

## Fundamental Belief Number Thirteen

### The Remnant and its Mission

#### Part 16

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#### Memory Text

**Revelation 12:6** And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a **thousand** two **hundred** and threescore **days**.

#### Bible Study Summary Introduction Statement

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness.

#### BIBLE STUDY

**The Roman Catholic Church reigns for 1,260 years or 42 prophetic months also described as a time, times and half a time**

**How long was the Roman Catholic Church or Beast Power to rule?**

**Revelation 13:5** And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two** months.

**Revelation 13:6** And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

**Revelation 13:7** And it was given unto him to make **war** with the **saints**, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

**Revelation 12:6** And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a **thousand two hundred and threescore days**.

**Revelation 12:13** And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he **persecuted** the **woman** which brought forth the man *child*.

**Revelation 12:14** And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a **time**, and **times**, and **half a time**, from the face of the serpent.

**Revelation 11:2** But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two** months.

**Revelation 11:3** And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a **thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sackcloth.

**Daniel 7:25** And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a **time** and **times** and the **dividing of time**.

**Daniel 12:7** And I heard the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a **time**, **times**, and an **half**; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.

### How long is a month in Bible Prophecy?

**Genesis 7:11** In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the **second** month, the **seventeenth** day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

**Genesis 7:24** And the waters prevailed upon the earth an **hundred and fifty** days.

**Genesis 8:3** And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the **hundred and fifty** days the waters were abated.

**Genesis 8:4** And the ark rested in the **seventh** month, on the **seventeenth** day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

**Note: All Biblical Prophecies with symbolic time periods involved in their calculations use a 30 day month to arrive at the correct interpretation and fulfillment**

### How long is a time in Bible Prophecy?

**Daniel 4:16** Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven **times** pass over him.

**Daniel 4:24** This *is* the interpretation, O king, and this *is* the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

**Daniel 4:25** That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven **times** shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

**Daniel 4:33** The same hour was the thing **fulfilled** upon **Nebuchadnezzar**: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' *feathers*, and his nails like birds' *claws*.

**Daniel 4:34** And at the **end** of the **days** I **Nebuchadnezzar** lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation:

**Note: A Time in Bible Prophecy is one year as demonstrated in the seven year fulfillment on Nebuchadnezzar.**

### How long is a day in Symbolic Biblical Prophecy?

**Numbers 14:34** After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, *even* forty days, each **day** for a **year**, shall ye bear your iniquities, *even* forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

**Ezekiel 4:6** And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each **day** for a **year**.

**Note: 42 months = 1,260 days = times, times and a half**

**42 months = 42x30 = 1,260**

**Time = 360**

**Times = 360x2 = 720**

**Half a time = 180**

**Time + times + half a time = 360+720+180 = 1,260**

**1 day = 1 year in symbolic Bible Prophecy**

**1,260 days = 1,260 years in symbolic Bible Prophecy**

### What year marked the beginning of the 42, month or 1,260 years of Papal reign?

**Revelation 13:1** And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast **rise** up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of **blasphemy**.

**Revelation 13:2** And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the **dragon** gave him his **power**, and his **seat**, and great **authority**.

**Revelation 13:5** And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and **blasphemies**; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two** months.

**According to Croly, in the "Apocalypse of St. John," pages, 167,168, "Justinian wrote to the pope in 533,**

**"We have made no delay in subjecting and uniting to Your Holiness all the priests of the whole East...We cannot suffer that anything which relates to the state of the church, however manifest and unquestionable, should be moved, without the knowledge of your Holiness, who are THE HEAD OF ALL THE HOLY CHURCHES"**

**Archibald Bower tells us;**

“By an edict which he (Justinian) issued to unite all men in one faith, whether Jews, Gentiles, or Christians, such as did not, in the term of three months embrace and profess the Catholic faith, were declared infamous, and as such, excluded from all employments, both civil and military, rendered incapable of leaving anything by will, and their estates confiscated, whether real or personal. These were convincing arguments of the truth of the Catholic faith; but many, however, withstood them; and against such as did, the imperial edict was executed with the utmost rigor., Great numbers were driven from their habitations with their wives and children, stripped. Others betook themselves to flight, carrying with them what they could conceal, for their support and maintenance; but they were plundered of the little they had.” (History of the Popes Vol. 1 p. 334) (See also Gibbon’s “Decline and Fall of Rome, chapter 47, p. 616-617)

Justinian’s general, Belisarius was fighting the Vandals in North Africa, recaptured Carthage and put an end to the Vandal kingdom, and the plans were to also destroy the Goths.

