

## ***Session 3 The Rise and Fall of the Antichrist (Dan. 7:15-28)***

### **I. OUTLINE OF DANIEL 7:15-28**

- A. An angel's interpretation of the vision (Dan. 7:15-28)
  - 1. Interpretation (Part 1): Victory is assured (7:15-18)
    - a. Daniel's response to the vision (7:15)
    - b. Daniel's first question (7:16)
    - c. Interpretation of the four beasts (7:17)
    - d. The saints as world rulers (7:18)
  - 2. Interpretation (Part 2): Prepared to rule through martyrdom (7:19-22)
    - a. Daniel's second question: (7:19-20)
    - b. Antichrist permitted to kill the saints (7:21)
    - c. God suddenly reverses all things (7:22)
  - 3. Interpretation (Part 3): The fourth beast, 10 horns, and the little horn (7:23-27)
    - a. The fourth beast (7:23)
    - b. The 10 horns (10 kings) (7:24a)
    - c. The little horn (Antichrist) (7:24b-25)
    - d. The destruction of the Antichrist (7:26)
    - e. God's kingdom forever ruled by the saints (7:27)
  - 4. Daniel's response (7:28)

### **II. REVIEW OF DANIEL'S FIRST VISION (DAN. 7:1-14)**

- A. Daniel had just seen a vision of the Ancient of Days sitting on His all powerful throne (7:9-10), the triumph of the Son of Man receiving the leadership of the earth forever (7:13-14), and the total defeat of the Antichrist (7:11-12), yet he was still so deeply troubled by what he saw that he recorded his troubled response twice (7:15, 28). Daniel 7:15-28 tells us why he was so troubled.
- B. An angel helped Daniel to understand the vision (7:16-27). He asked for information about the vision twice (7:16, 19). The angel's interpretation of the vision was given in three parts (7:17-27)—a verbal answer (7:17-18), a short vision (7:21-22), and another verbal answer (7:23-27).
- C. First, Daniel asked "for the truth" about the vision in general (7:16). The angel told him about the four great beasts (7:17), assuring him that the saints would be victorious, not the beasts (7:18).
- D. Second, Daniel asked for the truth about the fourth beast, which was so different from the others in being exceeding dreadful; and he asked about the ten horns and the little horn (7:19-20).
  - 1. The angel answered him, showing him a short vision (7:21-22) followed by an explanation (7:23-27). In the short vision he showed him that the Antichrist would be permitted to kill the saints (7:21), and then assured him of the victory of the saints (7:22).
  - 2. Then the angel gave a further explanation about the fourth beast, again emphasizing how different it would be (7:23), and about the ten horns (7:24a) and the little horn (7:24b-25). Then he again assured Daniel of the victory of the saints (7:26-27).

### III. DANIEL'S RESPONSE TO THE VISION (DAN. 7:15)

- A. Daniel was grieved and troubled by the fourth beast's power, violence, and arrogance (7:15).  
*<sup>15</sup>"I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me." (Dan. 7:15)*
1. **Grieved:** Daniel was pained in his heart about the reality of the Antichrist. The vision left Daniel in a state of extreme grief affecting both soul and body.
  2. **Troubled:** Daniel was perplexed in his mind as he sought to gain more understanding. At the end of this vision, Daniel again described how greatly troubled he was (7:28).  
*<sup>28</sup>"...my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed..." (Dan. 7:28) .]*
  3. Daniel had just seen a vision of God's throne (7:9-10), Jesus' triumph (7:13-14), and the Antichrist's destruction (7:11-12), but he was deeply troubled by what he saw.
  4. What troubled Daniel? I believe it was the intensity of the beast empire which was dreadful, terrible, exceedingly strong, and totally different from the other empires (7:7).
  5. If we are not troubled by what Daniel shared about the Antichrist and his empire, then it means that we have not yet understood what he saw.

### IV. FIRST QUESTION: VICTORY ASSURED (DAN. 7:16-18)

- A. Daniel's first question (7:16): He asked to know the truth, or the full implications of the vision.  
*<sup>16</sup>"I came near to one of those who stood by [an angel], and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things." (Dan. 7:16)*
- B. The first part of the angel's interpretation focused on what the four great beasts were (7:17) and the fact that the victory of the saints was assured (7:18).  
*<sup>17</sup>"Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom, forever, even forever and ever." (Dan. 7:17-18)*
- C. The angel starts off by giving a broad answer by saying in essence, "It's a battle for dominion." Which powers will win? Four kingdoms will arise out of godless humanity to try to take dominion of the earth, but ultimately God will take it from them and give it to the saints forever.
- D. The angel said that the four beasts are four kings (7:17). Later, the angel expanded his answer by saying that the four beasts are not just four individual kings, but are also kingdoms or empires (7:23). Who are these kings? The most prominent kings are probably Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon), Cyrus (Medo-Persia), Alexander the Great (Greece), and the Antichrist.

