

LUTHER ON ISLAM AND THE PAPACY



by Rev. Prof. Dr. Francis Nigel Lee,
Professor of Systematic Theology and
Caldwell-Morrow Lecturer in Church History
at the Queensland Presbyterian Theological College
in Brisbane, Queensland, Commonwealth of Australia.

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Unitarian Arianism produced unitarian Islam. According to Dr. Luther,¹ who before becoming a Protestant had previously been an Augustinian monk, the A.D. 400f "Augustine held that [the A.D. 320f] **Arius's** punishment in hell becomes greater every day, as long as this error lasts. For **Mohammed** came out of this sect."

Arius, who died in A.D. 336, was a unitarian heretic who rejected the Trinity. Later, also the heretic Mohammed rejected Christianity for his own kind of Unitarianism -- around A.D. 610. Indeed, shortly thereafter -- he increasingly began to suppress and finally to persecute Trinitarians who resisted Islam.

From precisely Mohammad's same time onward, the Bishop of Rome appropriated the novel title of 'Sole Pope.' In the Middle Ages, the Pope more and more persecuted all who would not bow under his sway. Then the Papacy reached its climax during the reign of Pope Innocent III, who died in A.D. 1216.

That misnamed 'Innocent' proclaimed the doctrine of transubstantiation an essential teaching, and also claimed sovereignty over England (unintentionally triggering off *Magna Carta* as a reaction). Even after that, Rome still continued to rule over Western Europe with an iron fist.

At that same time, in the Near East, only the Syrian coast from Tyre to Joppa had not yet fallen to Islam. By 1453, the Muslims had triumphed at the Fall of Constantinople -- and started subduing Greece. Thereafter, the Turks next subjugated Bulgaria and invaded the Ukraine.

In 1465, the Muslims conquered Herzegovina, and in 1475 they captured the Crimea. That was exactly eight years before the birth of the great Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther, in 1483, at Eisleben in Eastern Germany -- toward which the Muslims were (then as now) steadily advancing.

Thereafter, the Turks further subjugated Albania (1500), Moldavia (1512), Romania (1516), and Montenegro (1517). Luther was thirty-four, when the Protestant Reformation began in 1517. Yet soon, even Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, fell in 1521 -- and Bosnia in 1527.

The Muslims then swiftly advanced throughout Hungary toward Austria, Poland, Russia, and even Lithuania. Indeed, after their victory at the Battle of Mohacs in 1526, the Muslims soon reached Vienna and besieged it in 1529. By 1541, the Turks had consolidated their hold over Hungary. Indeed, by the time Luther died in 1546, the whole of Moldavia had been dominated by the Turks.

The pioneer Protestant Reformer Rev. Prof. Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546) thus lived at a time when the **Papacy** had corrupted the whole of the **Western Church**. At the same time, **Islam** was swallowing up much of what was left of the **Eastern Church**.

After Luther learned to trust in Christ alone for his salvation in 1517f, he increasingly saw both **Islam and the Papacy** as **the two huge apostasies** which the **Holy Scriptures predicted** would long obscure True Christianity -- until both would ultimately be quashed and vanquished.

Luther on Pagan Rome and the Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire in Daniel chapter two

In the Biblical Book of Daniel, Luther saw both Islam and the Papacy predicted. In his 1530 *Preface* to the Book of Daniel, on the subject of the four successive segments in the image of a man seen by King Nebuchadnezzar in his dream, Luther first of all makes the following remarks.²

"The first kingdom [viz. the head of the image] is that of the Assyrians or Babylonians; the second [viz. the shoulders], that of the Medes and Persians; the third [viz. the waist], that of Alexander the Great and the Greeks; the fourth [viz. the legs of the image], that of the Romans. Everyone agrees on this view and interpretation. Subsequent events and the histories, prove it conclusively....

"**Daniel has most to say about the Roman Empire,**" explains Luther. "At the end [2:41-45], where the **iron legs** begin to divide into the **toes of the feet**, Daniel points out three things about the Roman Empire.

"The first is that the toes are **divided**, although they retain their origin in the iron feet. Just as in the human body the toes separate while projecting from yet belonging to the foot -- so also was **the Roman Empire split as Spain, France...and other parts** [after the collapse of the Roman Empire in the fifth century A.D.].... Nevertheless, it has continued to **grow**.... Yet this has occurred in such a way that its nature as iron was retained. For the Empire still has its estates, offices, laws, and statutes -- as of old....

"The second thing [Daniel here points out, is] that these divided toes are dissimilar -- partly iron and partly clay.... Now it is mighty; now weak. This too has come to pass. Often there have been numerous brave emperors like Charlemagne [768-814 A.D.], the three Ottos [936-1002 A.D.], and others -- who were unconquerable.... This is said, however, in order that we might know that **the Roman Empire is to be the last**, and that no one will be able to **destroy it save Christ alone and His Kingdom**. Therefore, even though many monarchs may have risen...and **the Turks** may rage...and even though all such enemies may perhaps win an occasional battle - they are still unable to conquer... Up until now, experience -- with respect to both **the Popes themselves and the kings** -- has borne this out.

"The mountain from which the stone is cut without human hands [2:45]..., signifies the whole Jewish people from whom **Christ** sprang. He is their flesh and blood, but has been torn from them and has come **among the Gentiles**. Among the Gentiles, **He has become a Lord in all the World** -- in all four of these kingdoms [to which Daniel refers] -- and **will so remain!**"

Luther on Islam and the Papacy as the two legs of the image in Daniel chapter two

Christ, the Stone in Daniel chapter two, at His Resurrection shattered the Pagan Roman Empire -- in principle. Ephesians 1:20f & 4:8-10, and Colossians 2:12-15. Then, from A.D. 600 onward, that shattered Roman Empire divided into two legs -- as predicted in Daniel's explanation of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. The left leg became the Western Roman Empire, under the Papacy in Rome. The right leg, the Eastern Roman Empire, with its capital Constantinople, later succumbed to Islam -- under the Turk Mohammed II. and his awesome armies in 1453.

"**The Turk and the Pope,**" explained Luther, "**do not differ at all in the form of religion;** they vary only in words and ceremonies. For the Turk observes his and Moses' ceremonies; yet the Pope, partly Christian ceremonies and partly such as were born of his own brain....

"Just as the Turk violates the washings of Moses, so the Pope [too] does violence to Baptism and the Sacrament [of the Eucharist]. And just as the former does not stay with Moses, so the latter does not stay purely with Christ."³

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther continues: "The Pope, with his followers, commits a greater sin than the Turk and all the Heathen.... The Turk forces no one to deny Christ and to adhere to his [own Islamic] faith.... Though he rages most intensely by murdering Christians in the body -- he, after all, does nothing by this but fill heaven with saints....

"The Pope does not want to be either enemy or Turk... He [the Pope] fills hell with nothing but 'Christians' This is committing real spiritual murder, and is every bit as bad as the teaching and blasphemy of Mohammed and the Turks. But whenever men do not allow him [the Pope] to practice this infernal diabolical seduction -- he adopts the way of the Turk, and commits bodily murder too....

“The **Turk** is an **avowed** enemy of Christ[ianity]. But the **Pope** is not. He is a **secret** enemy and persecutor, a false friend. For this reason, he is all the worse!”⁴

This can be traced, down throughout Church History. Observed Luther in his *Table Talk*: “At the time of the Apostles and for a long while thereafter the Gospel had free and full course in Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Asia Minor, Greece, and other kingdoms **now** occupied by the Turk. But [later,] since people became surfeited with it [the Gospel] in the course of time, and many heresies arose -- the blasphemous **Mohammed** came with his *Koran*. >From this time on, these countries let go of Christ -- and worshipped the Devil Mohammed. The same thing happened under the **Papacy**....

“God’s wrath is greatest when He removes His Word or permits people to despise it. When the **Greeks** despised His Word, He took it away and **gave them the Turk** and **Mohammed**.

“To us **Germans** and to the Italians, He **gave the Pope** and with him all sorts of horrible things.”⁵ Yet “the wrath of God has brought Mohammed and the Pope into the World.”⁶

Luther on the Roman Empire and the Papacy in Daniel chapter seven

Luther' *Preface on Daniel* continues:⁷ "In the seventh chapter [of Daniel], begin the visions and prophecies of the future kingdoms -- especially of the Kingdom of Christ for Whose sake all these visions came to pass.... The four kingdoms which he [Daniel] pointed out above in chapter 2 [vv. 31-43] in the great image, he now sees again in another form -- namely in the four beasts.

“Most of his attention centres on the fourth beast, the Roman Empire.... Under that very Roman Empire, the greatest event on earth was going to take place -- namely, that Christ should come and redeem men....

“The third beast, the leopard with four wings and four heads, is the kingdom of Alexander the Great in Greece. It later broke up into four kingdoms -- as we shall hear in the next chapter....

“The **fourth beast**, with the iron teeth, is now the really guilty one! This is the last, **the Roman Empire**.... Daniel [7:19-21] here...portrays this Roman Empire in such a way that it should first be broken up into ten kingdoms. These are the ten ' horns' : ~~Say~~ Egypt, Asia [Minor], Greece, [North] Africa, Spain, Gaul, Italy, Germany, England, *etc*.

“He also indicates that one small horn shall knock off three among the top ten horns - meaning **Mohammad** or **the Turk** who now holds Egypt, Asia, and Greece.... This same **little horn** will fight the saints and **blaspheme Christ** -- something that we are all experiencing and seeing before our very eyes.... **The Turk** has had great victories against the Christians, yet denies Christ while elevating his **Mohammed**.... [Still,] **the Turk** will not knock off **more** than these three horns.”

Perhaps Dr. Luther' s principal views about Daniel chapters 7 and 8, are to be found in his 1521 answer to Ambrosius Catharinus. That answer carries the longer title: *Concerning the Question Whether the Pope is Really the Antichrist*. Its shorter title is: *Daniel Eight on the Antichrist*. There, Luther is quite categorical: “**The Pope is the Antichrist!**”⁸

Declared Luther:⁹ "This Prophet Daniel had also predicted as much -- in the 7th chapter, vv. 7-8. There, the Prophet writes thus: ' After this...fourth beast, dreadful and terrible...with the ten horns'- which in everyone' s opinion means the Roman Empire- ' I considered the horns' ' Behold, there came up among them another **little horn**' -- which **is the papal government**, arising in the midst of the Roman Empire.... ' Behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man- and a mouth speaking great things' [Daniel 7:20]. These eyes are for ' understanding dark sentences' The mouth, for blaspheming Christ, constitutes the ' fierce countenance' [of Daniel 8:23]."

Luther on Islam and the Vatican and the Romish Papacy in Daniel 8:23

Now Daniel 8:20-23 makes predictions concerning “the **latter** time” of the rule of the four Greek kingdoms to arise after Alexander the Great, which themselves lasted down to the emergence of the **Roman Empire** as the last of the old Empires of Babylon --> Medo-Persia --> Greece --> **Rome**. It predicts that “in the **latter** time” -- something extremely important would at length occur. It predicts that then, “when the transgressors have come to the full -- a **king[dom] of fierce faces** (*‘az paaniym* or countenances), **understanding dark opinions** (*chidyooth*) shall stand up.”

So, in “the **latter** time” of the four kingdoms and “when the transgressors have come to the full -- a **[another] kingdom of fierce faces** understanding **dark opinions**” would arise. Here, the B.C. 270 Greek Septuagint has: “*en eschatoo, tees basileias autoon...anasteesetai basileus anaidees prosoopoo kai sunioon probleemata.*” Jerome’s own A.D. 404 Latin Vulgate translates it: “*post regnum eorum...consurget rex impudens facie et intelligens propositiones.*” Significantly, even the A.D. 1976 New International Version or NIV renders it: “In the **latter** part of their reign...a **stern-faced king[dom]** a **master of intrigue**, will arise.”

Moreover, that would occur **only after a period of apostasy** - namely “when **rebels** have become **completely wicked**” (thus the NIV), or “when the **transgressors** have come to the **full**” (thus the 1611 Authorized Version commissioned by King James). Very significantly, the emergence of **both Islam and the Papacy** marked the **culmination of a period of apostasy from God’s True Revelation** on the part of those who had professed to adhere to it.

Too, certainly many of the views of **Mohammed in the Koran** -- are indeed “**dark opinions.**” As Dr. Martin Luther says of this verse Daniel 8:23 and those which follow it: “One might have though the Prophet Daniel was...talking about the **Turks**..., if St. Peter [Second Epistle 2:1-3f] had not come and taught us of what kingdom we should understand the Prophet: namely...of that one which pushes up from **within** the people of God and of those who sits in the stead of teachers and **bishops.**”¹⁰

So, though certainly not to the exclusion of Islam, Daniel 8:23 does seem to be referring especially to the **Vatican**. For Daniel’s very words “dark opinions” here imply such obscure forthtellings or soothsaying *vaticinia*. Moreover, as Dr. Luther goes on to observe: “This king[dom] would be a powerful king[dom]...; as powerful as a[ny] **Roman king[dom]** had previously been!”

Explains Luther:¹¹ “What a wonderful power this rare kingdom now has! It is mighty: not with horns; not with claws; nor with sword or harness -- but in appearance [as regards ‘countenances’ *paaniym* (Dan. 8:23)]... The statement is not that it becomes mighty from [one] face -- but from **many** faces” alias the whole **plural** series of not just one-faced or even two-faced but rather of **many-faced Popes**.

“Nor can it refer to the Kingdom of Christ.” For that “indeed has no face [*cf.* Luke 17:20] but consists only in Spirit...”

“This prophecy cannot apply to the Turks [or the Muslims], nor to any other kingdom supported by force and weapons. For such are indicated by teeth, horns and claws.”

“Its predecessor-kingdoms are all warlike. Dan. 7:3-5,19,23,24a. Yet [this], their blasphemous successor-kingdom, is not. Dan. 7:8,11,24b,25 & 8:23-25.

“This kingdom...is supported by neither spiritual nor temporal weapons.” So Luther concludes: “It is obvious that **this King[dom] must be [that of] the Antichrist** -- *i.e.*, the Withstander of Christ and of His Kingdom [Dan. 7:8f,20-21,24b,25-26]...”

“Let us look at **the Pope’s kingdom**, and first at the appearance or **faces** of the **persons** there... First look at the Pope -- how he struts with his triple crown, with immeasurable splendour.... Then look as the lustre and wealth of his cardinals” *etc!* Dan. 8:23f.

Wrote Luther in his *Answer to Emser*¹² (the famous Romish Apologist): "In Daniel [8:23f], we read: 'At the end of the Roman Empire, a King[dom] shall arise whose power shall consist in his demeanour and appearance' -- *i.e.*, in doctrines of [mere] men that teach only external customs and demeanour; for instance, the bishops', priests', and monks' manner of life, which consists in their garb and external works and demeanour. 'He shall destroy wonderfully, and through his policy he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand and have understanding [guile] to make and to multiply the commandments of men.'" Daniel 8:24.

"The Thomistic heresy," declared Luther,¹³ is precisely the same as that which Daniel (8:23) says has an 'unashamed face' (alias a 'fierce countenance'). Thus, that Prophet announces how this papal monarch or "king will arise at the termination of the four kingdoms -- of which Rome, mighty with the sword, is one. Thus Daniel doubtless wishes to indicate that the tyranny of the Pope would commence -- when the Roman Empire had declined and fallen."

Elaborating on this Daniel 8:23, Paul himself forecast that the powerful Roman Empire would for a long time retard or 'hold back' the appearance of the emerging Romish Papacy. At least until its own demise around 476 A.D.

Here Luther explains: "The Apostle similarly predicts, Second Thessalonians 2:8, that what holds it back -- will continue to hold it back, until the former has been removed. **Then**, the 'man of sin' can be disclosed.... Paul says, Second Thessalonians 2:10-12, that the same 'son of perdition' will **then** come in!"

Now this figure is apparently not just a single person, but a whole series or dynasty of persons with the same basic character. Luther explains that "the Prophet Daniel [8:23] -- and with particular significance -- in Hebrew also actually calls him *p^esha'iym* ['transgressors']. This actually means perverters or transgressors and apostates from faith....

"Paul, in the aforementioned saying, speaks of this abundantly. There he states [*viz.* in Second Thessalonians 2:10-12]: 'they shall not receive the love of truth.' Also again: 'they shall not believe the truth' -- but 'shall believe the lie'.... This [papal] king...will rule only with his own human doctrine.' Though predicted **in** Scripture -- the Pope thus stands **against** Scripture.

Daniel (8:23) himself declared: 'In the latter time..., a king of fierce countenance...shall stand up.' Observes Martin Luther:¹⁴ "Jerome [around 380f A.D.] translated it correctly, thus: 'a king with a shameless face [*impudens facie*].' Yet we take it straight from the Hebrew words: '*oz-paanniym*. This means: 'mighty in appearance'....

"That he would indeed arise, is not said about one person -- but about the whole kingdom; and about his successors. Nor does it mean that this kingdom would last for just a short time. Christ too says the same: the abomination would stand in the holy city -- that is, it would be strengthened firmly and securely; and with much support. Matthew 24:15 [*cf.* especially Daniel 12:6-12f]. Even Paul does not say this 'son of perdition' would soon go away - but that he **keeps on** sitting **enthroned** in the temple of God.' Second Thessalonians 2:3-4."

Moreover, Antichrist also stands up against the real message of Christianity. For indeed, the true "illumination of the Gospel," observed Luther,¹⁵ "will be darkened by the transgressions." Such would occur when -- in that **latter time** -- the 'fierce' king[dom] will stand up, 'understanding dark sentences' alias the Vatican's vaticinations! Daniel 8:23f.

