

DANIEL: Life in the Present; Hope for Our Future

Chapter 8 The Future Past: The Four Beasts

(Daniel Chapter 7-8; Revelation 13:1-7; 17:17)

Eschatology is difficult: Prophecy & Apocalyptic literature: = Symbols, similes, Figures of Speech, TYPES (foreshadow)
- Last week: 7:28 "At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

Daniel Ch. 8:27 "Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it."

Pre-Millennialism (=The prophecies of Revelation are still future); **A-Mill.** = past(70AD), symbolic

10 Key Events in Premillennial Eschatology

- The Time for Israel** (In Covenant relationship with God; Israel's disobedience; punishment; Then Messiah came)
- The Church Age** (The resurrection of Jesus AD 33 to **Present**; the age of Grace = salvation – The CHURCH suffers)
- The "Birth Pangs"** (Wars, Famine, Plagues, Earthquakes, Natural Disasters, Apostasy, New World Order = \$, Laws)
- The Anti-Christ will arise & The Rapture of the Church** (The true Church, born-again Christians **will not** endure the wrath (judgment) of God meant for the lost world, for Israel, and for those who will be saved in it)
(The Church will not go through the Tribulation: Rev. 3:10; 1 Th. 1:10; 5:9; Jn 14:1-3 =will be raptured 1 Th. 4:13-18)
- The 7 Year Tribulation on this earth** (massive, world-wide destruction and judgment upon the earth)
- **The Second-Coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, upon this earth** (the whole world will see His return w/Believers)
- **The Millennial Reign** (1000 years of Christ's rule upon this earth; the O.T. Promises are fulfilled to Israel)
- **After 1000 yrs Satan is loosed, Battle of Armageddon** (satan & the world forces of evil are forever conquered)
- **The Great White Throne Judgment** (the unbelieving, lost from all time are judged; devil sent to hell, 'Gehenna')
- **This Earth passes away** (2 Pet. 3:3-15; Rev. 21:1); **New Earth & New Eternal City of Jerusalem Revealed** =
(we live, explore, work, worship, & enjoy God forever in both Heaven and the New Earth)

-Daniel Chapter 7: Daniel's First Vision - The Four Beasts (= four kingdoms)

-Chapter 8: = focuses on The third Kingdom = Greece – Antiochus Epiphanes
prefigures the Antichrist of the end times = Abomination of desolations (175BC) – **Hanukah**

***(Scenes of Earth/Beasts/ Kingdoms) : Ancient of Days = God the Father**

-The Son of Man Presented - The Title **Son of Man** is from Daniel and then Ezekiel (93X) and emphasizes The Messiah's humanity and His messianic purpose in coming to save us, as it points back to the prophecy of His coming which it fulfills. = 81X in NT. Jesus' favorite reference to Himself (**Jesus, fully human identifies w/our weakness**)

¹³ "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a **Son of Man** was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. ¹⁴ "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed. – As a judgment on the earth, God the Father gives the Son the reign back of the earth, His Kingdom.

- **There is a divine plan** for the Lord to have allowed satan a temporary time to reign on this earth (John 10:10) and lead in the destruction of humanity. = difficult to understand. But God is sovereign even over this season of loss and destruction. **Satan has temporary power on this earth** (Eph. 2:2; 1 Jn 5:19; Heb. 2:14)
- **God uses** the brokenness of humanity, sin, pain, and destruction **as tools to lead people to salvation** (for their eternal blessing, though through temporal pain and loss). **Nothing gets our attention like pain/suffering = need**

2 Peter 3:3-15: ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 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. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation" – **in God's timing, this season of the church age is for salvation. Let's Get busy!**

The Vision of Daniel 7 Interpreted

Daniel 7:15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed ^[w]within me, and the visions ^[w]in my mind kept alarming me. ¹⁶ I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the ^[w]exact meaning of all this. = [ANGEL] So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: ¹⁷ “These great beasts, which are four *in number*, are four kings *who* will arise from the earth. [Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome] =Daniel Ch. 2
¹⁸ But the ^[w]saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, ^[w]for all ages to come.’ – Kingdom of God on the earth is at first a spiritual kingdom (already & NOT yet) – inaugurated by Christ!
· then it will become an earthly kingdom (1000 year reign of Christ at His Second Coming)
· then a heavenly Kingdom (New Heaven and Earth; New Jerusalem)

¹⁹ “Then I desired to know the ^[w]exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, *and which* devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, [= Rome]

The Introduction of the AntiChrist (Who will be raised up as a man by Satan (Dragon) & propped up False Prophet)

***Still FUTURE:** ²⁰ and the meaning of the ten horns that *were* on its head and **the other horn** = [antichrist] which came up, and before which three *of them* fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great *boasts* and ^[w]which was larger in appearance than its associates. ²¹ I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the ^[w]saints and overpowering them ²² **until** the Ancient of Days came and judgment was ^[w]passed in favor of the ^[w]saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the ^[w]saints took possession of the kingdom.

²³ “Thus he [angel] said: “The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, [Rome] which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. = great Empire made of slaves.

