

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

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This is the third session in our ten-part series on the book of Daniel. We are looking at Daniel 7:15-28. In our last session, session two, Daniel gave the vision from verse 1-14. Now he has a conversation with an angel, and the angel interprets the vision and its implications.

II. OVERVIEW OF DANIEL 7:15-28

- 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 explains why he was so troubled.

We will look at a quick overview. Daniel had just seen a vision of four beasts or world empires emerging. Then he saw the Ancient of Days, the Father, sitting in power and sovereignty. In other words, in control over whatever these four beast kingdoms do. God has superior authority. He has the wisdom, the plan, the power, and the attentiveness. Then Daniel saw the triumph of the Son of Man receiving the leadership of the earth forever. He saw the total defeat of the Antichrist, the fourth beast.

You would think that having seen the beast slain, the Son of Man receiving the power over all nations, the sovereignty of the Father, you would think he would just be nothing but encouraged. He speaks to the angel and starts off well, "Tell me what this means." Then he goes on verse 15, "I am troubled." What I am thinking is that the only thing troubling in the first fourteen verses is in verse 7. That fourth beast was terrible, devouring, and exceedingly strong. He said, "I am troubled by this. I do not understand what it means."

"Daniel, you just saw the sovereignty of God's throne and the defeat of the beast and the victory of the Son of Man."

Daniel says, "I need understanding because that terrible, exceedingly powerful beast is troubling to me."

- B. Daniel asked an angel for understanding of the vision (7:16, 19). The angel's interpretation was given in three parts (7:17-27). The first part focused on the four beasts and on giving assurance that the saints will be victorious (7:17-18). Next, Daniel asked for "the truth" about the fourth beast, the ten horns, and the little horn (7:19-20). The angel answered by showing him a vision (7:21-22) along with an explanation (7:23-27). Finally, the angel gave further explanation of the fourth beast (7:23), the ten horns (7:24a), the little horn (7:24b-25), and the sure victory of the saints (7:26-27).

He asks the question. As a matter of fact he asks twice, verse 16 and verse 19. He asks two questions in the same form, "I want to know the truth about this." Which means, "I want to know the implications about it. I want to understand what the consequences are, what this really means for my people Israel."

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). The vision left Daniel in a state of extreme grief affecting both soul and body. He was perplexed in his mind and sought to gain more understanding. Daniel again described how troubled he was (7:28).

¹⁵"I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me." (Dan. 7:15)

Let's begin to look at the vision itself. Verse 15, "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit. The visions of my head troubled me." I think troubled here means perplexed, as in "I could not make sense of them." Grieved, and again the only thing grieving I can see in those first fourteen verses, the vision itself, was in verse 7, that the fourth beast was terrifying in power.

- B. Daniel was troubled by the intensity of the Antichrist's empire, which will be dreadful, terrible, and exceedingly strong (7:7). If we are not greatly troubled by what Daniel shared about the Antichrist and his empire, then we have not yet understood what he saw.

He was troubled by the intensity of that final beast empire. We are going to find out in a moment that he is going to get really troubled in verse 21-25. He sees that the beast that is slain first slays the people of God. Before the beast is slain, which is in verse 11, the angel says, "I want you to know before that beast is slain—you know he is going to be slain. Verse 11 tells you that—verse 21, he is going to prevail over the people of God for a short season."

*At the end in verse 28, Daniel says, "I am really troubled now. Now I know that terrible beast of verse 7 is going to kill the saints." Here is my point. **If we are not troubled by what Daniel saw, it is only because we do not understand what he saw.** Which is understandable, but what I mean is the Antichrist and understanding what Daniel saw about him.*

Daniel had four visions at the end of his life. He had one at the very beginning, in his twenties probably, and then he had four of them at the end of his life. Three of the four visions—the ones we are looking at in this course—are about the Antichrist. Isn't that remarkable? Daniel has four visions in the end of his life and ministry, and three of them are primarily about the terrible power of the Antichrist and of course his defeat, but they are about the Antichrist.

It is interesting that in Matthew 24 the only prophet that Jesus pointed to is Daniel. He said, "Go study Daniel."

"Yeah, but Daniel? You study his four visions and three of them are about the Antichrist."

Jesus says, “Go study those.” That is remarkable.

Another thing that is remarkable is that Gabriel appears here for the first time, I am getting ahead of myself. This is the next session, Daniel 8. Gabriel’s first appearance in history in the Bible is to Daniel. What is his message? He talks about the Antichrist. He reveals the Antichrist. Gabriel’s first appearance in history is to reveal the terror of the Antichrist.

Again, Jesus pointed to Daniel, the only prophet He pointed to in terms of end-time prophecy, “You better understand what he said. The deception and fierceness of this timeframe in history and the deception related to it and the falling away and the compromise are profound.”