Regarding these Vaticanistic vaticinations, Dr. Luther next analyzes¹⁶ "the little word '*chiydooth*' in Hebrew" -- at Daniel 8:23. He explains it "means as much as: a dark prediction or a riddle; an obscure word or hidden reason -- which errs, when it wishes to guess from appearances. Thus, Samson said in the Book of Judges (14:12) -- 'I will give you a riddle.'"

"Note how the Spirit with...mild words describes this hefty 'abomination' [of Daniel 8:23f].... He merely calls this fearful and lying apparition -- 'countenances' or 'faces.'" Significantly, he does not call it one-faced, or even just two-faced -- but many-faced (*paanniym*). Of Daniel (8:23), Luther said: "He calls the

most poisonous doctrinal deception and scurrilous 'understanding' of the Antichrist, *chydooth*" -- alias 'dark sentences' or obscure opinions. Luther himself translates and calls them *Vorschlage*: propositions or suggestions.

Continued Luther: "Much harder does St. Paul attack these 'propositions' or *chydooth* [alias 'dark sentences' or obscure opinions]. For in Ephesians 4:14 he says 'we should no more be children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight [of hand] of men and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive.' The 'sleight of men' he calls, in Greek, *kubeia* -- as if one were to say: a game of dice. Again, the 'cunning craftiness' he calls in Greek *panourgia*. This means a deception, exactly as a conjuror adeptly juggles his magic -- so that one cannot detect it."

"Similarly," Luther went on, "in Colossians 2:8 Paul also says: 'Beware lest any man [de]spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit according to the tradition of men!'.... In the same chapter, he immediately points to...what these *chydooth* or 'propositions' actually mean. For (in verse 22f) he declares: 'They are according to th[os]e commandments and doctrines of men which indeed have a shew of wisdom -- in 'will-worship'.... Behold, then, how these *chydooth* or 'propositions'...have no truth behind them -- because they are merely self-selected 'spirituality!'"

Still elaborating on the Vatican's vaticinations as foreshadowed in Daniel 8:23f, Martin Luther also explains¹⁷ that "St. Peter [Second Epistle 2:1-3] preached and said: 'There shall be **false teachers** among **you**.... Through covetousness, they shall with feigned words make merchandise of you.' Indeed, in First Timothy 4:2, St. Paul refers to their 'speaking lies in hypocrisy.'"

Dr. Luther further clarified this. "Here the saying of Paul [in Second Thessalonians 2:4] shall be fulfilled, where he states [of the terrible Antichrist]: 'he exalts himself above all that is called a god or that is worshipped; so that he sits as a god in the Temple of God, claiming that he is a god'" -- *huperairomenos epi panta legomenon theon ee sebasma; hooste auton eis ton Naon tou Theou kathisai, apodeiknunta heauton hoti estin theos*. Asks Luther: "What, however, does 'sits' mean? Does it not mean: rule, teach, direct? ... What is this Temple of God? Is it stone and wood? Does St. Paul not say [in First Corinthians 3:17]: 'The Temple of God is holy, which is **you**'?"

Dr. Luther further elaborates¹⁸ regarding the bearing of Second Peter 3:3 on Daniel 8:23's 'dark sentences': "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts' *etc.* Does he not put these two things together here -- deceit and scoffing -- so that they deceive with words, and ape and lie with hypocrisy?"

"Thus, the one devotes himself to doctrine, the other to works. Paul says this [Ephesians 4:14], where he calls the doctrine a 'game of dice' (*kubeia*), and the works a 'deception' (*panourgia*). Thus, Peter too -- by [using the word] 'scoffing' -- similarly means the deceit which the Prophet Daniel understands by 'propositions' and *chydooth*" at 8:23.

Concludes Luther: "All doctrines of the Pope are deceit and scoffing.... The Pope determines sin and righteousness by the use of creatures [First Timothy 4:1-4]. Thus he is -- and is called -- the 'man of sin' and the 'son of perdition' [Second Thessalonians 2:3]."

He fills the World with comical and fabricated sins..., against Romans 14:22-23. Only the Pope is the cause of a comical conscience. For another who does exactly the same work -- yet who does not believe that he is thereby sinning -- is indeed certainly not sinning." Romans 14:22-23.

Luther on the Vatican and the Romish Papacy in Daniel 8:24

Daniel 8:24 states -- regarding the Romish Pope, believed Luther -- that 'his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power.' Luther here asks:¹⁹ "Who has ever heard anything like this, about a kingdom? The [Pagan] Roman Empire was built up and maintained by its own power...."

“Yet the Kingdom of this [later papal] king -- is mighty by an alien power.... Thus, this king's power does not consist of armaments -- nor of the Gospel of Christ.... It consists of *chiydooth* or 'propositions' -- i.e., of its own human doctrines...or commandments; which are invented things.”

“Thus the kingdom of the Romish Antichrist arose. It commenced,” observes Luther, “after the times of the Apostles.... The Apostle [in Second Thessalonians 2:9] attributes this power to the Devil, where he says 'his coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying-wonders'.... This 'ape of Christ' wishes to imitate everything, by replaying it -- and must avail himself of lying signs and alien help!

“Thus come the awful thunderings and lightnings in the [papal] bulls.... Has the Pope not, by this power of his 'propositions' or *chiydooth*, re-erected the Roman Empire anew -- just as [formerly] the latter did, from the Greek?” Daniel 7:6f,19f; 8:8f,21f -- cf. Revelation 13:1f.

“The Popes have thus, through these false signs and lying-wonders [Second Thessalonians 2:3-9], achieved the upper hand.... They themselves admit they have re-erected the Roman Empire.... The Pope has become a king even over the dead -- and now rules there in 'purgatory'.... The Pope wishes to rule over the dead -- and to make the Sacrament of the altar into a joke.... Behold how this operation of the Devil consists of false signs and lying-wonders [Second Thessalonians 2:9]!”

Luther further demonstrates²⁰ that Daniel 8:24 predicts of the [papal] king that 'he shall destroy wonderfully.' "The word *mirabilia*, called *niflaa'ooth* in Hebrew, must be expounded. For it refers to wonderfully great things, secret and hidden.

“Thus Daniel (11:36) states that 'this king shall...exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods'.... He shall be a 'wonderful destroyer' [Daniel 8:24].... The king is a destroyer of the Kingdom of Heaven, and a destructive corrupter of the simplicity that is in Christ [Second Corinthians 11:3 (cf. vv. 13-15)].... This tyranny of papal injunctions is thus indeed rooted into poor consciences.”

“Truly, the Prophet Daniel [8:24] rightly says: 'he shall be a wonderful destroyer'.... He is the true 'Antiochus' [who was the type of this 'king of fierce countenance,' Daniel 8:23].

In Daniel 8:10-12, we read of him: 'he cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. Yes, he magnified himself -- even to the Prince of the host.... By him, the daily sacrifice was taken away; and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.... A host was given him, against the daily sacrifice, by reason of transgression; and it cast down the truth to the ground!'” Cf. too Revelation 12:1-4,13f.

Now then, Luther continued: "All the laws of the Pope, of which there are so many, are snares for the souls. Thereby, he accomplishes naught but the spread of sin and destruction in all the World -- and the ruin of Christendom. Thus did Daniel prophesy [8:24f & 9:27] -- on account of which Christ calls him the 'abomination' [Matthew 24:15]....

“Every one hates the Papacy -- except those who want to derive advantage from it. It is properly called - the abomination. Thus, the pope has ensnared all the World in superstition and a false conscience.... Woe unto thee, thou abominable abomination! Come, Lord Jesus Christ, and deliver us from Antichrist! Cast his throne into the abyss of hell, as he has deserved!”²¹

Luther on the Vatican and the Romish Papacy in Daniel 8:25

In Daniel 8:25, one further reads: 'through his [papal] policy also, he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many. He shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand!'

Here Luther remarks:²² "Hence it is obvious and clear, that **this king must appear after Christ** has already been preached." For Daniel (8:25) here declared that this antichristian king 'shall also stand up against the Prince of princes' -- alias **against Jehovah-Jesus**.

Dr. Luther now proceeds to describe²³ this 'policy' and 'craft' of the Antichrist. "Even under the appearance and Name [of Christ], the Antichrist has merrily gone forth, striving even to deceive the very elect.... He, like a god, sits in the Temple of God, claiming that he is 'divine'.... He opposes and exalts himself above all that is called a god' [Second Thessalonians. 2:4].... He, the **pope**, openly damned the Word of God at Constance [in 1414f], in connection with John Huss.... However, 'he shall be broken without hand.' The Apostle therefore says [Second Thessalonians 2:8] that 'the Lord shall consume him'.... Daniel, with great force, consumes and devours the whole papal Empire!"

"The Scriptures have foretold for the Pope and his followers an end far worse than bodily death and insurrection." Thus remarks Luther²⁴ -- in his 1522 *Earnest Exhortation for all Christians, Warning them Against Insurrection and Rebellion*.

"Daniel 8:25," observes Luther of that Antichrist, "says 'he shall be broken without hand'.... Have I [viz. Luther himself] not, with words alone, without any use of the sword whatever, done more injury to the Pope, bishops, priests and monks -- than all emperors, kings and princes with all their power ever did before? And why? Because **Daniel eight says** 'this king shall be broken without hand!'"

Luther on the seventy 'weeks of years' and the Roman Empire in Daniel nine

We now come to Daniel chapter nine. Luther held to the day-year **historicalistic** interpretation of the Prophet's predictions of **the seventy 'weeks'** (alias the 490 prophetic 'days') -- as well as of the **1290 and 1335 day-years**. Daniel 9:24-27 & 12:7 & 12:11 cf. 7:19-25 and Leviticus 23:3f & 23:16 with 25:4 & 25:8-11; and Numbers 14:24 cf. Ezekiel 4:6 and Revelation 11:2f & 11:9-11 & 12:6,14 & 13:5.

In his *Preface to Daniel*, Dr. Luther explains:²⁵ "The ninth chapter opens with a splendid prayer in which Daniel prays for his people who are held captive in Babylon.... To Daniel is revealed **the number of years** until Christ would come and begin His eternal Kingdom.... These 'seventy weeks' [of Daniel 9:24-27]...are **unanimously** regarded by **all** teachers as weeks of **years** and not as weeks of days; that is, one week denotes seven years, and not seven days.... Seventy weeks of years, total four hundred and ninety **years**. This is how long men were still supposed to wait for **Christ** -- and then His Kingdom was to **begin**....

"The angel [which brought this revelation to Daniel] further divides these 'seventy weeks' weeks into three parts. In the first seven weeks -- that is, in forty-nine years -- (he says) the wall and streets [of Jerusalem] shall be rebuilt....

"Then, after [a further] sixty-two 'weeks' [of years]," explains Luther, the Saviour would come. Indeed, he would come - also according to Daniel - then to "**be put to death**....

Luther then concludes his explanation: "The one last 'week' -- that is, seven years -- is the time which follows the sixty-nine 'weeks'; during which (as has been said) Christ was supposed to be put to death.... In the midst of that same 'week' -- that is, during the fourth year after His baptism -- Christ was put to death, and then the sacrifice ceased. That is, through Christ's death, which is the true sacrifice, the Jewish sacrifice and worship were abolished. Then [A.D. 37f], the [pagan] Romans under Emperor Caius Caligula placed an idol in the temple (as the angel says here [8:27]) -- as a sign that the temple and Judaism were to be at an end." See Josephus: *Antiquities* 18:8:2f.

Thus, Martin Luther²⁶ insists that in Daniel 9:24f, "the 62 'weeks' are 434 years which, together with the 49 years of 7 'weeks' -- **amount to 483 years**. It is that many years, since the second of Darius." Then, in the middle of Daniel's seventieth 'week' - "and at the beginning of the 34th year of Christ's life, in the very same year (I say) Christ was put to death."

Specifically on the seventy weeks of Daniel 9:24-27, Dr. Luther is adamant: "All teachers are in harmony that **these are year-weeks and not day-weeks**. That means, a **week encompasses seven years, and not seven days**. This also is taught by experience. For seventy day-weeks would not even span two years -- and that would not be a remarkable period for such a wonderful revelation. Therefore, these seventy weeks are 490 years."

"The ninth chapter [Daniel 9:24-27]...is a remarkable and great revelation of Christ, which sets the time so surely and accurately.... He [Christ] shall make a covenant with many, for one 'week' [or for seven 'days' each of one year's duration]. For the preaching of Christ spread mightily during those seven years [*circa* 31-38 A.D.], both through Christ Himself up into the fourth year [about the middle of 33 A.D.] -- and thereafter through the Apostles, who proclaimed to the people the promised grace."

"In the midst of that same 'week' -- that is, during the fourth year after His baptism -- Christ was put to death [on Calvary, around 35 A.D.].... Then the sacrifice[s] ceased. That is, through Christ's death -- which is the true sacrifice. The Jewish sacrifice and worship were abolished [at Calvary, *circa* 35 A.D.].... The Romans [thereafter] under Emperor Caius Caligula [A.D. 37-41] placed an idol in the temple..., as a sign that the temple and Judaism were to be at an end.....

"Daniel freely prophesies and plainly declares that the coming of Christ and the beginning of His Kingdom (that is, Christ's baptism and preaching ministry), is to happen five hundred and ten years after King Cyrus (Daniel 9) -- when the Empire of the Persians and of the Greeks is at an end, and the Roman Empire in force. Daniel 7 and 9.... Therefore Christ assuredly had to come at the time the **Roman Empire** was at its height -- the Empire which was also to destroy Jerusalem and the temple." Daniel 9:26-27 & 12:7-11.

Luther on the Papacy and Islam as the Antichrist of Daniel 11:36

In the next chapters, Daniel (10:5f to 12:5f) saw and heard the pre-incarnate Christ -- engaging in dialogue with two glorious angels. Again came a prediction -- *inter alios*, also of the later-time or latter-day Roman ruler of Daniel 8:23f. For in Daniel 11:36, it is recorded that 'the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods' *etc.* Compare also, Second Thessalonians 2:3f.

Dr. Luther calls what we would term Daniel 11:36 to 12:13, "the twelfth chapter of Daniel." This, he explains, "as all teachers unanimously interpret it -- under the name of 'Antiochus' -- has to do wholly with the **Antichrist** and with the last times in which **we** are living," *viz.* Luther's own years around **1530 A.D.**

"It is the clear Gospel which now indicates and discloses plainly to everyone just who the real 'Antiochus' is. It identifies clearly, him who has magnified himself above every god.... The Prophet here reckons among the foremost crimes of the **Antichrist**, that he does not have regard for the love of women" - *cf.* the **papal** enforcement of **celibacy** for his **clergy**.

Daniel 11:36f, claimed Luther, "identifies clearly him who has magnified himself above every god, who has not simply failed have regard to the love of women -- that is, the estate of marriage -- but who has actually forbidden it [at least to some]. In its place," explained the Reformer -- this 'man of sin' [*viz.* **the Pope**] has been "filling the World with the idolatrous worship of his own god and with carnal unchastity."

Indeed, that self-magnifying Antichrist, Luther is adamant, "has parcelled out the treasures and possessions on Earth, *etc.* [Daniel 11:36-39 *cf.* Second Thessalonians 2:3-8]. For the 'love of women' [Daniel 11:37]...must mean that pure and honourable love of women [*Liebe zu Weibern*] which God created and commanded -- namely married love. Since the Prophet here reckons among the foremost crimes of the **Antichrist**, that he has no regard for the love of women."

Luther now applies Daniel 11:36 to the Romish Papacy. "Here I am now, being damned by the 'most holy father' [*sic*]...who will call me a 'Picardist' [alias one of the 'Bohemian Brethren'] and a **Wycliffite!**

Against this -- I will, however, console myself from the Prophet Daniel.

“He thus directs his prophecy in chapter eleven (vv. 38f) against this Antichrist: 'he shall honour the god of forces.... A god whom his fathers knew not, shall he honour -- with gold and silver and with precious stones and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in most strongholds, with a strange god [the Romish Mass] whom he shall acknowledge!"²⁷

"The 'king'" in Dan. 11:36, explains Rev. Professor Martin Luther,²⁸ "**clearly depicts the Pope**, who unashamedly bellows forth his decretals.... As the sun is over the moon, so too is the Pope over the emperor.... Not the emperor but the Pope is emperor; for the emperor like a vassal kisses the Pope's feet.... The latter puts himself above Holy Scripture.... As [the Prophet] Daniel says [11:36], 'against the God of gods'...and, through God's wrath, over the ungrateful World. As St. Paul says in Second Thessalonians 2 [vs. 11], 'God shall send strong delusion!"

"Other tyrants persecuting God's Word, have done so in ignorance. This one does it knowingly! While calling Holy Scripture **God's Word** -- he wishes to lord over it.... Hence, he may be called an earthly god - - yes, a god of all gods, a lord of all lords, a king over all kings. Not purely man, but mixed with god, or a deified man just like Christ Himself is God and man -- Whose vicar he wishes to be, and over Whom he would exalt himself."

Continues Luther: "St. Paul explains this text of Daniel [11:36] -- in Second Thessalonians two. There it is revealed that he is the 'man of sin' and the 'son of perdition' [of 2:3f] 'who exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped -- so that he, like a god, sits in the temple of God, exhibiting himself as a god.' For he cannot exalt himself over God's natural being and majesty; but he can, over...the God Who is preached and honoured -- that is, over the Word of God.

"It is not just as a private and as a personally lost sinner that he is here called 'the man of sin' and 'the son of perdition' -- but as a public figure, who drags others with him into sin and perdition.... The Pope has occupied this sinful office in two ways. First, he has erected many new liturgies -- such as his Masses; indulgences; holy water; veneration of saints.... Alongside of this, he has disturbed and disfigured true religion -- such as God's Word, Faith, and Sacrament, *etc.*"

"As Daniel says, he [the Pope] exalts himself over and against the God of gods. For God gave commandments through Moses.... He [the Pope] sits in the Temple of God -- that is, [he sits over and indeed with]in Christendom [*cf.* Second Thessalonians 2:4]. His decrees, and the language of his decretals, prove this.

