

**Daniel 7**  
**Prophecy About the Antichrist**  
**Pastor JD**

KAPONO: Would you join me in a word of prayer? Lord, thank You so much for this time where we can lift up our song to You, Lord. We just ask that You bless this time together. And uh, wow, what a chapter, *Chapter 7*, in the *Book of Daniel*. Lord, would You help our understanding it? Be with Pastor JD, Lord, as he delivers the Word this evening, that we would understand. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and Amen. Good evening. How are you doing tonight? Blessed?

[ Congregations says, "Yes." ]

That wasn't very convincing. But go ahead and be seated. We'll — we'll see if we can do something about that. Those of you online, we're so glad that you're joining with us. Hope you're blessed that you did, as well as those of you who are here.

Before we get started, I want to let you know that next Thursday we're not going to be in *Daniel Chapter 8*. Tonight, of course, is *Chapter 7* because I'm going to host a discussion with Dr. Chris Dubuque. And we've been talking about this, praying about this for quite a while, and we chose the title 'Hard Truth From a Medical Doctor' because that's kind of what it's going to be, is hard truth from a medical doctor.

So here's the drill. We're going to start, especially for those of you online because typically the Bible study starts at 7:30 when we go live. But next Thursday, Hawaii time, 7:00 p.m. — we're going to get started from about 7:00 to 7:30. We're going to just kind of, walk into it, not run into it. Then we're going to end the livestream on YouTube and Facebook because we need to talk about some things. And they are going to be censorship sensitive. Try saying that fast three times.

So that'll be from about 7:30 to 8:30. So we're going to have the better part of an hour and a half together next Thursday night. I would really encourage you to come. We're going to just real talk, as they say, about what's going on and what has happened, what is happening, and what it looks like will — should the Lord tarry, yet future, happen.

So as many of you know, Dr. Chris is part of our local church, along with his wife. I had the privilege of meeting them. Boy, it's been a few years ago now. Really? That long? How time flies when you're having fun. So anyway, they've just been a tremendous blessing. I've gotten to know Dr. Chris over the time that he's been here, and he has just a wealth of

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information that I think will be very helpful, especially as we try to navigate our way in this day with what's going on. I mean, it's just off-the-charts crazy.

And so, just real talk and hard truth, but it's just going to be a discussion back and forth between Dr. Chris and myself. So mark your calendars, make plans to attend. Hope you're able to. I know you'll be blessed if you do. Also, for those of you online, you might want to make a note of that. We will schedule it on our social media platforms, but you will want to watch the entirety on the website, similar to the Prophecy Updates.

All right. Let's get to the Word. *Daniel Chapter 7*. Wow! No, I mean wow! This chapter has been referred to as one of the most comprehensive chapters concerning Bible prophecy in the entirety of the Old Testament. And now, starting here in *Chapter 7*, we turn a corner from Bible history to Bible prophecy.

The *Book of Daniel* is conveniently divided into two parts, 12 chapters. The first six chapters are historic accounts of Daniel's captivity in Babylon under kings Nebuchadnezzar and then subsequently Belshazzar. And as we learned last week — was that last week? Someone just say it was last week — *Chapter 6* under the Mede king of the Medo-Persian Empire that had conquered the Babylonian Empire, as was prophesied in the vision that was given to Daniel to interpret of a dream that Nebuchadnezzar had in *Chapter 2*, that his Babylonian kingdom would not last forever.

He tried it. He wanted to. That's why he made a whole image of gold instead of just the head of gold, which was symbolic of the Babylonian Empire. But then the Medo-Persian Empire took over. And Daniel, last week, was under this King Darius.

We're going to see something very interesting tonight because we sort of parenthetically go back to when Belshazzar was still king, even though he died last week. For those of you that were here, you know that he died last week. Just last week he died, right here.

So but we're going to go back sort of, this is a, I guess, what you could refer to as a parenthetical passage, a parentheses of sorts. It's not chronological. It is also the last chapter that's written in Aramaic.

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And I don't want to bog you down with a lot of details here, but this is actually important because from *Chapter 2* through *Chapter 7* tonight, they were written in Aramaic. Why? That was the language of the Gentiles.

Now when we get to *Chapter 8* through *Chapter 12*, the end of the book, is going to be in Hebrew. Why? Because it's concerning Israel. So this is a very pivotal chapter tonight and for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it's about Daniel's vision, which comports with John's Revelation about the kingdoms of the world up to and through to the time of the end.