The reason I am going off on this for a moment is because even to people who believe in a literal Antichrist in end-time prophecy, it is natural—I am not saying this critically—to reduce the Antichrist to kind of a figure in the big puzzle. “Okay, let’s figure out how he fits in, where he is from, what he does. This is kind of cool, this verse with this verse and that verse with that verse.” We need to do that, but we can get lost in the puzzle and the intrigue about the details and fail to be touched by the reality of the fierceness of what is coming. Daniel was terribly troubled because he saw something that you and I do not see unless the Holy Spirit helps us.

I am alerted. This is more serious. That man, Daniel, in that timeframe of history was far more serious than the body of Christ, even the church that believes in the prophetic Scriptures. I do not think we grasp the weightiness of what is coming to the planet. We do not need to be afraid, but we need to be equipped, and we need to be diligent about equipping people. I do not know that I will see these things in my life, but I tell you one thing, I am energetic to equip the next generation. And, I might see this in my life. I really might. I want my children and grandchildren and their generations to be fully equipped about what the Bible says about this terrifying but glorious time of human history.

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. “These things” speak of the four beasts (v. 1-6) and especially the dreadful beast (v. 7).

¹⁶“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)

First Daniel says in verse 15, “I am perplexed. I am troubled. I am grieved. I am moved by this.” Verse 16, “I came near to one of the angels who stood by. I asked the angel, ‘Tell me the truth’”—that is, tell me the implications. What does this thing mean? What are the consequences for the nation of Israel? Where is this going globally? —“So he told me and made known to me the interpretation.” You can even add “the implications of this vision, of these things.” From verse 15-28 we see the angel’s interpretation.

- B. The first part of the angel’s interpretation focused on the four beasts (7:17) and the sure victory of the saints (7:18). The angel said that the four beasts are four kings (7:17). The angel expanded his answer by saying that the four beasts are also kingdoms (7:23). The most prominent kings are Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon), Cyrus (Medo-Persia), Alexander the Great (Greece), and the Antichrist.

¹⁷“Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. ¹⁸But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom, forever...” (Dan. 7:17-18)

There are three parts to the interpretation. There are three sections in this passage. You can read the notes over carefully and discuss them with some folks if you are really focused on knowing Daniel 7, and I would

encouraged you to be focused on that. I think it is a very, very important chapter. There are three parts, and I break all that down in the notes. I am not going to go through all the technical parts of the structure of the chapter.

*In the first part of the three, the angel is focusing on the four beasts. He says, “Let me tell you in general what the four beasts are.” Verse 17, “There are four kings,” and later on in verse 23 he says, “They are four kingdoms.” The angel makes it very clear that these four beasts speak of individual kings and of a kingdom that would follow even after that king’s time. The four beasts speak of an individual person and they speak of an empire that would progressively continue. When one empire conquered another, the previous empire lived on; the evil of the prior empire lived on in the nation after that conquered it. We looked at that a little bit last week. The reason it is important to know that the angel says these four beasts are both four men and four kingdoms is because when we come to the interpretation of the fourth one, we know it is a man and it is a kingdom. It is an Antichrist and an Antichrist Empire. The angel makes it clear it is a man **and** it is an empire.*

Verse 17, “Those great beasts of verses 1-8, back in the vision you saw a moment ago, those four beasts are four men. They rise out of the earth. Do not be troubled.” The angel added that because Daniel was troubled. Verse 18, the angel moved right in and said, “The saints prevail.” The angel could have said, “In verse 14 I told you the Son of Man gets the kingdom of all the nations, all the empires of the earth, but it is more than that. The Son of Man is going to rule together with His people. Yes, that fourth empire will be terrifying. That fourth empire in verse 7 will be fierce and powerful, but get the big picture. The saints are going to, through this whole scenario, through this whole drama, rule and reign, and they win. Daniel, do not be so troubled that you miss the story. Be troubled, but not so troubled that you do not understand the people of God win.”

A lot of folks get focused on the kings and the empires and the terror of the negative, but they do not see the victory. It is terrible, but out of that comes great victory. It is glorious unto victory for the saints, but it is very, very difficult that final three-and-a-half years. I believe even the years leading up to it will be difficult, not just the final three and a half.

- C. Four kingdoms will arise out of godless humanity to try to take dominion of the earth, but God will take it from them and give it to the saints. 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 out of the earth” (Rev. 13:11), but the Antichrist “rises up out of the sea” (Rev. 13:1).
- D. 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 and will reign on the earth forever. Seeing our eternal reign with Jesus affects our view of our labors and sacrifice in this age.

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

John the apostle elaborated on this verse. John said, and I will throw in some words, “Hey, I agree with Daniel. The saints are going to rule the earth. I agree with Daniel 7:18.” The saints are going to replace all the wicked rulers in the Antichrist Empire in the very end. All of them will be replaced by the saints.

