

Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts (Kingdoms) and God's Kingdom



DANIEL 7:1-28

**TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL
HELPS**

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DIVISION II

The History and Destiny of the Nations: Six Pictures Revealed in Daniel's Prophecies, [Daniel 2:1–7:28](#)

Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts (Kingdoms) and God's Kingdom: A Picture of the Final Kingdom to Govern the Earth (Christ's Kingdom), [Daniel 7:1-28](#)

[\(Daniel 7:1-28\)](#) Introduction: *The History and Destiny of the Nations* finally comes to a close in the great book of *Daniel*. This is the period of history that Christ Himself called *The Times of the Gentiles* ([Luke 21:24](#)). Chapter seven is the most important chapter dealing with end time prophecy in the Old Testament. In this chapter, the very course of future history was laid out for Daniel and his generation. Some of the events have been dramatically fulfilled in the rise and fall of the world's empires, such as the **Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman Empires**. But several of the major events predicted are yet to be fulfilled.

These events are.....

1. the rise of the antichrist and the ten-nation coalition that will strongly support his worldwide rule
2. the fiery judgment of God that will fall upon the antichrist and all the wicked of this earth
3. the return of Christ, the very Son of Man Himself, to establish God's kingdom on earth

These are the gripping subjects of this great chapter. **This is, *Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts (Kingdoms) and God's Kingdom: A Picture of the Final Kingdom to Govern the Earth (Christ's Kingdom)*, [Daniel 7:1-28](#).**

1. **Daniel's vision of future history: A picture of Christ's victory over the kingdoms of this world (vv.1-14).**
2. **Daniel's vision interpreted: The assurance that the saints will receive an eternal inheritance (vv.15-28).**

DEEPER STUDY # 1

[\(Daniel 7:1-28\)](#) Antichrist—Daniel, Visions of—End Time—Rome, Revived Roman Empire: Because of the length of this Deeper Study, it is being placed at the end of this study. (See page # 22 for more discussion)

1. ([Daniel 7:1-14](#)) History, Prophecy Concerning, Scope and Span of—Prophecy, Kingdoms of, Rise and Fall of—History, Prophecy Concerning, World Empires—Messiah, Prophecy Concerning, Ultimate Triumph; Kingdom of—World Empires, Prophecy Concerning, Christ’s Triumph Over—Little Horn, Identified, the Antichrist—Antichrist, Prophecy Concerning, Discussed—Visions, of Future History, Kingdoms of—Daniel, Vision of, Future History; Rise and Fall of Kingdoms—God, Names – Titles of, Ancient of Days—Christ, Prophecy Concerning, Rule in Millennium—Judgment, of Antichrist, Predicted and Described—Rome, Prophecy Concerning, Conquest of; Origin of Antichrist—Greece, Prophecy Concerning, Conquest of—Prophecy, of Medo-Persia: the LORD gave Daniel a very special vision of world history.

Daniel saw four cruel empires rushing across the surface of the earth, each following and conquering its predecessor. **Then a fifth kingdom—the kingdom of God Himself**—suddenly appeared and completely destroyed all the evil kingdoms of this world. Since these kingdoms parallel the empires of chapter two, the two chapters **should be studied together** (see [Deeper Study # 1—Daniel 7:1-28](#) see page # 22 for more discussion).

Note the span of history the LORD revealed to Daniel:

a. Daniel’s vision occurred in the first year of King Belshazzar’s reign ([Daniel 7:1](#)). Remember that Belshazzar was ruling as coregent with his father Nabonidus from approximately **553–539 B.C.** (see INTRODUCTION—[Daniel 5:1-31](#) for more discussion). Thus this vision was given to Daniel around **553 B.C.**, before the events of chapters five and six. Chapter five dealt with the supernatural *handwriting on the wall*, which predicted Belshazzar’s death and the fall of the Babylonian Empire that very night. Chapter six detailed Daniel’s experience in the lions’ den and God’s miraculous deliverance of him. Daniel’s reason for presenting these events in this order was probably to group his own personal visions together ([Daniel 7](#); [Daniel 8](#); [Daniel 9:20-27](#); [Daniel 10:1–12:5](#)). Assuming Daniel was taken captive in **605 B.C.** when he was about 15 or 16 years old, he would have been about 67 or 68 years old when he received this vision (see INTRODUCTION—[Daniel 1:1-21](#); also see outline and notes—[1:1-7](#) for more discussion). No doubt realizing its critical importance, Daniel recorded the vision in great detail.

b. In his vision, Daniel saw the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea ([Daniel 7:2](#)). In the present context, the turbulent sea represents the mass of evil people and nations, or kingdoms, of the world. ([Daniel 7:3, 17](#); [Rev. 13:1](#); [Rev. 17:15](#). Also see [Isaiah 17:12-13](#); [Isaiah 57:20](#); [Isaiah 60:5](#); [Ezekiel 26:3](#).) Other Scriptures tell us that angels control the four winds and that one day they will set the winds loose to execute God’s judgment on earth ([Rev. 7:1](#); [Rev. 9:14-15](#)).

Thus Daniel's vision was of God's judgment churning up the great sea of corrupt humanity and the corrupt nations of the world. Daniel also saw in his vision the sea of humanity give rise to four fearsome beasts or empires ([Daniel 7:3](#)).

c. The first beast was like a lion with eagle's wings ([Daniel 7:4](#)). This beast represented the Babylonian empire, as he did the head of gold of the huge statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream ([Daniel 2:37-38](#)). In Daniel's vision the lion was injured, for its wings were torn off. This is a clear symbol of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity and loss of power due to his sinful pride and refusal to acknowledge the LORD as sovereign God of the universe. However, Daniel saw the lion lifted from the ground and standing upright like a man, and he saw the heart of a man given to it. This was a picture of Nebuchadnezzar being healed and restored to the throne and given a human, more compassionate heart (see [Daniel 4:1-37](#), esp. [vv.10-17](#), [28-36](#) for more discussion). But despite Nebuchadnezzar's restoration to the throne and his great rule over Babylon, the empire eventually fell.

d. The second beast looked like a bear. Like the silver chest and arms of the great statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream ([Daniel 2:32](#)), this bear represented the Medo-Persia empire that conquered Babylon ([Daniel 7:5](#)).

