as we shall now see.

"Rev. E.B. Elliott, M.A., says:

'I might cite *three* that were eradicated from before the Pope out of the list *first* given; viz., the *Heruli* under Odoacer [or Odovacar], the *Vandals*, and the *Ostrogoths.*' – '*Hora Apolypticae,*' Vol. III, p. 168, Note 1. London: 1862.

"In former days crowns of conquered kings were placed on the head of the conqueror. (2 Samuel 12: 30). It is symbolically fitting, therefore, that the pope wears a *triple crown*. Bishop Thomas Newton, speaking of the power that destroyed the three horns, says: 'And the pope hath in a manner pointed himself out for the person by wearing the *triple crown.*' – '*Dissertations on the Prophecies,*' p. 220. London.

"The brief statement of the political and religious conditions in the Roman world is necessary here in order that the reader may better grasp the real situation in which these three Arian kingdoms found themselves. After Constantine had removed the seat of the empire from Rome to Constantinople, the Roman people (at intervals) ruled from the Eastern capital, until the Pope had grown to power in Rome. While the Papacy was gradually gaining control over the people of the West, the Eastern emperors were courting the good will of the popes in order to hold their Western subjects.

"From the time of Constantine to that of Justinian there was a deadly struggle between **the two largest factions of the Church, the Catholics and the Arians**. Often there was terrible strife, and even bloodshed. "The streets of Alexandria and of Constantinople were deluged with blood by the partisans of rival bishops.' – '*History of Christianity,*' H.H. Milman, Book III, chpa. 5, par. 2, p. 410. New York: 2-vol. ed., 1881. Most of the barbarian nations into which the Roman Empire was now split had accepted the Catholic faith. But the Heruli, Vandals, and the Ostrogoths were Arians.\*

The Tripartite Enemies. -- "While the *emperors* courted the helps of the popes for *political* reasons, the popes sought the assistance of the emperors to destroy the *Arians*. Theodosius, the Emperor of the East, had already (380-395 A.D.) given 'fifteen stern edicts against heresy, one on the average for every year of his reign . . . . So began the campaign which ended in the virtual extinction of Arianism in the Roman world.' – '*Italy and her Invaders,*' Thomas Hodgkin, Vol. I, pp. 368, 369. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 8-vol. ed. of 1899.

**NOTE: What was Arianism?** "Arius, parish priest of the ancient and powerful church of Alexandria, promulgated his doctrine to the world, occasionally so fierce a controversy in the

Christian church that a general council was called in Niceae, by emperor Constantine in A.D. 325, to consider and rule upon its teaching. Arius maintained 'that the Son of God was totally and essentially distinct from the Father; that He was the first and noblest of those beings whom the Father had created out of nothing, the instrument by whose subordinate operation of the Almighty Father formed the universe, and therefore inferior to the Father, both in nature and dignity.' This opinion was condemned by the council, which decreed that Christ was of one and the same substance with the Father. Hereupon Arius was banished to Illyria, and his followers were compelled to give their assent to the creed composed on that occasion. The controversy itself, however, was not to be disposed of in this summary manner. For ages it continued to agitate the Christian world, the Arians everywhere becoming the bitter enemies of the pope and of the Roman Catholic Church. It was evident that the spread of Arianism would check the forward march of Catholicism, and that the possession of Italy and its renowned capital by a people of the Arian persuasion would be fatal to the supremacy of a Catholic bishop. The prophecy, however, has declared that this [little] horn symbolizing the papacy would rise to supreme power, and that in reaching this position it would subdue three kings." - Uriah Smith, *Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 121, 122.

Except as otherwise indicated, the following are quoted from *Facts of Faith* by Christian Edwardson, Southern Publishing Association, Nashville TN, U.S.A 1943, pp. 37-43 (emphasis added) :

"In A.D. 280, the **Emperor Theodosius** issued an edict which said: 'We order those who follow this law to assume the name of Catholic Christians: we pronounce all others to be mad and foolish, and we order that they bear the ignominious name of heretics . . . . These are to be visited . . . . by the stroke of our own authority.' - *Italy and her Invaders, T. Hodgkin, Vol. I, p. 183. Tow-vol. ed. of 1880.*

"Thus did the reign and legislation of Theodosius mark out the lines of the future relationship between Pope and Emperor [church and state].' - *Id.*, p. 187.