Now, why is that important? Because when you know how it ends, it settles you. Yeah, it's going to get bad. It's unspeakably horrific. But God is going to reveal to Daniel in a dream slash vision — I'll explain that in a moment — we'll see it actually right out of the chute. But He's going to reveal to Daniel the entire world prophetically, yet future, until the time of the end when God rules and reigns forever.

And I love how we're going to — this is a spoiler alert — it reads like this: forever and even forever and ever.

[ Laughter ]

No, that's not a redundancy. It's kind of like how long? Like forever. Even forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever. Well, that settles me. And I kind of need to be settled, don't you, in this world that we're living in? I mean, this could be really the “why” behind the “what” of a chapter like this in our Bibles.

Why do we have such a comprehensive prophetic chapter recorded for us in stunning accuracy and with stunning, astonishing accuracy? So accurate is this prophetic vision that God is going to reveal to Daniel that many critics of this book in particular, have fought tooth and nail — is that a saying? It is. Good. Whew! I'm not completely losing it. They have fought tooth and nail in disbelief that this could have been written before the events that were written happened because they're that accurate. There's no way. This had to be written after the fact.

There's only one problem. Jesus referred to Daniel. And it was written in such a way — and by the way, as I just mentioned, in Aramaic, so there's no mistaking it. And it's timestamped.

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I love those prophetic timestamps in Scripture. And that's why, as we're about to see, we're told when he received this vision. So there's no question marks here as to the accuracy of what's going to come to pass.

Now, here's the thing, and this is why I chose the title, which is really the takeaway. You understand that when I'm teaching through the Bible expositionally, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse — I started doing this — I forget how long ago it was — but there had to be a takeaway. What's the — what is it that God wants us to take home from this chapter? So I mean, you know, I used to just, you know, Thursday night, Daniel, *Chapter 7*. Yay.

[ Laughter ]

Now, when you put a title to it, a face on it, it changes the whole complexion of it. So what's the takeaway from this chapter? What's the focus of this chapter? What's the main thing in this chapter? It's a prophecy about the Antichrist.

Now, what's so interesting is that Daniel is going to be shown this vision of these kingdoms, which will have its basis in Nebuchadnezzar's dream that he interpreted in *Chapter 2* with the four kingdoms. But he's going to take it further and reveal to Daniel, in this vision, all of the kingdoms. But he's going to talk very specifically in revealing this vision to Daniel about the ten horns in the final kingdom, and this peculiar little horn that comes up out of the ten horns.

And of all the things that Daniel is the most curious about, is — he's not curious about the second kingdom, the third kingdom. This fourth kingdom caught his interest, and he actually is wanting to know more about this little horn, which is clearly, without question, a prophecy about the Antichrist. And we're going to see why. We're going to see why. That question will get answered for us by the Holy Spirit in this chapter.

So why don't we pray, and we'll ask God to bless our time together in His word. Father, thank You so much, Lord. Been looking forward to — it's a little bit of an intimidating chapter because it's so powerful, so comprehensive, so much here. But Lord, there are certain things that You want us to see here in this chapter.

So would You, by the Holy Spirit, get our attention, first and foremost, get our attention, and then once You get our attention, would You hold our attention, so our minds don't wander?

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Because we don't want to miss what it is that's here for us. Because that's why we have this chapter. There's so much here for us to take into our lives, as stressful as they are, as busy as they are. Just knowing the accuracy, 100% accuracy of Bible prophecy and what that means to us, that alone, Lord, thank You for that.

So Lord, speak to us. Yes, it's a prophecy-packed chapter but so much personal application. So would You highlight that for us and minister that to us? We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

All right. Let's jump in. *Verse 1*. You ready? **“In the first year [Here's the prophetic timestamp] of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed.”**

Did you ever do anything with that, Kapon? Oh, he left because he knew I was going to ask him about it. That's a song. **“...dream and visions of his head while on his bed.”** Dreams and visions. (Singing) No? Is it too early? Okay, **“Then he wrote down the dream...”**

Now stop right there. This is where we have the delineation between a dream and a vision. So you know, when you sleep, you get those weird dreams that are so real, and you wake up?