Daniel saw three notable features:

1. The bear was ferocious and raised up on one side, suggesting that the empire was an alliance of two major powers with one dominating the other. The Persians were far more powerful than the Medes.
2. The bear was devouring three ribs or kingdoms, which represented the three major conquests of the Persian Empire: **Lydia (546 B.C.)**, **Babylon (539 B.C.)**, and **Egypt (525 B.C.)**.
3. The bear was encouraged to devour many people, which probably refers to the fact that God allowed the Persians to conquer more territory than any other empire up until that time.

e. The third beast that arose out of the sea of humanity looked like a leopard. But it was a strange-looking leopard in that it had four wings and four heads ([Daniel 7:6](#)). From the description it is clear that the leopard represented Greece, as did the bronze belly and thighs of the great statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream ([Daniel 2:32](#)). The four wings symbolized the swift conquest of nations by Alexander the Great and the rapid expansion of the Grecian Empire that he achieved. Within a period of just ten years, Alexander conquered the entire empire of Medo-Persia. The four heads of the leopard symbolized the division of Alexander's empire into four kingdoms after his death (**323 B.C.**). Alexander had no heir to succeed him; consequently, there was an internal struggle among his army commanders to lay claim to as much territory as possible.

Eventually the **four major commanders** divided the empire as follows:

1. Greece and Macedonia were controlled by Antipater and Cassander
2. Tharce and Asia Minor were controlled by Lysimachus
3. Syria, Babylon, and much of the Middle East were controlled by Seleucus I Necator
4. Egypt and Palestine were controlled by Ptolemy I Soter

It should also be noted that the four prominent divisions of the Grecian Empire are clearly shown in the next chapter ([Daniel 8:8, 21-22](#)).

f. The fourth beast did not look like any creature Daniel had ever seen. He could only describe it as terrifying and powerful, far more ferocious than the other beasts or empires. This dreadful beast represented the Roman Empire ([Daniel 7:7](#)).

Daniel saw **three significant features** about this beast.

1. **First**, the beast had huge iron teeth that were used to crush its victims. The idea is that Rome would be far more cruel and vicious in its treatment of the victims it conquered.
2. **Second**, the beast would trample underfoot many more nations than any empire that had preceded it. As Roman armies swept across the world, the military would subdue and exploit the nations more than any of the other empires.
3. **Third**, the beast had ten horns, which symbolize a federation of nations in the last days of human history. Throughout Scripture, *horns* often symbolize kings, rulers, kingdoms, or royal authority ([1 Samuel 2:10](#); [Psalm 132:17](#); [Zechariah 1:18](#); [Rev. 13:1](#); [Rev. 17:2](#)). Also, the angel who later explained the vision to Daniel definitely identified the horns as kingdoms by ([Daniel 7:24-26](#)).

Note that the horns sit upon the head of the fourth beast.

This suggests **two facts**:

1. the horns or confederation of states are a mere extension of the beast (the Roman Empire)
2. the horns are used to gore its victims as it conquers the nations of the world

Also keep in mind that these horns correspond to the legs and ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. (See outline and note—[Daniel 2:31-49](#), esp. point 2, d, [Daniel 2:40-43](#) for more discussion.)

g. Suddenly, Daniel saw a *little horn* arise from among the ten horns of the fourth beast (**the Roman Empire**) ([Daniel 7:8](#)). The ten horns had actually captivated Daniel's attention, for he says that he was staring and thinking about them when the *little horn* suddenly appeared among them. He stressed that, in the beginning, the *little horn* was very small but it eventually became so dominant that it either destroyed or subjected the other horns. As is seen later in this chapter as well as in other Scriptures, the *little horn* represented the last world ruler, the antichrist ([Daniel 7:24-25](#); [Daniel 9:27](#); [Daniel 11:36-37](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:3-12](#); [Rev. 13:1-10](#)).

Daniel described three significant features about the *little horn*.

1) **First**, the *little horn* uprooted three horns, which means that the antichrist will conquer three of the nations that belong to the federation of ten nations (**horns**). The word *uprooted* suggests that the antichrist will forcefully, violently overthrow these nations. As verse twenty says, he became far more stout, imposing, and greater than the other ten horns or federation of nations. Therefore he was able to conquer three of them and to subdue the others, subjecting them under his authority.

2) **Second**, the *little horn* had the piercing eyes of a man, eyes that could scan the horizon, observe, gain knowledge, and become more and more intelligent ([Zechariah 4:10](#); [Rev. 5:6](#)).

3) **Third**, the *little horn* spoke boastfully against the Most High God, which suggests that he was arrogant and self-exalting ([Daniel 7:25](#); [2 Thes. 2:3, 8](#)). He will fill the world with his boasting, cursing, and blasphemy, exalting himself above every god on earth and speaking unheard of things against the LORD Himself ([Daniel 7:25](#); [Daniel 11:36](#); [2 Thes. 2:4](#); [Rev. 13:5-6](#)).

By comparing Scripture with Scripture, the *little horn* is clearly identified as the *antichrist*. In the last days of human history, this ruthless ruler will appear as *that man of sin* or *the man of lawlessness* or *the son of perdition*. He will oppose and exalt himself above everything that is called God or that is worshipped ([2 Thes. 2:3-4](#)). As has just been discussed above, he will be extremely intelligent and rule over a coalition of ten nations.

Other Scriptures describe the antichrist in detail ([Daniel 7:24-25](#); [Daniel 9:27](#); [Daniel 11:36-45](#); [2 Thes. 2:1-12](#); [Rev. 13:1-10](#)). Also see **outline and notes of the period known as *The Tribulation***—[Mateo 24:1-14](#); [Mark.13:1-13](#); [Rev. 6:1-19:21](#).)

h. Daniel saw an awesome sight: the *Ancient of Days* took His seat upon the throne of judgment ([Daniel 7:9-12](#)). The *Ancient of Days* is the eternal God who has no beginning or ending and who oversees all the days from eternity past through the eternal future.

Daniel described four astounding features:

1) Daniel saw *thrones* (**plural**) that had been *set in place*, not *cast down* as the King James Version translates. Other Scriptures identify these thrones as the thrones upon which believers will sit (see [Rev. 4:1–5:14](#); [Rev. 20:4](#) for more discussion). One of the great promises of God to believers is that they will be exalted as kings. They will rule and reign with Christ and oversee the universe in His behalf (see [Luke 22:28-30](#); [1 Corinthians 6:2-3](#); [Rev. 3:21-22](#) for more discussion).

2) Daniel saw the *eternal God* take His seat upon the throne of judgment ([Daniel 7:9^b-10^a](#)). His clothing was as white as snow and His hair was as pure as wool. Both of these symbolize the LORD's purity, His holiness and righteousness. God's throne and its wheels were ablaze with flaming fire, which symbolizes God's justice to be executed at the Great White Throne Judgment of God (see [Rev. 20:11-15](#) for more discussion). Flowing out from God's holy presence was a river of fire or lava, a symbol of His holy wrath to be poured out upon all the wicked of the earth, in particular upon the *little horn* or the *beast* (*antichrist*) (see [Rev. 20:9-10](#) for more discussion).

