

# “THE ANTICHRIST & TRIBULATION”

DANIEL 7:15-28

**Theme:** Despite causing great distress for the people of God, the Antichrist will ultimately face the wrath of God.

## I. The Assurance Amidst Alarm – 7:15-18

### A. The Impact of the Vision – vv. 15-16

1. Daniel responds to the events he witnessed in the vision: *“My spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.”*
2. This refers to the fact that the awareness of what is to come ought not to bring delight to the heart of the righteous but literally “grief.”
3. Daniel couldn’t handle relying on what he had learned from the previous prophetic visions – he *“approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this.”*
4. This would refer to those mentioned in v. 10, an angel who complied with Daniel’s request (obviously at the direction of the Lord) – *“So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things.”*

### B. The Interpretation of the Vision – vv. 17-18

1. Here we see a simple, general interpretation that provides a simple and broad description of what will transpire in the future: - *“These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.”*
2. He then reveals that the future of the people of God is bright and sure, despite the temporary ascendancy of the wicked: *“But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.”*
  - a) Who are *“the saints of the Highest One”*? – this would refer to the two groups designated in Scripture as the people of God – Israel (OT saints together with those redeemed during the Tribulation & the saints of the Church).
  - b) They *“possess the kingdom”* – refers to the fact that they are given the privilege of enjoying the delights of the Kingdom as their own.

## II. The Activities of the Antichrist – 7:19-25

### A. He Will Rule with Cruelty – v. 19

1. Daniel then recognizes that the *“fourth beast”* is the one that

climaxes the “times of the Gentiles” and wants *“to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast.”*

2. He states that this fourth beast, *“which as different from all the others, was exceedingly dreadful.”*
3. This “dreadfulness” is explained through a description of the cruelty that will characterize the antichrist’s rule: *“with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet.”*

**B. He Will Rule with Coercion – v. 20**

1. The next feature of the antichrist’s rule will be one of intimidation and coercion: *“and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell.”*
2. This demonstrates that the antichrist will start his “power” as an insignificant ruler who consolidates his power by vanquishing three “kings” and then having a more significant share than any other king, bullies the others: *“namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates.”*

**C. He Will Rule with Carnage – vv. 21-22**

1. Daniel adds yet another feature of the antichrist’s rule . . . it will focus on an attempt to destroy the Jews or anyone who would defy him to obey God: *“I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them.”*
2. This corresponds to what John indicates will be the passion of the Antichrist in **Revelation 13:7**.
  - a) We are told that he is given the ability to kill 2/3 of the Jews – **Zechariah 13:8-9**.
  - b) Jerusalem will fall to his army – **Zechariah 14:1-2**.
  - c) Many Gentiles who honor the Lord God will also experience the Antichrist’s wrath. **Revelation 12:13-17**.
3. Just as it seems that the antichrist is about to succeed in his effort to stamp out Israel, the Lord God Almighty will arrive and deliver them by killing the antichrist – *“until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor the saints of the Highest One”* – cp. **Zechariah 14:3-5**.
4. It is then that *“the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom”* – they had been the ones hunted and exiled.

**D. He will Rule with Conquest – vv. 23-24**

1. These verses repeat the feature of the Antichrist's rule mentioned in verses 19-20.
2. This establishes that the *"fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth,"* which conquers and consumes other kingdoms.
3. Verse 23 describes the Roman Empire initially presented, which has disappeared for a time. However, verse 24 describes a different manifestation of the Roman Empire that historically has never existed: *"As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise"* –
  - a) This is a reference to the ten nations in the European Union.
  - b) ***Revelation 17:12-13*** states that this portion of the Roman Empire was still future to our day.
4. Again, the antichrist will enter the picture as insignificant but *"will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings,"* thus consolidating his power.

**E. He Will Rule with Contempt – v. 25**

1. Contempt for God's **Prestige** – *"He will speak out against the Most High"* – *"against"* possessing the idea of "at the side of" – showing that antichrist will see himself as a rival to God.
2. Contempt for God's **People** – *"He will ... wear down the saints of the Highest One"* – once again a reference to the harassment and injustice that the people of God will face.
3. Contempt for God's **Program** – *"... and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law"* – a reference to the tampering that will occur with God's moral and natural laws.
4. This terror and tyranny will last only during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation Period – *"and they will be given into his hand for a time [one year], times [two years], and half a time [1/2 year]."*

**III. The Annihilation of the Godless Authority – 7:26-28**

**A. The Annihilation of the Antichrist – v. 26**

1. Daniel is then reminded by this angel, providing the interpretation that *"the court will sit for judgment, and his [the antichrist's] dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever."*
2. Not only is the Antichrist judged and removed from the scene, but also the dominion of man is destroyed so that no other ruler can

ever assume authority independently from the King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

3. This judgment of the Antichrist is pictured for us in **Revelation 19:19-20**.

**B. The Ascendancy of the Saints – vv. 27-28**

1. *“Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One.”*
2. This refers to the Millennial Reign of Christ – *“His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.”*
3. Daniel concludes with a comment about how this had affected him – *“my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale.”*
4. Perhaps it is best if we don’t know what the future holds, and if we do, to allow God’s Word to direct us to use the knowledge He’s revealed to serve Him with more significant burden and effectiveness.

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