"Embassies passed continually between the pope of Rome and the emperor of Constantinople, and in 381 A.D. Theodosius arranged for a general council of the clergy in Constantinople, which finally established the Catholic doctrine. '*To him [Theodosius] also, at least as much to Constantine, must be attributed the permanent alliance between the Church and the State.*' - *Id.*, pp. 182, 183.

## **HOW THE MAN OF SIN ELIMINATED THE THREE ARIAN POWERS**

"**The HERULI** under Odoacer [or Odovacar] had established themselves in Italy, 476 A.D.; and while this Arian king ruled all his subjects impartially, he endeavored to shield his people from the persecution inaugurated by the *combined efforts of the pope and the emperor*. Pasquale Villari, writing of the period between 468 and 483 A.D., says:

'At that time the pope was morally, and even more than morally speaking, the most powerful personage in Italy. If Odovacar [Odoacer], as an Arian, had openly opposed him, Simplicius [the Pope] could have easily roused the whole country against him, and made it impossible for him to maintain his position in Italy.' - *The Barbarian Invasion of Italy, Vol. I, pp. 145, 146. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902.*

“And just an opportunity soon presented itself.

‘Pope Simplicius died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, 483, whereupon Odovacar made a false move, of which he felt the consequences before long. Undoubtedly it was very important for him to control the choice of a new Pontiff. He sought not only to prevent the *riots* which had so often caused bloodshed in the streets of Rome on similar occasions, but also desired a Pope well disposed to himself. Thus when the preliminary assembly failed to agree to in the choice of a candidate, the Pretorian Prefect, Cecina Basilius, suddenly intervened in Odovacar’s name, and declared that no election would be valid without the King’s voice . . . . A decree was likewise issued prohibiting the alienation of Church property and threatening anathema on all who failed to respect it. After this the Assembly was summoned to sanction the decree and decide the election, which resulted in favor of **Felix II** (483-492), the candidate recommended by Odovacar.’ – *Id.*, p. 146.

‘His interference in the Papal election had cast into the Roman Church the seed of a deep and threatening distrust towards him.’ – *Id.*, 147.

“Rome could never forgive such an affront, and though its faithful ally, the emperor, another barbarian nation, the **Ostrogoths**, were called in to destroy the hated Heruli. Niccolo Machiavelli relates how the popes used such a method. He says:

‘*Nearly all the wars* which the northern barbarians carried on in Italy, it may here be remarked, *were occasioned by the pontiffs*; and the hordes, with which the country was inundated, were generally called in by them. The same mode of proceeding still continued, and kept Italy weak and unsettled.’ – ‘*History of Florence*,’ p. 13. *Washington and London: Universal Classics Library, 1901.*

“Villari says that Theodoric at the head of the Ostrogothic hordes entered Italy in the autumn of 488, backed by *the authority of the emperor and the Church*. Because the discord that had now broken out between Odovacar and the pope had weakened the former and consequently made him less formidable, after two disastrous battles he retreated toward the city of Rome for safety from the Ostrogoths, but ‘the gates of Rome were shut in his face, and the inhabitants of Italy began to show him marked hostility; partly on account of his recent conflict with the Church, partly for the increased deeds of spoliation. . . . The Church had taken advantage of all these causes of discontent in order to excite the populace against him; and before long it was openly said that the clergy had organized a general conspiracy against him somewhat, it would seem, in the style of the Sicilian Vespers.\*’ – ‘*The Barbarian Invasion of Italy*,’ 2-vol. ed. of 1880. Vol. I, pp. 152-156.

**NOTE: What was the Sicilian Vespers?** “The Sicilian Vespers is the name given to the successful rebellion on the island of Sicily that broke out on the Easter of 1282 against the rule of the French/Capetian King Charles I, who had ruled the Kingdom of Sicily since 1266. Within six weeks, 3,000 French men and women were slain by the rebels, and the government of King Charles lost control of the island. It was the beginning of the War of the Sicilian Vespers.”- *Wikipedia, Free Encyclopedia, art. “Sicilian Vespers.”*

“John Henry Cardinal Newman, D.D. says:

‘Odoacar was sinking before Theodoric, **and the Pope was changing one Arian master for another.**’—‘*An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine, Part II, 320. London: 1878.*