3) Daniel saw and described the courtroom scene where the judgment is to take place ([Daniel 7:10^b](#)). Millions of angels ministered to the *eternal God* and hundreds of millions—a countless number—stood before the LORD. Then Daniel saw the court convene, and the books opened. The fact that a complete set of books was opened indicates that this is to be the final judgment not only of the antichrist but also of all the wicked and the unbelievers of the world. As Daniel indicates, the judgment of the antichrist will take place immediately prior to the coming of Christ and the establishment of His eternal kingdom on earth ([Daniel 7:13-14](#). Also see [Rev. 20:7-10](#) for more discussion.) Other Scriptures tell us that the Great White Throne Judgment is the judgment that will follow the Millennium, the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. In that day, the LORD will open the complete set of books in which all the deeds of people have been recorded, and all unbelievers will face the perfect justice of God (see [Rev. 20:11-15](#), esp. [20:12](#). Also see [Exodus 32:32-33](#); [Daniel 12:1](#); [Luke 10:20](#); [Rev. 3:5](#); [Rev. 13:8](#); [Rev. 17:8](#); [Rev. 20:15](#); [Rev. 21:27](#); [Rev. 22:19](#).)

4) Daniel saw and described the judgment of the antichrist (*little horn*) and all who followed his deceptive ways ([Daniel 7:11-12](#)). Up until the very last moment the little horn spewed out his boastful, defiant blasphemy against the LORD. Suddenly, the Lord pronounced judgment upon him and snatched his life away (see [2 Thes. 2:8](#) for more discussion). His body was thrown into the blazing fire. Revelation says that he will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, and will be

tormented day and night throughout all eternity (see [Rev. 20:9-10](#), esp. [v.10](#) for more discussion). The other beasts (or world powers) that have ruled on earth down through the centuries—both their wicked rulers and citizens—will also face the judgment of God. Their authority to rule and live upon earth will be stripped away. But they will be allowed to live for a period of time. God will preserve them someplace in the spiritual world or dimension of being until the day of final judgment, which is known as the Great White Throne Judgment ([Rev. 20:11-15](#)).

This is clearly indicated by Peter the apostle:

2 Peter 2:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”

i. The Son of Man and His eternal kingdom will be the fifth and final kingdom to be established upon earth ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)). God’s kingdom will come to earth when Christ returns to rule in the Millennium and throughout eternity.

Daniel described three significant features about the Son of Man.

- 1) The Son of Man entered the throne room of God in the magnificent clouds of heaven ([Daniel 7:13](#)). The term “**Son of Man**” means that Jesus Christ is not only what an ordinary man is, a son of man, but also what every man should be, the Son of Man Himself. He is the *Ideal Man*, the *Representative Man*, the *Perfect Man*, the *Pattern*, the *Embodiment of everything a man ought to be*. Jesus Christ is the perfect picture of a man. Everything God wants a man to be is seen perfectly in Jesus Christ (see [DEEPER STUDY # 2—Matthew 8:20](#) see page # 28 for more discussion).

When Daniel said that he saw a person who looked like a *Son of Man*, he meant that he was far more than merely a man in human form. He was a divine being, the very embodiment of the only living and true God. When Daniel said he saw this person “**coming with the clouds of heaven,**” he was indicating that this person was coming “out of” heaven to earth. He was in heaven with *the Ancient of Days*, the eternal God, but he was now leaving His presence to come to earth. This strongly points toward the Son of Man being both divine and human, the very embodiment of God Himself in human flesh.

To a believer, Jesus Christ is beyond question the *Son of Man*. In the Gospels alone he is called the Son of Man over 80 times. The fact that he will return in the “**clouds of heaven**” is also continually referred to both by Christ and others.

Matthew 24:30 (NASB)

“³⁰ And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.”

Matthew 25:31 (NASB)

“³¹ But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.”

Matthew 26:64 (NASB)

“⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said it *yourself*; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see The Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power , and coming on the clouds of heaven .”

Mark 13:26 (NASB)

“²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.”

Mark 14:62 (NASB)

“⁶² And Jesus said, I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power , and coming with the clouds of heaven .”

Revelation 1:7 (NASB)

“⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.”

2) The Son of Man was given eternal dominion over all the nations of the earth and was worshiped by all peoples and languages ([Daniel 7:14^a](#)). In a dramatic scene, Daniel saw the Son of Man approach the Ancient of Days to receive the *reward* of eternal dominion over all the peoples and nations of the world ([Daniel 7:13^b-14^a](#)). This scene is described in detail in the book of *Revelation* (see [Rev. 5:1-4](#); [5:5-14](#) for more discussion). Christ is to receive the kingdoms of the world because of His atoning death in behalf of humanity. He and He alone has paid the price of redemption in order to set people free from the bondage of sin and death ([Romans 3:23-24](#); [Ephesians 1:7](#); [Titus 2:13-14](#); [Hebrews 9:12-14](#); [1 Peter 1:18-19](#); [Rev. 5:9](#); [Isaiah 53:5-6](#)). After His death on earth, Christ ascended into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father, the Ancient of Days. There He will remain until He comes in the clouds of glory to establish God’s kingdom on earth. That day is coming.

Matthew 28:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

Acts 2:34-36 (NASB)

“³⁴ For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand,

³⁵ Until I make Your enemies a footstool for your feet .

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Philippians 2:9-11 (NASB)

“⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Psalms 2:8 (NASB)

“⁸ Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.”

Psalms 110:1 (NASB)

“¹ The Lord says to my Lord: Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

Isaiah 2:2-4 (NASB)

“² Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the Lord Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.

³ And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.”

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB)

“⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.”

Isaiah 11:1-10 (NASB)

“¹ Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;

⁴ But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

⁶ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them.

⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.”

Ezekiel 34:23-24 (NASB)

“²³ Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd.

²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.”

3) The Son of man will rule a kingdom that will never be destroyed ([Daniel 7:14^b](#)). History has witnessed one bloody war after another and the cruel, devastating collapse of nation after nation. But war with all its devastation and death is coming to an end. When Christ returns to set up God's kingdom on earth, He will set the whole universe free from the bondage of sin and corruption. At last, peace and righteousness will fill the whole universe. And all beings in both heaven and earth will love, worship, and serve the Son of Man forever.

Romans 8:18-27 (NASB)

“¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait

eagerly for it.