Well, he gets this dream, and he wakes up and he realizes that it's a vision and a revelation, and that's why he writes it down, so he doesn't forget it, and inspired by the Spirit. And we're also told that he didn't only just write it down. It says, **“Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.”**

In other words, there was so much I just — all I can do for you guys is give you a summary because it was so detailed. I'm just going to give you the highlights of what I saw in this vision and in this dream.

A vision: you don't necessarily, in fact, typically a vision like John in Revelation, you're awake and you receive this revelation, a vision. A dream is when you receive a vision, but it's in the form of a dream while you're sleeping in your head, while on your bed. I'm sorry, can I just say it one more time? In your head while on your bed. Okay. We haven't even got to *verse 2* yet.

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*Verse 2.* **“Daniel spoke saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.”**

Now obviously we have some symbolism here. The Great Sea is thought to be the Mediterranean Sea, of which these kingdoms would apply, but in the broader sense, more prophetically, the Great Sea refers to humanity, and we'll see that.

**“And [Verse 3] four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. The first was [And I want you to notice this] like a lion...” [Not a lion, like a lion]**

He's doing his best to describe what these beasts were like in this dream and vision that he had. So this first one was like a lion, but it had eagle's wings. Interesting. So the eagle is, I mean, ruler of the sky, and the lion is ruler of the jungle on earth, on land.

Interesting to note that this is speaking of Babylon. If you want to do the research in ancient Iraq, which is about — in ancient Babylon — about 50 miles, from the capital of modern-day Iraq, which is Baghdad, where my uncle was from, actually.

You can visit ancient Babylon and, you'll see they rebuilt when, Saddam Hussein, who saw himself as the reincarnation of King Nebuchadnezzar — in fact, some of the bricks in his rebuilding of ancient Babylon — one side of the brick had the name etched Nebuchadnezzar and on the other Hussein.

He saw himself as — there are big posters in — I know I'm taking this too far. It has absolutely nothing to do with the Bible study tonight. But I just want to let you know that at the gates of Babylon, they had these huge lions with wings on them. So these were lions that could fly.

Now, watch what Daniel says he watched. He's watching this. His eyes are glued to this. **“I watched till its wings were plucked off...”**

Oh, it was humbled. This is speaking of Nebuchadnezzar. And here's how we know.

Because Daniel goes on to say, **“...and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.”**

Can we just quickly rewind to *Chapter 4*, when we have Nebuchadnezzar's testimony, meaning that we will see Nebuchadnezzar in heaven. He came to a saving knowledge of the

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God of Daniel, the God of Israel. And his whole testimony is written for us in *Chapter 4*. And here was this proud lion with wings, majestic and powerful, this kingdom, but he was humbled for seven years when he lived as an animal.

Remember that? By the way, just a little side note. You know who took care of Nebuchadnezzar when he was living as an animal for seven years? Daniel. Daniel. Daniel took care of him for that period of time, of seven years. So...

And he comes to a saving knowledge of the God of Daniel because of it. There's a takeaway right there. So but this is a man and a — he was given a new heart. God changed his heart. God humbled him and changed him. So that was the first beast.

*[This] “And suddenly another beast, a second [Verse 5] like a bear.” [Not a bear, like a bear]*

Very different. What do we know to be true about bears? They're kind of — they move a little slower, although some bears, you know, maybe I'm watching too many movies like you, but some of those bears run pretty fast, I think. But once they get you, it's lights out. So this — but the strength of a bear. And this is what this second beast is. This is the Medo-Persian Empire. The first beast, the lion with eagle's wings, Babylon. The second beast like a bear.

Notice this. **“It was raised up on one side.”** That's the Persian side. In fact, historians don't even really give much credit to the Medes. It was really the Medo-Persian Empire. But Darius only lived two years and reigned as the Mede king. So when Cyrus comes on the scene, he's the Persian king that rules and reigns. But the Persians, the Persian Empire was like a bear. And notice this. This — again, this vision — he's describing it.

He says this second beast, like a bear, **“...had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth.”** Now, why do we need to know that? And what does that mean? Well, that is symbolic of the three kingdoms that Persia conquered: Babylon, Egypt, and Lydia.

Remember the dream, the vision, Nebuchadnezzar, *Chapter 2*? That the gold, Babylon, would be succeeded by the Medo-Persian, silver, which is inferior to gold, just like a bear would be inferior to a lion, especially one that's got wings on it.

