



THE COMING KING

LESSON 3

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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- Caught up: *harpazo* (Greek) *rapturo* (Latin)

WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST?

- The word “antichrist” is not found in the Old Testament; only John uses the word in the New Testament
- But he is everywhere present in prophecy by the following names:
 - little horn
 - false christ
 - man of lawlessness
 - beast from the sea
 - prince who is to come
 - one who was, is not, will come from the abyss
- Antichrist means “against Christ” or “instead of Christ”
- He appears on the world scene before the second coming of Christ

A FIRST GLIMPSE

- Vision in the first year of Belshazzar (552 BC)
- Nabonidus left his son in charge because of a dispute over the supreme god in Babylon; Nabonidus favored Sin, the moon god; the priests favored Marduk (Ba'al)
- Nabonidus went to Saudi Arabia where he developed an estate at Tayma; the moon god Sin was already well established in worship at the Kaaba in Mecca
- **Daniel 7:1-3** In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind *as he lay* on his bed; then he wrote the dream down *and* related the *following* summary of it. Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

WHO ARE THE BEASTS

- **Daniel 7:4** "The first *was* like a lion and had *the* wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it."
- The symbol of Babylon was the winged lion, which was prominently displayed on the Ishtar Gate
- **Daniel 7:5** "And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. It was raised up on one side, and three ribs *were* in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'"
- This represents the Medo-Persian empire; the Persians were stronger; they conquered Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt

THIRD BEAST

- **Daniel 7:6** "After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, 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."
- The leopard represents Greece; like a fast leopard, Alexander the Great conquered most of the known world, dying at 32.
- After his death, his kingdom was parceled out to his four generals, kings of north, south, east, west
- Two of these eventually produced men who were prominently involved in Israel: Antiochus IV Epiphanes who set up an abomination in the Temple; and Ptolemy, who sponsored the translation of the Hebrew scriptures into Greek

FOURTH BEAST

- **Daniel 7:7-8** "After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great *boasts*.
- Ten horns – 3 horns + little horn
- This represents Rome But more than that!

DANIEL ASKS FOR EXPLANATION

- **Daniel 7:17-18** 'These great beasts, which are four *in number*, are four kings *who* will arise from the earth. But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'
- **Daniel 7:23-25** "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.'

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The ten horns came out of Rome; remember that the Roman empire was vast, not only comprised of what we would today see as Italy, Rome, or the Vatican
- The little horn uprooted three of them
- The little horn was waging war with the saints and winning until God stopped him
- Things are given over to the little horn for 3½ years
- **Daniel 8:1-2** In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously. I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal.

ANOTHER TAKE

- **Daniel 8:3-4** Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns *were* long, but one *was* longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last. I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified *himself*.
- **Daniel 8:5-6** While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground; and the goat *had* a conspicuous horn between his eyes. He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath.

GREECE/ANOTHER LITTLE HORN

- **Daniel 8:7-8** I saw him come beside the ram, and he was enraged at him; and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and there was none to rescue the ram from his power. Then the male goat magnified *himself* exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken; and in its place there came up four conspicuous *horns* toward the four winds of heaven.
- **Daniel 8:9** Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful *Land*.
- **Daniel 8:14** He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings *and* mornings; then the holy place will be properly restored." (Maccabees did this)

DOUBLE FULFILLMENT?

- **Daniel 8:23-25** "In the latter period of their rule, when the transgressors have run *their course*, a king will arise, insolent and skilled in intrigue. His power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform *his will*; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people. And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify *himself* in his heart, and he will destroy many while *they are* at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human agency.
- This prophecy probably includes Antiochus IV Epiphanes as well as the future antichrist

MORE THAN ANTIOCHUS

- **Matthew 24:15-23** "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

TIMING THE ANTICHRIST

- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.
- Day of the Lord: second coming to New Jerusalem, new heaven, new Earth

DANIEL 11

- Daniel 11:1-35 was fulfilled by Seleucid/Ptolemy conflict
- Daniel 11:36 turns attention to the Antichrist
- **Daniel 11:36-39** "Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; he will magnify himself above *them* all. But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor *him* with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with *the help of a* foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge *him* and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

CHARACTER OF ANTICHRIST

- ARROGANT
- SELF-WILLED
- PROSPERS FOR A TIME ALREADY DETERMINED
- DOES NOT HONOR HIS FATHERS' GOD
- DOES NOT SHOW PREFERENCE FOR "DESIRE OF WOMEN"
- PLACES HIMSELF HIGHER THAN GOD
- HONORS GOD OF FORTRESSES WITH FINANCES
- FIGHTS AGAINST THE STRONGEST NATION WITH THE HELP OF A FOREIGN GOD
- TAKES AND SELLS LAND