The reason this is important is because the angel is encouraging Daniel before he gives Daniel more details about how terrible that beast from verse 7 is. Remember in verse 7 Daniel saw the beast was terrible, strong, devouring. In verse 18 the angel says, “The saints are going to inherit the nations. The saints are going to be prepared in all this, and it will result in them ruling the earth.” That is verse 18. He is getting him ready. He is building up his faith in encouragement because verses 21-25 reveal that this beast is going to kill God’s people for a season. Not all of them, but an unusual number of them. It is going to be really intense. He is getting

Daniel connected to the ultimate victory before he reveals the saints being martyred in the process of this great end-time story. When we see the end, we see the victory, beloved, it greatly affects how we view the trouble. It affects how we view our labors.

When we see even before that great end-time or eschatological trouble—eschatological just means relating to the end times—that even now our labors and our faithfulness in this age are connected to ruling with the Lord, we see the trouble differently. That trouble is going to come to an all-time high, but it is going to prepare and purify the church to rule and reign with Christ. When we understand the ultimate victory, it affects the way we interpret the trouble, as well as all of our labors and our sacrifices.

V. SECOND QUESTION: FOURTH BEAST, TEN HORNS, AND ANOTHER HORN (DAN. 7:19-20)

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

¹⁹“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; ²⁰and the ten horns that were on its head [ten 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)

Daniel asked another question. In verse 16 he said, “Tell me the truth. Tell me the meaning of these four beasts, the meaning of these things, this vision I just saw.”

The angel said, “The four beasts are four kings. Do not worry, the saints win.”

“Okay, good.” In verse 19 he asked the question again, a little more specifically, “I want to know the truth”—the same terminology of verse 16. I want to know the implications—“more specifically, not just the four beasts. It is the fourth one. That is the one I really want to know about.” That is why I think this is what troubled him, because of this verse here, “That fourth beast has my attention. The one in verse 7 that was terrifying, that was devouring, that was exceedingly strong. He was different from the other three. He was exceedingly dreadful, exceedingly dreadful. He had teeth like iron. Its nails, its claws were like bronze.” Can you imagine a beast with claws that are like iron? “It devoured and broke into pieces, trampled whatever nation it conquered; it trampled the residue of that nation.” It did not just conquer to have ultimate authority, but it devoured and completely depleted that nation of its resources and its strength. It trampled the residue of that which was conquered. “I want to know about that”—verse 19—“that fourth beast.”

Verse 20, “I want to know about the ten horns too. Tell me about those ten horns.” The angel is going to tell him in a minute those are ten kings who will be closely associated with that one powerful man called the Antichrist in the New Testament. “Tell me about the ten horns.” We find out they are ten leaders who will be working with the Antichrist in the end times.

“Tell me specifically about that other horn.” He is called “the other horn.” In verse 8 he was called “the little horn.” The little horn or the other horn are phrases used to describe him here in chapter 7. “Which came up”—he rose up, he emerged as a premier leader. He did not start as one. He started as a little horn. He raised up before the eyes of these ten. Three of those ten kings, he killed. We find out when you put the whole passage

together, when it says the three kings fell before him, it means he killed them. Ten of the most powerful kings in the world will come into an alliance, and this man will kill three of them. I mentioned last week that it is something if a head of state of a very powerful nation is assassinated, that is world news even if it is not an overly powerful nation. Three of them at one time killed by one man, three of the most powerful kings in the earth; that is remarkable.

The angel mentions this to Daniel and points it out three times in this chapter. This is such an unusual and completely unprecedented political event that three top leaders in the earth would be assassinated in a short amount of time by the same man. Maybe they are all assassinated together. We do not know that. I think that is a good guess. The reason that is important is because when that happens the prophetic church or the church that believes in the Word of God will see that and say, “This is that. That means the Antichrist is a moment from appearing on the world stage.”

He said, “That horn had eyes.” It speaks of supernatural intelligence. “He had a mouth that spoke very pompous or arrogant words.” No man has ever spoken in such blasphemous, bold, presumptuous words against God. “His appearance was greater than all of his fellows.” In other words, all the other world leaders. His appearance is not just what he looked like, but it is the way he presented himself. It is not just his hair color and his height. His presentation of himself to the nations was so utterly different and unique from all the other world leaders at that time or any other time in history.

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

⁷***“A fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces...It was different from all the beasts...it had ten horns...
⁸there 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)***

We gain understanding by comparing these verses, verses 19-20, to what Daniel saw in verses 7-8. The angel is now unpacking what Daniel saw. Daniel is quoting verse 7-8 about what he saw in the vision just a moment earlier. I like to put the passages together, and compare verse 19-20 with what Daniel said first in verse 7-8. You get a few more details when you see how he says it the second time. There are a few details that come to light in the comparison of the two.

Verse 7-8 is the actual vision. That was the first telling of it. In verse 19-20 Daniel is asking a question, and he is retelling the vision. It gives a few more nuances. I find it to be helpful to compare them together.