- E. These kingdoms arise out of the earth (7:17), instead of coming up from the sea as stated in 7:3. The False Prophet is described as “coming up out of the earth” (Rev. 13:11), but the Antichrist “rises up out of the sea” (Rev. 13:1). The earth speaks of godless humanity.

<sup>2</sup>*“I saw in my vision by night...<sup>3</sup>four great beasts came up from the sea...” (Dan. 7:2-3)*

<sup>11</sup>*Then I saw another beast [False Prophet] coming up out of the earth... (Rev. 13:11)*

<sup>1</sup>*I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea... (Rev. 13:1)*

- F. The victory of the saints is assured (7:18). The saints will replace wicked rulers in ruling the earth. They will govern every area of society during the Millennium. They will reign on the earth forever. Seeing our eternal reign with Jesus affects our view of our labors and sacrifice now.

<sup>10</sup>*...and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)*

**V. SECOND QUESTION: FOURTH BEAST, 10 HORNS, AND OTHER HORN (DAN. 7:19-20)**

- A. Daniel’s second question (7:19-20) has three parts. He wanted to know the truth, or the full implications, about the *fourth beast*, especially as to why it was so different from the others, and to know what the consequence for Israel would be, because it was exceeding dreadful (7:19). Next he asked about the *10 horns*, and finally he asked about the *little horn* (7:20).

<sup>19</sup>*“I wished to know the truth [implications] about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; <sup>20</sup>and the ten horns that were on its head [10 nation confederation], and the other horn [Antichrist] which came up, before which three fell [three kings killed], namely, that horn which had eyes [supernatural intelligence] and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.” (Dan. 7:19-20)*

1. We can gain more understanding by comparing verses 19-20 to what Daniel saw earlier in his vision about the fourth beast and the 10 horns, and the other horn (7:7-8).

<sup>7</sup>*“A fourth beast, 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...<sup>8</sup>there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. There, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.” (Dan. 7:7-8)*

2. We compare Scripture with Scripture to gain clearer understanding of a particular passage and insight into the full meaning that God intended.

- B. ***A fourth beast***: The ancient Roman Empire prophetically foreshadowed, or pictured, the Antichrist's end-time empire made up of a 10-nation confederation (Rev. 17:12-13).
1. ***Different from all the others***: The presence of the little horn who will be fully demonized makes the beast so different. The Antichrist will be energized by demonic power. Daniel emphasized four times that the Antichrist is different from all other kingdoms (7:7, 19, 23, 24). This detail is far too important to overlook.  
<sup>2</sup>***The dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne, and great authority... (Rev. 13:2)***  
<sup>9</sup>***The coming of the lawless one [Antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup>and with all unrighteous deception... (2 Thes. 2:9-10)***
  2. ***Exceedingly dreadful***: Earlier, Daniel described it as dreadful, terrible, and exceedingly strong (7:7). He was deeply troubled by the terror of this beast (7:15, 28).
  3. ***Teeth of iron and nails of bronze***: Earlier, Daniel described it as having huge iron teeth (7:7). Iron teeth speak of the ability to devour anything—unstoppable. The huge, or massive, teeth correspond to the legs of iron in the statue (2:33, 40-41), emphasizing its overwhelming destructive power.
  4. ***Devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue***: This speaks of continuing to trample a nation after it is already defeated. The Antichrist will show no mercy or kindness towards those he conquers; he is ruthless and cruel, and will crush and trample everything that was not initially destroyed in the hostile military takeover.
  5. ***Ten horns on its head***: A 10-nation confederation will align with the Antichrist. The 10 end-time nations are symbolized here by 10 horns; in Daniel 2 they are seen as 10 toes (2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
  6. ***The other horn***: This horn is the little horn mentioned in verse 7. He is the Antichrist. He will be a political leader that starts out “little,” or with a small sphere of authority and influence. The fact that the little horn is mentioned four times in this vision (7:8, 11, 20, 21) tells us how important this detail is. The little horn of Daniel 7 is the same little horn of Daniel 8:9, and the vile person of Daniel 11:21.
  7. ***The horn which had eyes***: Earlier Daniel described it as having eyes like a man (7:7). This speaks of great intelligence.
  8. ***A mouth which spoke pompous words***: The Antichrist will speak pompous, arrogant words. His arrogant words will create fear (threats) and/or excitement (false promises) in the nations. His arrogant words are emphasized four times in this vision (7:8, 11, 20, 25).  
<sup>36</sup>***“The king...shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods...” (Dan. 11:36)***

