

1. Last week I completed the exegesis and analysis of Dan 2:49. When time expired I was in the process of giving you several introductory points before beginning the study of Daniel chapter three. Let's review some of that learned last week and then pick up with new material at point 10.7.

1. Daniel, Chapter 3 is a perfect picture of God's loving care and total provision for members of His family in all circumstances of life.

2. In chapter three we will see how God delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego even under extreme adversity; it simply proves once again that "with God nothing is impossible."

3. When Daniel interpreted a series of dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar, the king was so impressed that he promoted Daniel and his three friends over those who were no doubt their senior.

3.1 This will create a great deal of jealousy on the part of those passed over.

4. The fact that the dream of Chapter 2 depicted Nebuchadnezzar as the golden head of the awesome image may have triggered Nebuchadnezzar's power lust.

5. Although Nebuchadnezzar had recognized the omnipotence of God when Daniel prophesied of the king's place in world history, he seemed to have failed to recognize the need to accept the grace of God which had placed him there.

6. It was God who had given Nebuchadnezzar a great empire and permitted him to rule, but he abused this authority by worshiping the power rather than the source of the power.

7. Nebuchadnezzar like his father before him had sought to consolidate his empire through internationalism.

7.1 This practice of creeping national hegemony is an anathema to God.

7.1.1 Making matters worse, he also saw fit to pursue religious internationalism.

7.1.3 His bent on self-aggrandizement caused him to even deify himself for he created an image of himself and demanded his subjects to worship him.

7.1.4 That his actions seem to be a precursor of those of the Antichrist should not go unnoticed.

7.2 The building of the image was fostered by Satan himself, and therefore it was an abomination to the Lord.

8. To understand this chapter in the Book of Daniel and make application to our own lives, we must be cognizant of the seductive appeal of the devil's counterfeit program, which is religion!

9. Satanic strategy seeks to win the approbation of God (or gods) by good works, while Christianity is an individual relationship with God through a relationship with the person of Christ: Gal 3:26

10. Let's see what the Scriptures have to say about Satan's counterfeits.

10.1 There is a counterfeit gospel.

2Co 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2Co 11:4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

10.2 Paul makes clear in Romans chapter one of the evils of rejecting the real gospel. Once the message of Christ is rejected there are all kinds of "substitutzkies."

Rom 1:15 That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Rom 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Rom 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Rom 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

Rom 1:26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

Rom 1:27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Rom 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

10.2.1 The world is and always has been a very religious place.

10.2.2 The major "threat" to Christianity today is not the agnostic but the growth of the Muslim religion.

10.2.3 It would seem that down through the ages mankind has had a need for God or god. Their mantra has forever been "God must exist because virtually everyone in the world believes in him therefore so should I."

10.3 There are plenty of counterfeit ministers in this world.

2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

Mat 7:23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

10.4 Counterfeit ministers certainly exist today but they shall proliferate as time progresses.

1Ti 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Mar 13:5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Mar 13:6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.

10.5 There is also a counterfeit communion table.

1Co 10:20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

1Co 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

10.6 There is a counterfeit righteousness.

Mat 19:16 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

Mat 19:17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

Mat 19:18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,

Mat 19:19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Mat 19:20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

Mat 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Now we are ready for new material.

10.7 There is a counterfeit spirituality.

Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

Rom 4:3 ... "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Rom 4:4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.

Rom 4:5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Rom 4:6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from É works:

Rom 4:7 "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

10.7 There is a counterfeit modus operandi.

Mat 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

Mat 23:2 "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.

Mat 23:3 So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

Mat 23:4 They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

Mat 23:5 "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

10.8 There is a counterfeit power.

2Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

2Th 2:10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

10.9 There are counterfeit gods.

2Th 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

2Th 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

11. Because of pride, Nebuchadnezzar, unlike Daniel and his friends could not handle the prosperity of prominence: he became power mad!