"In these two ways, the Pope has now destroyed the two hierarchies. By the first, the law of the World, he has trodden down obedience and government." Compare, observed Luther, his papal bulls against Ludwig of Bavaria in 1324; and against Henry VIII of England in 1538. "By the other, he has: disturbed the Church; subjugated Holy Scripture; torn and destroyed the Sacrament, together with its usage; and suppressed the Gospel -- until humanly unrecognizable."

Rev. Dr. Luther believed, then, that the "**two** regimes, that of the **Pope** and that of the **Turk**, are no doubt **the true Antichrist**" -- in the **broader** sense of that word. And against such -- "**Daniel (11:36)**, Christ [Matthew 24:24-26], Paul [Second Thessalonians 2:4f], John [First John 2:18] and other Apostles [*cf.* James 4:1-5 & Jude 4-11] have warned."²⁹

Luther on the Papacy and Islam as the Antichrist of Daniel 11:37

In Dan. 11:37, according to Luther, the Bishop of Rome disregards the God of his fathers [alias God as worshipped by the earlier church at Rome]. He also disregards 'the desire of women.'

The Pope, explains Dr. Martin Luther, "rips up the third divine hierarchy, namely the marital state. For he has not only forbidden it to clergy -- but also slandered, disfigured, despised and destroyed it throughout....

God blessed marriage [*cf.* Genesis 2:22f]..., and pronounced the marriage-bed pure and honourable [Heb. 13:4].... The Antichrist curses what God blesses!"

"Daniel [11:37f] predicted this," as Luther demonstrated in his *Answer to Emser*.³⁰ There, Daniel "said that **Antichrist** shall not have regard to the God of his fathers, nor his teachings, nor have woman to wife -- but, in the place of God, shall honour his god *maozim* [alias **the Mass**]. That is to say, **he forbids marriage only as an honour for himself and his papists**. He erects in the place of God and His Gospel, the graven image *maozim* -- his own decretals and laws. He makes spirituality a thing of locality; just as Christ says: 'They shall say here is Christ -- or there!'" See: Matthew 24:23.

On Dan. 11:36f, Luther therefore remarked:³¹ "**Here the Pope is clearly pictured**, who in all his decrees shouts impudently that all the churches and thrones will be judged by him -- but he cannot be judged by anyone.... In Daniel 11:37, **we have a description of the Antichrist**....

"**The Antichrist, that is the Pope**, will not have God nor a legitimate wife.... The Antichrist will despise laws and regulations, customs and principles, kings and princes, principalities in heaven and on earth -- and accept only his own law [*cf.* Daniel 7:25].... **Believe me,**" insists Luther, "**the Pope is the Antichrist!**"

In his 1523 *To the Knights of the Teutonic Order*, Luther insists³² that "the god whom the Pope serves, cannot be served by the work of our God. This was foretold of the Pope long ago by the Prophet Daniel, who says in chapter 11[37], 'he will not respect married women.' But harlots he was to respect, and worse than that....

"Celibates live under the terrible sentence in which Daniel [11:37] says [of the Antichrist that] 'he will not respect married women.' Which is as much as to say it is true that he will avoid married women. Not because he loves chastity or serves God, as he will pretend in order to deceive the World -- but that he may have an easy life and be spared the worries and difficulties of married life [*cf.* First Corinthians 7:28].... Yet he neither lives chastely, nor serves God -- but is so much the freer to practice harlotry and knavery."

In his 1530 *Exhortation to the Clergy at Augsburg*, Dr. Luther condemned³³ "papal innovations contrary to the eternal Word of God.... In it is fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel [11:37]..., where he says of your [papal] king, *i.e.*, **Antichrist**, 'neither shall he regard any god, nor the desire of women.' It must be a great sin not to love women. For the prophet indicates here that it is a peculiar abomination of Antichrist, and puts it next after the denial of God.... To despise the love of women, that is, to forbid marriage, is an abomination and plague of Antichrist. For God made woman to be held in honour, and to be the helper of man."

Luther on the Papacy and Islam as the Antichrist of Daniel 11:38f

Dr. Luther further discussed Daniel eleven in his 1520 *Open Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*. There, he denies³⁴ the passage refers to Islamic Muslims. "No Turk could have so devastated Italy and suppressed the worship of God.... Now that Italy is sucked dry, they come into Germany.... **Antichrist** must take the treasures of the Earth, as it was prophesied [Daniel 11:39-43]. So it goes on. They skim the cream off the bishoprics, monasteries and benefices.... The priory of Würzburg yields a thousand gulden; that of Bamberg, something; Mainz, Trier and others, something more; and so, from one to ten thousand gulden might be got together -- in order that **a cardinal might live at Rome like a rich king!**"

So:³⁵ "**The Pope is Antichrist**; his ark and stronghold is *maozim*, that is, **the Mass**'; '*missam esse mausim*' (**the Mass is the maos** alias the munition); *etc.* Continued Luther.³⁶ "Therefore, this god *mauesim* is nothing other than a false darkness and hope of the Pope and the Papists.... Thereby, he is collecting all the money and goods in the whole World for himself [Daniel 11:38b] -- and finally, also **hell-fire in the middle of hell!**"

Remarked Luther:³⁷ "In Daniel 11:38, it is stated that the Antichrist 'shall honour the god of forces' alias 'munitions' or *maos* (plural *mauzzim*). **God** is **our** *maos*, stronghold, or refuge.... "**The Pope as Antichrist** (*Endechrist Bapst*), on the other hand, builds...his own god (*maosim*) instead.... With the Word, the Angel [Daniel 10:21f] stirs up the biggest and highest doctrine, the worst ecclesiastical abomination in the Papacy -- the Mass!"

Luther on the Papacy as the Antichrist of Daniel 11:39f

After the latter-day Roman king's promotion of the 'strange god' of the Mass (at Daniel 11:39), in Daniel 11:40 -- comments Luther³⁸ -- "there follows **how the Papacy will fall and sink...** We cannot here understand King Ptolemy of Egypt to be **the** 'king of the south' -- just as little as we can understand King Antiochus to be **the** 'king of the north'.... By 'the king of the **north**' -- as throughout the chapter -- we are here to understand **the Antichrist alias the Pope.**"

"His adversary is the right, spiritual King...of Holy Christianity -- **Christ** [the 'King of the **south**'] as a 'Counter-Saviour' **against the Pope**.... 'At the time of the end, shall the King of the **south push** at him' [the Pope]. That is, when the wrath of God is coming to an end, and the Pope too is also more about to come to his end, **Christ will give a 'push' [to the Pope] -- and somehow stir up several godly Christians against him!**"

"This 'push' seems to me to have commenced under Kaiser Ludwig of Bavaria, around the year 1315. Then, thereafter -- still more **strongly, through John Huss**, in the year 1415. For Kaiser Ludwig was a very fine emperor, and a godly man -- whom Pope John XXII greatly injured and unrighteously excommunicated" in 1324. This was just before the **'Black Death'** hit Europe.

"The Papacy never declined so much, as after Kaiser Ludwig. He also had erudite people with him, such as **Ockham**" -- who conducted an exasperated literary fight for the emperor, and **against the Pope**. "Soon thereafter, the **schism** occurred. Then, **three Popes reigned alongside of [and against] one another**, until the Council of Constance [in 1414f A.D.].... This was a sign that his end must be near, and that he should be torn to pieces.... But this 'push' [1324f] was the pre-lude or 'fore-play'.... It was St. John Huss who gave the real 'push' to the Pope -- and was burned for this" in 1415 A.D. [*cf.* Daniel 12:11].

"Since that same Council, **the Pope has become very despised**.... Up till then, he suppressed everybody who 'pushed' him, and he forcibly silenced them and beat down the truth -- so that nobody dared call themselves after Huss, Ludwig, Ockham and similar persons.... This 'push' lifted itself up concerning indulgences, in St. Peter's Church at Rome. It was the same thing which lifted itself up with Luther." Compare. J. Loserth's *Huss and Wycliffe*.³⁹

Continued Luther:⁴⁰ "Clement VI [the Pope during the 1342-52 'Black Death'] also promulgated a bull. There, he (as a god not only on Earth but also in Heaven) commanded the heavenly angels to bring souls from the entrance-into-paradise, into everlasting joy -- just as soon as indulgences hastened toward Rome!"

This alleged papal bull was seized upon by John Wycliffe (1360f). It was referred to also by John Huss (1405f); and by Luther, in 1519. Daniel 12:11-12!!!

Luther then went on to say: "As indulgences were still so blasphemously preached for several years after this in Bohemia, **John Huss** opposed them, seized upon this devilish bull [of Pope Clement] and rebuked the Pope's blasphemy. This was the 'push': he taught that if the Pope were not holy, then neither was he a member of the Holy Church!"

Here, compare article twenty of the 1418 bull of Pope Martin V. This condemned **Huss**, for **teaching that the 'Pope is evil.'** Just as **Judas** the Apostle is a Devil, a thief and **the son of perdition** -- and not the head of the [true] Holy Church Militant, nor even a member of it!"

Luther continued: "In the same way, this 'push' inflicted two unhealable wounds on the Papacy. First, the Popes were pushed out of 'Heaven' [alias the highest seats of worldly power]....

"Next, **after St. John Huss, the Papacy was greatly despised**, and had no power or ability to repel or destroy the name and teaching of St. John Huss.... **John Huss** [who was burned to death in 1415] **was a forerunner of him who at the present time alarms the Pope**" -- viz. Luther himself through *inter alia* his 1517 A.D. *Ninety-five Theses*.

Indeed, explained Luther, the fulfilment was in the Protestant Reformation itself. For the Czech "Huss announced in the Spirit, that God would vindicate him in a century." Likewise, added Luther, Huss again said of the Romanists: "They will roast a goose [Huss in Czech means 'goose']; but after me will come a swan [meaning Luther himself], which they will not roast!"

So too Huss's colleague Jerome of Prague (whom the Romanists also burned to death, in 1416). Declared that Jerome: "You condemn me, although I am not guilty. However, I will leave a sting behind me after my death! I summon you all to give an account to me before Almighty God, within a century!"⁴¹

Luther on the Papacy and Islam as the Antichrist of Daniel 11:41-45

In Daniel 11:41, that Prophet had predicted that 'these shall escape out of his [papal] hand -- even Edom, and Moab and the chief of the children of Ammon.' To what does this refer?

Dr. Martin Luther later commented⁴² that "Edom, Moab, Ammon are no longer the nations they previously were. For they too have long since physically altered -- having become **Saracens and Turks**."

Indeed, in Daniel 11:42f, Luther even discerned "hell and heaven; **the Turks**; God and Devil." Mindful of his understanding of Daniel 11:36f, he then also added: "Thus, one can see what an abomination **the Pope** is!"

From Daniel 11:44 - "**tidings...shall trouble him**" -- Dr. Luther gathered that **the Pope "will be blown over by a single breath**. Here is how these words of Daniel are explained by St. Paul: the Lord Jesus will slay him, with the Breath of His Mouth" alias **by the Spirit of His Word**. Second Thessalonians 2:8. "**The Pope does not arise again!**"

In Daniel 11:45, we are told that 'he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas.' Here again, Luther discerned the Vatican. "Jerusalem lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. But far more does Rome lie between two large Seas: the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic!

"In the beginning, also the finest churches were there, and great things happened there -- until the Devil took up his residence there. For one should interpret all this spiritually -- that **the Pope has placed himself, like a god, on the holy mountain, within Holy Christianity** -- and established his own kingdom, with his decretals and abominable doctrine. But Christ says every plant (or doctrine) which My heavenly Father did not plant -- shall be eradicated. Matthew 15 [vs. 13]."

So too in Luther's *Table Talk*. There, he remarked⁴³ that **the Pope "shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas, in the glorious holy mountain; that is, at Rome, in Italy. The Turk [or Islam] rules also between two seas, at Constantinople."**; but that is not the holy mountain. He does not honour or advance the worship of *maosim* [**the Mass**], nor does he prohibit matrimony. Therefore Daniel points directly at the Pope, who does both with great fierceness."

Luther on the Papacy as the overthrowable Antichrist of Daniel 12:1-6

On Daniel 12:1f, Luther comments⁴⁴ that "here, exactly as also in Revelation 12, we understand by 'Michael' the Lord Christ Himself - Who, with his 'Angels' or Preachers through the Gospel battles against

the Devil here on Earth.... Till then, it was the worst time ever upon Earth -- just as Christ cites this word, in Matthew 24."

"The Devil, through the [papal] Antichrist, has grasped hold of the Church in two ways -- on the one hand, by an epicurean deriding of the Sacrament and the Word of God; on the other hand, by doubt and anxiety.... We previously read in Daniel 9 [vs. 26] how the city would be destroyed -- before he described the last week" of the seventy. "Precisely so again, we take this here [Daniel 12:2-3f] to refer to the need and service of the tribulated church." 66f A.D.

In Daniel 12:4, the Prophet is told to 'shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.' Comments Luther: "Not for ever, but until the last time -- when it would be opened." See: First Timothy 4:1f.

"The Man clothed in linen [Daniel 12:6] is the One Who had been speaking up till then.... Is it not enough, that the Antichrist has so abominably almost destroyed the Church? Even now, she is barely revived again by Michael -- as the swarms of destructive heretics and sacramentarians and Anabaptists arrive, and also commit yet more abominations.... **Yet in that time...after the fall of the Antichrist, the World will live freely!**"

Luther on the Papacy and Islam as the Antichrist of Daniel 12:6-12

In Daniel 12:6, the Man clothed in linen upon the waters is asked: 'How long shall it be, to the end of these wonders?' He replies: 'It shall be for a time, [two] times, and an half!'

Observes Luther: "We cannot know when this 'time, two times, and half a time' are up." Yet 'from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up -- there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.' Daniel 12:11.

Explains Luther: "**If these were 'ordinary' human** days, the Angel would be reckoning from the last week in the midst of which the daily sacrifice ceased -- through to the Apostolic Council, Acts 15 [vv. 6-11].... That would constitute 1290 days -- practically the remaining half of the last week, namely three-and-a-half years [Daniel 9:24-27].

"According to the same, the Gospel went forth also among the Gentiles -- through St. Paul and Barnabas, Acts 13 [cf. too chapters 8:1 to 11:21]. In that way, the Angel would be using these words as a 'lid' over His discourse -- and again implying His going back, once more, to the time of the seventy weeks.

"**However,**" demonstrates Luther, "these are '**Angel-ic**' days -- that is, one '**day**' is one **year**, as above [Daniel 9:24-27]. Thus, the 1290 'days' run till the fourteenth year of Kaiser Ludwig [1327 A.D.], who was excommunicated by the Pope" -- just before the Black Death. "And the 1335 'days' run until the 23rd year of Charles IV [alias 1373 A.D.]."

That is also **the time of Wycliffe**. It is the period "barely seven years before the schism of the three Popes [1380f A.D.] -- or 42 years before the Council of Constance" and the burning of Huss in 1415 A.D.

Luther concluded: "I would, however, much rather that the 'daily sacrifice' here [in Daniel 12:11] be interpreted in a spiritual way.... For the daily sacrifice of the Jews was abolished in the seventh 'week' by the Apostolic Council [Dan. 9:24-27 cf. Acts 15:6f]. Yet even thereafter, it nevertheless remained till the destruction of Jerusalem [in 70 A.D.].... Almost all teachers...have applied this [prediction] to the reign of the Antichrist" -- viz. Daniel 12:11's 1290 'day-years' from A.D. 70 till the 1360f **Wycliffe**, and Daniel 12:12's 1335 'day-years' from A.D. 70 till the 1405 persecution by the Papacy of the Wycliffite **Huss**.

In April 1538, in his *Table Talk*,⁴⁵ Luther applied this 'time statement' [about the three-and-a-half 'years' in Dan. 12:7f] to **the Muslim Turks**, whose hegemony began for him with their conquest of Constantinople (1453) -- "which is now 85 years ago. If I now reckon a 'time' to be according to the thirty years' age of

Christ [*cf.* Lk. 3:23] -- this saying [of three-and-a-half 'times'] would then constitute 105 years -- so that the Turk will still rule another 20 years" at least.

Luther concludes:⁴⁶ "Thus we see what a remarkably great man Daniel was.... He, above all other Prophets, had this special prophecy to give.... He arranges the kingdoms, with their doings [Daniel chapters 2 & 7], down to the fixed time of Christ, in the right succession -- and does it so finely, that one cannot make a mistake about the coming of Christ (unless one does it wilfully as do the Jews).... From that point on till the Last Day, he depicts the condition and state of the Roman Empire and the affairs of the World -- in such a way, that no one can make a mistake about the Last Day [Daniel 12:13] or have it come upon him unawares."

Luther on the fulfilment of Daniel twelve at the Pre-Reformation and the Reformation

It needs to be seen how Luther regarded himself as part of the fulfilment of these predictions in Holy Scripture. Indeed, he believed that the papal Antichrist and also the Islamic false-prophet would both get checked as a result of the Protestant Reformation.

In Daniel 12:5-6, we read that the Prophet Daniel heard an angel ask the pre-incarnate Christ: "**How long** shall it be to the **end** of these wonders?" That is -- how long would it be, after 70 A.D., before the predictions contained in these Holy Scriptures would be **fulfilled**? *Cf.* Daniel 7:19-25 and 8:9-14 with 12:7-12.

