

The Book of Daniel / Chapter Twelve (Part Nine)

Lesson 62-Daniel and Revelation

I. THE SEVEN SEALS OF JUDGMENT

According to Revelation Chapter 6, the opening of the seven seals by "the Lamb" (Jesus) initiates a series of global judgments. Each seal represents a specific catastrophe released upon the earth:

Seal	Symbol/Horse	Description of Event/Entity
First Seal	White Horse	A rider with a bow and crown who goes out "conquering and in order that he might conquer."
Second Seal	Fiery Red Horse	Granted the power to take peace from the earth, causing people to slaughter one another with a "large sword."
Third Seal	Black Horse	A rider with a balance scale; symbolizes extreme scarcity and inflation (e.g., "A quart of wheat for a denarius").
Fourth Seal	Pale Green Horse	Named "Death," followed by "Hades." Granted authority over one-fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts.
Fifth Seal	Martyrs	The souls of those slaughtered for the "word of God" crying out for justice; they are given white robes and told to rest.
Sixth Seal	Cosmic Cataclysm	A great earthquake; the sun turns black, the moon becomes like blood, stars fall, and the sky is "split apart like a scroll."

II. The Rise and Character of the "Insolent King"

The texts of Daniel and Revelation describe the rise of a singular, powerful political and spiritual entity. This figure is characterized by his "skill in intrigue" and "arrogant words."

Power Source and Appearance

- **Origin:** The "beast" rises out of the sea with ten horns, seven heads, and ten diadems. It possesses the characteristics of a leopard, a bear, and a lion.
- **Satanic Empowerment:** The "dragon" (Satan) gives the beast his power, throne, and great authority.
- **False Resurrection:** One of the beast's heads appears to have a fatal wound that was healed, causing the "whole earth" to follow him in amazement.
- **Blasphemy:** The king magnifies himself above every god, speaking "monstrous things" against the God of gods and showing no regard for the "gods of his fathers."

Political and Military Influence

- **Conquest:** He gains his influence by conquering enemy lands, leading Israel to initially (and mistakenly) recognize him as the Messiah.
- **Wealth and Military Might:** He honors a "god of fortresses" with gold, silver, and costly stones. He eventually gains control over the treasures of Egypt, with Libyans and Ethiopians following him.
- **Global Authority:** He is given authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation for a period of "forty-two months" (or "a time, times, and half a time").

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III. The Role of the False Prophet and the Rule of the Beast

Revelation 13 introduces a second beast—the "False Prophet"—who rises from the earth to enforce worship of the first beast.

- **Deceptive Miracles:** He performs "great signs," including making fire come down from heaven and giving "breath" to an image of the beast so that it can speak.
- **The Mark of the Beast:** He mandates a mark on the right hand or forehead for all people (rich, poor, free, or slave). Without this mark—which is the name of the beast or the number of his name—no one is permitted to buy or sell.
- **Persecution of the Saints:** The beast is permitted to make war with the saints and overcome them. Those who do not worship the image of the beast are ordered to be killed.

IV. Timeline of the "One Week" (Seven Years)

The source context outlines a specific chronological progression for these events, divided into two halves.

The First Half: The Appearance and Deception

- **Treaty:** The king establishes a firm covenant/treaty with Israel for "one week."
- **Witness:** The 144,000 are set apart by God to proclaim the Messianic kingdom.
- **Initial Chaos:** Global physical persecution of believers begins alongside the chaos of the horsemen (The Seals).

The Middle of the Week: The Turning Point

- **Broken Covenant:** The king puts a stop to sacrifice and grain offerings in the temple.
- **Invasion:** He invades Israel, sets up his "royal pavilion" between the seas and the "Holy Mountain," and establishes the "abomination that makes desolate."
- **Israel's Flight:** Israel flees into the wilderness; "Two Witnesses" appear (Revelation 11).

The Second Half: The Indignation

- **Totalitarian Rule:** The king exercises his highest level of authority and the highest level of persecution against the saints.
- **Divine Indignation:** This period represents the "highest level of the indignation of God."
- **Conflict with Babylon:** Rumors from the East and North disturb the king, leading him to destroy and annihilate many, specifically focusing on the destruction of Babylon.

V. The Final Ruin

The documents conclude with the "annihilation" of the beast's dominion.

1. **Divine Judgment:** The "court will sit for judgment" (Daniel 7:26), and the king's dominion will be taken away and destroyed forever.
2. **Defeat without Human Agency:** Daniel 8:25 specifies that while the king opposes the "Prince of princes," he will be "broken without human agency."
3. **The Lake of Fire:** Revelation 19:20 records that the beast and the false prophet are seized and "thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone."
4. **Complete Desolation:** The "one who makes desolate" receives the "complete destruction" that was decreed.