2. Notice the aspects of the vision that are emphasized by being mentioned several times—the beast will be “different” (4x—vs. 7, 19, 23, 24) and “pompous” (4x— vs. 8, 11, 20, 25), and it will be “dreadful,” “strong,” “terrible,” and will “trample,” “devour,” and “break” the nations (vs. 7, 19, 23). There will be “ten horns” (3x— vs. 7, 20, 24) and three of the horns will be killed (3x)—“plucked out” (v. 8), “fell” (v. 20) or “subdued” (v. 24).
- B. ***A fourth beast:*** The ancient Roman Empire prophetically foreshadowed, or pictured, the Antichrist’s end-time empire made up of a ten-nation confederation (Rev. 17:12-13).

Daniel wants to know three things from verse 19-20. He says, in effect, “I want to know about that fourth beast. Tell me about that fourth beast. Tell me about the four horns, but tell me about that eleventh horn, that other horn that is not one of the ten. Tell me about those three things.”

The angel says, “Okay.” The angel explains the rest of the vision and takes it one by one in the order Daniel asks and gives him insight.

Daniel asked about “that fourth beast.” Again, we know the beast is a man, and we know the beast is an empire. It is both. In the book of Revelation the beast is a man and an empire. Daniel was the first one to receive that understanding from the angel.

1. **Different:** The Antichrist’s empire will be energized by demonic power (Rev. 13:2). It will function in a new order of evil, cruelty, and supernatural power. Daniel emphasized four times that the Antichrist kingdom is different from all other kingdoms (7:7, 19, 23, 24).
²*The dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne, and great authority.*
¹³*He performs great signs...he even makes fire come down from heaven (Rev. 13:2, 13)*
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). Its huge, or massive, teeth emphasize its overwhelming, destructive power.

The point that Daniel emphasized three times in this passage was the fact that the fourth beast was different than all the other world empires. There is none like it. It is unique in being a new order. It is a whole new order of evil. A whole new order of cruelty. A whole new order of supernatural power. When he says it is different, he does not mean slightly. He is saying, “He is of another order, another realm. I do not know how to understand this.” He makes this point three times in the vision. The fourth beast is utterly unique from all the other world empires.

We find from Revelation 13:2 why he is so unique. Why he is of another order. Why he is not just an Adolf Hitler with a little more power. He is of a completely different order of power, intelligence, persuasion, and cruelty than Adolf Hitler was. Verse 2 tells us that Satan actually gives a man on the earth his power, his throne, his authority. This is remarkable. When Jesus comes back, and they are face to face, for that short period of time the two most powerful men in human history will be on the earth at the same time in Jerusalem. One of them has the full authority of Satan. The other one has the full authority of God. Two men, the most powerful, supernatural men in human history will be in conflict at the same time in the same city. This is an unprecedented drama, story. It is filled with glory, but it is filled with anguish.

3. **Trampled the residue:** This speaks of continuing to trample a nation after it is defeated. The Antichrist will show no mercy 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.
4. **The other horn:** This horn 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.
5. **Ten horns on its head:** A ten-nation confederation will align with the Antichrist. The nations are symbolized by ten horns (7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).

6. **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 ten-nation confederation partly by killing three of its prominent kings. The Antichrist will lead a violent overthrow of the government, demanding the full control of the ten-nation confederation.
7. **Before which three fell:** Three kings will be killed by the Antichrist as he usurps power from them (7: 8, 19, 24). Earlier Daniel described the three horns as plucked out by the roots.

He said, “Before this other horn”—the Antichrist—“three of the kings fell.” Verse 8 says they are plucked out by the roots. Verse 20, the verse we are in now, says they fell which means they were killed. Verse 24 says they were subdued. There are three different descriptions. They were plucked up by the roots. I think that means all of their influence, everything associated with them is completely uprooted. My assumption is it is bad news for the other leaders that were associated in an alliance with them as well. Everything about them and their influence is completely plucked up from the roots. It is not a superficial dismissal of these three kings. Here it says they fell. In the Bible the word, fell, in this context means killed. Subdued, I am not sure exactly what the nuance would be, but each one of these descriptions are giving more insight into the same event of the Antichrist killing them and then a violent takeover of the ten kings. There are only seven after the three are killed. They get replaced. It is a violent takeover. The Antichrist takes over the whole thing.

8. **The horn which had eyes:** Earlier Daniel described it as having eyes like a man (7:7). This speaks of his great intelligence that will appeal to humanity—its pride, dignity, needs, etc.

It says this horn had eyes. In verse 7, the first time Daniel told this vision—because here he is retelling it—he said, “He had eyes like a man.” Eyes in biblical symbolic language means great intelligence. When it talks about the eyes of the Lord, it is talking about His omniscience, the fact He has all knowledge. When it talks about the Lord and the Holy Spirit having eyes and the living beasts have eyes, it is talking about they have perfect knowledge or they have great knowledge. The living creatures are full of eyes. When it says eyes like a man, it does not just mean, “Oh, he looks human,” it means more than that. I think it means his supernatural intelligence is along the lines that appeal to men. The wisdom he presents, the problems he solves, the great plans he rolls out to the nations are appealing to man. That is what I think it means. It appeals to the dignity of man, “We are noble. We have our rights. This is who we are. We are god.” It appeals to the pride of man. It appeals to the lusts of man. It appeals to the needs of man. So his supernatural intelligence is tailor-made to convince the human race to follow him. That is what I think it is pointing to.