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;

²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NASB)

“⁹ But just as it is written, Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard , And *which* have not entered the heart of man , All that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NASB)

“¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB)

“²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

Colossians 3:4 (NASB)

“⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

2 Timothy 2:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.”

1 Peter 5:4 (NASB)

“⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

2 Peter 3:10-13 (NASB)

“¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

1 John 3:2 (NASB)

“² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.”

Revelation 22:3-5 (NASB)

“³ There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

⁴ they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

⁵ And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.”

2. (Daniel 7:15-28) Inheritance, of Believers, Will Be Eternal; Will Be Rulers—Prophecy, of Believers’ Inheritance, Will Be Eternal; Will Be Rulers—Believers, Inheritance of, Prophecy Concerning—Rome, Prophecy Concerning, Conquest of; Origin of Antichrist—Vision, of History, Interpreted for Daniel—Antichrist, Prophecy of, Power and Terror of; Judgment of: an angel interpreted the vision for Daniel.

The prophet had witnessed the rise and fall of nations due to war and conflict, turmoil and chaos. Daniel deeply sensed the unbearable suffering that people were going to bear, in particular his own people. Presently, the Jews were under the heel of Babylon, scattered as exiles throughout the empire. Were they to continue suffering oppression, enslavement, and exile down through the ages? Daniel simply could not understand the vision, in particular the meaning of the fourth beast and little horn. He was deeply troubled by all the questions running through his mind.

Thus the LORD sent an angel to interpret the vision for His dear servant:

a. Daniel’s troubled spirit drove him to seek the meaning of the vision (**[Daniel 7:16](#)**). He approached one of the angels and asked him to explain what he had witnessed. Although the angel is not named, it was probably Gabriel. In fact, Daniel later says that Gabriel was the angel he had seen in an earlier vision (**[Daniel 9:21](#)**). Whatever the case, the messenger of God (angel) met the need of Daniel and explained the vision to him.

b. Briefly and to the point, the four beasts represented the corrupt and violent kingdoms of the world (**[Daniel 7:17](#)**). As history marched forth through the centuries, nations and empires would succeed one another. They would conquer one another, causing death and sorrow, pain and suffering, insecurity and distress, chaos and turmoil all over the earth.

c. But the day is coming when the Son of Man’s (**Christ’s**) eternal kingdom will be established on earth (**[Daniel 7:13-14](#)**). And His eternal kingdom will be inherited by the *saints, true believers* of the Most High God.

The kingdom will last forever and the saints will rule forever. They will actually govern the universe for Christ, who will sit upon His throne as the eternal king.

With this explanation, Daniel knew that his people Israel had a bright future and a wonderful hope. True believers within Israel would eventually have their Messiah, and they would serve Him throughout all eternity. Daniel's heart must have been greatly encouraged when the angel explained the coming kingdom of God on earth and the fact that true believers would inherit the LORD's kingdom.

d. Daniel requested that the angel explain the meaning of the fourth beast and its *little horn* ([Daniel 7:19-22](#)). He wanted to know why the fourth beast was unlike any other animal on earth and was so ferocious and terrifying ([Daniel 7:19](#)). He also wanted to know about the ten horns, and especially about the *little horn* ([Daniel 7:20-21](#)). He wondered why the three horns fell before it, and why the *little horn* seemed so much greater than the others. Why was it so arrogant and boastful? And why did it wage war against the saints, persecuting and crushing them ([Daniel 7:21](#))? He also asked about the Ancient of Days and his judgment of the *little horn*, a judgment that delivered the saints and gave them the kingdom of God ([Daniel 7:22](#)).

e. The angel answered Daniel's questions, explaining events that both he and future generations needed to know. Despite all the war, conflict, lawlessness, and violence on earth, and all the suffering and death of human life, a wonderful hope lies out in the future. And every human being needs to know about this wonderful hope. They need to be encouraged to place their hope in the LORD and in His coming kingdom.

In answering the prophet's questions, the angel stressed five major points:

1) The **fourth beast** represented a **fourth kingdom** that was to appear on earth ([Daniel 7:23](#)). As pointed out earlier ([Daniel 7:7](#)), this kingdom was the Roman Empire that controlled most of the known world of that day. This empire was to be different from all others that had preceded it, different in its power and terror. It would violently devour the whole earth. It would crush and trample underfoot all the people who stood in its path of world conquest.

Rome was also to be different in that many of its laws, political structure, and organization would influence many nations down through history—so much so that the last kingdom to rule on earth will arise from a restoration of the old Roman Empire. The following explanation of the angel clearly shows this fact. Specific features of the Roman state will endure in certain nations down through history until God Himself establishes the final government on earth, the Kingdom of God itself.

2) The ten horns of Daniel's vision represented a coalition of ten rulers ([Daniel 7:24^a](#)). Note that these ten rulers arise from the Roman Empire and that their governments are in existence during the end time of human

history. These ten kingdoms or nations will be in existence right before Christ returns to set up God's kingdom on earth. When the *times of the Gentiles* end, these ten nations will be numbered among all the nations who will face the judgment of God (see [Matthew 25:31-46](#); [Rev. 17:7-18](#), esp. [vv.12-14](#) for more discussion).

3) The *little horn* is identified as another ruler who arises from one of the nations of the historic Roman Empire ([Daniel 7:24^b-25](#); also see [Daniel 7:8, 11](#)). As pointed out earlier, this is the *antichrist* ([Daniel 7:8](#); [1 John 2:18](#)) who is also known as the *man of lawlessness* ([2 Thes. 2:3](#)) and the *beast* (see [Rev. 13:1-10](#)). Note that the coalition of ten nations will already be in existence when the antichrist arises and appears on the scene. He will take power after them. Note also that he will be different from the other ten rulers in that he will be more powerful and terrorizing, more knowledgeable and intelligent, more arrogant and oppressive, more hostile and cruel in his treatment of others. Apparently he will tolerate no defiance or opposition to his wishes.

Four significant features about the antichrist (*little horn*) are emphasized.

1. First, the antichrist will subdue three of the ten rulers ([Daniel 7:24^b](#)). For some reason these three rulers will oppose the antichrist, and he will subject them under his rule. After this, the other seven rulers willingly subject themselves and follow his leadership.

2. Second, the antichrist will defy and oppose the LORD. He will speak publicly against the LORD by blaspheming and cursing His holy name. Other Scriptures tell us that he will even establish a state religion in an attempt to secure the loyalty and unity of the people (see [2 Thes. 2:4](#); [Rev. 13:4-8^a](#), esp. [pt.9](#), [Daniel 7:8^a](#) for more discussion). The antichrist will then turn his hatred of God against the saints (**true believers**). He will launch an oppressive, vicious persecution of believers. Keep in mind that the rule of antichrist will be so evil and brutal that his time on earth has been given a title, the historical period known as *The Tribulation* (see [Matthew 24:1-14](#); [Mark 13:1-13](#); [Rev. 6:1-19:21](#) for more discussion).