Agapitus I, was Pope for only a little over a month and was ordered by King Theodahad to go to Constantinople and tell Justinian not to drive out the Goths from Rome. Agapitus I, went to Constantinople where he died suddenly. King Theodahad made arrangements for the appointment of Pope Silverius. (536-537) (see "Justinian the Great"; by Fitzgerald p. 104)

By this time, Justinian’s armies had already taken Sicily and Naples as well as Dalmatia in the north. The Gothic nobles were unhappy with their king Theodahad and replaced him with Witigis who had proven himself in battle, in the hope that he would save Italy from Justinian’s re-conquest.

Witigis left a garrison of 4000 men in Rome and took most of his forces to the north --Ravenna. He also took with him senators from Rome to ensure that Rome stay loyal to him.

When Justinian’s general, Belisarius and his army came to Rome in 537, the garrison of 4000, feeling they could not defend the city, simply took off and Belisarius marched right in. The pope Silverius and the senate begged Belisarius to treat Rome as an open city, but Belisarius turned it into a fortification.

Some have maintained that Rome was "taken" in 537, not 538, but 537 was just the beginning, as we shall see.

Witigis with his Gothic army, then marched on Rome and besieged the city. The siege began in 537 and lasted over a year. Rome suffered greatly from hunger. It was during this time that Pope Silverius was accused of plotting with the Goths and deposed, Silverius was banished to Patara in Lycia, but was still the “official” pope till November of 537.

Vigilius was put in his place. Vigilius became pope “officially” in November 537 and ruled till 555.

It was in 538 that Witigis, the leader of the Goths finally withdrew his armies that were besieging Rome and marched northward to Ravenna, the Gothic capital. Thus it was in 538 that Rome was won-- not in 537.

It was general Belisarius, who by command of Justinian, took over Rome from the Goths in 538 (though the Goths were not driven out of Italy till years later.) The IMPERIAL administration and law were reintroduced---now Justinian's Code, formulated a few years earlier, could take effect in Rome.

So, even though there was still political unrest and turmoil in the country of Italy, the authority of the papacy began its 1,260 years of reign in 538 when Rome was conquered and the law of Justinian became the law of Rome. That law gave the pope his authority.

### What year marked the end of the 1,260 year prophecy?

**Revelation 13:3** And I saw one of his **heads** as it were **wounded** to **death**; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

**Revelation 13:4** And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they **worshipped** the **beast**, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

**Revelation 13:5** And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two** months.

**Note:** In 1798 the Papacy received a deadly wound after reigning for 1,260 years from 538 to 1798 AD as the following quotes will demonstrate.

**Popes had faced "bad times" before, what was different in 1798?**

Not only was the pope taken captive in 1798, but a new set of laws was established.

Napoleon codified a whole new set of laws

The codified law of Justinian had been the Roman law during all those centuries.

But in 1798, the code of Napoleon becomes the law as it affected the papacy.

**Dated Feb. 15. 1798**

**Bill No. 8 included:**

"In consequence, every other temporal authority emanating from the old government of the Pope, is suppressed, and it shall no more exercise any function...."

**Bill No. 9 The people of Rome cast off Papal Yoke.**

Thus we see the official rule of the papacy for 1260 years. A rule authorized by Justinian's law, and evoked by Napoleon's law.

Napoleon placed the Protestants on a parity with Roman Catholics and took away the "primacy" aspect of papal leadership.

This is marked in history as the birth of a new era. The rule of the Catholic church, working through monarchs and aristocrats was over. The democratic gospel brought in by the revolution set up the independence of the people. The schools were taken out from under the jurisdiction of the church and run by the state.