In Daniel 12:7, we learn that the pre-incarnate Christ then replied. It would be -- He Himself said -- "for a time, two times, and an half." See too: Revelation 11:2*f.*; 11:9-12; 12:6*f.*; 13:5*f.*

So, 'three and a half times' (or year-days) alias forty-two months (of year-days), here means **1260 years**. Apparently, they start with the Roman destruction of the Jerusalem temple in 70 A.D. -- and they peter out 1260 years later in **1330*f.* A.D.** Daniel 12:1*b*,4,7,11*f.*

It was precisely that year 1330 A.D. when God's powerful **plague** swept through the corrupted 'Christian' World. This plague -- called the 'Black Death' -- raged across from the Mid-East, throughout Boccaccio's papal Italy, and even into Western Europe. That pestilence soon **wiped out perhaps three-quarters⁴⁷ of all Europeans and Asians**.

However, in Daniel 12:7-11 there follows a prediction of an extra three decades from the 1260 till the end of "1290" day-years. Compare Daniel 7:23-25*f.* These three decades are **subsequent** to the 1260 day-years which stretch first from the 70 A.D. Roman destruction of the Jewish temple, and then from the subsequent progressive pollution of the temple of the Christian Church. The three decades thus start with the 'Black Death' of 1330*f.* A.D.

During those subsequent thirty years -- from A.D. 1330 to 1360 -- the Lord would raise up and prepare the Proto-Protestant Reformers. Thus, the great John Wycliffe would then challenge⁴⁸ the centuries-long Romish pollution of the temple of the Christian Church.

The latter had been soiled by the priestcraft of the Papacy. For the Popes had denied complete redemption by the blood of Christ alone. They had gone and erected the blasphemous doctrine of transubstantiation. They had also obscured the completed canon of Holy Scripture. And Dr. John Wycliffe challenged Rome on all of these apostate errors.

In Daniel 12:11 "the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away" seems to refer to the A.D. 70 Roman destruction of the Jerusalem temple. Thereafter, "the abomination that astonishes" would be "set up." This is seen in the later Romish pollutions of the temple of the Church. See: Second Thessalonians 2:3-8.

All of this would last for "a thousand two hundred and ninety days" -- that is, for 1290 year-days after 70 A.D. The 'abomination' would thus continue -- until 1360*f.* A.D. Then Wycliffe would start his Early-

Protestant Reformation against that Roman-Romish desolation. Daniel 12:11. Thus, many would be "purified." Daniel 12:10. For then, the recovered Gospel would ripen -- through Protestantism, and into Puritanism. Daniel 12:12f.

Wycliffe's testimony in England from 1360 A.D. onward, would bear fruit especially in Bohemia. There, it would blossom -- some forty-five years later. Thus, Daniel 12:12 adds: "Blessed is he who waits -- and comes to the thousand three hundred and thirty-five days." That is, blessed is he who comes 1335 year-days after 70 A.D.

So Daniel 12:12 predicts the arrival, in A.D. 1405 -- exactly forty-five years after Wycliffe -- of the further testimony of the Bohemian Wycliffites. These included the Early-Protestant martyrs like John Huss and Jerome of Prague. They, in turn, were the great forerunners of Martin Luther -- and the great Protestant Reformation of 1517f A.D. See: Revelation 11:2-3; 12:13f; 13:5,11f; 14:6-8f; 15:1-4; 16:1,10,13f; 17:8-17; 18:1-4,21; & 19:10-21.

Huss 'the goose' had accurately predicted: "They will roast a 'goose' now; but, after a hundred years, they will hear a 'swan' sing!"⁴⁹ The next year, Huss's colleague Jerome of Prague too was burned -- in 1416. Then, precisely as predicted by Huss, a century later the 'swan' started singing. Martin Luther -- the 'swan' -- launched the Protestant Reformation.

For in 1517, Luther nailed his *Ninety-five Theses* on the doors of Wittenberg Cathedral. Already by January 1518, the Romish controversialist Eck -- in his *Obelisks* -- had branded Luther as a follower of the Bohemian 'heretic' John Huss. Luther soon remarked about Eck: "He vilifies me as a 'heretic' and a Bohemian."⁵⁰

In 1518, Luther wrote to his friend Link: "At the Roman Court, the true Antichrist rules of whom St. Paul speaks." In March 1519, Luther wrote to Spalatin:⁵¹ "**The Pope be Antichrist** himself, or his apostle.... Cruelly is Christ (the Truth) corrupted and crucified by him in his decretals.... **The people of Christ are thus mocked, under the pretence of the laws and name of Christ!**"

The same year, 1519, Eck and Luther were debating one another. Yet later, Luther referred back to that famous *Leipzig Debate*. There Luther wrote that the Romanist "Eck stamped about with much ado..., holding up the Bohemians before me -- and publicly accusing me of the heresy of, and support for, the Bohemian 'heretics.'"

Yet "John Huss and Jerome of Prague were good Christians" and no way heretics -- insisted Dr. Luther. Indeed, they "were burned by **heretics** and **apostates** and **antichristians** -- namely the **Papists**."⁵²

Luther's opponent Eck quickly re-acted. "Martin," he exploded, "many of the things which you adduce -- are heresies of...Wycliffe and Huss!"⁵³

Now Luther's opinions were not, as Eck falsely alleged, 'heresies.' However, they certainly were the views "of...**Wycliffe and Huss**" -- as Eck rightly claimed. Indeed, Luther himself wrote⁵⁴ to Spalatin in February 1520: "**Paul** and **Augustine** are in reality **Hussites!**"

So Luther saw Daniel twelve as predicting the 1260 years' long pollution of the Christian Church, starting in A.D. 70. He saw that as terminating in the Black Death in A.D. 1330, and in the solid preaching of Wycliffe from the Holy Scriptures against the Papacy and its transubstantiation at the end of Daniel twelve's 1290 day-years in A.D. 1360f. He saw Dr. Wycliffe's work as having come to fruition with Huss at the end of Daniel twelve's 1335 day-years in A.D. 1405. And he saw himself as the 'swan' -- publicizing the work of the Wycliffite Huss (the 'goose') a century after his death in A.D. 1415, at the 1517f Protestant Reformation.

Luther's view of predictions regarding Antichrist at the beginning of the New Testament

Next we must go on to note how the great Protestant Reformer Martin Luther saw the Antichrist -- both as Islam and as the Papacy -- as foretold in the New Testament writings, from Matthew to Revelation. And first, as regards the virgin birth of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:18-25.

Said Luther in his *Sermon on Christmas Day* in 1530: "There have been disputations and lectures which dealt with the fact that Christ the Lord, born of Mary, is true man.... But this belief is heard by the Devil too, and **the Turks**, and all the godless among the 'Christians' -- and it is the kind of belief which everybody believes that it is true but would not die for it....

"The Turk too admits that Christ was born of the virgin Mary; that Mary was an immaculate virgin -- and that Christ was more than a man. But the Word of God, as it is given in the Gospel -- he denies.... Yet I fear that **the Turk believes more of this article, than does the Pope**....

"Christ is not only the virgin's Son, but also **the Lord of angels** and the **Saviour of men**. The words, anyone can understand -- anti-sacramentarians, fanatics, sectarians, and Turks. But they do not proceed from the heart; they come only from hearing -- and go no farther than hearing.... Nobody ventures upon it so as to stake goods, life, and honour upon it....

"**We** should know nothing but this message of the angel: 'I bring to you **good news** of **great joy!** For to you is born this day **the Saviour**' [Luke 2:10-11]. This, then, is the faith we preach, of which the Turks and the Pope and all the Sectarians know nothing.

"The [Anabaptist] fanatics do, it is true, snatch to themselves the words of the angels -- but how earnest they are, is plain to see. For they receive the Word only as a piece of paper.... It does not go to the heart. So they receive this greatest of treasures to their great harm, and still think they are Christians...

"**In the Papacy, this message was not preached.... And among the Turks -- the Devil has completely wiped it out.**"⁵⁵

Too, against Rome's notorious misapplication of Matthew 16:16 to the Papacy, Luther thundered back that this can be attributed solely "to the one and only Church built in the Spirit on Christ the Rock -- not on the Pope, nor on the Romish Church.... It is blasphemous to call him a rock who is a 'man of sin' and a servant of the Devil (Second Thessalonians 2:3)....

"That [Romish] Church which is being overwhelmed from the gates of hell, cannot be built upon the Rock. However, **the papal gang** is indeed being overwhelmed by hell. Therefore, the papal gang cannot be the Church built upon the Rock."⁵⁶

Luther on Islam and the Papacy being predicted in Matthew twenty-four

Matthew 24:5 and 24:23-24 were often applied by Luther to the papal prognostications. Said he: "Even in earlier times, Prophets did not deny the Name of the Lord. They came in the Name of the same Lord.

"Thus, here is how Christ Himself portrays them [the false-prophets of the future]: ' There shall arise false christs and false-prophets..., and shall shew great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.... Many shall come in My Name, saying, "I am Christ" - and shall deceive many!' Again, He says: ' If any man shall say unto you, "Lo, here (or ' there') is **Christ** believe it not!' "

Here Martin Luther comments:⁵⁷ "Christ says: ' Many shall come in My Name.' So well was this destruction announced; in these actual words -- about the false-teachers -- ahead of their time. It is not that they would openly do away with the Way of Christ; nor point to another; nor deny the doctrine of the Gospel. They would point to the external appearance of it.

However -- they would present Christ and the Gospel hypocritically. They would highly praise themselves about this. Yet alongside -- as they are now doing -- they would deceitfully introduce difficulties and blockages. Thereby, they would in time extirpate and destroy the Way of the Lord and the Gospel. Thus, they would preserve in their midst nothing more than the mere name and title of Christ and the Gospel."

Martin Luther continues:⁵⁸ "Also under the pretence and Name [of Christ], everything has merrily proceeded from **the Antichrist** which he has indeed dared to attempt. He would have deceived the very elect, if that were possible. As Christ declared (Matthew 24:24): "For there shall arise 'false-christs' and false-prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders. Insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect!"

Luther adds:⁵⁹ "Who was it who said the Pope alone comes in the Name of Christ?" Yet in fact, the Pope "only **pretends** to be the 'Vicar of Christ' -- the Viceroy of God on Earth.... Some have not sufficiently read what Christ has said -- there in Matthew 24:4-5. 'Many shall come **in My Name**'.... They have now made 'one and the same thing' out of the Pope and out of Christ. They gossip that Christ and the Pope are each a [mixed] human being -- and that the pope is not to be separated from Christ.

"O, what a nonsensical blasphemy above all blasphemies is this! The godless and shameless paiderasts, the stranglers, the church-robbers and the bloodthirsty tyrants -- are supposed to be 'mixed' with Christ and to be one with Him? O come, dear Lord Jesus, and at once put an end to them!"

Christ Himself, observes Luther,⁶⁰ "speaks of false-prophecies and [false-]wonders. Also in Matthew 24, He says: 'False-christs and false-prophets shall rise up and do great signs and wonders which, if it were possible, would mislead even the elect unto error.' And St. Paul in Second Thessalonians [speaks] of **the Antichrist** who comes with all kinds of lying-signs and [lying-]wonders and with all kinds of deceit unto unrighteousness *etc.*.... This has occurred powerfully **in the Papacy** -- and **also in Turkey** where such [Moslem] 'clerics' and exceptional 'holy men' are many....

"In the *Koran* of the Turks, I do not regard **Mohammed** as the final Antichrist (*Endechrist*). He is too coarse, and has a recognizable black Devil who can deceive neither faith nor reason. He is like a Heathen who persecutes Christianity from the **outside**, just as did the [Pagan] Romans and other Heathens. For how can one [like Mohammed] who has rejected the Holy Scripture of both the New and Old Testament and who regards Baptism and the Sacrament and the Keys or the forgiveness of sins and the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments and Marriage as nothing, and who vainly teaches murder and immorality -- **deceive** a Christian?"

Says Dr. Martin Luther of **Christendom**: "With us, **the Pope is the real final Antichrist**. He has a high and subtle and beautiful and glistening Devil. He rules **inside Christendom** -- keeps the Holy Scripture, Baptism, the Sacrament, the Keys, Catechism, and Marriage. As St. Paul says [in Second Thessalonians 2]: 'he sits (that is rules) in the Temple of GOD' -- that is, in the **Church** or in **Christendom**. For this he rules masterfully -- and raises his filth, his '*Koran*' and his human doctrines, **above** God's Word among such people who are baptized [*etc.*]....

"This [**papal**] **Devil** does not deceive those who are mischievously misled under Mohammed -- but those who do not willingly wish to be deceived; yes, [among] God's elect in Matthew 24. For he [Rome's Pope] uses these words: God; Christ the Son of God; Holy Spirit; Church; Baptism; Sacrament; and everything which Christians believe and teach and which Mohammed rejects. Yet under such names and apparent offerings of the truth -- he pushes through his '*Koran*'....

"**So too Mohammed**. He brags he did no miracles. But Christ and Paul predicted that the Pope would sit in God's Temple; claim to speak for God; and do many false-signs and wonders....

"Behold how the coarse Devil there [in Islam] and the subtle Devil here [in the Papacy], has trifled with marriage! The coarse undiligent Mohammed takes all wives, yet has none; the chaste Pope takes no wife, but yet has all wives.... He who has no wife, has all wives. He who has all wives, has none. What happens? This is what happens -- the unashamed undiligent Mohammed makes no pretence of chastity,

and (like the whoremonger) takes as many 'wives' as he wishes. Thus he has no marriage and cannot have a marriage and is thus without wife and in no state of matrimony.

"The lily-white, chaste, modest, virtuous 'Holy Father' the **Pope** gives the **semblance** of tender virginity and chastity. He does not desire, with God and with honour, to have a wife. But how many wives does he take besides -- not only whores but also married women and virgins? Behold his Cardinals, Bishops, Convents, Courtesans, Monasteries, Vicars, Priests, Chaplains, Scholars, and his whole Corps! ...

"**The Pope exceeds even Mohammed** by far. For he wishes to launch so much war, murder and bloodshed among the kings; has robbed and stolen and plundered such a large amount of land and people... Mohammed could almost be 'holy' before the World, compared to him!"⁶¹ Yet both, each in his own way, are predicted in Matthew chapter 24.

For, in a sermon on Matthew 24:15-28, Luther further expresses⁶² his view that Islam and the Papacy are but two different legs of the same Antichrist. Indeed, verses 24-26 of that chapter record our Lord Jesus Christ's prediction that "there shall arise **false-christs** [like the **Antichrists** in Rome] and false-prophets" also "in the **desert**" -- just as **Mohammed himself did**.

Luther indeed conceded here that "Mohammed boasts that he performs no miracle." Yet the great Protestant Reformer also added that "the Antichrist will sit in the temple of God" -- as indeed the Moslem Turks have done in *e.g.* the Church of St. Sofia in Constantinople ever since the fifteenth century. "Matthew 24:15,24f" -- and Second Thessalonians 2:4.

So then, to Luther, the Pope in the midst of Christendom is the real Antichrist. Nevertheless, in the **broader** sense, so too is **Islam**.

Luther on the Papacy as the Antichrist of Second Thessalonians two

In his 1546 *Preface to the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians*,⁶³ Dr. Luther explained that, "because of misunderstanding, the [51f A.D.] Thessalonians [mis]understood that the Last Day was already at hand.... In chapter 2, he teaches that before the Last Day, the Roman Empire must first pass away -- and **Antichrist** set himself up as a god in Christendom, and seduce the unbelieving World with false doctrines and signs."

Anent Second Thessalonians 2:3, already in 1520 Luther was declaring⁶⁴ that "**the Pope** can be called the '**man of sin**' O Christ my Lord, look down...and destroy the Devil's nest at Rome! Here sitteth the man of whom St. Paul hath said that he shall exalt himself above Thee, sit[ting] in Thy Church and set[ting] himself up as a god -- the man of sin and the son of perdition! What else is the papal power, than only the teaching and increasing of sin and evil -- the leading of souls to damnation under Thy Name and guise?"

In Second Thessalonians 2:3f, Luther thus found⁶⁵ "the tyranny of the Pope...and all his papists.... They are guilty of all the souls that perish under this miserable captivity.... **The Papacy is of a truth the kingdom of Babylon, yea, of very Antichrist!** For who is ' the man of **si**' and ' the son of perdition' but he that with his doctrines and his laws increases sins and the perdition of souls in the Church, while he sitteth in the Church as if he were a god?"

"All this the papal tyranny has fulfilled, and more than fulfilled, these many centuries. It has extinguished faith, obscured the Sacraments, and oppressed the Gospel. But its own laws -- which are not only impious and sacrilegious, but even barbarous and foolish -- it has enjoined and multiplied, World without end." **Daniel 7:25 & 11:36f.**

Explains Luther:⁶⁶ "St. Paul, writing to the Thessalonians [II Ep. 2:3], calls the Pope a ' man of sin' and ' son of perdition' -- because he permits sin and encourages it, and thereby leads all the World with him to the Devil, by means of his lying deceitful indulgences.... This is the reason why St. Paul calls Antichrist the ' man of sin' and the ' son of perdition' because through his precepts and laws he will turn all the World

away from God.... He shall be a master in sin and all iniquity, and yet he will retain the name and appearance of Christ and call himself *Sanctissimus* and *Vicarius Dei*.

"The Pope has ensnared innumerable souls and led them into hell. He is called the 'man of sin' and 'son of perdition' [Second Thessalonians 2:3], because he has taken the consciences captive and forced them to approve of his injustice and thus filled the World with sin and perdition.... If the Pope had brought about no other calamity than this prohibition of marriage [cf. Dan. 11:36f], it would be sufficient to stamp him as Antichrist who is rightly called the 'man of sin' and 'son of perdition' and 'the abomination' [Second Thessalonians 2:3 & Dan. 9:27]."

On Second Thessalonians 2:4, Dr. Luther insists:⁶⁷ "Behold how the Pope strives to be God! ... St. Paul prophesied of him, 'he will sit and rule in the Church of God and give it out that he is [divine alias] a god' [Second Thessalonians 2:4]."