Freedom of religion will no longer be allowed on earth during the antichrist's rule. Instead, he will seek some unifying principle and common spirit to hold the people together. This principle and spirit will be wrapped up in the government. Remember that a coalition of nations under the antichrist's rule will bring peace and economic prosperity to the world. They will offer solutions to many of the problems people face. (See [Rev. 13:13-17](#) for a discussion on the antichrist's means of securing loyalty and controlling the world through economic pressure.)

As a result, the vast majority of people will willingly offer their first loyalty to the state. But not the saints, not the true believers who are committed to the LORD. They will oppose the antichrist's blasphemy against the LORD and his violent persecution of the saints. True believers will know that the antichrist has yielded himself to follow the ways of Satan (see [2 Thes. 2:9](#); [Rev. 13:2^b-3](#) for more discussion).

3. Third, the antichrist will try to change the calendar and some of the laws of the nations ([Daniel 7:25^b](#)). Apparently, he will attempt to institute a new legal system to govern the coalition of nations and their citizens, a legal system that will even attempt to change the calendar. After all, if there is to be a worldwide government, a new legal system would be required in order to unify the different nationalities and languages and to execute justice fairly throughout society.

4. Fourth, the antichrist will persecute the saints for three and a half years ([Daniel 7:25^c](#)). This is the period of time known as *The Great Tribulation* (see [Daniel 12:4-13](#) for more discussion). During the great tribulation, the last three and one half years of antichrist's rule, the great city of Jerusalem will be destroyed and the Jews severely persecuted (see [Rev. 11:1-2](#) for more discussion).

During these days of vicious persecution, the Jews will flee for their lives. But God promises to meet the needs of those who truly follow Him during the entire three and a half years (see [Rev. 12:6](#). Also see [Rev. 12:14](#) for more discussion.) Apparently, *The Great Tribulation*—will begin when the antichrist breaks this covenant or treaty with the Jewish nation ([Daniel 9:27](#)). When the antichrist breaks this covenant with the Jews, he will attempt to force them to declare their first allegiance to the state, an act that is known as the abomination of desolation ([Daniel 11:31](#). Also see [Deeper Study # 3—Matthew 24:15](#) see page # 29 for more discussion). It is during the period of *The Great Tribulation* that the terrifying judgments of God will be launched upon the earth, the judgments that are graphically described in *Revelation* (see [Rev. 8:1–19:21](#) for more discussion).

4) The angel explained the Ancient of Days and His court of judgment next ([Daniel 7:26](#)). It will be the hand of God Himself that will strike the *antichrist* and completely destroy this *little horn* of prophecy ([Daniel 7:26](#)). His final day on earth will come and his vicious persecution of believers will end. His coalition of nations will be broken up and each will be wiped off the face of the earth when they face the terrifying judgment of God.

5) After the antichrist has been removed from earth, the fifth and final kingdom—God’s kingdom—will be established on earth ([Daniel 7:27](#)). Christ will return to bring peace and righteousness to the human race. Again, note that the kingdom will be handed over to the *saints*, the true believers who have followed the *Son of Man*, who is the Lord Jesus Christ ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)). Those who have truly followed the LORD will receive their inheritance, an everlasting kingdom that will never end. And they will rule with Christ, looking after and taking care of the universe in His behalf. But note an important fact: the everlasting kingdom of Christ will be inhabited only by rulers and people who have worshipped and obeyed Him. In that day, Christ will truly be exalted before every human being who has ever lived, exalted as the only living and true God ([Phil. 2:9-11](#)). In this Scripture, note how the *Son of Man* is placed in an equal position with the Most High God.

f. This was the end of the vision. Daniel was emotionally exhausted, completely drained. Furthermore, he was still deeply troubled, so much so that his face had turned pale, which probably indicated that he was experiencing some kind of emotional shock. The impact of the vision upon Daniel is a strong suggestion that every generation needs to pay close attention to this amazing prophecy, in particular to the warning about the coming *little horn*, the antichrist.

Thought 1. The antichrist is coming someday in the future. When he comes, the first part of his rule will bring peace, security, and economic prosperity to the world. But in the last three and a half years of his leadership, the most horrible holocaust ever known to man will be launched against those who truly follow the Lord Jesus Christ. However, the Lord will sustain His people. He will strengthen and encourage them and offer them the most wonderful reward if they will just remain true to Him. These same promises of strength and reward are given to all of us who truly trust the LORD and follow in His steps of righteousness.

1) When we suffer the tribulations and pains of this life, God promises to help us.

[John 14:23 \(NASB\)](#)

“²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.”

[Hebrews 13:5-6 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁵ Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

⁶so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NASB)

“⁹ For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.”

Psalms 27:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Do not hide Your face from me, Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation!”

Psalms 28:7 (NASB)

“⁷ The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.”

Psalms 34:7 (NASB)

“⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.”

Psalms 40:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ Since I am afflicted and needy, Let the Lord be mindful of me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.”

Psalms 54:4 (NASB)

“⁴ Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.”

Psalms 91:4 (NASB)

“⁴ He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.”

Psalms 116:6 (NASB)

“⁶ The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.”

Isaiah 30:21 (NASB)

“²¹ Your ears will hear a word behind you [from the Holy Spirit], "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.”

Isaiah 41:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 43:1-2 (NASB)

“¹ But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.”

Isaiah 45:2 (NASB)

“² I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.”

Isaiah 50:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Behold, the Lord God helps Me; Who is he who condemns Me? Behold, they will all wear out like a garment; The moth will eat them.”

2) When we truly believe in, worship, and obey Him, God promises us the most wonderful inheritance and reward.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NASB)

“¹¹ Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

John 3:16 (NASB)

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Romans 8:16-17 (NASB)

“¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.”

Romans 8:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

1 Corinthians 15:54 (NASB)

“⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory.”

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”

Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB)

“²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

Colossians 3:4 (NASB)

“⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

2 Timothy 2:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.”

2 Timothy 2:12 (NASB)

“¹² If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us.”

Titus 3:7 (NASB)

“⁷ So that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”

James 1:25 (NASB)

“²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NASB)

“¹ Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

Revelation 7:9-10 (NASB)

“⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands;
¹⁰ and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Revelation 20:4 (NASB)

“⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

Revelation 22:14 (NASB)

“¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.”