9. ***Before which three fell:*** Three of the 10 kings will be killed by the Antichrist as he usurps power from them (7: 8, 24). Earlier, Daniel described the three horns as being plucked out by the roots (7:8), which speaks of being killed in a violent overthrow.
  10. ***Which came up:*** The Antichrist will first come up “among them” (7:8) as a peer, then he will “arise after them” (7:24) by seizing control of the 10-nation confederation partly by killing three of the prominent kings.
    - a. The Antichrist will lead a violent overthrow of the government, demanding the full control of the 10-nation confederation.
    - b. When these three world leaders are killed, the Church will see it as a prophetic sign of the times, knowing that the Antichrist will soon be manifest on the world stage.
    - c. The beast kingdom has three stages: first, the *ancient empire*; then the end-time *confederation* made up of 10 kings, and finally the Antichrist’s *dictatorship* after he seizes control of the 10-nation confederation.
- C. ***Appearance was greater than his fellows:*** Daniel did not mention this in verse 8. He will appear, or present himself, with great persuasion, intelligence, and power.
- D. The angel answered all three parts of Daniel’s question in the order in which he asked them.
- E. The first part of the question was to know the implications of the fourth beast—why it was so different, and what the consequence for Israel would be since it was so dreadful (7:21-22). The second part of the angel’s interpretation was given in the form of a short vision.
- <sup>21</sup>“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, <sup>22</sup>until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.” (Dan. 7:21-22)***
1. In this short vision, Daniel saw that the Antichrist would be permitted to kill the saints (7:21); then he was again assured of the full and final victory of the saints (7:22).
  2. The fourth beast is different because of the man who seizes control of it— the Antichrist. This demonized man will have the ability to mobilize the nations to kill the saints (7:21).
  3. I assume it was shocking new information to Daniel that the Ancient of Days would allow this. Earlier in the vision, Daniel saw that He had already issued a decree that the leadership of the earth be given to the Son of Man (7:13-14).
- <sup>9</sup>The Ancient of Days was seated... <sup>10</sup>The court was seated... <sup>11</sup>I watched till the beast was slain...<sup>13</sup>Behold, One like the Son of Man...came to the Ancient of Days...<sup>14</sup>Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom... (Dan. 7:9–14)***
4. At the perfect time the Father will suddenly reverse things (7:22). He will use the rage of the Antichrist’s persecution to purify the saints to prepare them to rule the earth with the Son of Man (7:27; 11:35; 12:10).

- F. An angel addressed a twofold offense about the end times: evil leaders and persecuted believers. Daniel trusts God's leadership, but he is still troubled over the intensity of the coming martyrdom.
1. ***Making war against the saints***: Jesus said that the saints would be hated in all nations.  
<sup>9</sup>***"They will...kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake."***  
(Mt. 24:9)
  2. ***Prevailing against the saints***: This speaks of martyrdom. The Antichrist will overcome the saints physically, but they will overcome him spiritually. The Ancient of Days will use the rage of Satan to prepare the saints to overcome everything that hinders love.  
<sup>7</sup>***It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*** (Rev. 13:7)  
  
<sup>11</sup>***"And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."*** (Rev. 12:10-11)
  3. ***Until a judgment was made in favor of the saints***: The Ancient of Days will make a decision to suddenly reverse the situation worldwide. The saints will boldly proclaim this sudden reversal, and those in the Antichrist's empire will surely mock it.
  4. ***Saints to possess the kingdom***: The saints will rule the nations with the Son of Man. Jesus will replace all the government leaders of the nations after Armageddon.
  5. ***The time came***: The Father knows the perfect amount of time needed for the combination of persecution and the release of His manifestation of glory on the end-time Church to bring it to full maturity (Eph. 4:13; 5:27) .

