

Lecky, the rationalist historian, declares: "That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history." (*Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, p 32).

(ix) **Thought to Change Times and Laws** (v 25)

Becoming more and more arrogant and presumptuous, the Papal church did not hesitate to **tamper with the law of God!** The very institution which should have been foremost in championing the Divine commandments now took a bold initiative in **breaching God's protecting wall.** Finding the **second commandment** out of harmony with its use of images in worship, the Papal church attempted to eliminate this sacred precept, as can be discovered by reading almost any Catholic Catechism today. Then, ignoring the plain requirements of the **fourth commandment** concerning the seventh day as the Sabbath of the Lord, it commenced to legislate vigorously in favour of Sunday—the first day of the week. According to the prophecy, the "Little Horn" power was to "**think to change times and laws**". The only Divine precept concerning "**time**" is the fourth commandment!

(See Chart No. 23—*The Commandments as given by God, and as changed by man*)

(x) **Reigned for a Time, Times, and the Dividing of Time** (v 25)

(See Chart No. 24—*Diagram of the 1260 Days*)

Events at the Beginning of the Reign of the "Little Horn"

The Bishop of Rome was enthroned as the spiritual Head of Christendom by the decree of Justinian in A.D. 538.

After centuries of struggle with the Arian heresy on the one hand, and with the rival Catholic bishops on the other, the Papacy at length found a powerful champion in Justinian, who ascended the throne of Constantinople as Emperor of Eastern Rome in A.D. 527. Eager to patronise the Roman Church as a stepping-stone to the re-conquest of the Western Empire, Justinian waged unrelenting war against the Arian rulers, and legislated vigorously in favour of the Catholic party. In A.D. 533, Justinian proclaimed the Bishop of Rome as "**head of all the Holy Churches**" and "**the true and effective corrector of heretics**", ruling also that the Archbishop of Constantinople should hold second place. This decree went into full effect in A.D. 538 when Belisarius, Justinian's general, gave the death-blow to the Ostrogoths, the last of the three great Arian powers. In the same year (A.D. 538), Justinian published edicts compelling all non-Catholics to join the church in ninety days or leave the Empire, and confiscated all their goods.

Events at the end of the Reign of the "Little Horn"

The Bishop of Rome was **dethroned**, as a consequence of the French Revolution, in A.D. 1798.

In 1797, when Pope Pius VI became seriously ill, Napoleon gave orders that in the event of his death, no successor should be elected to his office, and the Papal rule should cease. But the Pope recovered, and on 10th February, 1798, on pretence of an insult to the French ambassador in Italy, Berthier, general of the French Revolutionary forces and Napoleon's famous Chief of Staff, entered Rome and took the Pope prisoner. The aged bishop was arrested on the night of 20th February, the twenty-eighth anniversary of his elevation to the Papal chair; the ring of authority was torn from his finger; his property was confiscated and sold; the Papal states were abolished and Rome was declared a republic. The Pope himself was carried off to France, where he died a captive, worn out with fatigue and sorrow, at Valence, on 29th August, 1799. For a long interval the Papal throne was vacant.

Up till the Revolution, France had been a leading supporter of the Papacy for many centuries, and was called "**The Eldest Son of the Church**". Consequently, this disaster