Even as early as 1522, Dr. Martin Luther wrote:⁶⁸ "St Paul in Second Thessalonians 2 [vs. 8] says of the Pope, '**our Lord Jesus shall consume him with the Spirit of His mouth**'.... You are to make of **your mouth**, such a mouth of the Spirit of Christ as St. Paul speaks of in the text quoted above.... This we will do, if we boldly continue the work already begun -- and by speaking and writing, spread among the people the knowledge of the knavery and deceit of the Pope and his papists -- until he is exposed, known and brought into disrepute throughout the World."

"For **we** must slay him with words; the mouth of Christ must do it. That is the way he is torn out of men's hearts, and his lies become known and despised.... See what effect this one year [1522] of **preaching** and writing this truth has had; how the papists' cover has shrunk both in length and in breadth.... What will the result be, if this mouth of Christ shall consume with His Spirit for two more years? ... Let us be wise, thank God for **His Holy Word**, and be **bold** with **our mouths**! ... Let us keep boldly on, earnestly inculcate the Word, and drive out the laws of men! This is the way Christ is, **through us**, slaying the Papacy."

Now Paul declares in Second Thessalonians 2:9-11 of the Antichrist that his 'coming is after the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying-wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish.... God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.' Martin Luther here remarks⁶⁹ that "this leads to huge errors, with false signs and lying-wonders of the Devil."

Luther adds:⁷⁰ "The Pope has lied about this fundamental doctrine, and the passage of Scripture on which it is based.... What St Paul says of him, is certainly true.... The entrance of Antichrist shall be by the power of the evil spirit -- who enters only by means of lies and false interpretations of Scripture. "There you lie, then, dear Pope! If you can get out of this predicament honestly, and make truth out of lies -- I will admit that you have been made pope by God. **All this is [the Wycliffite] John Huss's work, not Luther's!** As it is written, 'the righteous man that is dead -- shall condemn the ungodly.'" See Hebrews 11:4.

In Second Thessalonians 2:11, Paul says 'God shall send...strong delusion, so that they should believe a lie.' Here, Luther remarked that⁷¹ "a blessed dissension...is the beginning of true faith and of war against false faith.... [The Romish Apologist] Emser thinks this must be prevented by all means, and therefore other and peaceful things ought to be preached. The **Antichrist at Rome** has long desired the same thing.... But St. Paul calls it...a 'working of error' and believing a lie.

"For the sake of such preaching, **John Huss and Jerome of Prague** were burned at the stake in Constance. For their teaching too...caused an uproar!"

Luther on the Romish Antichrist at First Timothy four

In his *Preface to the First Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy*, Luther declares:⁷² "In chapter 4, he [Paul] prophesies about false bishops -- and of the spiritual estate which is **opposed** to that spoken of" in chapters

1 to 3. Such false bishops "will not be persons of that kind -- but instead, will forbid marriage and foods: and with their 'doctrines of men' inculcate the very opposite of the things Paul has described."

In I Tim. 4:1f, Dr. Martin Luther again finds⁷³ the "disciples of **the Pope**." For there, 'the Spirit saith plainly that in the last days many of you shall depart from the faith, holding to erring spirits and devilish doctrines, and teaching lies, and having a scar in their conscience, forbidding marriage and commanding to abstain from food which God hath given for believers to enjoy.'

Observes Dr. Martin Luther: "Behold! Shall not **the Pope** have power to set up doctrines and articles of faith -- when this prophecy of him is so clear that even the spirits that inspire him are expressly mentioned?" Again: "I proved that **the Pope**, in that prohibition, **was an apostle of the Devil**."

Yet again:⁷⁴ "Any priest, monk or nun who cannot restrain the desires of the flesh -- should get married.... You must rest upon a strong and clear text of Scripture, if you would stand the test.... The priests who have taken wives, and the nuns who have taken husbands, in order to save their consciences -- must stand squarely upon a clear text of Scripture, such as this one by St. Paul (I Tim. 4:1f).... I say what God has made free, shall remain free.... You must not obey if someone forbids it -- even as **the Pope** has done, **the Antichrist!**" Cf. Daniel 7:25 & 11:36f.

Once more:⁷⁵ "You should answer St. Paul -- when in First Timothy 4 he speaks not as man but expressly as God, and says outright: forbidding to marry, is a doctrine of the Devil.... **The Pope is found to be clearly the Devil's apostle** in this prohibition of marriage....

"This is not my counsel, but St. Paul himself is most vigorous here, and condemns all these things when he says such teaching is the teaching of the Devil and not of God.... It must follow, that all bishops and priests who obey this command of the Pope, are likewise the messengers and helps of the **Devil**. Thus it is clearly proved that **the Papacy** and its whole priesthood **is the kingdom of the Devil and the rule of Antichrist**."

Finally, Dr. Martin Luther observes:⁷⁶ "It is written that the high-priest shall not take a widow or a divorced woman, but shall wed a virgin (Leviticus 21:14). Why do they not give the Pope a virgin to wed, so that the type may be fulfilled? Nay, why does the Pope forbid matrimony to the whole priesthood: not only contrary to the Old Testament type but also in opposition to God and against right, reason, and nature?"

The Pope, concluded Luther, "has caused Christendom to be filled with whores, sinners and guilty consciences, as St. Paul said of him, First Timothy 4.... Does Paul herein not hit the Roman laws which forbid the priesthood to marry and command all Christians to abstain from butter, eggs, milk and meats on certain days -- while God Himself has left it to the free choice of Christians in every estate to eat or to marry as they desire? ... Yea, where is the Pope the successor of St. Peter -- who was married, as was St. Paul, and all the Apostles?" See: First Corinthians 7:2,8,39 & 9:5.

Luther on Islam but especially the Romish Antichrist at First Peter three

Luther next looks at the very important passage Second Peter 2:1-3f. He reminds his readers that Peter himself predicted: "There were false-prophets also among the people [of Israel], even as there shall be false-teachers among **you** [Christians] -- who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies.'

Here, Luther concedes that the false-prophets include those of **Islam**, with **Mohammed** himself as **the** false-prophet *par excellence*. Yet Luther also argues even more vociferously that here the false-teachers are the **Romish bishops and priests** - and that **the Pope** is **the** false-teacher *par excellence*.

Explains Martin Luther⁷⁷ regarding the Apostle Paul: "Observe, he had already said they would introduce the 'son of perdition' [Second Thessalonians 2:3] -- 'even denying the Lord that bought them'.... Here, **Peter touches the papal authority** -- together with the stands of **bishops!**"

Continued Luther: "**One might have thought the Prophet Daniel [8:23f] was...talking about the Turks** [alias the Muslims]...if Peter...taught us of what kingdom we should understand the Prophet [Daniel 8:23f]. Namely, only of that which pushes up from **within** the people of God -- and of those who sit **[with]in the stead of teachers and bishops**.... One cannot attribute these things to **the Turks** [or the Muslims], who have **cast away** both baptism and **the Gospel**."

Here, it is clear that **Luther still saw a striking similarity between Islam and Romanism**. Yet the fact remains, he regarded this particular passage as predicting the rise especially of Romanism (and particularly of the Papacy and all of its false-teachers).

Explains Luther: "St. Peter says: 'Among **you too** [viz. among those in the visible Christian Church to whom Peter was writing] there shall be false-teachers' [Second Peter 2:1].... These words only apply inasmuch as we are under the **Romish Babylon**....

"He says: 'There shall be **false-teachers**'.... He says: 'They shall bring in' (for in the Greek we read *pareisaxousin*) -- that is, **alongside** of the Christian Doctrine.... Not that they deny the Gospel -- but alongside the sayings of the Gospel they invent **additions**, glosses, and statutes!"

Luther goes on:⁷⁸ "The Apostle [Second Peter 2:1] says not merely that the false-teachers 'shall **deny** the Lord.' He adds, 'Who bought them'.... Namely, [they deny the Lord] in the doctrine of **justification**.... Christ has secured and bought us through His blood.... Only through faith in Him are we justified and just, before God. Rom. 3:24-25.

"Yet this uncountable [Romish] mixture of spiritual orders and works and sects [Second Peter 2:1f] -- attempts by its own effort to follow God sufficiently, and to deserve the Kingdom of God.... It indeed professes Christ in words, but denies Him with the works.... **How boldly and well the papal church now fulfils this prophecy -- down to the present day!**"

Writing to true Christians in all ages (Second Peter 2:1f), in Second Peter 2:1-3 the Apostle Peter warns them against the later Romish sect which will arise even in **their** midst. "There **shall be false-teachers** among **you**.... Through covetousness, they shall with feigned [or deceptive] words make merchandise of you.'

Observes Dr. Luther⁷⁹ by way of contrast: "Compare them, the Holy Church of Christ -- and the crazy church of the Pope! ... Is it not true that the Pope seeks none other with his Papacy than the money and wealth of the World -- and concerns himself not at all with the Gospel and faith?"

Explains Dr. Luther:⁸⁰ "At Rome, it is sufficient that words are changed -- and not the things they stand for. As though I were to teach that a bawdy-house keeper [alias a brothel-owner] should have the name of a burgomaster's wife -- and yet continue to ply her trade! This kind of **Roman rule**, St. Peter foretold -- when he said, in Second Peter 2: 'There shall come false-teachers, who in covetousness, with feigned words, shall make merchandise of you, to get their gains'.... All the comfort of **the Papists** rests upon their practices....

"For this reason, St. Peter calls the [papal] 'orders' abominable and damnable heresies which deny Christ -- when he says, in the Second Epistle, 2:1, 'There shall arise among you false-teachers who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies'.... **Who then can with a good conscience be a monk or a priest, or be subject to the Pope?**....

"So then, the 'orders' and **monastic houses** are **damnable heresies**. Why? Because they deny Christ, and blaspheme the way of faith."

Luther also explains⁸¹ that "the holy Apostle Peter (II Ep. 2:3f)...portrays for us **the Papacy** with all colours.... He has announced that the **false-prophets** will come and **make merchandise of Christ's people** through covetousness and with feigned words and thus bring in [many] damnable heresies.... **Who**

does not see that **the Papists** chiefly walk ahead of all other men 'according to **the flesh**, in the lust of uncleanness' [Second Peter 2:10a]?"

"The clergy has become a large group, and yet the marital state has been forbidden to them.... They 'despise government' [Second Peter 2:10b]. Who does this, apart from **the Papacy** and its **papistic chief** [viz. the Pope himself]?"

"**The Pope** [allegedly] 'excels the emperor in spiritual rights, as far as the sun does the moon' Behold, that is what St. Peter means [v. 10c] -- when he says 'they are self-willed' and 'not afraid to speak evil of dignities.'" Second Peter 2:15f predicts that these future false-teachers would 'have forsaken the right way and have gone astray, following the way of Balaam...who [apostately] loved the wages of unrighteousness'....

They too, insisted Luther,⁸² are "apostates and 'cursed children' [v. 14] -- just like those apostates [such as Balaam] who advised the Moabites, and who pitifully wasted Israel through Baal-Peor [Numbers chapter 25]. That history -- St. Peter here indeed applies to **the Bishops**...who live in all **lust** with their '**Midianitic**' whores!"

"These are wells without water' [Second Peter 2:17]. For they indeed have the appearance and the **name that they are shepherds**. However, the work and the office is far away from them -- as when the Prophet Zechariah (11:17) says, 'Woe to the **idol-shepherd**'....

"They are 'the servants of corruption' [Second Peter 2:19].... They spread their damnable works; their brotherhoods and indulgences are pure death and Devil.... Everything in **the papal Empire** destroys faith!"

Luther on Mohammad and Islam together with the Romish Antichrist in First John

In his *Lectures on First John* (2:18 & 4:3), Luther states⁸³ that "**the true Antichrist**...opposes the whole Christ; and he is the head of all, as **the Papacy** is.... Justification through Christ gradually came to be regarded as worthless [by the Papacy], and the Antichrist appeared. Now he is sitting in the holy place (cf. Second Thessalonians 2:4)....

"No one has filled the ranks of the Antichrist so craftily and so astutely as **the Pope** has done.... **The kingdom of the Pope...grew gradually** (cf. too Daniel 7:7-25 & 8:23-25 & 12:7-11), until the Pope exalted himself above the Kingdom of Christ....

"In that [papal] place, one finds **the unadulterated kingdom of Antichrist**.... 'He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god,' as Second Thessalonians 2:4 says.... The **Antichrist** himself is **already** present in the World" -- viz., even in the time of Dr. Martin Luther himself.

Luther adds:⁸⁴ "I know, however, and am certain -- that our Lord Jesus Christ still lives and reigns. In that knowledge and with that comfort **I therefore defy and shall not fear even a thousand Popes**. 'For **greater is He Who is in you** -- than he that is in the World!' [First John 4:4.]"

First John 2:22 broadly declares: "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He who denies the Father and the Son, is Antichrist."

Very significantly, there is no **Fatherhood** of God in the Moslems' *Allah*. Indeed, Islam denies also that Jesus Christ is the **Son** of God.

As Dr. Martin Luther comments on this verse: "What [the Judaistic] Ebion began, **Mohammed** continued. Thus, all the throngs of heretics...rise up against Christ.... But to John, they are all liars.... **Mohammed** came and **led nearly the whole World in the East astray** and away **from Christ**."⁸⁵ Indeed, one sees that

“**Jews, Turks, and the Pope** -- who despite this Son of God with His sufficiency, death, and resurrection and propose to come to God in a different way -- [all] **stand condemned**.”⁸⁶

“**The Turks** too were condemned. They teach...God **committed the rule to Mohammed**. He was to govern people with the sword. **Thus they entirely abolished Christ**.”⁸⁷

Luther on the Romish Papacy in the Epistle of Jude

"Jude too speaks of these things in his epistle," explained Luther.⁸⁸ For "he agrees with Peter, and goes further, saying: 'Likewise also these filthy dreamers...defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities' [Jude 8].

Indeed, a little earlier above (v. 4), he says: 'There are certain men crept in unawares, who were beforehand, from of old, ordained to this condemnation -- ungodly men turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ!'" Here again, Luther saw predictions about the Papacy.

Luther on Mohammad, Islam and the papal Antichrist in the Book of Revelation

The **Unitarian Jews** and Moslems, explains the Trinitarian Luther,⁸⁹ are wrong. "The Jews are condemned. They would **charge God with a lie**, and say that **Christ has not come**....

"Also **the Turks** too are condemned. They teach: first God sent Moses; then David came, and Moses ceased; David lasted until Jesus came; then David's doctrine ceased. The teaching of Jesus lasted until the people became wicked. Then God committed the rule to **Mohammed**. He was to govern people with the sword. Thus **they entirely abolish Christ**....

"Turks and Jews boast much of God -- and profess to have a better faith than we Christians.... Christ, however, here concludes: 'he who hates Me, hates My Father' [*cf.* John 15:23f]. Now **since Turks and Jews hate Christ**, and persecute His Word -- **they certainly also hate the [true Triune] God [Elohiym] Who has created Heaven and Earth**. They do not believe in Him, and do not honour Him. For Christ is one and the same God....

"It is true of course, that there always have been different people who have lived in different ways. But the teaching has been one and the same from the beginning of the World, and shall remain so until the end of the World.... Therefore there has at all times been one and the same Christ -- a **Christ** Who is in the past, present, and future time. Thus **Revelation (1:8)** says of Him that **He is the One 'Who is and Who was and Who [always is] to come'**" alias Who always **shall be**.

To Luther, just like the Book of Daniel, also John's Book of Revelation is to be interpreted neither preteristically nor futuristically -- but rather **historicalistically**. Dr. Luther explains in his *Preface to the Revelation of Saint John*⁹⁰ that "this Book...is intended as a revelation of things that are **to happen in the future** [after John's own day] and especially of tribulations and disasters for the **Church**....

"The first and **surest** step toward finding its **interpretation**, is to take from **history** the events and disasters that have come upon the Church before now, and hold them up alongside of all these pictures [given in the Book of Revelation].... If, then, the two were to fit and agree with each other -- we could build on that, as a sure or at least as an unobjectionable interpretation."

Luther on Mohammad and Islam in Revelation chapters six to nine

Explains Rev. Dr. Martin Luther: "The first three chapters...have no other purpose than...to show how...congregations arose...and how they are exhorted to abide and increase or reform.... In chapters 4 and 5, there is a picture of the whole Church that is to suffer these future tribulations and plagues....

"In chapter six, the **future** tribulations begin.... In chapters seven and eight begins the revelations of the spiritual tribulations, *i.e.*, all kinds of **heresies**.... It is certain that, even under heretics, the Church will have good angels [alias good messengers] and the pure Word.... These good angels [or messengers] are the holy Fathers, like...**Athanasius** [the **Anti-Arian** Trinitarian], Hilary, the Nicene Council, *etc.*"

After John foresaw the fifth angel sound his trumpet, John recorded, "I saw a star fall from the sky...and **he opened the bottomless pit**. And there arose a smoke out of the pit.... And out of the smoke, **locusts came upon the Earth**.... And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the Earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree, but only those who do not have the seal of God upon their foreheads.... Then the sixth angel sounded [his trumpet]. And I heard a voice...**Loosen** the four angels which are bound in **the great river Euphrates!**" Then the four angels were unleashed...**to slay the third part of men.**" Revelation 9:1-13f.

Dr. Luther explains⁹¹ that "in chapters 9 and 10 the real misery begins." In Revelation 9:1-11 "is **Arius**, the great heretic and his companions who plagued the Church so terribly everywhere" -- and who was the **unitarian** forerunner also of the equally-unitarian Islam. In Revelation 9:12-13, "the second woe is...the shameful **Mohammed** with his companions the **Saracens**, who **inflicted a great plague on the Church** -- with their doctrines and with the sword."