9. **A mouth which spoke pompous words:** The Antichrist will speak pompous or arrogant words. His arrogant words will create fear (threats) and/or excitement (false promises) in the nations.

His mouth spoke pompous words. This is mentioned three times. Revelation 13 develops the blasphemy that he speaks. Revelation 13:5-6 talks about how he blasphemes God, he blasphemes the temple of God, and he blasphemes everything related to God. He is so bold. On a world stage he curses God with apparently no fear of consequences from God at all. I cannot imagine pride that is so steeped in perversion that he actually blasphemes God. I mean he has a supernatural dimension to his life. He believes in the spirit realm. He knows God is real. He knows Satan is real. Yet he is so completely captured by his pride that he seemingly has no fear.

His words create fear in many people. The comparison I make in recent history is to Adolf Hitler. When Adolf Hitler spoke to the nation, multitudes in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s—he was the leader of Germany from 1933-1945, that twelve-year period—many in Germany were enthralled by his words. He said, “We are the nation, we are the best, we have the right to rule, everybody is subject to us.” The masses roared and cheered.

Others—many in the nations, not just believers, and many in Germany—were terrified of his words. They said, “This is war. This is destruction to our nation. This is trouble for us. This is bad.” This man will speak words that will create excitement to hundreds of millions, billions possibly. And, it will create terror. Many will be terrified to resist him. They will understand the implications of the weightiness of what he says. To resist his words is to be attacked by him, by the full force of his resources.

10. ***Appearance was greater than his fellows***: Daniel did not mention this in verse 8. The way he appears or presents himself to nations will be more glorious and powerful than any other man.

C. The angel answered all three parts of Daniel’s question in the order in which he asked them. 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).

²¹“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, ²²until 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), and then he was assured of the victory of the saints (7:22).

In verse 21, he has a short vision. He asks the angel, “I want to know about that little horn. I want to know about that horn specifically.”

The angel says, “Okay. I know he is terrifying. I am going to add to it. He is more than terrifying. I am going to tell you something that is going to trouble you, Daniel.”

Again in verse 28 Daniel said, “I am really troubled now. I was troubled in verse 15 at the beginning of the conversation. I am really troubled in verse 28 at the end of the conversation. Now that I know what the angel said.” Verse 21, “I was watching.” He has a short vision. He was hearing the other information. The angel was saying it to him. Now he is watching. Somewhere he is in a visionary dimension. He is seeing it. “That same horn, the little horn of verse 8, he was making war against the people of God, against the saints. Making war? Wait a second. The Son of Man in verse 14, wins, so how can this guy make war against God’s people? Wait. You just said the saints are going to rule the world. What do you mean making war and prevailing? Are the saints going to rule the world, verse 18, or are the saints going to be prevailed over in verse 21? Which is it?”

The answer is both. The angel says, “Do not lose perspective, Daniel, verse 22.” He is having a vision, and in this vision this communication is coming to Him.

“Then the Ancient of Days came. The Father, under the name Ancient of Days from verse 9-10, came.” Meaning He is intervening in history decisively in power. “Judgment, the court in heaven was in session. The judgment, the decree was made from the heavenly court. It reversed everything. It was made in favor of the saints and against the beast. The time came,” that is the phrase. The time came. There is a short season where the saints are martyred, but there is a time when it is completely reversed. Suddenly in one day when the heavenly court releases the decree to happen in the human events of the earth.

2. I assume it was shocking 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 beast be slain and leadership of the earth be given to the Son of Man (7:13-14), so he was perplexed and troubled that the beast or little horn would “prevail” against the saints (7:21).

⁹*The Ancient of Days was seated...* ¹⁰*The court was seated...* ¹¹*the beast was slain...*
¹³*...behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with clouds...came to the Ancient of Days...*
¹⁴*Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom... (Dan. 7:9-14)*

I am assuming that Daniel was shocked by this statement that the little horn would actually prevail over the saints. "Prevail over them? Are you sure?" He must have said to the angel, "Prevailed? Wait, wait, wait, you just said in verse 18 the saints are going to win, in verse 14 the Son of Man is going to win, and in verse 11 that the beast is going to be killed. What do you mean, he prevailed over the saints?"

- D. An angel addressed a twofold offense about the end times: why will God allow evil leaders to rise up and prevail as they persecute God's people? The saints must trust God's sovereign leadership.

The angel addresses a twofold offense about the end times. There are more than two, but here is a twofold offense, a theological offense. Theological meaning we read the Bible and we ask, "How can this be?" We know the sovereign God, the Ancient of Days, is on His throne, and the court is in session. Nothing is escaping His notice.

Offense number one, God will allow evil leaders to emerge with great power. Offense number two, they will actually prevail in their persecution of the saints. They will not be stopped. No nations, no United Nations, can weigh in and stop this empire. This empire will have the authority over the nations. There is no human rescue. It is like, "Lord, we understand You might have a purpose to let an evil main be raised up with great power, but how could he be raised up and not be stopped?" It is a three-and-a-half year season. He is stopped, but for a while he prevails.