11.1 Not content with ruling the greatest empire of the day, he attempted to force religious internationalism on his subjects.

12. In this manner, he apparently hoped to perpetuate his personal greatness and I suppose the glory of Babylon in an international arena!

13. Genesis 11:1-9 records God's first condemnation of internationalism.

13.1 Men raised up the Tower of Babel and God destroyed it! Because internationalism is Satanic it will continue to rear its ugly head throughout the church Age.

Gen 11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

Gen 11:2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

Gen 11:3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

Gen 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Gen 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

Gen 11:6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

Gen 11:7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

Gen 11:9 That is why it was called Babel -- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

14. The last great push of international religion and its destruction by God will occur during the Tribulation. The rise and destruction is prophesied in Revelation 17:1-7.

Rev 17:1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.

Rev 17:2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

1. Any interpretation of Revelation 17 and 18 is difficult.

2. In general, however, it is helpful to consider chapter 17 as dealing with Babylon as an ecclesiastical or spiritual entity and chapter 18 as dealing with Babylon as a political entity.

3. John is shown the vision of the destruction of Babylon, as representing false religion, by one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and is invited to behold the judgment of a woman, the symbol of Babylon, described as the great whore (Greek *Porne*, usually translated "Harlot") who is seen sitting on many waters.

4. The interpretation of one of the seven angels who was given the seven vials would seem to refer to one of the pastors of the seven churches and the seven vials would seem to refer to God's perfect judgment.

5. The interpretation of "waters" is that these are the many nations ruled by Babylon.

6. The woman, the apostate church, is said to have committed fornication.

7. The alliance of the apostate church with the political powers of the world in the Tribulation not only debauches the true spiritual character of the church but it compromises her testimony with devastating effect.

8. The apostate church married to the world and ruled by a popular world leader induces a religious drunkenness on the part of large numbers, not all of course, but many.

9. Religion is always the worst enemy of Christianity, and the moral wickedness involved in the union of the church with the world imposes a stupefying drunkenness.

10. The hardest people to win to Christ and the most difficult to teach are those who have previously embraced religion with its outward show of worship.

11. The concept here presented, makes plain that the apostate church has eagerly sought and solicited adulterous relations with the world political powers and therefore is accountable and to be blamed.

Rev 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman [false church] sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.

Rev 17:5 This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

Rev 17:7 Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

12. Beginning with verse eight we change characters but only to show their relationship to the "whore".

Rev 17:8 The beast,[the devil] which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Rev 17:9 "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills [the seven hills of Rome] on which the woman [Whore church] sits.

Rev 17:10 There are also seven kings [empires]. Five [Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece] have fallen, one is [Rome at the time of John's writing], the other has not yet come [The ten nation federation]; but when it [the ten nation federation] does come, he must remain for a little while.

Rev 17:11 The beast [a Satan indwelt Antichrist] who once was, and now is not, is the eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten k <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>ings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

Rev 17:13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

Rev 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

13. Before leaving our teaching on the error of internationalism, "truly" personified by The Global Church of the Tribulation, I want to read you in part what John Walvoord has written about Rev 7:9-11 and then we will move forward in our study of Daniel.

“The explanation of the beast introduced by the unusual phrase is the mind which hath wisdom” anticipates the difficulty and complexity of the revelation to follow. The reader is warned that spiritual wisdom is required to understand that which is unfolded. The first key revelation is in the statement “The seven heads are seven mountains where the woman sitteth.” Many expositors refer this to Rome. Seven hills formed the nucleus of the ancient city on the left bank of the Tiber. These hills received the names of Palatine, Aventine, Caelian, Esquiline, Viminal, Quirinal, and Capitoline ... This passage in Revelation is taken, therefore, to indicate that the seat of the ecclesiastical will be in Rome geographically rather than in Babylon. Through its history Rome has been described as the city of seven hills as indicated in coins which refer to it in this way and in countless allusions in Roman literature.”

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