Luther on the papal Antichrist in Revelation chapters ten to thirteen

In Revelation 10:1f, "**along with this**..., comes...the 'holy' **Papacy** -- with its great spiritual show, **the Mass**." Indeed, in Revelation 11:7, 'the beast' from the 'pit' is, he insists, "**the worldly Pope**."⁹²

In Revelation 12:7-9, continues Luther,⁹³ "the Prince of this war -- called **Michael** -- is and can be none other than our **Lord Jesus Christ**.... Daniel 3:25 [& 12:1f].... Therefore **together with His Church**, Christ must offer resistance and **battle against** the army of the hellish dragon, **the Pope, the Turks, Jews, and the destructive gangs** [such as the Anabaptists] -- so that the faith and profession of Christ[ianity] may remain pure."

Revelation chapter 13 describes what Luther calls⁹⁴ "**the papal Empire and the imperial Papacy**. Here the Papacy gets the temporal sword also into its power and rules not only with the book ...but also with the sword.... For they boast that the Pope has both the spiritual and the temporal sword in his power.

"Here, then, are the **two beasts**. **The one** is the Empire; the other, **with the two horns**, [is] the **Papacy** -- which has now become a temporal kingdom yet with the reputation and name of Christ. For the Pope restored the fallen Roman Empire." Revelation 13:14 "is an **image** of the Roman Empire, rather than the body of the Empire as it once was. Nevertheless he [the Pope] puts spirit and life into this image -- so that it has its classes and laws and members and offices, and actually operates....

"The abominations, woes, and injuries which this imperial Papacy has wrought, cannot now be told.... The World has been filled with all kinds of idolatry -- monasteries, foundations, saints, pilgrimages, purgatory, indulgences, celibacy and innumerable other creations of human doctrine and works.... Who can tell how much bloodshed, slaughter, war and misery **the Popes** [plural!] have wrought both by fighting themselves and stirring up the emperors, kings and princes against one another?"

Luther elaborates⁹⁵ on Revelation 13:7 and 13:14 that "**the Kingdom of Antichrist** is...described in the Revelation of John where it is said...it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them'.... We must...understand this of **the Pope's abominations** and tyranny in temporal respects....

"The Pope is the last blaze in the lamp which will go out.... When he is struck with God's Word -- then the Pope is turned to a poppy and a frothy flower!"

In Revelation 13:11, we read that the second Roman beast -- the Church of the Popes -- 'had two horns like a lamb, but he spake like a dragon.' Observes Rev. Dr. Martin Luther in his *Answer to Emser*:⁹⁶ "If **the Pope** had not his large following and the outward show of sanctity, he could not be **the Antichrist**.... The donkey's ears stick out. He neglects God's Word, does not preach it, and is satisfied when his own teachings are preached. The bird is recognized by its song. Like the beast John saw in the Apocalypse which had two horns like a lamb but a voice like a dragon -- so the papal hosts look like Christians, but they preach like Satan!"

Luther's predictive view of Islam and the Papacy from the sixteenth century onwards

The **sixteenth-century** Dr. Martin Luther then gives a brief survey of the further events **yet** to happen **from his own time onwards** -- as predicted by John in chapters 13 to 20 of Revelation.

Continues Luther:⁹⁷ "Here now the Devil's final wrath gets to work. There, in the east -- the second woe: **Mohammed and the Saracens**. Here, in the west -- **Papacy and Empire**: with the third woe! To these is added, for good measure, **the Turk** -- Gog and Magog -- as will follow in chapter 20....

"The Roman Empire, left in the lurch by the Greeks, is conveyed by the Pope...[who] accepted Charlemagne (Revelation 13:2).... **The Pope** re-erects the Empire (13:11).... 'His number is six hundred and sixty-six' (13:18).

"These are **666 years**. Thus long does the worldly Papacy stand." From 666 A.D., right after the Synod of Whitby (which rejected Proto-Protestantism for Papal Romanism, after the time of the A.D. 600 Gregory the Great -- in the days of the Italian Pope Vitalian. Indeed, the next 666 years noted by Luther, would last till the 1332f Black Death and Wycliffe.

Luther on the Reformation and Islam and the Papacy in Revelation chapters 14 to 16

In Revelation 14:6-8, the inspired John seems to be predicting the arrival of the fourteenth-century **Pre-Reformation** -- to be followed by the sixteenth-century **Protestant Reformation**. For there he writes: "I saw another angel [or **messenger**] fly in the midst of the sky -- having **the everlasting Gospel**, to **preach** to them who dwell on the Earth and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people.... And there followed another angel [or **messenger**], saying: '**Babylon, that great city, falls** -- falls **thoroughly!**'"

Luther observes: "In [Revelation] chapter 14, **Christ** first begins to **slay His Antichrist** with the **Breath of His Mouth** [or the Spirit of God's Word], as Paul says in Second Thessalonians 2.... The angel [or the **messenger**] with the **Gospel** comes.... The **saints**...stand again around the Lamb, and **preach the truth**" -- as, from A.D. 1330-60f, did **Wycliffe** and his successors like the Lollards John Purvey, Nicholas of Hereford, John Oldcastle, Jerome of Prague and Jan Huss.

"**Huss**," explains Luther, "was saved in his person, for he died in the Lord [Revelation 14:13].... The **harvest shall** come -- and **those who cleave to the Papacy against the Gospel**, shall be **cast out of the City of Christ** [alias the True Church] into **the wine-press of God's wrath** [14:18-20]."

God then predicted to John, and told that Apostle to write it down for the Church of all ages: "**All nations shall come and worship**.... But [**first**, faithless] men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the Name of God Who has power over these plagues; but they did not repent to give Him glory!

"So the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the **seat of the beast** [apparently meaning the **Vatican in Rome**], and his kingdom became full of darkness.... Then the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the **great river Euphrates**; and its water became dried up, so that the way of **the kings of the East** [apparently meaning **the Turks**] might be prepared.

“Then I saw three unclean spirits like frog coming out of the mouth of the **dragon**, and out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the **false-prophet** [apparently meaning Mohammad and his Islam]. For they are the spirits of demons, working [false-]miracles, which go forth to the kings of the Earth and of the whole World - to gather them to the battle of that great Day of God Almighty.” Revelation 15:4 & 16:9-14.

Luther observes:⁹⁸ "In chapters 15 and 16 come the seven angels with the seven bowls" containing the **seven plagues**. Compare here the 1334-83 **'Black Death'** and accompanying plagues.

“**The Gospel increases**, and attacks the Papacy on all sides by means of many learned and pious **preachers**.... The **throne of the Beast, the Pope's power, becomes dark and wretched and despised**.... Three frogs, three unclean spirits, go forth from the mouth of the beast -- and stir up kings and princes against the Gospel.... The frogs are the sophists, like Faber and Eck and Emser. They croak much against the Gospel -- but accomplish nothing, and continue to be frogs."

Even as early as 1520, Rev. Dr. Luther was already denouncing specifically the Pope. Said the Reformer: "The Roman authority and fellowship is a bodily thing, and can be seen by any one.... The **Pope...is the real Antichrist of whom all the Scriptures speak**."

Luther on Mohammad, Islam & the papal Antichrist in Revelation chapters 17 to 20

Referring specifically to Revelation 17:4, Dr. Luther then adds: "You do -- you **scarlet whore** of Babylon, as St. John calls you -- make of our faith a mockery for all the World.... At **Rome**, they think of nothing but to continue in their madness and to increase the abounding misery!"⁹⁹

In 1521, when the papal bull condemned Dr. Luther's *Forty-one Articles*, the Reformer replied against papal indulgences. Referring there to Revelation 17:8, Martin Luther remarked: "That is a doctrine that has never been heard before. Even the Pope himself has never heard of it. The old dragon out of the abyss of hell is speaking in this bull...."

"In chapter 17," explains Dr. Martin Luther, "the **imperial Papacy** and **papal Empire** is included from beginning to end, in a single picture.... It is shown, as in a summing up, how it is **nothing**.... The **Ancient Roman Empire is long since gone**.... Some of its lands -- and the **city of Rome** besides -- are **still here**.... This **Beast too is shortly to be damned** -- and 'brought to nought by the manifestation of the Lord's coming' [**through powerful preaching** alias through the **Spirit or Breath of His mouth**] as Saint Paul says in Second Thessalonians 2."

Luther explains¹⁰⁰ that '**the great whore**' of Revelation 17 is '**the Romish Church**.... The **Roman Empire** 'was, and is not, and yet is' (17:8) -- for it has, after its fall, been **re-erected by the Pope**. In 17:11, 'the beast that was' -- is "Rome."

In Revelation 17:12, "the 'ten kings' are the other kings [or king-doms] - like Hungary, Bohemia, Poland, France." In 17:16 -- 'the ten horns...shall hate the whore' -- that is, "the Pope's protectors become his assailants."

"In chapter 18," explains Luther,¹⁰¹ "this destruction begins and the glorious great splendour comes to nought.... Even **Rome** must be plundered and stormed.... [True,] they encourage and arm and defend themselves." But all to no avail. For, concludes Luther,¹⁰² in the words of Rev. 18:2 -- 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen [completely].' We have "the joyous outcry -- at **the fall of the Pope!**"

Luther explains¹⁰³ that "in chapter 19, "when they can do nothing more with the Scriptures...and the **[unclean] frogs have croaked their last** (cf. Revelation 16:13 to 18:2f), they [*viz.* all those who futilely attempt to resist the advance of the **Kingdom of Christ**]...try to win by force and gather kings and princes for battle. But they are disappointed. **The One on the white horse wins** -- until both [**Romish Beast and [False-]Prophet** are seized and cast into hell!"]

It should be observed, Luther adds¹⁰⁴ in a marginal note at Revelation 20:2-3, that "the Turks only came [toward Europe from Central Asia] -- after a thousand years [when crossing the Euphrates some time after 1000 A.D.].... But **now** [namely when Dr. Luther was writing these words in the sixteenth century], **the Turk wants to help the Pope**, and to **eradicate the Christians**" (meaning the Bible-believing and Christ-loving Protestants).

Rev. Dr. Luther concludes:¹⁰⁵ "While all this is happening, there comes in chapter 20 (vv. 7-10) the stirrup-cup" alias the final draught of the wine of the wrath of God. "Satan...brings up -- **Gog and Magog; the Turks** [alias the **Muslims**]; the **'Red Jews'** [*cf.* the **Communists**?!].... But they are soon to go with him, into the lake of fire."

"**This picture...has been put in because of the Turks**.... The thousand years are to begin.... After the Turks, the Last Judgment follows quickly -- at the end of this chapter [20:11-15], as Daniel 7 [vv. 7-8 *cf.* 12:13] also shows."

Luther's final summary of the Church's victory over the Papacy and Islam in Revelation

To the Apostle John, Christ's Book of Revelation (22:16-20) then concludes: 'I, Jesus, testify to every man who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: "If any man shall add to these things, God shall add to him the plagues written about in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his 'part' from the tree of life!"'

Here is how Luther concludes his treatment of the book of Revelation:¹⁰⁶ "We can profit by this Book.... We can know that neither force nor lies neither wisdom nor holiness, neither tribulation nor suffering, shall suppress **the Church**. But it **will gain the victory**, and overcome at last.... Great and perilous and manifold offences come upon the Church.... This has happened before now, under the **Papacy and Mohammed**.... Our time is a **golden age, compared with those that have gone before**....

"If only **the Word** of the Gospel remains pure among us, and we love and cherish it -- **we are not to doubt that Christ is with us**, even when things are at their worst. For we see in this book that, through and above all plagues and beasts and bad angels -- Christ is with His saints, **and wins the victory!**"

Luther's opposition to Islam and the Papacy during 1520

Strengthened by the above **optimistic eschatology** to continue fighting for the advance here on Earth of the Kingdom of the Christ of Scripture, Dr. Luther often pointed out that both Pope and Islam had risen to power at the beginning of the seventh century. Thereafter, both expanded -- and consolidated their antichristian strangleholds.

The Romish Papacy had rejected the Pre-Reformation of the Wycliffite Huss at the beginning of the fifteenth century. Thereafter, Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, fell to the Moslems in 1453. And by 1460^f, Islam had overrun Bosnia, Herzegovina and Serbia.

Three years after the start of the Protestant Reformation in 1517, the Muslim Leader Suleiman the Magnificent seemed set to enslave the whole of Europe to Islam in 1521^f. By 1529, the Muslim Turks were approaching Vienna. By the time Martin Luther died in 1546, the Pope controlled the Western Roman Empire -- and the Moslems controlled the Eastern Roman Empire.

Nevertheless, because Luther believed from Holy Scripture in **Christian victory during history** - he **pro-tested!** Starting especially in 1520, he recorded a number of great treatises. After his April *Sermon on the Mass*; and his May *Treatise on Good Works*; and also his *On the Papacy in Rome*, in June - in August, there appeared his fiery epistle titled *An Open Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*.

In his *Treatise on Good Works*, Dr. Luther truthfully complained: "O God, how blind -- nay, how insane -- we Christians have become!... If **the Turk** destroys cities, country and people; and ruins churches -- we think a great injury has been done Christendom. Then we complain -- and urge kings and princes to war. But when faith perishes, love grows cold, God's Word is neglected and all manner of sin flourishes -- then, no one thinks of fighting....

"Pope, bishops, priests and clergy...are themselves the very princes and leaders of such 'Turks' and of the devil[ish] host -- just as **Judas** was the leader of the Jews when they took Christ.... Must Christendom be laid waste by no others than those who ought to protect it, and yet are so insane that they are **ready to eat up the Turk?**"¹⁰⁷

In his *Open Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*, Luther wrote:¹⁰⁸ "Paul says in Second Thessalonians 2 [vv. 9f] that Antichrist shall, through the power of Satan, be mighty in lying-wonders.... Whatever does aught against Christ, is the power of Antichrist and of the Devil -- even though it were to rain and hail wonders....

"The Scriptures prophesy false-wonders. Therefore we must cling with firm faith to the words of God.... Then the Devil will cease from wonders. Thus I hope that the false [and] lying terror with which **the Romans** have this long time made our conscience timid and stupid, has been allayed.... They **are in truth the communion of Antichrist and of the Devil** -- and have nothing at all of Christ, except the name."

Luther then went on to say:¹⁰⁹ "It is high time that we seriously and honestly consider the case of the [**Wycliffite**] **Bohemians**, and **come into union with them**.... We must honestly confess the truth" -- and "stop justifying ourselves."

We must "grant the Bohemians that John Huss and Jerome of Prague were burned at Constance -- in violation of the papal...safe-conduct and oath. Thereby God's Commandment was transgressed -- and the Bohemians were given ample cause for bitterness....

"The Pope and his followers are still more to blame for all the trouble, error, and loss of souls that have followed.... I have no desire to pass judgment at this time upon **the articles of John Huss**.... **I have not yet found any errors in his writings.**"

Finally, Luther declared:¹¹⁰ "**The canon law had arisen in the Devil's name. Let it fall in the Name of God!** ... **The Turks...have** neither spiritual nor temporal law, but **only their Koran**....

"There is no doubt that the true **Roman Empire** which the writings of the Prophets foretold in Numbers 24[:24] and in Daniel [11:30f], has long since been **overthrown**.... That was brought to pass...especially when the '**Turkish**' [**Mohammadan**] **Empire** arose almost a thousand years ago."

Luther also held **Romanism** largely responsible for antagonising the Moslems through the papal 'Saracen taxes' levied on Christians to promote such inter-religious warfare. "The cardinals must have the income!" -- Luther cynically commented.¹¹¹ "No Turk could have so 'devastated' Italy and suppressed the worship of God. Now that Italy is sucked dry, they come into Germany."

To remedy the situation, Luther called for the eradication of Romanism. "It were well if the canon law, from the first letter to the last, and especially the decretals, were utterly blotted out. The Bible contains more than enough directions for all our living -- and so, the study of the canon law only stands in the way of the study of the Holy Scriptures."

Luther also insisted¹¹² that "neither Pope nor Bishop nor any other man has the right to impose a single syllable of [canon] law upon a Christian man." For **the Pope** had resolved to "deal with us far **worse than the Turk** -- in opposition to the Word of the Apostle."

Also in August 1520, Dr. Luther penned a letter to his three friends - Staupitz, Lang and Link.¹¹³ "We here," he informed them, "are of the conviction that **the Papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist**.... Personally, I declare that I owe the Pope -- no other obedience than that to Antichrist!"

In October 1520, Dr. Luther published another great treatise -- *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*. There, he roundly remarked: "**The Papacy is the kingdom of Babylon** and the power of Nimrod the mighty hunter. Genesis 10:9f [cf. 11:1-9, and Revelation 17:5-18 & 18:2-21].... The Papacy is in truth nothing else than the kingdom of Babylon and of **very Antichrist**.... I shall be called -- a Wycliffite!"

Finally, together with yet a further important treatise -- *Concerning Christian Liberty* -- Luther sent a cover letter to the Pope. There, Luther stated in 1520: "**the Roman Court surpasses that of Turkey in wickedness**.... It is **the very jaw of hell!**"

Already in June 1520, the Pope had issued a bull condemning Martin Luther. In December, the latter burned it. Then Luther published his treatise *Why the Books of the Pope and His Disciples Were Burned by Dr. Martin Luther*. There, he insisted that "whosoever was the author of this bull [-- viz. the Pope] -- **he is very Antichrist!**"¹¹⁴

Luther's opposition to Islam and the Papacy during 1521-25

Understandably, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther here upset the Pope. In a papal bull, the Pontiff formally excommunicated Luther -- in 1521. He sought to deflect Luther's just criticism of the Pope' own unwise stirring up of hostilities against the Moslems. So the Pontiff then falsely accused the great Reformer of advising against opposing the Turks.¹¹⁵

The Reformer soon responded. "God," explained Luther,¹¹⁶ "is punishing our sins -- by means of **the Turks**.... The Pope has...long time baited us with the war against the Turks....