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**[So] “And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’ “After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard...” [Not a leopard, like a leopard]**

Who's this? Greece, the brass. Inferior to the silver. Inferior to the gold. This is the Grecian Empire and one Alexander the Great. Like a leopard. You know how fast leopards move? I think there's a reference in Jeremiah about the swiftness of a leopard, that they run so fast that their feet don't even touch the ground.

You don't want to race a leopard. That's in case you're wondering. Maybe that's the takeaway for you. If you're planning on racing a leopard, don't bother. You will lose that race. They are very fast.

Why is this beast like — and by the way, he'd already witnessed the Medo-Persian Empire conquering the Babylonian Empire because he's living in it. This hasn't happened yet. So now he sees this third beast like a leopard, and it is speaking directly to Alexander the Great, who moved so fast, so swiftly.

He conquered the known world by the time he was 29 years old. That's just wrong on every level. 29, really? You young whippersnapper! And he conquered the entire world at 29. There are accounts; historians have written about how he went into a great depression because there were no more kingdoms to conquer.

One more side note; I think I mentioned this. It's worthy of mentioning again. Somebody showed Alexander the Great *Chapter 7* of Daniel's prophecy, the one we're reading tonight. See, this was written before he was even born. At 29 years old, he conquers the whole world.

So here's Daniel. He's an old sage by now. But it's said that someone took Alexander the Great aside and showed him. Hey, Alexander, dude — he didn't say dude. You're in the Bible, man. He goes, what are you talking about? He said, no, you're right here. And he showed him this chapter. He said, you're like that leopard in the conquering of the entire world. And he was so blown away, for lack of a better way of saying it, that he spared Jerusalem in his swift conquering of the known world at that time, as the Grecian Empire.



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Now, this is interesting because we were told — Daniel goes on — This beast **“like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.”**

What’s that mean? Listen to the accuracy. Oh, I love God's Word. I love God's Word. I love God's Word. So Alexander the Great dies. What's he going to do? Well, he divides the kingdom that he leaves behind to four guys.

You want to know their names? Good because I got them written down right here. Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus — if you're looking for names for babies, I don't recommend these — and Ptolemy. He ended up in Egypt.

So here's a prophecy about Alexander the Great that hasn't happened yet. And he's like a leopard, swiftly conquers, and then he dies young (Chuckling) and gives his kingdom to four heads. And this bore true with 100% accuracy.

See, for Daniel right now, at this juncture, this is prophecy. When we get to Revelation *Chapter 13*, here's the same four beasts in the opposite order. Why? Because for John in 95 A.D, it's not prophecy, it's all history that already happened. Everything but the ten toes and that little horn with a big mouth. I'm getting ahead of myself. Wait.

**“After this [Verse 7] I saw in the night visions and behold, a fourth beast.”**

I want you to notice what's conspicuously absent from his description of his vision of this fourth beast. He cannot liken it to anything. Forget the lion, wings of an eagle, leopard, bear. Bear, schmear. He cannot even compare. That was pretty good.

All he can say is **“...this fourth beast [Was] dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth. It was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.”** This comports again with the revelation that John received.

*Verse 8.* Now notice what Daniel's focused on. **“I was considering the horns, [Translated: that got my attention] and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this**

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**horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous, [Blasphemous] words.”**

That's the Antichrist. That's the Antichrist who comes up from among these ten horns, ten kings, ten rulers over ten kingdoms. We've actually talked about this at length in our Prophecy Updates, but this is a man. And not only is this a man, this is a man with a big mouth.

Now we have detailed description of what the Antichrist is going to be like, what he is going to do, how evil he is going to be. He's going to be possessed by Satan himself. Satan incarnate will be in this man. But one of the things that is sadly missed, unfortunately missed about the characteristic of the Antichrist is he will be the most boastful, bombastic, belligerent man speaking blasphemies. I'm going to leave that one right there.

Notice *verse 9*. His eyes are glued to this. He says, **“I watched till thrones were put in place, [In other words, I couldn't take my eyes off of this thing] [Whoa!] [And I kept watching] till thrones were put in place, and [Listen] the Ancient of Days was seated.”**

Yeah. You know who the Ancient of Days is? God the Father. Yeah. Seated. Not pacing back and forth. I love it when Isaiah says he looked up and he saw the Lord seated high, seated on the throne, not pacing back and forth. What are we going to do? What are we going to do? No, seated. When you're sitting, you're settled.