**According to Bruce Shelley in "Church History in Plain Language" page 358**

**Napoleon had the good sense to work out an agreement with the pope....BUT the Church had lost forever its position of power. France and the rest of Europe could never return to a society held together by an alliance of throne and altar."**

**But the Bible prophesied that this deadly wound to the Roman Catholic Church would indeed be healed.**

**In February of 1798 the French general Berthier entered Rome, proclaimed a republic, and took the pope prisoner. The pope died in France shortly thereafter. Although a new pope was later elected, the papacy had lost its power. Its glory days were over; its supremacy had come to an end.**

**"Berthier advanced to the city by forced marches; summoned the castle of St. Angelo, allowing only four hours for its evacuation by the papal troops; the convicts were set at liberty; the gates of the city secured by the French; the pope, all the cardinals except three, and the whole people of Rome, made prisoners at discretion. . . . Shortly afterwards, Berthier made his triumphal entry into Rome; and a tree of liberty being planted on the capitol, . . . a proclamation was issued, declaring . . . a free and independent republic, under the special protection of the French army. A provisional government was acknowledged, as established by the sovereign people; and every other temporal authority emanating from the pope was suppressed, nor was he any longer to exercise any function." --John Adolphus, *The History of France*, Vol. 2 (London: George Kearsley, 1803), pp. 364, 365.**

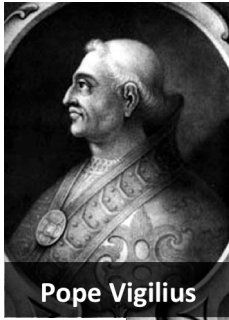
**"The object of the French directory was the destruction of the pontifical government, as the irreconcilable enemy of the republic. . . . The aged pope [Pius VI] was summoned to surrender the temporal government; on his refusal, he was dragged from the altar. . . . His rings were torn from his fingers, and finally, after declaring the temporal power abolished, the victors carried the pope prisoner into Tuscany, whence he never returned (1798).... The territorial possessions of the clergy and monks were declared national property, and their former owners cast into prison. The papacy was extinct: not a vestige of its existence remained; and among all the Roman Catholic powers not a finger was stirred in its defence. The Eternal City had no longer prince or pontiff; its bishop was a dying captive in foreign lands; and the decree was already announced that no successor would be allowed in his place." --George Trevor, *Rome: From the Fall of the Western Empire* (London: The Religious Tract Society, 1868), pp. 439, 440.**

**"As the nineteenth century cautiously opened there was a general feeling that the future of Roman Catholicism was very much in doubt. The French Revolution had virtually wiped out the influence and presence of the church in France... Things looked grim. **The Napoleonic era was widely seen as presaging the end of any role for Catholicism in Europe.**" Blackwell Publishers, 2002, pg 102**

To give the history of the deadly wound we will quote a noted Roman Catholic writer Michael Walsh who was a Jesuit priest for 20 years. Michael's book **"An Illustrated History of the Popes Saint Peter to John Paul II" first published in 1980.** He wrote: "The French army arrived outside Rome 9 February 1798 to be greeted by the Cardinal Secretary of State, the Spanish ambassador, and Duke Braschi. General Berthier made camp outside the city, expecting his presence to give heart to revolutionaries inside the walls. No rising occurred. The city of Rome was occupied on 15 February, and when a rising did break out it was against the French invaders: it was brutally put down by firing squads in the Piazza del Popolo. **But by that time Pope Pius VI had been declared deposed,**



**and bundled off to spend his last days in France.**” Eamon Duffy another noted author of Roman Catholic history in his recent book **“Saints and Sinners a History of the Popes” published in 1997** says the following on the deadly wound: “French troops entered Rome on 15 February, the twenty-third anniversary of the Pope’s coronation. The cardinals were arrested, the Pope ordered to prepare himself to leave Rome within three days. When he asked to be allowed to die in Rome the French commander, General Berthier, replied contemptuously, ‘A man can die anywhere.’ On 20 February the terminally ill ‘Citizen Pope’ was bundled into a carriage and taken north to Tuscany.”