"I set up this...not meaning to say that we are not to make war against the Turk -- as that 'holy' heresy-hunter **the Pope** here charges me -- but to say that we should first make ourselves better, and cause God to be gracious to us!" In other words, Christians first needed to re-repent -- before then resisting the advance of Islam.

Yet Luther was full of **confidence that Christianity would yet convert the Muslims**. In 1524, he wrote in a Mission Hymn¹¹⁷ based on Psalm 67:

“May God bestow on us His grace
with blessings rich provide us!
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us!
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
and also **to the Heathen show
Christ's riches** without measure,
And unto God convert them!

Thine over all shall be the praise
and **thanks of ev'ry nation**.
Then all the World with joy shall raise
the voice of exaltation...
May God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit bless us!
Let all the World praise Him alone!
Let solemn awe possess us!
Now let our hearts say '**Amen!**'”

Dr. Luther's 1525 *Defence and Explanation of all the Articles*, is especially significant. There, he praised Huss and Bohemia's Hussites. "The Bohemians who receive" communion in both kinds -- said Luther¹¹⁸ - "are neither heretics nor schismatics.... Now you lie prostrate, o Pope.... But all this is not Luther's work. The credit belongs to John Huss!"

"How much the Pope would like to be a god," Luther continues.¹¹⁹ However, "then our God would be 'banished' -- and could do nothing but the will of the Pope! This is what happened in the days of John Huss. In those days, the Pope commanded the angels in Heaven -- to lead to Heaven the souls of those pilgrims who died on the way to Rome.

"John Huss objected to this horrible blasphemy.... That protest cost him his life -- but he at least **caused the Pope to change his tune!**"

"All the articles of John Huss condemned at Constance" in 1414, continues Luther, "are altogether Christian.... **The Pope and his followers acted in this matter like the true Antichrist**.... John [Huss] did not go far enough -- and only began to present the Gospel. I have done five times as much -- yet I fear that I am doing too little!"

Luther continued:¹²⁰ "As far as the [**papal**] '**decretals**' are concerned, I do not [only] say that they are 'apocryphal.'" For "I do not [just] say they are...things it is not necessary to believe, as John **Wycliffe** said." In fact, "they are unchristian, **antichristian**, and written by the inspiration of the evil spirit!"

Luther's opposition to Islam and the Papacy during 1526-29

In 1526, after their victory over Hungary at the Battle of Mohacs, the Muslims settled in Romania. There, they not only built mosques -- but also tried to turn Hungary into a province of Turkey.

In September 1529, the Moslem Turks attacked the very walls of Vienna. This prompted Luther to write his tract: *War Against the Turk* alias Islam. At the outset, he explains why he did so.¹²¹

"Certain persons have been begging me for the past five years to write about war against the Turks and encourage our people and stir them up to it.... Now that the Turk is actually approaching, my friends are compelling me to do this duty....

"The Popes had never seriously intended to make war on the Turk -- but used the Turkish War as a conjurer's hat, playing around in it and robbing Germany of money by means of indulgences.... It did not please me either that the Christians and the Princes were driven, urged and irritated into attacking the Turk and making war on him -- **before** they amended their own ways and lived like true Christians....

"I say this, not because I would teach that **worldly rulers ought not...to be Christians**, or that a Christian cannot bear the sword and serve God in temporal government. **Would God that they were all Christians -- or that no one could be a Prince unless he were a Christian!** Things would be better than they now are; and the Turk would not be so powerful....

"Enquire of experience, how well we have succeeded hitherto with the Turkish War. We have fought as 'Christians' until we have lost Rhodos [1522] -- and almost all of Hungary [1525], and much German land besides....

"It seems as though God were mocking our *diets* [or parliaments], and letting the Devil hinder them and get the better of them. Until the Turk comes ravaging on at his leisure -- and ruins Germany without trouble and without resistance.

“Why does this happen? Because Pope Leo condemned my article.... Because the Papists reject it, arbitrarily and without Scripture -- the Turk must take its part, and prove it with the fist and with deeds. **If we will not learn from the Scriptures -- then we must learn from the scabbard of the Turk....**

Luther's opposition to Islam and the Papacy during 1526-29 (continued)

“It is certain that the Turk has no right or command to begin war and to attack lands that are not his. Therefore his war is nothing else than outrage and robbery -- with which God is punishing the World.... The Turk is the rod of the wrath of the Lord our God, and the servant of the raging Devil. The first thing to be done, is to smite the Devil his lord, and take the rod out of the hand of [the Turk's] god -- so that the Turk may be found in his own strength alone; all by himself; without the Devil's help; and without the hand of God....

“If the Turk's god, the Devil, is not first beaten -- there is reason to fear that the Turk will not be so easy to beat.... After [Christian] people have been thus taught and exhorted to confess their sin and amend their ways -- they should then be exhorted with the utmost diligence to pray.... It might indeed be of some use to have...especially the young people sing.... Provided that everyone, **at home**, by himself -- **constantly** raises to Christ at least a sigh of the heart, for grace to lead a **better life** and for **help against the Turk....**

“The Turk, as has been said, is the servant of the Devil who not only ruins land and people with the sword...but also lays waste the Christian Faith.... He does not allow Christians to come together in public; and no one can openly confess Christ or preach or teach against **Mohammed....**

“The people should be told of all the dissolute life and ways that the Turk practises, so that they may the better feel the need of prayer.... Some indeed have invented outrageous lies about the Turks in order to stir up us Germans against them. But there is no need for lies. The truth is all too great. I will tell my dear Christians a few things...., so that they may the better be moved and stirred up to pray earnestly against the enemy of Christ our Lord.

"I have some pieces of **Mohammed' Koran....** When I have time, I must put it into German -- so that every man may see what a foul and shameful book it is.

“In the first place, he praises Christ and Mary very much -- as those who alone were without sin. And yet, he believes nothing more of Christ than that He is a holy Prophet like Jeremiah or Jonah -- and denies that He is God' s Son and true God. Besides, he does not believe that Christ is the Saviour of the World- Who died for our sins....

"On the other hand, he praises and exalts himself highly and boasts that he has talked with God and the angels, and that since Christ' s office of Prophet is now complete- it has been commanded to him [Mohammed] to bring the World to his religion. And if the World is not willing, to compel it or punish it with the sword....

"Anyone can easily observe that Mohammed is a destroyer of our Lord Christ and His Kingdom.... If anyone denies concerning Christ that He is God' s Son and has died for us, and still lives and reigns at the right hand of God -- what has he left of Christ? Father, Son, Holy Ghost; baptism; the sacrament [of the Lord' s supper]; Gospel; faith; and all Christian doctrine and life- are gone! And there is left, instead of Christ, nothing more than Mohammed with his doctrine of works and especially of the sword....

"In the second place, the Turk' *Koran* or creed teaches him to destroy not only the Christian Faith but also the whole temporal government. His Mohammed -- as has been said -- commands that ruling is to be done by the sword.... In his *Koran*, the sword is the commonest and noblest work. Thus the Turk is -- in truth - - nothing but a murderer or highwayman. As his deeds show before men' s eyes....

“When the spirit of lies had taken possession of **Mohammed** and the Devil had murdered men's souls with his *Koran* and had destroyed the faith of Christians, he had to go on and take the sword and attempt the

murder of their bodies. The Turkish Faith, then, has not made its progress by preaching...but by the sword and by murder. And its success has been due to the wrath of God....

"**The Pope** with his followers makes war; murders; robs.... He burns, condemns, and persecutes the innocent, the pious, the orthodox -- as a **true Antichrist**.... For this he does -- 'sitting in the Temple of God' as [the self-alleged] head of the **Church**.... That, the Turk does not do....

Luther's opposition to Islam and the Papacy during 1526-29 (resumed)

"As **the Pope is Antichrist**, so **the Turk is the very Devil**. The prayer of Christendom, is against both. The prayer of Christendom is against both. Both shall go down to hell.... I hope it will not be long.... **Mohammed's Koran** is such a **great spirit of lies** -- that it leaves almost nothing of Christian truth remaining....

"The third point is that Mohammed's *Koran* thinks nothing of marriage -- but permits everyone to take wives as he will...and to desert or sell any of them that he will, when he will.... In Turkey, women are held immeasurably cheap and are despised. They are bought and sold like cattle.... This is the law...anyone can follow, if he will.... Thus the 'marriage' [*sic*] of the Turks, closely resembles the 'chaste' life that the soldiers live with their harlots. For the Turks are soldiers, and must act like soldiers. Mars and Venus, say the poets, must be together....

"When the Turks go into battle, their warcry is no other word than '*Allah! Allah!*' -- and they shout it till Heaven and Earth resound. But in Arabic, *Allah*...is a corruption of the Hebrew *Eloha*.... They have taught in the *Koran* that they shall boast constantly with these words, 'There is no God but *Allah!*' All that, is really a device of the Devil. For what is it to say, 'There is no God but *Allah!*' -- without distinguishing one God from another? The Devil too is a god; and they honour him with this word. Of that, there is no doubt....

"The Turk...is entirely M \ddot{u} nzerian [or Anabaptistic] too; for he overthrows all rulers and tolerates no gradations of government.... He alone is lord over all in his own land.... He is also a Papist. For he believes that he will become holy and be saved by works.... All these things the Pope also works at, though in other ways, with hypocrisy; while the Turk uses force and the sword.....

"Know and see how much need there is for prayer.... We must first smite the Turk's *Allah* -- that is, his god, the Devil -- and strike down his power and godhead. Otherwise, I fear, the sword will accomplish little....

"Man is not to fight in a bodily way with the Turk -- as the Pope and his followers teach.... Recognize the Turk as God's rod and anger which Christians must either suffer, if God visits their sins upon them -- or fight against and drive away with repentance, tears and prayer....

"If there is to be war against the Turk, it should be fought [not at the Romish Pope's but] at the Emperor's command -- under his banner, and in his name.... There is to be no fighting of the Turk for the reasons for which the Emperors and Princes have **heretofore** been urged to war.... If the Emperor **were** to destroy the **unbelievers**...., he would have to **begin** with the **Pope**.... There is enough horrible idolatry in his own Empire to make it unnecessary for him to fight the Turks for this reason. Among us there are 'Turks' -- Jews, Heathen, Non-Christians -- all too many of them proving it with public false doctrine and with offensive, shameful lives....

"Beside all that -- such faithless, disloyal, perjured folk commit a still more horrible sin. They make themselves partakers of all the abominations and wickedness of the Turks. For he who willingly goes over to the Turks, makes himself their comrade and an accomplice in all their doings.... We have heard above what kind of man the Turk is. *Viz.* a destroyer, enemy and blasphemer of our Lord Jesus Christ -- who instead of the Gospel and faith, sets up his shameful Mohammed and all kinds of lies; ruins all

temporal government and home-life or marriage; and, since his warfare is nothing but murder and bloodshed, is a tool of the Devil himself.

"See, then! He who consorts with the Turk must be partaker of this terrible abomination -- and brings down on his own head all the murder, all the blood that the Turk has shed, and all the lies and vices with which he has damaged Christ's Kingdom and led souls astray....

"I cannot deny that the Turk holds the four Gospels to be divine and true, as well as the Prophets -- and also speaks very highly of Christ and His mother. But at the same time, he believes that his Mohammed is above Christ -- and that Christ is not God...."

Luther's opposition to Islam and the Papacy during 1526-29 (concluded)

"On the other hand, the Pope is not much more godly than Mohammed -- and resembles him extraordinarily.... If the Pope could use the temporal sword as mightily as the Turk -- he would perhaps lack the will to do so even less than the Turk.... God visits them with the same **plague**, too -- and smites them with blindness.... It happens to them as St. Paul says in Romans one about the shameful vice of the dumb sins [of sodomy *etc.*] -- that God gives them up to a perverse mind, because they pervert the Word of God.

"So blind and senseless are both Pope and Turk -- that both of them commit the [unnatural] dumb sins shamelessly.... Since they think lightly of marriage -- it serves them right that there are [sodomitic] dog-marriages [Deuteronomy 23:17-18 & Revelation 22:15].... What an open and 'glorious' Sodom, Turkey is....

"Everybody who has looked around a little in Rome and Italy, knows very well how God there revenges and punishes the prohibition of marriage -- so that Sodom and Gomorrah, which God overwhelmed in days of old with fire and brimstone, must seem a mere jest compared with these abominations. On this one account, therefore..., the rule of the Turk...would be intolerable in Germany!

"What are we to do, then? ... I do not advise that men go to war with the Turk, or with the Pope, because of his false belief or evil life -- but because of the murder and destruction which he does. But the best thing about the Papacy is that it has not yet the sword, as the Turk has. Otherwise, it would surely undertake to bring the whole World into subjection -- though it would accomplish no more than to bring it to faith in the Pope's *Koran* -- the decretals! For he pays as little heed as the Turk to the Gospel or Christian faith....

"What the Emperor **can** do for his subjects against the Turk, **that he should** do -- so that even though he cannot entirely prevent the abomination, he may yet try to protect and rescue his subjects by checking the Turk and holding him off. To this protection the Emperor should be moved not only by his bounden duty, his office and the command of God -- nor only by the unchristian and vile government that the Turk brings in, as has been said above -- but also by the misery and wretchedness that comes to his subjects. They know better than I, beyond all doubt, how cruelly the Turk treats those whom he carries away captive. He treats them like cattle -- dragging, towing, driving those that can go along; and killing out of hand those that cannot go, whether they are young or old.

"All this and the like more, ought to move all the Princes and the whole Empire to forget their own cases and contentions or let them rest for a while and unite in all earnest to help the wretched. So that things may not go as they went with Constantinople and Greece. They quarreled with one another, and looked after their own affairs -- until the Turk overwhelmed both of them together, as he has already come very near doing to us....

"If it comes to the point of war against the Turk -- we shall arm and prepare, and not hold the Turk too cheap.... The Princes and our Germans do not know or believe the strength and power of the Turk; or have no serious purpose to fight against the Turk....

"My advice, then, is not to set the armed preparation so low, and not to offer our poor Germans to slaughter...as happened in Hungary with King Lewis." At the Battle of Mohacs in 1526, the Hungarians had led an army of no more than 30 000 against more than 100 000 Turks. The Hungarians lost 20 000 men, and Lewis was drowned while retreating.

"Fighting against the Turk is not like fighting against the king of France, or the Venetians, or the Pope. He is a different kind of warrior. He has people and money in abundance.... His people are under arms all the time, so that he can quickly bring together three or four hundred thousand men. If we were to cut off a hundred thousand, he would soon be back again with as many men as before. He has staying-power....

"He has Greece, Asia, Syria, Egypt, Arabia, *etc.*.... He has so many lands that if Spain, France, England, Germany, Italy, Bohemia, Hungary, Poland and Denmark were all counted together -- they would not equal the land he has.

"Besides, he is master of all of them, and commands effective and ready obedience.... They are constantly under arms and are exercised in warfare, so that he has staying-power -- and can deliver two, three, four battles, one after another....

"It is a fact that the Turk is at our throat.... Even if he does not will to march against us this year -- yet he is there, armed, and ready any hour to attack us when he will.... May our dear Lord Jesus Christ help...and smite both Turk and Pope to the earth, together with all tyrants and all the godless -- and deliver us from all sins and from all evil. Amen!"

Luther's opposition to Islam and the Papacy during 1530

Even then, the Romanists still did not come to their senses. Just before 1530, Luther himself had referred to "the Hussites and Wycliffites." Indeed, in 1531 he remarked: "John Huss 'prophesied' of **me**.... He wrote from his prison in Bohemia, ' They will roast a goose now.' " Luther ~~themsid~~ said that "' Huss' means a ' goose'--"viz. in Huss's own language (Czech). However, continued Luther, Huss then stated that "after a hundred years, they will hear a ' swan' sing!"¹²²

Huss the ' goose' had indeed thus complained just before he was burned to death in 1415. Luther the ' swan' later exactly "after a hundred years" -- had, however, started the irreversible Protestant Reformation in 1517.

So now, in 1530, Dr. Luther said:¹²³ "I do **hope** that our Gospel, now shining forth with a light so great, will **before** Judgment Day, make an attack also on that abominable 'prophet' **Mohammed!** May our Lord Jesus Christ do this **soon!** To Him be glory, for ever!"

Luther gave an alarm in his *Exhortation to the Clergy at Augsburg*. "The Devil is trying to bring on the Turks; is stirring up one disturbance after another; and would like to smash everything."¹²⁴

Said Luther at Coburg in 1530: "The way of the Devil...is that we should deny and forget the Word altogether, and gaze only at the danger which threatens us from the Pope and the Turks.... Even though there were ten Popes or Turkish emperors -- I would like to see whether all of them together are a match for the Man Who is called Christ! They may very well start a game which will grow too big for them to handle. But they will not demolish the Word. And this will happen -- even though we are weak in faith!"¹²⁵

Then, just a few months later, the Christian armies raised the Muslims' siege of Vienna. Luther then gave an even more vigorous call for the military defence of Europe against Islam -- in his *Army Sermon Against the Turks*.¹²⁶

Luther's opposition to Islam and the Papacy during 1532

In his 1532 *Preface to the Prophets*, Luther explains¹²⁷ "how completely **the Turk** holds our Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom for a mere nothing, compared with himself and his **Mohammed**.... The Turk...**names** the true God in his worship, and **means** Him Who created Heaven and Earth. Likewise do the Jews, Tartars, and now all unbelievers. **Nevertheless**, it is **all** sheer **idolatry!**"

In the summer and fall of 1532 Luther declared:¹²⁸ "I am entirely of the opinion that **the Papacy is the Antichrist**. But if anyone wants to add the Turk -- then **the Pope is the spirit of Antichrist**, and **the Turk is the flesh of Antichrist**. They help each other -- in their murderous work. The latter slaughters bodily by the sword; and the former spiritually by doctrine."