Exodus 19:5 (NASB)

“⁵ 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine.”

Deuteronomy 5:29 (NASB)

“²⁹ 'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!”

1 Kings 3:14 (NASB)

“¹⁴ If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days.”

Psalms 73:24 (NASB)

“²⁴ With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory.”

Isaiah 25:8 (NASB)

“⁸ He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken.”

DEEPER STUDY # 1

(Daniel 7:1-28) Antichrist—Daniel, Visions of—End Time—Rome, Revived Roman Empire: the antichrist will possess the characteristics and traits of three world empires and he will arise from a fourth and possess those characteristics as well. What four empires—world empires—will be wrapped up in him? The visions of Daniel will tell us.

The following chart shows us how the visions in Daniel match John's vision in *Revelation*. They are both talking about the end time and the power the antichrist and his government will have in the end time. Note how Daniel definitely says that the first government is the empire of Babylon. It is only natural, therefore, to understand the empires that follow as the next worldwide empires to appear in history. This will become clear as the visions are studied in the following chart. Note four significant points.

1) THE VISIONS OR DREAMS IN DANIEL THAT MATCH THE VISION OF JOHN IN REVELATION

<i>There Was Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Great Image</i>	<i>There Was Daniel's Dream of the Four Beasts</i>	<i>There Was John's Vision of the Combined World Empire of the Antichrist</i>
<p>Note the four metals of the Great Image:</p> <p>gold silver bronze iron</p>	<p>Note the four great beasts:</p> <p>lion bear leopard a beast— dreadful, terrible, and strong</p>	<p>Note the four great beasts:</p> <p>leopard bear lion the beast of the antichrist who combines all the others</p>
<p>"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay" (Da.2:31-33).</p>	<p>"In the first year of Belshaz-zar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another" (Da.7:1-3).</p>	<p>"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dra-gon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Rev. 13:1-2).</p>

2) THE INTERPRETATION OF THE IMAGE AND THE FOUR BEASTS IN DANIEL THAT MATCH THE COMBINED WORLD EMPIRES OF THE ANTICHRIST

<i>The Interpretation of the Image</i>	<i>The Interpretation of the Four Beasts</i>	<i>The Interpretation of the Combined World Empires of the Antichrist</i>
<p>The head of gold is the first world empire: Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar.</p> <p>"This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given unto thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold" (Da.2:36-38).</p>	<p>The lion is the first world empire: Babylon.</p> <p>"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it" (Da.7:4).</p>	<p>The antichrist will combine the traits of the lion: Babylon.</p> <p>"And his [the beast] mouth as the mouth of a lion" (Rev. 13:1-2).</p>
<p>The silver is the second world empire: Medo-Persia (see Daniel 8:20).</p> <p>"And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee" (Da.2:39a).</p>	<p>The bear is the second world empire: Medo-Persia.</p> <p>"And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh" (Daniel 7:5; see Daniel 8:20).</p>	<p>The antichrist will combine the traits of the bear: Medo-Persia.</p> <p>"And his [the beast] feet were as the feet of a bear" (Rev. 13:1-2).</p>
<p>The bronze is the third world empire: Greece (see Da.8:21).</p> <p>"Another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth" (Da.2:39b).</p>	<p>The leopard is the third world empire: Greece (see Da.8:21-22; 10:20; 11:2-4).</p> <p>"After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the</p>	<p>The antichrist will combine the traits of the leopard: Greece.</p> <p>"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard" (Rev. 13:2).</p>

beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it" (Da.7:6).

The iron is the fourth world empire: Rome (see [Daniel 9:26](#)).

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and sub-dueth all things [all the other kingdoms]: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise [all the other kingdoms]" (Da.2:40).

The dreadful, terrible, and strong beast is the fourth world empire: Rome (see [Daniel 7:23-24](#); [9:26](#)).

"After this I saw in the night vi-sions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in piec-es, and stamped the residue with the feet of it, and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns" (Da.7:7).

The antichrist will be as the iron and the terrible beast with the ten horns, that is, Rome. He will combine all the traits of Rome.

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blas-phemy" (Rev. 13:1).

3) THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TEN TOES OF THE IMAGE AND OF THE TEN HORNS OF THE FOURTH BEAST THAT MATCH THE COMBINED WORLD EMPIRE OF THE ANTICHRIST

<i>The Interpretation of the Ten Toes of the Image</i>	<i>The Interpretation of the Ten Horns of the Dreadful and Strong Beast</i>	<i>The Interpretation of the Dreadful and Strong Beast of Revelation</i>
<p>The ten toes are part iron and part clay. They cannot mix; the Roman empire falls apart. But it is part iron, so certain parts of it can survive and revive.</p>	<p>The ten horns give rise to a little horn that conquers and rules three of the ten horns. The little horn is a man who arises to power by conquering these three nations.</p>	<p>The antichrist will have seven heads and ten horns and ten crowns, and seven heads that will be full of blasphemy.</p>
<p>"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, foras-much as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay" (Daniel 2:41-43).</p>	<p>"I considered the horns, and, be-hold, there came up among them an-other little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" (Daniel 7:8).</p>	<p>"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy" (Rev. 13:1).</p>
<p>The idea is that certain elements and traits of the Roman empire will survive. Then later on in history the traits will revive with the seed of man. But these elements and traits will not mix to bring the perfect world or government.</p>	<p>The idea is that a leader will arise from a little horn, a small nation, and conquer three nations. Then the other seven nations will willingly submit to him and join him in his blasphemy of God and mankind.</p>	<p>The idea is that the antichrist will be the head of seven heads or governments and that he will have ten horns, the power of ten governments. He will have conquered three governments himself (Da.7:8). All seven heads of state and the ten governments under him will blaspheme the name of God.</p>

4) THE TRAITS OF THE METALS OF THE IMAGE AND OF THE FOUR BEASTS THAT MATCH THE COMBINED TRAITS OF THE ANTICHRIST

The Traits of the Metals of the Image or of Its Empires

The Antichrist Will Combine All the Traits of the Four Empires

Gold:

is valuable and desired	...which means that...	the antichrist will be desired by the world.
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has a high luster that attracts and appeals to man	...which means that...	the antichrist will be attractive and appealing to the world.
--	------------------------	---

is unaffected by nature: air, heat, and moisture	...which means that...	the antichrist will be unfeeling and unaffected by the sufferings of the environment and of people.
--	------------------------	---

hold's heat and electricity; it is a volatile energy when pressed	...which means that...	the antichrist will be volatile, wrathful, vengeful.
---	------------------------	--

Silver:

is malleable and easily beaten into all shapes and forms	...which means that...	The antichrist will have great ability to compromise
--	------------------------	--

is easily tarnished	...which means that...	The antichrist will be easily corrupted.
---------------------	------------------------	--

is superior to other metals in conducting heat and electricity	...which means that...	The antichrist will be a strong communicator, able to pass on his ideas and wrath to others.
--	------------------------	--

Bronze:

is harder than every common alloys except steel	...which means that...	He will be hard and indifferent to others.
---	------------------------	--

is strongly resistant (often used in bearings, fittings, etc.)	...which means that...	He will strongly resist and stand against all opponents.
--	------------------------	--

Iron:

is easily magnetized	...which means that...	He will have a magnetic appeal to people and nations.
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is easily combined with other metals	...which means that...	He will be able to combine others into a confederation of states, one world government.
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***The Traits of the
Four Beasts***

The antichrist will have a mouth like a lion:

The lion.