And he just got done seeing these descriptions, this vision of these beasts. And this fourth beast was really indescribable, unfathomable in how evil and horrific it's going to be, unlike anything ever seen before.

And he keeps watching until, and here's if I can use “takeaway” again, here's a good takeaway. Sometimes we just need to keep our eyes on the Lord until such a time as He settles us, and we see Him seated on His throne. Because we're going to see in a moment Daniel is extremely disturbed by this. You might say this kind of messes him up. This vision was very traumatizing to him.

Well, here's the description of the Ancient of Days, God the Father. **“His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream [Verse 10] issued and came forth from before Him.**

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*[And listen to this]* **a thousand thousands ministered to Him. Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.”**

Wait. Books? Plural? Yeah. I thought there was just one, the Book of Life. No, there's the Book of the Living. The Book of Life. I forget what the third book is. It escapes me. So all these books were opened.

Wait. Who are these? That's like millions of people. Us. Us. It's going to get better. What if I told you that we're about to see the pre-tribulation rapture in this chapter?

Oh, come on, Pastor, you see the pre-tribulation rapture in everything. You can see it in a banana.

I actually can; I'll come up with something. Just give me enough time. I'll get the pre-tribulation rapture out of a banana. You got to peel it first. It's called the pre-trib, the pre-banana, pre-peeled banana. Anyway, so this is all yet future, and Daniel is being shown all of this.

And notice *verse 11* starts out the same way, **“I watched.”**

I think of the Savior exhorting the disciples to keep watch. Keep watching. Be watching like the watchmen on the wall. Just keep watching. And that's what Daniel did. I kept watching.

**“...then *[And here's why]* because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking.”**

In other words, look at the contrast. If I'm Daniel, I'm like, I'm getting, you know, like in a — I'm back and forth. I mean, here's this bombastic, belligerent, boastful, pompous words coming out of this man's mouth, the Antichrist.

And he kept watching. But here, he keeps hearing this guy. Like, shut up already. Is that — people have a problem with that word. I'm sorry. Forgive me. You have to forgive me. Maybe just keep your mouth shut. Would that be better? That's more pastoral.

But he kept watching. Why? *[Listen]* **“I watched till the beast was slain and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, *[Verse 12]* they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. I was *[Verse 13]* watching *[He's still watching]* in the night visions, and behold, One like the**

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**Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!** [*Who's that? Jesus, God the son*] **He came to the Ancient of Days,** [*God the Father*] **and they brought Him near before Him.** [*I'd be watching too!*] [*This is getting good*] [*Verse 14*] **Then to Him** [*And I need to hear this*] [*You need to hear this*] [*And doubtless Daniel needed to hear this*] **To Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.**

[*And verse 15 is a little difficult because Daniel very honestly says*] **“I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.”**

He was greatly upset by this. Interesting in the original language — I was — and notice the way, the wording — that's not how we would say it — **“was grieved in my spirit within my body.”** This, in the original is, it carries with it the idea of a sheave like his spirit was a sword in the sheave, which was his body. His spirit within his body, the sheave of his body was grieved, troubled, disturbed. And this is why he still can't get his mind off that little horn with a big mouth.

So what does he do, *verse 16*? He's disturbed. So he says, **“I came near to one of those who stood by, and [I] asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: ‘Those great beasts [*Verse 17*], which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.**

**But [*And I want you to pay attention to this*] the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”**

(Chuckling) Okay. Okay. Can I just have this one? Can I just read that one more time? Okay. ‘...possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.’ [*And ever and ever*] You know how long eternity is? Forever and ever. Even forever and ever and ever. And ever.

Now, *verse 19*. He's still — he's still got some questions. And he's still seeking answers because he's still disturbed, upset. And I want you to notice *verse 19*. He says, **“Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast.”**

I got the first three. I'm not — I'm not concerned or disturbed. I'm not grieved by that. I get it; I'm living in number 2. So number 1 happened. Number 2 is happening. Number 3 will

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happen, I know. But this fourth one, can you tell me a little bit more about this thing? Because this does not sound good.

**“...which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron [And we have another detail added] and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet.**

**And [Verse 20] the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.”**

Do you realize that no less than three times Daniel writes about this guy's big mouth and blasphemous words, what came out of this guy's mouth? I mean, if you were to describe the height of arrogance and pride, that's it.

