Dark Ages

The 1260 days are in fact the 1260 years in which the Roman Catholic Church did in fact "war against the saints". It was one of the major reason for the Protestant Reformation. It all ended in 1798. The **Protestants Reformers and theologians understood and saw that the Catholic Church, from 538 AD to 1798 AD was in fact the antichrist that Daniel prophesized about.** Daniel said that that the saints would be given to his hand for "a time and times and half a time". A time represents a year in the Hebrew 360-day year. So 3 1/2 times is 3 1/2 years. This equals 42 months based on the biblical 30-day month--or 1,260 days. In Thessalonians 2 Paul told us when the 1260 years (called days) would begin. It was when the "restrainer" was removed.

Who was the restrainer of this antichrist? Nearly all early church fathers and early Protestant theologians agree that the restrainer was not the Jews at the fall of Jerusalem or a King or the "Holy Spirit" as some try to say. The restrainer that had to be removed before the arrival of that antichrist power (Papacy) was the Roman Empire (the Caesars).

Why this prophesy of Daniel is awesome is that it happened exactly as prophesized. The Roman Empire began to disintegrate in the late 4th and early 5th century as invasions overwhelmed the capacity of the Empire to govern and mount a coordinated defense and the Caesar "restrainer" was being removed (see 2 Thessalonians 2:7). The 1260 year period when the antichrist (Roman Papacy) would preside over the dark ages, inquisition, etc began a little later in 538 AD after the Roman Empire and the Caesars ruling at Rome had collapsed to allow another power to come in and the eastern empire ruler Emperor Justinian issued his famous decree that made the Pope the legal "Head of all the Holy Churches". This began the prophesized reign of that antichrist (Papacy system). Add 1260 years to 538 AD and we come out to 1798 AD, when this evil system ended.

What happened **in 1798 AD? A general of Napoleon's (named Berthier) entered Rome with his French army. The Papacy was abolished, the pontifical ring was removed, and the sitting Pope--Pope Pius VI was sent to France, where he died in exile.** The Biblical prophecy happened just as given, but many try to hide the truth of the matter or say the Day/Year Principle is not applicable.