Chapter 8:24, while he is destroying people, he is prospering. That is the next vision in chapter 8, when Gabriel is giving it to him. This man is not just prevailing over the saints. He is prospering. Everything he is touching is turning to gold seemingly. His money is increasing. His favor is increasing. The applause of the nations is increasing. His battle strategies are increasing. The saints are going, "How can this be?" That is why this vision is so critical. The saints must trust the Father is on His throne, the court is in session, and everything is being watched carefully. It is leading to God's glorious plan.

1. **Making war against the saints:** Jesus said that the saints would be hated in all nations.

⁹*"They will...kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake." (Mt. 24:9)*

He makes war against the saints. Jesus develops this idea. He says, "They will kill the saints, who will be hated by all nations." A lot of folks will read Matthew 24 and say, "That has been fulfilled. That was fulfilled in the book of Acts." Not so. They were not hated by all nations. All in the Greek means all. Every nation. Not everybody in every nation, of course, because there will be a great end-time harvest, a glorious church. But every nation will have powerful people who absolutely hate the saints. It is the Psalm 2 drama. King David said the kings of the earth are gathered together to cast the Word of God and its influence out of culture. Jesus said, "I am telling you it is coming." This was not fulfilled 2000 years ago. A little bit it was, but not all. There is coming a time when all the nations will hate the faithful.

This is a time to make radical choices of where we are. This is not a time to draw back in fear. This is not a time to decide we are going to wait for a few years before we take a stand. It will never be easier than it is right now to stand. Never. Five and ten years from now it will be far more hostile than it is now. Five and ten years after that it will be far more dangerous and hostile to resist. This is the easiest time it will be to stand in terms of the applause of the culture. It is never going to get easier than this. There will be greater dimensions of power, but

hatred will increase in the culture. We just have to settle the fact that we are not living for the applause of the general populace. That is the absolutely wrong way to take your cues of what is right and what is wrong. The culture will hate Jesus and His leadership. It will be a while before they are overt about being against Him. They are saying morality right now. They are going to be specific about Jesus before it is over. They are a little bit now in places, but I mean around the whole earth.

2. **Prevailing against the saints:** This speaks of martyrdom. The Antichrist will overcome the saints physically, but they will overcome him spiritually.

⁷***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)***

¹¹***“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)***

The angel says, “He is going to prevail.” We find out it is only for three-and-a-half years. Hitler had twelve years. This is three-and-a-half years. It is a God-given limitation, but he will prevail during that time. The book of Revelation puts two ideas in contrast. It says in chapter 13:7, “The Antichrist makes war with the saints.” He is quoting Daniel 7. Certainly referencing this passage. “And he will overcome them.” Then in chapter 12, “They, the saints, overcame Satan and the Antichrist.” Which is it? Does the Antichrist overcome the saints or do the saints overcome the Antichrist? Both are true. The Antichrist will overcome the saints physically by martyrdom. Not all the saints, but the largest number in history. He will overcome an unprecedented amount.

The Antichrist overcomes the saints physically, but the saints overcome the Antichrist spiritually. They refuse to yield to his threats. They are loyal in love to Jesus until the end. This infuriates him. Even though he overcomes many physically, he cannot overcome them spiritually. They will not draw back in their loyal love from Jesus. They do not love their life even unto death. They love the Lamb of God more than their physical life. He has no strategy to make that go away.

3. **Until a judgment was made in favor of the saints:** The Ancient of Days has decreed the time in which there will be a sudden reversal of the persecution of the saints. The saints will boldly proclaim this coming victory, while 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:** 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 and prepare them to overcome everything that hinders love and to rule the earth with the Son of Man (7:27; 11:35; 12:10). The Father knows the amount of time needed for the combination of persecution and the manifestation of His glory on the end-time Church to bring it to full maturity and to bring Israel to salvation (Zech. 12:10; Eph. 4:13; 5:27; Rom. 11:25-27; Rev. 19:7).

VI. INTERPRETATION OF THE FOURTH BEAST, TEN HORNS, AND THE HORN (DAN. 7:23-27)

- A. The angel answered Daniel's second question (7:19-20) by showing him a vision (7:21-22) and giving him an explanation (7:23-27) that answered all three parts of his question—to know the truth about the fourth beast, the ten horns, and the little horn (7:20). The angel answered the first part about the fourth beast (7:23), the second part about the ten horns (7:24a), and the third part about the little horn (7:24b-25) and his destruction (7:26).

Now the angel gives the interpretation. He says, "Let me tell you a little bit now about the fourth beast, about the ten horns, and about the one horn. You asked about them in verse 19-20. Let me break it down in more detail to you."

- 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.

²³***"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)

The fourth beast here in Daniel 7:23 is not just a man, which we found out in verse 17, but is also a kingdom. It is a man, and it is a kingdom. He will be different. The angel emphasizes this. Again three times this is emphasized. He will have a unique order of evil, cruelty, and power.