And you can almost — you almost get the sense that Daniel's struggling. He, even though he's probably got a firm grasp of the Aramaic, he's struggling to find the right words to describe what he's seeing in this vision specific to this little horn guy with the big mouth, guy.

In other words, okay, the three B's. Check, check, check. Fourth B? Check. Ten horns? Check. Little horn? Not so fast. I want to know more about this guy. Well, that's interesting. Of all that you've been shown, and now the interpretation of all that you've been shown is given, and your focus is on this little horn with a big mouth? Yeah. And no less than three times we have this recorded for us about his mouth speaking pompous, or better understood, blasphemous words.

Verse 21 starts off again the same way. **“I was watching; [Do you get the impression that Daniel is watching?] and the same horn was making war against the saints [Not the church] the saints and prevailing against them.”**

Stop! There's the pre-tribulation rapture. Here's how I get there. I think it's, Matthew 13. Jesus, when He takes the disciples to the very demonic place — you've been there with us when we've gone to Israel — Caesarea Philippi, where they worshiped, unthinkable worship of the Pan god. It was where they feared this Pan god. It is where we get the English word for panic.

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It was the god Pan, and it was located — and they called it the Gates of Hell. And it's this big mouth in this huge rock. And it was called the Gates of Hades, or Hell. And this is where this god Pan was worshiped. And it was at a place called Caesarea Philippi.

And Jesus takes the disciples on a field trip to this place. And this is where He asked, **“Who do you say that I am?”** And this is where Peter — I love Peter — he says, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** And Jesus turns around to Peter and says, right answer Peter, good man. (Chuckling)

And then Peter lets it go to his head. He's starting to really, you know, kind of feel like — I almost picture — I know it's not in the narrative — but I picture Peter looking at the other disciples going, did you hear what He said?

[ Laughter ]

You know, on that famous account — true story — it really happened — when they were in the storm in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, and they see Jesus walking on water, but they don't know it's Jesus, and they are terrified.

And when they realize it's Jesus, who's the only one of the disciples in the boat that says, **“Bid me come”**? If that's you, Lord, let me walk on water too, Lord. And what does Jesus say? Let's go.

So he gets out of the boat. He's walking on water! And I think we're too hard on him. It's like, well, he took his eyes off the Lord. Yeah, but he got out of the boat!!!! Yeah, but he took his eyes off the Lord, and he started sinking. And, you know, he started looking at the storm and...

Stop! He got out of the boat and walked on water, man! I don't know how many steps it was, but the other disciples didn't do that. Listen, I need to get this off my chest. This is a big problem for me. I really struggle with this because, of course, I'm Peter. No I'm not. I'm in the back in the boat going, Peter! What are you doing?

And Peter — it says he took his eyes — and he saw that — because the storm is still raging. He is walking on water, takes his eyes off the Lord, looks at the storm. But I wonder if he didn't just glance back at the disciples, and go, I'm walking on water, man!

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And that's when he sunk, of course because pride comes before the sinking. So I know I digress. I am making a profound, deeply profound point here. I just have to remember what it was.

But of all the things, he wants to know about this little horn. And when he says, “...**the same horn was making war against the saints**” well, that can't be the church because that would contradict the account in Matthew 13, when Jesus took the disciples on this field trip to Caesarea Philippi and after Peter said, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**” and then Jesus said, “**I'm going to build My church upon the rock.** *[Peter is Petra, little rock, not Arkansas, little stone]*”

Okay, so Petra, upon the rock of your confession, I'm going to build the church. And He says this: “...**the Gates of Hell will not prevail against you.**” Who? The church.

Well, wait a minute. That contradicts Daniel 7 that the Antichrist will prevail against them. That's not the church. Where's the church? In heaven. Who are the saints? They're the ones left behind on earth, affectionately referred to as the Tribulation Saints. This is the Pre-tribulation rapture, right smack in the middle of *verse 21*. This is the saints.

The Gates of Hell, the Antichrist, is not going to prevail against the church, but Daniel says the Antichrist will prevail against the saints. The saints are different than the church. That's not the church.

I got to finish Matthew 13 because after Peter is all like, you know, hey, yeah, I'm going to be given the keys, He's going to build the church upon the rock of my confession, and I'm going to be given the keys, and the Gates of Hell are not going to prevail, and then He says, well, now I got something else I got to tell you. I'm going to go to the cross.