Dr. Luther elaborates¹²⁹ that "the **Antichrist is at once the Pope and the Turk**, because a human being is made up of body and soul. The spirit of Antichrist is the Pope -- the flesh of Antichrist is the Turk. For the former devastates the Church spiritually -- the latter, bodily."

Furthermore:¹³⁰ "**The Antichrist**, that is **the Pope at Rome**, exalts himself above God" **inside** the Church, as in Second Thessalonians 2:3-4. "**The Turk** also does that. But he is more truly **the Beast** [cf. Revelation 16:13], because he is **outside** the Church and openly persecutes Christ."

Once again:¹³¹ "**The Turk is not the Antichrist**; for he **is not in the Church of God** -- but **he is an evil Beast**" (cf. Revelation 16:13f) -- a destroyer of Christendom in its very midst!. "Outside Christ there is nothing but idolatry...whether it be called...the Law of the Pope or the *Koran* of the Turk."

Moreover:¹³² "The hypocritical Turks have also lost Christ -- because of their various thoughts. They have honoured Him as the 'greatest prophet' next to Mohammed.... They retain the luxury and the 'prophecies' of Mohammad and all his 'prophets' But this 'faith' -- is the work of the Devil."

Declared Luther in his *Table Talk*:¹³³ "The Turk takes away from the New Testament and the Old whatever pleases him. The rest doesn't please him at all. He ridicules the Trinity, the incarnation of Christ, His passion, the Sacraments.... He takes a wife if he likes her; and when he no longer likes her, he casts her off again. What kind of marriage is that? The result is that all the children in Turkey are bastards.

"The Turk says that the following will happen after the resurrection. A beautiful table will stand there.... Around the table will stand attractive nude women, whom it will be a delight to look at."

Luther's opposition to yet appreciation of Islam during 1538-41

It should not be thought, however, that Martin Luther was blind to the few virtues which the Turks exhibited because of their religion. For Luther fairly gave Islam credit, wherever due.

In April 1538, in his *Table Talk*,¹³⁴ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther applied the 'time statement' [about the three and-a-half 'years' in Daniel 12:7c.] to the Turks. For him, their hegemony began with their conquest of Constantinople in 1453 -- "which is now 85 years ago. If I now reckon a 'time' to be according to the **thirt** years' age of Christ [cf. Luke 3:23] -- this saying [of three-and-a-half 'times'] then constitutes 105 years so that the Turk will still rule another 20 years" at least.

Yet Luther fairly give Islam credit, when such acknowledgement was due. In his 18th May 1539 *Sermon on Soberness and Moderation*, Dr. Luther concedes:¹³⁵ "Among the Turks, it is really the worst sin for a man to be drunk. So temperate are they, that they do not even drink anything which inebriates. That is why they can make war and win.... They keep awake, and thus can consider their strategy -- and then attack and conquer....

“It is still said that it is especially shameful for a woman to be drunk. The Turks have this teaching -- which is a fine thing.... Excessive drinking weakens the constitution; consumes money and goods; and causes the...Turks...to spit upon us [Germans]....

“God does not forbid you to drink, as do the Turks. He permits you to drink wine and beer. He does not make a law of it. But do not make a pig of yourselves! Remain a human being! If you are a human being, then keep your human self-control! ... We Germans -- are **especially** swamped in this vice....

“The Turks far surpass us [Germans] in moderation. The Turk should be put to shame by us.... **He should** be the one to say: They do not overeat, overdrink, and overdress! But actually, the tables are turned. **They** are the ones who give us an example in clothing *etc.* They have their peculiar vices too, of course; and they are really abominable. But in this [the matter of modest attire, except of course in their harems] -- they are far more temperate than we are!”

Of course, Luther was quite properly extremely concerned about the advance of Islam into Eastern Europe at that time. That is why he wrote in 1541 (five years before his death):

“Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort, und steur’ des Papsts und Türken Mord,
die Jesum Christum deinen Sohn wollen stürzen von deinem Thron!”

(“Preserve us, Lord, close to Your Word, and block the murder of Pope and Turk
who wish to dash Your Son Jesus Christ from Your throne!”)¹³⁶

Luther also observed: “The Turks enter a battle in this frame of mind: if I am destined to die, I shall die; if not, no weapon will harm me. This is why they attack the enemy so furiously.... The Turk is like a turbulent sea churned up by waves....

“If the Turk had gone forward -- he would have occupied all of Germany long ago. For no one could protect us, neither the emperor nor the kings nor the princes. God alone is fighting for us.

“But the Turk will not ravage Germany. Unless he does so, by God’s determined judgment and will!”¹³⁷

Luther’s opposition to Islam and the Papacy from 1544 till his death in 1546

In his 1544 *Sermon at Torgau Castle Church*, Luther insists¹³⁸ that according to the Gospel “the **whole Papacy is nothing else and nothing better than simply a pack of...crude teachers and pupils** who belong in a **school for oxen and asses**.... More foolish than oxen...are also [the Muslims alias] **Mohammed’s crowd, the Turks** -- and whatever else those who do not hear and accept Christ are called....

“The second part of this Gospel, is a lecture which Christ delivered against those who chose to sit at the head of the table.... It was necessary, in order to rebuke the hypocrisy and false ideas of the Jews who thought the only thing that mattered was their holiness and services to God so that they might be proud and have prestige and honour above that of others.... They imagine even now that their law implies that they should be lords over the Gentiles, and we should be their servants.

“Just as **the Turks** too believe and hold that they must be the lords of the World, strutting around like lords and noblemen with their **Mohammedans** and **mamelukes** [or white soldiers converted to Islam] clothed in gold and silk -- but that we [Christians needs] must go barefoot, like their lowest cowherds, and bow down to them. They think that they are offering a great service to God when they do this [John 16:2]....

“Let us [**Christians**, however,] call upon God and **pray**...first for His Holy Church, that He may preserve His Holy Word among us and **extend** it everywhere! And then -- that He may keep this House [*viz* His Church] pure...and sanctified through God’s Word so that it may not be desecrated or defiled by the Devil and his lies and false doctrine! And then also [pray] for all governments and public peace in German

lands, so that God may graciously preserve and strength the same -- and guard us against the Devil and his servants the Pope, Bishops, Papists, and wicked Turks!"

Luther died in 1546. Just before he did, he wrote in his *Preface to the Reader* in his *Complete Works*:¹³⁹

"Farewell, dear reader in the Lord! Pray that the Word may be spread further abroad, and may be strong against the miserable Devil.... The kingdom of his vicar, the Antichrist in Rome, is sore beset.... May the God of all grace and mercy -- strengthen and complete in us the work He has begun!"

In his last sermon before his death, Luther refers¹⁴⁰ to the words of Christ: 'Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest!' Luther then paraphrases **Christ's words** as follows: "I will give you the heart to laugh -- even though Turk, Pope, Emperor, and everybody else be filled with horrible wrath and rage.... If you are facing oppression, death or torture -- because the Pope, the Turk and Emperor are attacking you -- do not be afraid! ... I give you the Spirit!..."

"Let misfortune, sin, death and whatever the Devil and the World loads upon you -- assail and assault you! If only you remain confident and undismayed, waiting upon the Lord in faith -- you have won already!"

Dear reader, do you believe as Luther believed? In our dark days, yet at the dawn of Christianity's third millennium -- are you **really** a Protestant Christian? Do you believe, with the great German Church Reformer, that **the powerful Protestant preaching of the Word of God will yet destroy the Papacy--** and also Islam? May the faith of Martin Luther yet become yours too!

ENDNOTES

- 1) M. Luther's *Works*, Muhlenberg, Philadelphia, 1931 ed., V, p. 206.
- 2) Thus Luther's *Preface* to Daniel, in the 1960 American ed., 35:294-97.
- 3) Luther's *Tischreden*, Weimer ed., 3, No. 3130.
- 4) Luther's *Works*, Weimer ed., 28, 365f; 30 II, 195; 47, 175.
- 5) Luther's *Tischreden*, 6, No. 6543; 1, No. 906.
- 6) Luther's *Works*, Weimer ed., 47, 147.
- 7) American ed., 35:299-300.
- 8) Luther's *Collected Works*, ed. Walch, XVIII, pp. 1434 & 1441.
- 9) *Ib.*, XVIII:1512f.
- 10) *Ib.*, XVIII:1474f.
- 11) *Ib.*, XVIII:483.
- 12) Luther's *Works*, Holman ed., Philadelphia, III:364f.
- 13) Luther's *Coll. Works*, ed. Walch, XVIII:1460 & 1470f.
- 14) *Ib.*, XVIII:1482f.
- 15) *Ib.*, XVIII:1473f.
- 16) *Ib.*, XVIII:1510f.
- 17) *Ib.*, XVIII:1506f.
- 18) *Ib.*, XVIII:1514f.
- 19) *Ib.*, XVIII:1517f.
- 20) *Ib.*, XVIII:1542f & 1553f.
- 21) Holman: *op. cit.*, III, pp. 364f & 376f.
- 22) *Coll. Works*, XVIII:1473f.
- 23) *Ib.*, XVIII:1573f.
- 24) Holman: *op. cit.*, III, pp. 208 & 215.
- 25) Luther's *Works*, Amer. ed., 35:303-305.
- 26) Luther: *Concerning Daniel's Seventy Weeks*, in his *Coll. Works*, XIV:715; and his *Writings* (St. Louis: Concordia), 1881f, Walch, VI col. 906.

- 27) Luther's *Works*, Amer. ed., 35:313 (cf. p. 303 n. 162); and his *Coll. Works*, XVIII:1494. On the Picards, cf. Holman' *op. cit.*, II, p. 144 & n. 2.
- 28) See Weimer ed. of his works, XI:2, pp. 50-72.
- 29) Luther's *Works*, Weimer ed., 52, 549.
- 30) Holman: *op. cit.*, III, p. 369.
- 31) Luther' *Writings*, 1881f, VI col. 917 & 844f no. 2.
- 32) Holman: *op. cit.*, III, pp. 413 & 423.
- 33) *Works of Martin Luther* (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg), 1931, IV, p. 361.
- 34) Holman: *op. cit.*, II, p. 82.
- 35) *Table Talk* I,259,35f; IV,625,16f.
- 36) Weimer, XI:2, pp. 72-85.
- 37) *Works* (American), 24:34,104.
- 38) See Weimer, XI:2, pp. 72-85.
- 39) J. Loserth: *Huss and Wycliffe*, Munich-Berlin, 1926, pp. 103-106.
- 40) Weimer, XI:2, pp. 86-124.
- 41) *Works* (American), 24:34,104.
- 42) Weimer, XI:2, pp. 86-124.
- 43) No. 430, p. 194; cf. L.E. Froom' *The Prophetic Faith of our Fathers*, Washington, D.C.: Review & Herald Pub. Co., 1948, II, p. 272.
- 44) Weimer, XI:2, pp. 86-124.
- 45) *Table Talk* 3,646,5-10.
- 46) *Works*, Muhlenberg, 1932, VI:421.
- 47) Arts. Plague in: *New Illustrated Columbia Encyclopedia*, New York, 1979, 18:5355. Cf. too the *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1951 ed., art. Plague.
- 48) *Life and Times of John de Wycliffe* (London: Religious Tract Society), 1851, pp. 149 & 112. See too Vaughan's *Tracts and Treatises of John Wycliffe, D.D.* (London: Wycliffe Society), 1845, p. viii.
- 49) See our text at its n. 122 below.
- 50) *Ib.*, pp. 307,313,321.
- 51) Holman: *op. cit.*, II, p. 73 n. 2; Luther' *Writings*, Concordia, 1881f, ed. Walch, XXIa col.156 & 234, and X col. 290.
- 52) Luther' *Works* (1960 American Edition), 32:123,128f.

- 53) *Ib.*, 48:153.
- 54) *Ib.*, 32:3,56,71.
- 55) M. Luther: *Works*, Muhlenberg, 1959, 51:212-17.
- 56) Luther's *Collected Works*, ed. Walch, XVIII, pp. 1444f.
- 57) *Ib.*, pp. 1476f.
- 58) *Ib.*, p. 1573.
- 59) *Ib.*, pp. 1508f.
- 60) M. Luther's *German Thesaurus (Deutscher Thesaurus des Hochgelerten wertberuembten und theuren Man D. Mart. Luthers)*, ed. T. Kirchner [Franckfort am Mayn, 1570], Luedenscheid: Christlicher Verlag Johann Berg, 1983 rep., pp. 399f.
- 61) M. Luther's *Deutscher Thesaurus*, pp. 407f.
- 62) Luther's *Works*, Weimer ed., 53, 394f.
- 63) Holman, VI, p. 470.
- 64) *Ib.*, II, pp. 102,139.
- 65) *Ib.*, II, pp. 235f.
- 66) *Ib.*, III, pp. 76,368,378,388.
- 67) *Ib.*, III p. 79, & V p. 98. .
- 68) *Ib.*, III, pp. 308,201,215,217.
- 69) Luther's *Coll. Works*, ed. Walch, XVIII:1488f.
- 70) Holman: *op. cit.*, III, p. 85.
- 71) *Ib.*, p. 303.
- 72) *Ib.*, p. 471.
- 73) *Ib.*, pp. 92 & 317.
- 74) *Ib.*, II, pp. 401f.
- 75) *Ib.*, III, pp. 382 & 385.
- 76) *Ib.*, I, pp. 370f.
- 77) *Coll. Works*, XVIII:1474f.
- 78) *Ib.*, XVIII, pp. 1478f.
- 79) Holman: *op. cit.*, III, p. 397.
- 80) *Ib.*, II, pp. 93 & 443f.

- 81) *Coll. Works*, XVIII:1531f.
- 82) *Ib.*, pp. 1540f.
- 83) Amer. ed., 30:252f,287f.
- 84) *Coll. Works*, XVIII:1583.
- 85) Luther's *Works*, Concordia, 1967 ed., 30:257 & 54:416.
- 86) *What Luther Says: An Anthology*, Concordia, 1959 ed., p. 188.
- 87) *Ib.*, p. 1263.
- 88) *Ib.* pp. 1534f.
- 89) Luther's *Works*, Weimer ed., 47, 145f; 52, 731.
- 90) Luther: *Works*, Muhlenberg, 1932, VI:480f.
- 91) *Works*, VI:482f.
- 92) Luther: *Works*, VI, p. 483; and his *Episteln-Auslegung: Ein Commentar zur...Offenbarung*, Stuttgart: Verlag Evangelischen Bücherstiftung, 1866, pp. 1144f.
- 93) *Idem.*
- 94) *Works*, VI:484.
- 95) *Table Talk* pp. 194-96, cited in Froom' *op. cit.*, II, pp. 275f.
- 96) Holman: *op. cit.*, III:368f.
- 97) *Comm. zur...Offenb.*, pp. 1154f.
- 98) *Works* VI:485
- 99) *Ib.* I:391f & III:79; and *Works*, VI, p. 485.
- 100) *Comm. zur...Offenb.*, pp. 1163f.
- 101) *Works*, VI, pp. 485f.
- 102) *Comm. zur...Offenb.*, pp. 1163f.
- 103) *Works*, VI, pp. 485f.
- 104) *Comm. zur...Offenb.*, pp. 1144f & 1166.
- 105) *Works*, VI:486.
- 106) *Works* VI:480f, 483f, 486f, 488.
- 107) *Works*, Holman, I:173,177,238f.

- 108) *Ib.* II:79.
- 109) *Ib.* II:140f.
- 110) *Ib.*, II:149 & 154.
- 111) *Ib.*, II:55,58,82,148f.
- 112) *Ib.*, II:233.
- 113) *Ib.*, II:171; Luther's *Writings*, 1881, XV col. 1639, XIX cols. 70-71, and XV cols. 783-7.
- 114) Froom: *op. cit.*, II:258f.
- 115) *Works*, Muhlenberg, V:74 & n. 1.
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- 117) *Works*, Weimer ed., 35, 418f.
- 118) *Works*, American ed., 32:74f.
- 119) *Ib.*, 32:82f.
- 120) *Ib.*, 34:9,50.
- 121) *Works*, Holman, V:77,79,83f,88f,92f,98f,101f,104,113,115f,120f.
- 122) *Works*, Amer. ed. 34:34,104. See too n. 49 above.
- 123) *Works*, Weimer ed., 30 II, 208
- 124) *Works*, Muhlenberg, 1931, IV:331.
- 125) *Ib.*, Amer. ed., 1959, 51:203-205.
- 126) *Ib.*, Muhlenberg, V:77; and Weimer ed., XXX 160f.
- 127) *Works*, Muhlenberg, 1932, VI:397 & 401.
- 128) Luther's *Tischreden*, Weimer ed., 1, No. 330.
- 129) Luther's *Tischreden*, Weimer ed., 3, No. 3055.
- 130) Luther's *Works*, Weimer ed., 42, 635.
- 131) *What Luther Says*, pp. 33f; and Weimer ed. of his *Works* 40 I, 609.
- 132) *Works*, Concordia, 1967 ed., 30:309 on First John 5:3.
- 133) *Ib.*, 34:308.
- 134) *Table Talk* 3,646,5-10
- 135) *Works*, Amer. ed., 1959, 51:292-97.

136) *What Luther Says*, p. 32.)

137) *Works*, Weimer ed., 44, 77f,180f.

138) *Works*, Amer. ed., 1959, 51:345-47 & 354.

139) Holman: *op. cit.*, I:11.

140) *Works*, Amer. ed., 51:392