- C. **The ten horns:** These represent ten kings who will form a ten-nation confederation that makes an alliance with the Antichrist (7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16). Daniel saw the ten horns as being "on" the beast's head (7:20). Earlier, Daniel saw these ten kings as ten toes (2:41-42).

²⁴***"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 [ten 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 ancient Roman Empire. They will arise from the same region and/or people groups associated with the ancient Roman Empire, both its east and west divisions, including various European and Middle Eastern nations and peoples.
2. **Shall subdue:** 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).

The ten horns are ten kings. The angel says it very clearly, and then it is emphasized in the book of Revelation a number of times. Here is an angel interpreting a vision. The Bible interprets the Bible. There is no question about what it means. We do not know exactly which kings or which nations and all that, but we know what it is ten kings. He said, "The ten kings you are perplexed by are ten kings."

They are ten men. They will be ruling together as contemporaries. Not ten men who ruled consecutively over history like ten generations in a row. Some read this as one dies, then the next one, and then the next one. It is not ten kings in the succession of the Roman Empire as some say. They are ten kings who are contemporaries. They are ruling together. They will arise out of this kingdom, this kingdom meaning the ancient Roman Empire,

the people groups and the territories related to the ancient Roman Empire. They will rise, these ten. We know those ten kings come from the Europe/Middle East territory and people groups.

Verse 24, “Another king will rise after these ten.” We know the ten are in place first. In terms of biblical signs of the times, the ten will be there first before the Antichrist is known. Three of them are suddenly assassinated, probably in close proximity of time if not at the same time. We do not know. That is conjecture. This Antichrist king will arise after the ten are in place, functioning and recognized globally. Again he says it, verse 24, “He will be different.” He says it in verse 23, “His kingdom will be different,” the kingdom itself. Verse 24, “The man will be different.” Both the kingdom, or empire, as well as the man will have a supernatural dimension of power, and they will have an unprecedented evil and cruelty about them. The kingdom and the man. Verse 23 the kingdom, verse 24 the man. The angel says it again, “This guy, this little horn, is going to kill three of them.” Three times. Make no mistake about it.

God lays this out in the Bible where it says it three times that these three are plucked up from the roots, verse 8, these three fall before the Antichrist, verse 20, they are subdued, verse 24. As the ten emerge on the world scene, the prophetic church will say, “Three of them will die,” and their neighbor will say, “Where?”

You point to Daniel and they will say, “A beast with horns and plucked up from roots? That means that powerful man on TV is going to die?”

“Yeah.”

“Right. You know, you need to get out of fantasy land and get into reality.” The Lord lays it out in the Scripture so those who believe Him can see it clearly, and those who do not believe Him cannot make any sense of it. They will say, “That is what you are basing this on? You are kidding! From that cryptic vision of beasts and horns and pompous words and what?”

“Yeah, that is where we get it.” This is not going to go over that well at the family gatherings. It will not be convincing to people who do not have a heart to believe. That is how the Bible is laid out. It is laid out just that way.

- D. **Another shall rise after them:** The Antichrist will arise to prominence “after” the ten kings emerge. They will give their allegiance to the Antichrist (Rev 17:12). He will unite them under his authority.

¹²**The ten horns which you saw are ten kings...¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast [Antichrist]. (Rev. 17:12–13)**

- E. Characteristics of the horn, or the Antichrist, (7:25): blasphemy, murder, and domination.

²⁵**“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)**

Here are characteristics of the horn in verse 25. He will speak pompous words. This is his blasphemy that is really developed in Revelation 13:5-6. He will persecute the saints. He will be murderous. Interesting. He will intend to change times and law. He will want to have domination of the whole culture in society. The saints will be given into his hand for time, times, and half a time.

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. Initially he will oppress the saints through the legal system, by removing their privileges and restricting their civil liberties. The laws will change—they will become progressively more oppressive and evil until it will be legal to kill the saints.

He will change times and law. He will establish legislation that will change some of the most important social and spiritual institutions in the culture. That is what they did in the French Revolution from 1793 until 1805. They changed the calendar, making a 10-day week. They changed the name of the months. They got rid of the religious holidays so people could not honor Christianity, and they had pagan ones. They changed the calendar so that you could not tell where December 25 was. It was all mixed up. Nobody could tell when they were to celebrate the important dates of history. The idea was to remove the influence of those events from culture.

He will change times. He will change law. He will change the calendar, and he will change law. He will use the legal system as a tool of oppression. First he will take away civil liberties. Then it will progress; he will actually legislate to make it legal to murder the saints. He will change times. He will change the calendar so that the influences of significant religious spiritual events are lost from the culture. They will not know when it was December 25, etc. That is the point. He only lasts three-and-a-half years, so it does not take, but that is what he is after.

2. ***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, totaling 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.