## VI. INTERPRETATION OF THE FOURTH BEAST, 10 HORNS, AND THE HORN (DAN. 7:23-26)

- A. The angel now verbally answers all three parts of Daniel's second question from verses 19-20. He answers the first part of the question about the fourth beast (7:23), the second part about the 10 horns (7:24a), and the third part about the little horn (7:24b-25) and his destruction (7:26).
- B. ***Fourth beast***: The fourth beast will be a kingdom that is different from all other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth. The final stage of the fourth beast is the Antichrist's world empire. It will be unique in power and cruelty as it devours the earth.  
<sup>23</sup>***"Thus he [angel] said: 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different [unique] from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.'" (Dan. 7:23)***

- C. **The 10 horns:** These represent 10 kings who will form a 10-nation confederation that makes an alliance with the Antichrist—in Daniel 2 they are seen as 10 toes (2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16). Daniel also saw the 10 horns as being “on” the beast’s head (7:20).  
<sup>24</sup>**“The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them [Antichrist]; he shall be different from the first ones [10 kings], and shall subdue [kill] three kings.” (Dan. 7:24)**
1. **Will arise:** Ten kings will arise from the initial stage of the fourth beast. The 10-nation confederation will be the second stage of the fourth beast empire (Rev. 17:12-17). It shall arise from the same region and/or people groups as the Roman Empire, both its east and west divisions, including various European and Middle Eastern nations and peoples.
  2. **Shall subdue:** The three kings are described as being “plucked out” by the roots (7:7), “falling before” the little horn (7:20), and “being subdued” by him (7:24).
- D. **Another shall rise after them:** The Antichrist will arise to world prominence “after” the 10 kings are in power over the 10-nation confederation. The 10 kings will eventually give their full allegiance to the Antichrist (Rev 17:12). He will unite them under his authority.  
<sup>12</sup>**The ten horns which you saw are ten kings...<sup>13</sup>These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast [Antichrist]. (Rev. 17:12–13)**
- E. Earlier, Daniel described the Antichrist as coming up among them (7:8). He will start as a little horn with a small sphere of authority. Then he will be accepted “among” the 10 nations as a peer. Then he will arise as their leader (7:8, 24).
- F. Characteristics of the horn, or the Antichrist, (7:25): blasphemy, murder, and domination.  
<sup>25</sup>**“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and 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 [3½ years].” (Dan. 7:25)**
1. **He shall change times and law:** He shall establish legislation that will change some of the most important social and spiritual institutions. He will also use the legal system as a tool of oppression and murder.
  2. **He shall persecute the saints:** Initially he will oppress the saints through the legal system, by removing their privileges and restricting their civil liberties. The laws will change until it is legal to kill the saints
  3. **A time and times and half a time:** There will be a God-given limit of 3½ years for the persecution of God’s people. The word *time* refers to one year, *times* refers to two years, and *half a time* speaks of half a year, totalling 3½ years. There are eight scriptures and four phrases that describe the final 3½ years before Jesus’ return. It is referred to twice as 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3; 12:6); twice as 42 months (Rev. 11:2; 13:5); three times as “time, times, and half a time” (Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 12:14); and as “the middle of the week” (Dan. 9:27). By comparing these verses, we see that they describe the same 3½ years.

- G. In this first vision in 553 BC, the Lord showed Daniel the great suffering that will come. The Lord did not give Daniel the reason for this suffering for another 17 years, when he received his fourth vision in 536 BC—Daniel 10-12. God will use the suffering to purify the saints and prepare them to partner with the Son of Man in ruling the earth forever.
- <sup>35</sup>*“Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end...” (Dan. 11:35)*
- <sup>10</sup>*“Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” (Dan. 12:10)*
- H. The Ancient of Days has already decreed the destruction of the Antichrist (7:26).
- <sup>26</sup>*“But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his [Antichrist’s] dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.” (Dan. 7:26)*
1. ***The court shall be seated:*** The Father’s heavenly court was seated—court was in session. This court decides the fate of all the leaders on the earth.
  2. ***Take away his dominion:*** At the Lord’s appointed time, He will suddenly reverse things. The Antichrist’s kingdom will be consumed and destroyed at the time when Jesus returns.

## VII. THE FULL AND FINAL VICTORY OF THE SAINTS (DAN. 7:27)

- A. God’s plan is to establish His kingdom on earth (7:27). This is the main point of the vision. It is one of the most remarkable statements in the Scripture related to God’s leadership over us.
- <sup>27</sup>*“Then 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. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.” (Dan. 7:27)*
- B. ***The kingdom:*** The kingdom (singular) and the greatness of the kingdoms (plural) shall be given to the saints. Dominion speaks of the leadership positions of influence over the earth. Greatness speaks of the resources or the wealth, land, buildings, and possessions, etc.
- C. ***Shall be given to saints:*** God’s plan is to prepare the Bride as Jesus’ eternal companion, who will rule the earth with Him. Jesus, the Bridegroom King, desires to rule the earth forever in partnership with His people (Jn. 17:24; Rev. 3:21; 5:10).
- <sup>21</sup>*To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)*
- <sup>24</sup>*Father, I desire that they whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold [see and experience] My glory which You have given Me... (Jn. 17:24)*
- D. The saints will replace the leadership of the beast empires in leading the world government.