“Villari continues: ‘On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 493, Theodoric entered Ravenna in triumph, all the clergy coming forth to meet him, chanting Psalms, and with the Archbishop at the head of the procession.’—‘*The Barbarian Invasion of Italy,*’ Vol. I, p. 158. **Ten days later Odoacer was murdered in cold blood.**

“Hodgkin points out that this coming of the archbishop to meet the Ostrogoths was staged as to ‘impress vividly on the minds of both Italians and Ostrogoths that Theodoric came as the friend of the Catholic Church.’—‘*Italy and Her Invaders, 8-vol. ed., Vol. III, book 4, pp. 234, 235.*

**“The Heruli disappeared from history.** Thus the first of the three horns of Daniel 7: 8 was ‘plucked up by the roots,’ and history leaves no room for doubt but that *the Papacy though its allies engineered this act* because of its opposition to Arianism.

The Emperor Justinian. “Before passing to the next power destroyed by the Papacy [the “man of sin”] we shall briefly state the condition of the Roman Empire at this time. Justinian had finally ascended the throne at Constantinople as the Emperor of the east, 527 A.D. He was a shrewd politician, and in his effort to extend his rule over the whole of the Roman Empire he realized his need of securing the cooperation of the **highly-organized Catholic Church, for it was directed by a single head (the pope), and worked as a unit all over the empire, while the Arian nations stood separately, without any central organization, and hence they were weak.** Then too, the Arians were very wealthy, and if Justinian could conquer them in the name of the ‘true church,’ he could confiscate their property and thus secure means to carry on his *many wars.* We read:

‘Justinian (527) . . . already meditated. . . the conquest of Italy and Africa.’—‘*Decline and Fall; Edward Gibbon, chap. 39, par. 17.*

‘Justinian felt the support of the Pope was necessary in his conquering of the West.’—‘*History of Medieval Europe, L. Thorndike, PhD., p. 133. Cambridge, Mass.: 1918.*

‘Justinian spared nothing in his efforts to conciliate the Roman Church, and we find inserted with evident satisfaction in Justinian’s Code pontifical letters, which praised his efforts to maintain ‘the peace of the church and the unity of religion.’—‘*Cambridge Medieval History, Bury, Gwatkin, and Whitney, Vol. II, p. 44. New York: 1913.*

“Procopius, the historian who followed Justinian’s armies, says:

**‘In his zeal to gather all men into one Christian doctrine, he recklessly killed all who dissented, and this too he did in the name of piety. For he did not call it homicide, when those who perished happened to be of a belief that was different from his own.’**—‘*Secret History of the Court of Justinian, pp. 138, 139. Chicago: P. Covici, 1927.*



‘Now the churches of these so-called heretics, especially belonging to the Arian dissenters, were almost incredibly wealthy.’ – *Id.*, p. 121.

‘Agents were sent everywhere to force whomever they chanced upon to renounce the faith of their fathers . . . . Thus many perished at the hands of the persecuting faction; . . . but most of them by far quitted the land of their fathers, and fled the country . . . and thenceforth *the whole Roman Empire was a scene of massacre and flight.*’ – *Id.*, p. 122.

“Dom John Chapman (Roman Catholic) says of Justinian:

‘He felt himself to be the Vicegerent of the Almighty to rule the world and bring it all to the service of Christ [??] His wars were holy wars. In later centuries a Byzantine battle began like a church ceremony. Even in the sixth century every enterprise was consecrated by religion.

**‘He was well aware that judicious persecution is great help towards conversion! . . . .** He strengthened the existing laws against *pagans, Jews, and heretics* . . . . Many were *burnt* at Constantinople after the Emperor had made vain attempts to convert them. John of Ephesus . . . was employed in this *apostolate* [!]. He boasts that in 546 he gained 70,000 pagans in Asia Minor, including nobles and rhetoricians and physicians, and many in Constantinople. *Tortures* discovered these men, and scourging and imprisonment induced them to accept instruction and baptism. A Patricius, named Phocus, learning that he had been denounced, took poison. The Emperor ordered that he should be buried as an ass is buried. The pious Emperor paid all the expenses of this Christian mission, and gave to each of the 70,000 Asiatics the white garments for their baptism and a piece of money.’