Pope Vigilius

538 AD



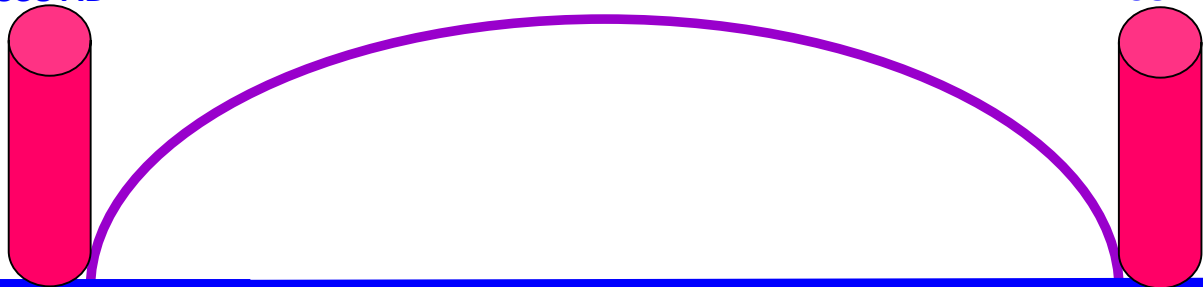
Pope Pius VI

1798 AD

1260 Years of Papal Rule

= 42 months

= Time, Times and half a time



Justinian’s Decree made in 533 AD takes effect in **538 AD** giving the Papacy power over Church and State when his general Belisarius took the city of Rome for **Pope Vigilius**

**Pope Pius VI** loses power over Church and State when taken prisoner by Napoleon’s general Berthier on the **10<sup>th</sup> of February 1798** and Italy was declared a Republic

Papal Rule **Daniel 7:25; 12:7;**

**Revelation 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5**

7. PIUS VI DETHRONED ON ANNIVERSARY IN SISTINE CHAPEL. — Meantime, on this very same day — February 15 — on the anniversary of his elevation to the pontificate, Pius VI repaired to the Sistine Chapel, and was receiving the felicitations of the Sacred College of cardinals, when, in the midst of the ceremony, shouts penetrated the conclave, intermingled with the strokes of axes on the doors. Soon General Haller, a Swiss Calvinist, with a band of

his soldiers, broke into the chapel, and declared that the pope's reign was at an end.[22] (Painting appears on page 754.) His Swiss guards were dismissed, and republican soldiers substituted. Ferrara, Bologna, and Romagna (Peter's patrimony) were taken over, and the cardinals were stripped of authority and possessions. Eight were arrested and sent to the Civita Castellana.[23] The glory, honor, and power had vanished. Soldiers were quartered in the papal palace. Such was the stroke of the sword at Rome. It was the end of an epoch in papal history long before predicted in the prophecies of Holy Writ. Trevor goes so far as to say:

**"The territorial possessions of the clergy and monks were declared national property, and their former owners cast into prison. The papacy was extinct: not a vestige of its existence remained; and among all the Roman Catholic powers not a finger was stirred in its defence. The Eternal City had no longer prince or pontiff; its bishop was a dying captive in foreign lands; and the decree was already announced that no successor would be allowed in his place."**[24]

**22 Duppa, *op. cit.*, pp. 43-47; *The European Magazine*, July, 1798, vol. 34, p. 7.**

**23 Alison, *op. cit.*, vol. 3, p. 559.**

**24 Trevor, *op. cit.*, p. 440.**

**In 1798 he (Berthier) ... made his entrance into Rome, Abolished the Papal Government and established a secular one. *The Encyclopedia Americana*, 1941 edition.**

**"When, in 1797, Pope Pius VI fell grievously ill, Napoleon gave orders that in the event of his death no successor should be elected to his office, and that the Papacy should be discontinued. But the Pope recovered; the peace was soon broken; Berthier entered Rome on 10th February 1798, and proclaimed a Republic. The aged Pontiff refused to violate his oath by recognizing it, and was hurried from prison to prison into France. Broken with fatigue and sorrows, he died . . . [in] August 1799, in the French fortress of Valence, aged 82 years. No wonder that half Europe thought Napoleon's veto would be obeyed, and that with the Pope the Papacy was dead." --Joseph Rickaby, "The Modern Papacy," in *Lectures on the History of Religions*, Vol. 3, [lecture 24, p. 1] (London: Catholic Truth Society, 1910).**

