

There is only one power in all history that has fulfilled these prophetic specifications to the letter, namely—**THE PAPACY**. The details are so numerous and explicit that there is no possibility of mistake. With reliable histories of Western Europe before us, let us now consider in detail how the rise, location, character and work of the Papacy fulfil these ten specifications:

(i) **Arose out of the Fourth Beast (vv 7, 8)**

The Papacy is essentially a Roman power, both in origin and character. It was cradled in Italy. Its headquarters have always been in Rome. It inherited many of the qualities and material assets of Imperial Rome. It bears the name, Roman Catholic Church, to this day.

(ii) **Among the Ten Horns (v 8)**

The Papacy did grow up, like a new horn on the head of a bullock, in the midst of the barbarian kingdoms which partitioned the old Roman Empire. It has been, throughout its long history, a Western European power. Says the historian Wylie: "Fully to trace the rise and development of this stupendous system, were to write a history of Western Europe" (J. S. Wylie, *The Papacy*, p 1). And Myers states: "Long before the fall of Rome, there had begun to grow up within the Roman Empire an ecclesiastical state which was shaping itself upon the imperial model" (*General History for Colleges*, p 348). Yet another historian, James Harvey Robinson, declares: "Besides the Emperors at Constantinople, and the various German kings, there grew up in Europe a line of rulers far more powerful than any of these, namely, the Popes" (*Mediaeval and Modern Times*, p 40).

Mark the words, "grow up within the Roman Empire", and "grew up in Europe". One would almost think the historians were writing a deliberate commentary on the prophecy of Daniel!

(iii) **After the Ten Horns (v 24)**

The most significant crisis in the collapse of the old Roman Empire occurred in A.D. 476 when, after a series of humiliations by barbarian invaders, the Emperor Romulus Augustulus abdicated. The political supremacy of the Papacy, however, did not begin until sixty-two years later when, in A.D. 533, Justinian, Emperor of Eastern Rome, decreed that the Bishop of Rome should be recognised as the "Head of all the Holy Churches". This decree was put into effect in A.D. 538. Thus the Papacy grew into full power after the barbarian kingdoms had divided Rome's territories.

(See Chart No. 6—*Map of European Kingdoms*)

(iv) **Different from the other Horns (v 24)**

The Papacy was different from all preceding or contemporary kingdoms. They were normal political or secular powers, established usually by force of arms. The Papacy was an abnormal combination of religion and politics. Its authority was based, not upon military conquest, but upon the claim to possess an express mandate from God! Its very essence was an alliance between Church and State, with the Church controlling the State. The Pope was a Priest-King. Once again the words of the historian Myers are to the point: "Long before the fall of Rome, there had begun to grow up within the Roman Empire an ecclesiastical state, which was shaping itself upon the imperial model. This spiritual empire, like the secular empire, possessed a hierarchy of officers, of which deacons, priests or presbyters, and bishops were the most important . . . Another consequence of the fall of the Roman power in the west was the development of the Papacy. In the absence of an Emperor in the west, the popes rapidly gained influence and power and soon built up an ecclesiastical empire that in some respects took the place of the old empire." (*General History for Colleges*, pp 348, 316)

A "spiritual" or "ecclesiastical empire" means a "religious" or "Church empire"—an Imperial Church. This is something altogether unique in world history!