²⁴ As for the ten horns, **out of this kingdom ten kings will arise**; = ten European Countries, and another will arise after them, = The antichrist (who will be the one World Ruler) and he will come from the European States (Union).

and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. (= overthrow three main countries)

²⁵ He will speak ^[w]out against the Most High and wear down the ^[w]saints of the Highest One, **and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law**; = man of lawlessness (antichrist will be a law unto himself= autocrat) and ^[a]they (Jews who believe; new Christians) will be given into his hand for a ^[a]time, ^[a]times, and half a ^[a]time. **(3.5 years of the Great Tribulation).**

Revelation 13:1-7 “Then I saw a **beast** [kingdom/Antichrist] coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns *were* ten diadems, and on his heads *were* blasphemous names. ² And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon [satan] gave *him* his power and his throne and great authority. ³ I saw one of his heads as if it had been ^[b]slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast;⁴ they worshiped the dragon [satan] because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” ⁵ There was given to him a mouth speaking ^[c]arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for **forty-two months** (3.5 years) was given to him. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who ^[d]dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was also given to him to make war with the ^[c]saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone whose name has not been ^[f]written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.*”

Daniel 7:26 But the court [in heaven] will sit *for judgment*, and his (antichrist's) dominion will be taken away, ^[a]annihilated and destroyed ^[a]forever. ²⁷ Then the ^[a]sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the ^[a]saints of the Highest One; (1000 year reign on this earth) His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’

READ Daniel Chapter 8 –ch. 8 refers to Greece, Alexander, and then Antiochus Epiphanes (Abom. of Desolations)

Vs. 4 "I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his ^(u)power, but he did as he pleased and magnified *himself*.

Vs. 9 "Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the ^(u)Beautiful Land. ¹⁰ It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down. ¹¹ It even magnified *itself* ^(u)to be equal with the ^(u)Commander of the host [God] ; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down. ¹² And on account of transgression [Israel's sin] the host will be given over to the *horn* along with the regular sacrifice; **and it will fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper.** ¹³ Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, "How long will the vision *about* the regular sacrifice apply, ^(u)while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host ^(u)to be trampled?" ¹⁴ He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings *and* mornings; then the holy place will be ^(u)properly restored." -Sept. 6, 171BC - Dec. 25th 165BC =6.5 yrs Antiochus persecuted Jews in Israel, until Judas Maccabeus defeats Greece & restored the Temple (menorah)

Interpretation of the Vision

¹⁵ When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought ^(u)to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one ^(s)who looked like a man. ¹⁶ And I heard the voice of a man between *the banks of* Ulai, and he called out and said, '**Gabriel**, give this *man* [Daniel] an understanding of the vision.'" ¹⁷ So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end." ¹⁸ Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand ^(u)upright.¹⁹ He said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for *it* pertains to the appointed time of the end.

Vs. 21: The shaggy ^(u)goat *represents* the ^(u)kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king [Alexander the great]. ²² The broken *horn* and the four *horns that* arose in its place *represent* four kingdoms *which* will arise from *his* nation, although not with his power.

²³ "In the latter period of their ^(u)rule, When the transgressors have ^(u)run *their course*, A king will arise, [Antiochus Epiphanes = TYPE (prefigure, a foreshadow of the **Antichrist** to come in the end times)] ^(u)Insolent and skilled in ^(u)intrigue. ²⁴ "His power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power, [demonic] And he will ^(u)destroy to an extraordinary degree - And prosper and perform *his will*; He will ^(u)destroy mighty men [3 countries] and ^(u)the holy people. [Dedicated to exterminating the Jews] ²⁵ "And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify *himself* in his heart, And he will ^(u)destroy many while *they are* ^(u)at ease. [he breaks the peace treaty 3.5yrs in] He will even ^(u)oppose the Prince of princes, [Messiah] But he will be broken without human agency.

²⁶ "The vision of the evenings and mornings Which has been told is true; **But keep the vision secret (seal IT UP) For it pertains to many days in the future."**

²⁷ Then I, Daniel, was ^(u)exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up *again* and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to ^(u)explain *it*."

- Church, the devil is real. He is a real enemy of God and the Church. Devil is a creation, not all-powerful =limited
- The AntiChrist in the end times will be a real king/president. His charge is to get the world to reject God and worship satan. He acts like "Jesus" (the false Messiah) within the Unholy trinity: The Dragon, The Antichrist, and the False Prophet in Rev. ch. 13, and 19:20; **The designation Antichrist means he is 'anti' - against Christ**
- The Church will not have to worry about this – The devil & antichrist are tools God will use to accomplish His perfect purposes on the earth. *Rev. 17:17 "For God has put it in their heart to execute His purpose by having a common purpose and by giving their kingdom to the beast until the words of God will be fulfilled."

APPLICATION: God has a plan for this world; throughout history, God has been working out His plan and purposes. YOU are part of that.

- What has God used in this life to bring you to Him?
- How does our future victory through Christ in Heaven, give you strength for the temporary pain/loss now?
- For the current injustices throughout the world?
- Is God calling you to be justice to the world? Or Grace?