**"The murder of a Frenchman in Rome in 1798 gave the French an excuse for occupying the Eternal City and putting an end to the Papal temporal power.. The aged Pontiff himself was carried off into exile to Valance... The enemies of the Church rejoiced. The last pope, they declared, had reigned."**

***Church History*. p 524.**

**Are you glad that God knows the end from the beginning, foretelling history hundreds and thousands of years before it happens? **Yes!** Are you happy to know that Jesus also knows our future and can therefore protect and care for us leading in the path that will lead to salvation and an eternity of peace with Him? **Yes****

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

**How long did the Beast or Roman Catholic Church symbolically speaking, rule as a political system? How long was it in power after it rose to becoming a political entity in 538 AD as described in Revelation 13:5? **42 months****

**What was it to do during this period? **Make war with the saints****



What is another symbolic way of describing the 42 months period according to Revelation 12:6? **1,260 days**

What did the woman, or the Church in symbolic terms, do during this time of persecution? **It fled into the wilderness for 1,260 days**

In Revelation 12:13, 14 there is another way of describing the 42 months which is the same 1, 260 day period. How is it symbolized in these verses? **As a Time, Times and a Half**

In Revelation 11:2, 3 how is the symbolic 42 month period also mentioned? **1,260 days**

In Daniel 7:25 this historical time is again pictured. How did Daniel portray the time period this time? **As “a time and times and the dividing of time.”**

The last verse we will notice telling us of this period found in Daniel 12:7. How did Daniel describe it here? **It would be “for a time, times, and an half.”**

How many times do we find this time of persecution mentioned either as 42 months, 1,260 days or as a time times and a half a time Revelation, 13:5; 12:6. 14; 11:2, 3 Daniel 7:24; 12:7? **7 times**

How many days is a month in Bible prophecy? **30 days**

How many days is 42 Biblical months? **1,260 days**

How many days is a time in Bible prophecy? **360 days**

How many days is found in times or 2 x time in Bible prophecy? **720 days**

How many days is half a time in Bible prophecy? **180 days**

What then a time or 360 days plus times or 720 days and half a time or 180 days? **1,260 days**

What is a day a symbol of in Bible prophecy according to Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34? **A year**

What then is the 1,260 days, 42 months and time, times and a half a time symbolic of? **1,260 years**

According to history what year marked the beginning of the rise of the Papacy to political power when the last of his political enemies retreated from Rome? **538 AD**

Who was the first pope to become a political leader as well as a church leader in 538 AD with the power of the Goths taking over Rome and Italy broken? **Vigilius**

Who was the Roman Emperor who made the decree that gave the pope so much power? **Justinian**

What happened to all the people that wanted to follow the Bible and would not submit to the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church? **They were forced from their homes and properties and had to leave the country because they were not**

**allowed to work or earn any money unless they joined and followed the Roman Catholic Church and her traditions.**

**Who was made the head of all Churches and in fact all religions (Jews, Christians and Gentiles or non-Christians) as well as becoming the head of the state at this time by the emperor Justinian's decree? **The pope (Vigilius)****

**Who was Emperor Justinian's general that finally defeated the last of the Roman Catholic's political enemies the Goths and opened the way for the Popes great political power? **Belisarius****

**Revelation 13:3-5 gives us the symbolic description of what would mark the end of the 42 month period of persecution. What was it? **One of the heads of the beast would receive a deadly wound****

**History tells us what year this deadly wound was inflicted upon the Roman Catholic political system. What year did this happen? **1798****

**Which French Emperor brought an end to the Roman Catholic's political reign in February 1798? **Napoleon****

**What was the name of Napoleon's general that took the pope prisoner on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 1798? **Berthier****

**What was the name of the pope that was captured and deported in 1798? **Pope Pius VI****

**What laws did Napoleon make that it look like the Roman Catholic Church was finished politically and in the religious sense as a church too? **Dated Feb. 15. 1798 Bill No. 8 included: "In consequence, every other temporal authority emanating from the old government of the Pope, is suppressed, and it shall no more exercise any function...." Bill No. 9 The people of Rome cast off Papal Yoke.****