And Peter basically says, over my dead body, to which Jesus says, “Get thee behind Me, Satan” to Peter. I mean, just in a few short verses you go from right answer, Peter, good job. Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, God has revealed this to you, right answer, to “**Get thee behind Me, Satan.**” He's not calling Peter, Satan.

What Peter was doing was he was basically saying what Satan wanted him to say because Satan didn't want Jesus to go to the cross because Satan knows that if Jesus goes to the cross, He dies for and pays for the sins of mankind. And if He goes to the cross — because

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Satan knows the scriptures better than we do — He's going to rise again from the dead. And we need to keep moving. So stop doing that so we can get moving. Okay?

Now *verse 22*. “...until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, *[Not the church]* and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. *[The church is already in heaven]* “Thus he said: *[Verse 23]* ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it, and break it into pieces.

The ten horns *[Verse 24]* are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them. He shall be *[He, the Antichrist]* shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings *[Out of the ten]* *[And here it is again]* *[How repetitive is this?]* *[Verse 25]* He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, *[Not the church, the tribulation saints during the 7-year tribulation]* *[He's going to persecute them]* *[He is going to seek to devour them]*

And *[We're told he]* shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times, and half a time.”

Remember, we've talked about the interpretation in the Hebrew and the Aramaic? That's three-and-a-half-years, the last three-and-a-half-years of the 7-year tribulation he will be given the saints into his hand.

“But the court shall be seated, *[Verse 26]* and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. Then *[Verse 27]* the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. *[And]* His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’

*[And then the last verse]* “This is the end of the account. *[Period. The end]* *[P.S.]* As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart.”

Wow. I want you to think this through with me. Daniel, this man of God, mightily used of God; God uniquely positioned — remember when he was taken captive to Babylon, he was



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in his mid-twenties. Now he's at the end of his life in his 80s. He never goes back to Jerusalem. He dies there in Babylon, which is now Persia, now the Persian Empire. And it's not like — some believe that he was forced to stay. Some believe that he knew that God wanted him to stay because God had used him for decades in the lives of so many there.

And God kept him there because God needed him there because God used him there. And he was of more value to the kingdom of God there than he would be if he were back in Jerusalem with his buddies. Think about that, that alone.

Has God uniquely positioned you in that job, in that neighborhood? And He's keeping you there. And you know that He's got you here for a reason. He's not going to relocate you. He wants you to stay where you're at because He's going to use you. He's not through with you. He's still got a plan for you, to use you to work through you, for you don't know who, but somebody there that God is going to use you to bring to Him. So you've got to be strategically located in that position.

Don't be too quick to want to change or move or relocate. I think about — I'm talking about people that I know from many years ago on the mainland that would relocate, only to wish that they never moved. Because they hadn't really counted the cost in the sense that they moved to a new location, and they realized it was one of the biggest mistakes they ever made in their lives.

Now God's going to bless it. You know God is so gracious. He works all things together for the good. I mean, we make these mistakes, and God in His mercy just says, okay, I'm going to work this out. I mean, thanks a lot for making My job a little bit harder, but I'm going to — I'll figure it out. I didn't want you to move, but now that you're here, we'll just have to regroup. We'll figure something out and we'll work it out for the good.

But don't be too quick because maybe it's a job, maybe it's, you know, a position you're in or a place you're living. Don't be too quick because how do you know that God doesn't have you there for, like with Esther, such a time as this? Where He's uniquely positioned you like Mordecai would say, how do you know that God has not put you in this position for such a time as this?

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And what he says to her, which is very sobering, is if you don't do what God's called you to do for such a time as this, in this unique position to which you have been placed, He'll find somebody else. I don't like to hear that.

It's kind of like, wait, wait.

No, no, I'm your guy.

No. If you're not interested, I'll find somebody else.

No, no. I'm good. No. You wanted — you were not good. You were like fighting Me on this thing. So listen, if you're not in and you want out, that's fine. I'll get somebody else.

No, I'll do it. I'm your guy. I don't want to be robbed of the blessing that's going to come.

Do you realize that God used Esther to virtually deliver Israel out of the hands of the very Persian Empire under Artaxerxes that we're talking about tonight? Remember studying through the Book of Esther? The only book that the name God is not found one time in. Yet throughout every part of that amazing book, you find God's hand all over the place.