A ferocious roar that will sweep worldwide and will shout blasphemies that will strike fear in both nations and people

Sharp teeth that will drive deep into the flesh of the world, tearing, chewing, and eating up the nations and peoples of the world

The antichrist will have feet like a bear:

The bear.

Big and tough feet that will cover a large area and pursue its prey of people and nations without giving up

Strong claws that grip the prey of nations and people without letting them go and possessing the power to rip them apart

The antichrist will have a body like a leopard:

The leopard.

Sleek and beautiful and attractive, a nature that appeals to the nations and people of the world.

Full of spots that symbolize an evil, sneaky, ferocious, and wild nature

**The dreadful and
terrible and
strong beast.**

The antichrist's rule will combine all the traits of the old Roman empire.

DEEPER STUDY # 2

([Matthew 8:20](#)) The Son of Man: Jesus is not only what an ordinary man is, a son of man; Jesus is what every man ought to be, the Son of Man Himself. He is the Ideal Man, the Representative Man, the Perfect Man, the Pattern, the Embodiment of everything a man ought to be. Jesus Christ is the perfect picture of a man. Everything God wants a man to be is seen perfectly in Jesus Christ (cp. [John 1:14](#); [Col. 2:9-10](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#).)

The title also means the Ideal Servant of man. It stresses His sympathy for the poor, the broken-hearted, the captives, the blind, the bruised, the outcasts, the bereaved (cp. [Luke 4:18](#)). Jesus is the Pattern, the Model, the Perfect Example of concern and caring. He served and set a perfect example of how every man ought to serve other men.

Jesus calls Himself "the Son of Man" about eighty times. It is His favorite term. The title Son of Man is probably based upon the Son of Man in Daniel ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)). Scripture also gives a picture of Jesus as the heavenly Son of Man contrasted with Adam as the earthly Man ([1 Cor. 15:45-47](#)). Each serves as a Representative Man for the human race in God's plan for world history.

[Matthew 9:6](#) (NASB)

“⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—then He said to the paralytic, Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”

[Matthew 16:13](#) (NASB)

“¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

[Matthew 16:16](#) (NASB)

“¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

[Matthew 20:28](#) (NASB)

“²⁸ Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

[Mark 8:38](#) (NASB)

“³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

[Luke 19:10](#) (NASB)

“¹⁰ For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

[John 5:26-27](#) (NASB)

“²⁶ For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;

²⁷ and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”

John 6:53 (NASB)

“⁵³ So Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.”

John 13:31-32 (NASB)

“³¹ Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said*, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;

³² if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.”

Acts 7:56 (NASB)

“⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Revelation 1:12-13 (NASB)

“¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.”

DEEPER STUDY # 3

(**Matthew 24:15**) End Times— Antichrist— Abomination of Desolation (***bdelugma erēmōseōs***): the abomination that makes desolate. Note Christ's words, “**the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet.**”

There are **three passages** in Daniel that speak of “**the abomination of desolation.**”

Daniel 9:24-27 (NASB)

“²⁴ Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.

²⁵ So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

²⁷ And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain

offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

Daniel 11:31 (NASB)

“³¹ Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.”

Daniel 12:11 (NASB)

“¹¹ From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be 1,290 days.*”

1. In [Daniel 9:27](#) the term is *Bdelugma ton eremoseon*. The Hebrew says, "Upon the wing [or pinnacle] of abominations [shall come] the desolater" or "upon wings as a desolater [shall come] abomination."
2. In [Daniel 11:31](#) the Hebrew says, "they shall put [place] the abomination that desolates."
3. In [Daniel 12:11](#) the Hebrew says, "and from the time the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, [shall be]...."

Several matters need to be discussed about the "abomination of desolation" spoken of by Christ and Daniel.

1. When was Daniel's prophecy fulfilled?

a. There was a past fulfillment; that is, there was a fulfillment before the time of Christ about 170 B.C. This is clear. Antiochus Epiphanes, the king of Syria, conquered Jerusalem and tried to force Grecian society upon the Jews. He wanted the Jews to become full-fledged Greeks both in custom and religion. He knew that to be successful he had to destroy the Jewish religion. He therefore did three of the most horrible things that could ever be done in the mind of the Jewish people.

He desecrated the temple

- (1) by taking the great altar of the burnt offering and turning it into an altar for the Greek Olympian god Zeus;
- (2) by sacrificing swines' flesh upon it; and
- (3) by setting up a trade of prostitution in the temple chambers (cp. [1 Maccabees 1:20-62](#); cp. also Josephus, [Ant. 12. 5:3-4](#); [Wars. 1. 1:2](#)).

b. Christ said there is a future fulfillment: "**When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet....**"

There are **primarily four views** of the future fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy.

1. One view says there is no future fulfillment; all the signs were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by Titus.
2. Others see Christ referring to the church age and to the trials which the church has to go through before Christ returns.
3. Still others view the prophecy as referring exclusively to the end time, having nothing to do with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
4. Others believe Christ is answering the very questions the disciples asked. He predicts both the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world.

In looking at what Christ was saying, it is best to let Him speak for Himself without *adding to* or *taking away* from His words. An attempt to let Him speak for Himself has been made in the former notes (see all separate notes—[Matthew 24:1-25:46](#); [Deeper Study #1—Matthew 24:1-31](#); [Deeper Study #2—Matthew 24:1-31](#); notes—[Matthew 24:1-14](#); notes—[Matthew 24:15-28](#)). The conclusion of the notes is that the prophecy is *fulfilled* in both Jerusalem's destruction and the end of the world. The Lord is answering the disciples' questions.