It says that he will prevail. He will persecute the saints. They will be put into his hand for a time, times, and a half a time. There is a God-given limit of three-and-a-half years. The word time means one year. Times is two years. Half a time is a half a year. How do we know that is what that means?

It is pretty clear that is what it means because there are eight Scriptures and four phrases that each describes the same three-and-a-half year period when you compare them. One time it says time, times, and a half of time. The other time it says forty-two months. The other time it says 1260 days, which is forty-two months. They are the same events, but different terminology is used by Daniel and by John. When you compare those eight Scriptures together and the event they describe, time, times and half a times is the length of the event, and then forty-two months is also the length of the event. We know time, times, and half a time is the same timeframe. I believe one of the main reasons the Lord did this—there are probably many reasons—He wanted to make it impossible to dismiss this as just symbolic. He said it four different ways that cannot be mistaken if you compare them together. It is literally three-and-a-half years.

- F. In this first vision in 553 BC, the Lord showed Daniel the great suffering to come. He did not give Daniel the reason for this suffering until seventeen years later in the last vision (Dan. 10-12) in 536 BC. God will use the suffering to purify the saints and prepare them to partner with the Son of Man in ruling the earth forever.

³⁵***“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)***

¹⁰**“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)**

In Daniel 7 he says the saints are going to be put into his hands. That means he is going to kill them. That is Daniel 7. It is not for seventeen more years that he understands why, because this is the first vision at the end of Daniel’s life. Daniel has four of them in his latter years. For seventeen years he does not have a clear answer. Seventeen years later the angel comes and says, “Let me tell you why the saints are going to be killed.” I appreciate us having the answer right off at day one here.

Daniel 11-12 is one vision, the same vision. The angel says “the why” twice in the same vision seventeen years later. He says, verse 35, “Daniel, some of those of understanding, the people of understanding, the people who understand what is going on, the prophetic believers, will fall.” It does not mean they will stumble in sin. It means they will be killed. In the sense like it says three of these kings will fall, they will be killed. Remember we looked at that a few minutes ago, at those three kings in verse 20 who fell. The word fall here means killed.

Why? Even some of the anointed men and women of great understanding will be martyred? Why? It will produce an impact in the larger body of Christ to refine, purify, and make them right. It will cause many believers to say, “Even the favored, anointed ones are being martyred.” Like the apostles were martyred. Many believers will say, “You know, we need to be in this for God for real until the end no matter what.” This is where this thing is going. It will have a purifying effect. Many people will fall away, and many people will be gathered in because they are looking for something to throw their whole life into. They see the glory of God in the midst of the church. Chapter 12:10, it is the same vision. The angel says it again to Daniel, “It is to purify them.”

G. The Ancient of Days has already decreed the destruction of the Antichrist (7:26).

²⁶**“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.

H. God’s plan is to establish His kingdom on earth (7:27). This is not only one of the main points in the vision, but is also one of the most remarkable biblical truths related to God’s leadership over us. Notice “the” kingdom (in the singular) and the greatness of the “kingdoms” (in the plural) shall be given to the saints. Dominion speaks of the leadership positions of influence over the earth.

²⁷**“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)**

Then, when the whole process is over, the kingdom, the dominion, the greatness of the kingdoms plural, all the empires of the earth under the whole heaven, worldwide, plural, shall be transferred and given to the people of God. Taken from the Antichrist and his leaders, it will be given to the saints of the Most High, and His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. All the dominions of the earth will serve and obey the Son of Man from verse 13-14.

- I. ***Shall be given to saints:*** The saints will replace the leadership of the beast empire in leading the world government. 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).

²¹***To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)***

²⁴***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)***

Jesus in Revelation 3:21, referenced this truth. He said, "Those that overcome will sit with Me on thrones. They will literally rule the earth with Me, not just spiritually." There is a spiritual reign now, but I mean physically over the whole earth. You will have a resurrected body. You will be involved; saints with resurrected bodies will be involved in literally governing the earth.

John 17:24, Jesus wants partnership. He is a Bridegroom King. He is not just a King. He is a Bridegroom King. He wants partnership. He said right before the cross, in one of the great passages, "Father, I desire them."

"Why are You doing this, Jesus?"

"I desire them, that they be with Me where I am forever. They would behold My glory. Not just witness at a distance. They would experience, they would encounter, they would be with Me in the glory of God." That is what He is talking about ultimately here.

Beloved, the Son of Man is more than a King. He is a Bridegroom King. His plan is so that His people can rule with Him forever in love. Why doesn't He just wave His hand and have everybody rule in love? He wants people who chose love in this age to be the ones to rule in love forever. The persecution of the Antichrist will create the optimum environment for the glory of God and for people to choose love to go to the deepest level.

I will end with this. God has chosen the least severe means to bring the most amount of people to the deepest levels of love without violating anyone's freewill. He does not want people ruling in the resurrection who did not choose love in this age when they were in their bodies in the flesh. He wants those who believed in love and gave themselves to love now to rule in love over others then. This is the environment He has chosen in His wisdom. Amen and amen.