Remember the banquets? I could go — I won't. I could. I want to. But remember the — remember that night when Artaxerxes couldn't sleep, and he's like, man, I — this is before medication and all that. So what am I going to do? Well, just bring me the scrolls and just bore me to death, and I'll fall asleep.

So he sends his servants to the library with just massive scrolls. And I know if you just read these — these are like board minutes. These are like, you know, the records of, you know, the meeting was brought to order. (Snoring) He's done. He's gone, right? So that's what he was thinking.

So they go, and it's like God guided their hand to pick the one scroll, the needle in the haystack that had a peculiar account about a guy named Mordecai that saved the king's life from a plot to assassinate him. So they come. He's like, oh, good, you're back. I still can't sleep. Start reading. Hopefully, I'll fall asleep.

So they start reading. And apparently, they must have started off with that part about Mordecai. So now instead of sleeping, his eyes are wide open. He's going to wait. What? You know what? I remember that. I remember that plot.

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Wait, who's the — who's the guy that stopped it and basically spared my life and saved my life? Oh, it's recorded here: Mordecai. He's like, wow, did we ever do anything for this guy? Let's see. Let me scroll, scroll, scroll. You know, for us it would be, you know, swipe, swipe, swipe, click, click, click.

No, it doesn't look like we did anything. He's like, man, we got to do something. This guy saved my life. I am also going to make a profound point in conclusion, so just bear with me. So morning comes. I don't think he slept.

You know what Haman was doing while this was happening? He was polishing these gallows, not hanging to hang but these sharp, I believe — I forget how many feet high in terms of our measurements. They would impale alive, people on these sharp gallows, and they would die a slow and grueling death. And he was building these gallows to impale Mordecai on. Because every time Haman would walk through the city streets, Mordecai would not bow down to him, and that just was not going to work.

So he got the king to issue an edict, similar to what we saw with the lion's den. Was that last week? Oh, cool. See, I remembered. That's so good when the pastor remembers what he taught on a week ago. So they tried to trap him and the Jews to kill all the Jews, and an irreversible edict was issued.

And as it turns out, this Haman was exposed. And just like those guys that got Daniel thrown into the lion's den, they took Haman and they impaled him on the very gallows that he had built for Mordecai.

I mean, I just, I love God's word. I don't know; is that bad to really, really enjoy accounts like that? Like those are things that you really want to kind of be there for. I would have loved to have seen that. I mean, I know that's dark, but I would have loved to have seen that.

What's my point? Daniel saw it all. He saw all of this. No wonder he's greatly troubled. No wonder his countenance changed. But here's the thing. And here's the bottom line, and we'll close. He saw all of this because God wanted him to see all of this. Because in the end, God is going to sit on that throne forever, even forever and ever. And that's how it ends.

So if you can, just keep watching and just wait because it is going to get really bad. This little horn, Antichrist, that's going to be the likes of which the world has never seen before, nor

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will ever see again. Jesus, in Matthew, 24 describes the tribulation as such. It will be such great tribulation as the world has never before seen, nor will ever see again.

So it's like God needed Daniel then, like us now, to know that that's not how it ends. That's not how it ends. You might be in a really difficult trial right now. Just wait. Because God is going to have the final word on it. It's going to end well for you.

Yeah, but it's looking really bad for me right now.

I realize that. But it's going to end really well for you forever, even forever and ever. Amen. Kapono, come on up. Stand up.

[ Applause ]

I love God's word. Oh, thank You, Lord. Oh, we didn't even really scratch the surface of this chapter. But that's enough, I think, for our attention spans, probably. Lord, I just pray that You'll take it from here, by the Holy Spirit, and just — it is a process.

We're going to make our way home tonight. We're going to go to bed, get up in the morning, many of us go to work, and we're going to slide into the weekend. But Lord, don't let us get away with letting this get away from us. Lord, You've already got the future perfectly on schedule.

And You've even told us what the future holds because You're the one who holds the future. And that should give us hope, Lord. And I pray if anybody's discouraged tonight, that they'll be encouraged knowing that this prophecy given to Daniel how many generations ago, well, he was living the second beast then, we're living the fourth now, the final kingdom now, with the Antichrist who is arguably already alive behind the scenes today, at the ready, to be revealed after the church is removed.

We're there. And You told us that this was going to happen, and it's happening, and the end of it for us. Lord, thank You. Thank You for this chapter. Thank You for Daniel. Bless it to our hearts, the application of it to our lives. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.