Christ was saying this: the same thing that happened under Antiochus Epiphanes will happen again to the Holy Place. In fact, Christ was saying that the temple would be so destroyed that not one stone would be left upon another. This destruction did happen: what Christ said took place in a most literal sense under Titus in 70 A.D. (See separate notes [Matthew 24:1-14](#), especially the notes that quote Josephus, the Jewish historian. Reading Josephus' record of Jerusalem's desolation reveals just how terrible the temple, the city, and the people were devastated.)

However, as discussed in the former notes, Christ was not only answering the disciples question about when the destruction of Jerusalem would take place, He was *also answering* their question about His return and the end of the world. Daniel's prophecy and the Lord's elaboration on Daniel's prophecy are to have a double fulfillment. The signs that point toward one who had sinned so terribly (Jerusalem) are much the same as the signs that point toward another who is guilty of terrible sin (the world in the end time). The sin of Jerusalem was the most heinous sin that could be committed: the killing of God's own Son. And the sin of the world at

the end of time will be just as terrible by following "the abomination of desolation." Therefore, the world will witness an increase, an intensification of the signs at the end of time. As a result there will be *great trial* such as the world has never seen ([Matthew 24:21](#)). (Again, see separate notes [Matthew 24:1](#)).

2. A second matter that needs to be discussed about "**the abomination of desolation**" is the division of time that Christ and Daniel both seem to give. Christ says that the abomination of desolation launches the worst tribulation the world has ever known ([Matthew 24:15, 21](#)). In His own words, the signs that occur up until the abomination of desolation are called "**the beginning of sorrows**" ([Matthew 24:8](#)); and the trials that take place after the abomination of desolation are called "**great tribulations**," tribulations so great that they are unparalleled in history ([Matthew 24:21](#)). Daniel also gives a division of time just as Christ does.

Daniel 9:27 (NASB)

²⁷ **And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."**

"**In the middle of the week**" (**Daniel's seventieth week**) definitely points to a period of time (**one week**) that is divided into two parts. Now note these factors.

- a. Daniel was dealing with the "**seventieth week**," the *end* of his prophecy. Two facts tell us that Daniel was also dealing with the *end time* just as Christ was:
 - (1) the fact that Christ was dealing with the end of Jerusalem and the end of the world and,
 - (2) the fact that Christ said He was elaborating on Daniel's prophecy.
- b. Daniel said that what begins the second half of his seventieth week is "the abomination of desolation" or the prince who causes "**abominable idols**" (H.C. Leupold. *Exposition of Daniel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1969, p.434).

The words of Christ should be carefully noted: "**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)**" ([Matthew 24:15](#)) (NASB). Christ was about to explain in more detail what Daniel had prophesied. Thus Christ explained that the first half of Daniel's week would consist of signs which were "**the beginning of birth pangs (sorrows)**" ([Matthew 24:8](#); cp. [Matthew 24:5-14](#)), and the last half of Daniel's week would consist of unparalleled trials of "**great**

tribulations." The second half of the week would be launched by "**the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place**" ([Matthew 24:15, 21](#)).

3. A third matter that needs to be looked at is the time frame of the end time (**the seventieth week**) as predicted by Christ and Daniel.

Scripture does refer to the length in these words (see separate notes in [Rev. 11:2](#); notes in— [Rev. 12:6](#)).

"Time, times, and half a time" ([Daniel 7:25](#); [Daniel 12:7](#)).

"1260 days" ([Rev. 12:6](#)).

"42 months" ([Rev. 11:2](#); [Rev. 13:5-6](#)).

Based upon the days and months given in the **Book of Revelation**, if Daniel's time equals one year, then his words, "**Time [1 year], times [2 years], and half a time [1/2 year]**" are equal to **3-1/2 years**. Daniel stated that the abomination of desolation shall be executed "**in the middle of the week,**" that is, after three and one half years. It is assumed that Christ's words "**the beginning of birth pangs (sorrows)**" (that is, the **first half of the week**) are also three and one half years. Thus in combining the two periods of time (**3-1/2 years each**) the length of the last days or end time is said to be a literal seven years. Based upon the words of Revelation the prophecy of Christ can be charted as follows .

THE END OF THE WORLD

Seeing the Sign of the Abomination of Desolation <u>In the Middle of the Time or Years</u> (Matthew 24:15)		Seeing the <u>Son of Man Coming</u> (Matthew 24:29-30)
3-1/2 years	3-1/2 years	"His angels...gather together His elect" (Matthew 24:31)
Signs which are "The beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:8)	Unparalleled trials of "the great tribulation" (Matthew 24:21)	

However, it should be noted that many Biblical scholars say that the words "**times**" in Daniel and "**days**" and "**months**" in Revelation (in fact, throughout all Scripture) are often used to refer to blocks of time, that is, to longer periods or indefinite periods of time.

4. A fourth matter that needs to be looked at is this: **What or who is meant by "the abomination of desolation"?** As has already been discussed, many excellent commentators hold that the prophecy refers to the destruction of Jerusalem under both Antiochus Epiphenes (**170 B.C.**) and under Titus (**70 A.D.**).

There is strong historical evidence, as well as the fact that Christ was answering a specific question of the disciples ([Matthew 24:3](#)), to support a past fulfillment of the prophecy. But, what about the future fulfillment? What or who is meant by "the abomination of desolation" at the end of the world? (See [Rev. 11:7](#); cp. [2 Thes. 2:3-4](#); [Rev. 13:1](#); [Rev.13:3](#) [Rev.13:5-6](#)).

- a. Some indication is perhaps given by the phrase itself. In the Old Testament the word *abomination* is connected with idolatry or sacrilege. *Of desolation* means the same as *causes desolation*. In this case it is *the abomination* that causes *desolation*. That is, the abomination acts upon the Holy Place and personally causes the desolation. This, of course, points toward a person fulfilling the prophecy in the future just as there were two literal persons who fulfilled it in the past, Antiochus and Titus.
- b. [Mark 13:14](#) actually uses the *masculine* participle which indicates strongly that the abomination of desolation is a person.
- c. [Daniel 9:27](#) speaks of a prince who causes the desolation. Leupold, the great Lutheran theologian, translates the prince as *the destroyer*. (Leupold. *Exposition of Daniel*, p.433. Because of his extraordinary scholarship and simplicity of writing, Leupold should be referred to in studying Daniel.)
- d. [Second Thessalonians](#) and [Revelation](#) identify an *antichrist* who is to arise in the last days and cause unparalleled havoc upon the world and God's people.

[2 Thessalonians 2:3-5 \(NASB\)](#)

³ 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,*

⁴ *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.*

⁵ *Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?"*