“Other heretics were given *three months grace*. All magistrates and soldiers had to swear that they were **Catholics.**’ – ‘*Studies in the Early Papacy,*’ Dom John Chapman, p. 222. London: Sheed and Ward, 1928. New York: Benziger Brothers.

## THE VANDALS

“Justinian’s cherished aim was the reconquest of Italy by the Empire; but in order to succeed in this it was necessary to secure his rear by overthrowing the Vandals and resuming possession of Africa.’ – ‘*The Barbaric Invasion of Italy,*’ P. Villari, Vol. I., p. 197.

“A pretext of breaking his oath of peace with the African Vandals soon presented itself. The Vandal government had oppressed the Catholics just as the emperor, under the influence of the Papacy, had oppressed the Arians. But when Hilderic came to the Vandal throne he, through the influence of his Catholic wife, had restored the Roman clergy to their ancient privileges, and this had so displeased the Vandal leaders that Gelimer, a zealous Arian, had dethroned and imprisoned him, and reigned in his place. ‘A strong appeals was thus made to the piety [same as radicalized Islamists today!] of the Emperor to deliver the true Catholic Church of the West out of the hands of the barbarian heretics.’ – ‘*Medieval and Modern History,*’ P.V.N. Myers, p. 62. Boston: 1897.

“Justinian wavered for a time, fearing to attack these war-like Vandals, but a Catholic bishop assured him of victory, claiming ‘he had seen a vision, in which God commanded that the war should be immediately undertaken. ‘It is the will of Heaven, O Emperor!’ exclaimed the bishop.’ – *Id.*, p. 63.

**“Treachery, which with Rome and her allies has always been a justifiable weapon, was here used in the service of the church by her dutiful son.** Justinian sent an army of 200,000 trained men under the leadership of Belisarius to conquer the Vandals, *without declaring war*, and unbeknown to Gelimer, their king. Villari says:

‘Belisarius landed on the African coast at nine days’ march from Carthage [the Vandal’s capital]. He did not assume the attitude of a conqueror, but came, he said, as the deliverer of the Catholics and Romans, the clergy and lay proprietors, who were all equally oppressed by those foreign barbarians, the heretic Vandals.’ – *The Barbarian Invasion of Italy*, Vol. I, p. 198.

“Thus Belisarius won the enthusiastic support of a large part of the population. To undermine the zeal of the Vandal leaders for their king he sent the ‘leading men of the Vandals’ a letter from Justinian, stating that he intended only to dethrone the usurping king, who was tyrannizing over them, and give them back their liberty. The letter reads:

‘It is not our purpose to go to war with the Vandals, nor are we breaking our treaty with Gaiseric. We are only attempting to overthrow your tyrant [like Libya’s Quadafi or Iraq’s Saddam Hussein!], who making light of Gaiseric’s testament keeps your king a prisoner. . . . Therefore join us in freeing yourselves from a tyranny so wicked, that you may enjoy peace and liberty. *We give you pledge in the name of God* [what blasphemy indeed!] that we will give you these blessings’. . . . The overseer of the public post deserted and delivered all the horses to Belisarius.’ – *History of the Later Roman Empire*, J.B. Bury, Vol. II, p. 130. London: The McMillan Co., 1925.

**“But Justinian never intended to keep his solemn oath to grant them liberty, and the people soon found Rome the severest of tyrants.**

“In 533 the Byzantine general, Belisarius (q.v.) landed in Africa. The Vandals were several times defeated, and Carthage was entered on Sept. 15, 533 . . . . In the next year Africa, Sardinia, and Corsica were restored to the Roman Empire. As a nation, the Vandals soon ceased to exist.’ – *Nelson’s Encyclopedia*, Vol. XII, art. ‘Vandals,’ pp. 380, 381. New York: 1907.

Uriah Smith says:

“The emperors of Rome, the eastern division of which still continued, had intelligence, or connived, with the Church of Rome, which had forsaken the covenant and constituted the great apostasy, for the purpose of putting down ‘heresy.’ The **man of sin** was raised to his presumptuous throne by the defeat of the Arian Goths, who then held possession of Rome, **in A.D. 538.**” - *Daniel and the Revelation*, Southern Publishing Assn., p. 270, 1944, 1972.

(Continued next month)

