

1. Last week I taught Dan 7:14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 and when time ran out I was teaching verse nineteen.
2. Before continuing I want to provide an expanded translation of Dan 7:1-18.

Dan 7:1 In the first year of the Babylonian co-regency of Nabonidus and Belshazzar in approximately 550 B.C., Daniel had a dream; he was lying on his bed when he saw several visions. He recorded the visions in summary fashion in his diary.

Dan 7:2 I Daniel was lying in my bed, I looked up and saw the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea - the Mediterranean Sea.

Dan 7:3 Four dreadful creatures, each different from the other, arose out of the sea; the sea represented the vast confused gentile world.

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle; this first creature represented Babylon; I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it; here we have a reference to Nebuchadnezzar's bout with his zoanthropic malady, his temporary demise as ruler of Babylon and his recovery after his regeneration.

Dan 7:5 And then I saw a second awful creature, it looked like a bear. The beast represented the Medo Persian Empire. The giant grizzly had raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs protruding between its teeth. The three ribs represented Babylon, Lydia and Egypt; these were three nations recently conquered. A command from one standing near-by said, Get up and eat more!

Dan 7:6 And then I saw another beast rise out of the sea, one that looked like a leopard. On its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule; the nature of the leopard and its winged back spoke of Alexander the Great's speed of conquest when he would conquer the world in 12 short years. The four heads given authority represented his four generals who would rule the Hellenistic Empires; the four generals being Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucid.

Dan 7:7 As I slept in my bed I saw a fourth beast more terrifying and frightening and powerful than the other three. It had huge iron teeth and what it didn't grind with its teeth it smashed with its feet. It was different from all the former beasts and it had ten horns coming out of its head.

Dan 7:8 Just as I was thinking about these horns a little horn appeared before me; and three of the other horns were pulled up by the roots to make room for it. This horn had the eyes of a human and its mouth spoke boastfully of the things which he would do; he was particularly critical of God.

Dan 7:9 Suddenly my eyes were lifted toward heaven. I saw thrones being set in place by none other than the Father, the Ancient of Days, Who took His seat in the middle of the Throne Room of Heaven. He wore a robe as white as snow signifying His absolute Righteousness; the hair of His head was white a sign of His earned respect. His throne was surrounded by flaming fire; the throne had wheels which were all ablaze to describe His omnipresent nature and severe judgment upon all who deny His rule and protocol.

Dan 7:10 I saw a river of fire flowing like a sea of lava from the throne room of God. Vast numbers of angels stood before him; I estimate their numbers in the billions. It was announced that the Supreme Court of Heaven would soon be in session; a large set of books were brought into the heavenly court room.

Dan 7:11 I watched in amazement as the little horn, the Antichrist, boasted of his greatness and power. I kept on watching until he was slain at the Second Advent of Christ; I watched further as Christ had the Antichrist's body thrown into the blazing fire of Hades.

Dan 7:12 Satan and his demons however were allowed to live but were chained for the greater part of 1000 years in Sheol and then they were released for a short period of time at the end of Christ's Millennial reign.

Dan 7:13 As I slept I continued to dream and there before me was the Christ, He looked like the Son of Man, the Incarnate Christ; He came clothed in the clouds of heaven. He approached the Throne of the Ancient of Days being led into his presence in the middle of the Throne Room in the middle of the Third Heaven.

Dan 7:16 I then asked one of the angels in the vision "what is the meaning of what I have dreamed?" The angel Gabriel began an extensive explanation of what had earlier troubled me so greatly.

Dan 7:17 The four great beasts are four world empires which will arise out from the turmoil of planet earth to be ultimately destroyed

Dan 7:18 and then believing Israel will be given an earthly Kingdom; they will possess it forever and ever.

3. Now let's continue our study of verse nineteen:

KJV

Dan 7:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

NIV

Dan 7:19 "Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws-- the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left.

1. As earlier noted, an angel who is himself a part of the vision, later identified as Gabriel, becomes the interpreter not only here but throughout the remainder of the book.

2. It is generally agreed that the succession of four Gentile dominions to be followed by the Messianic kingdom is the same here as that contemplated in Daniel Chapter 2.

3. But beginning at verse 19, the prophecy advances far beyond the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, here we have a prediction concerning the final Antichrist; we are introduced to a few of the predicted relationships between the Antichrist and the people of God in eschatological times.

4. The statement "I would know the truth of the fourth beast" is of special interest because the question will precipitate information about the "little horn," the Antichrist, as the leader of the final form of Gentile dominion.

5. The term "Antichrist" [Anticristos] appears only in 1Jo 2:18, 22; 4:3 and 2Jo 1:7.

6. The concept of being against Christ and His program began with the "seed" of the serpent (Gen 3:15) and ends with "the beast." (Rev 20:10).

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between you and her seed; He (Christ) shall bruise your head, and you shalt bruise His (Christ's) heel.

Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where "the beast" and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

7. There are numerous appellatives found in between these verses; the most important are:

7.1 the "little horn" seen on the fourth beast in Dan 7:7 and following; and Dan 8:8:

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, 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.

Dan 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another "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.

Dan 8:9 And out of one of them came forth "a little horn," which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.

7.2 "the prince that shall come" (Dan 9:26);

Dan 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of "the prince that shall come" shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

7.3 "one who makes desolate" (Dan 9:27);

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations by the "one who makes desolate," even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

7.4 "the willful king" (Dan 11:36-39);

Dan 11:36 And "the willful king" shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

Dan 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women (R), nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

Dan 11:38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

Dan 11:39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

7.5 "man of sin" and "son of perdition" as well as "the lawless one" (2Th 2:3 and 8).

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that "man of sin" be revealed, "the son of perdition";

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.

7.6 and "the beast" (Rev 11:7; 13:2 and following.).

Rev 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, "the beast" that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Rev 13:1 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 13:2 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 dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

8. Jesus referred to the Antichrist as one setting up an idol in God's temple in the days before His second advent. Mat 24:15

Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see "the abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

9. The term Antichrist means one who is against Christ.

10. John saw his "spirit" in the world in the 1st century (1Jo 4:3).

1Jo 4:3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

11. Though Daniel and the Book of The Revelation have more material on this subject, the most detailed systematic treatment is in 2nd Thessalonians chapter two.

2Th 2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,

2Th 2:2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

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.

2Th 2:5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

2Th 2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

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.

2Th 2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

2Th 2:12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2Th 2:13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

2Th 2:14 He called you to this through our gospel that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 2:15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

2Th 2:16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,

2Th 2:17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

12. Examination yields information that a consummately evil person called "the man of sin," son of perdition "and" lawless one" (ASV) shall someday "be revealed."

13. This revelation is to take place before (presumably shortly before) "the day of the Lord." With the revelation of the man of sin will come a general apostasy from true religion, or "falling-away." The meaning of "falling away" is problematic as we have earlier studied. It may very well refer to the rapture as Ryre and Pentecost conjectured.

14. He will oppose God, exalt himself, demand divine honors, and in a general way be consummate "godlessness one" and Antichrist.

15. His coming will be the fruition of evil forces ("the mystery of lawlessness") now operating (2Th 2:7).

16. His success shall come, temporarily, by Satanic power and divine permissive providence (2Th 2: 9-12), but ultimately he shall be slain by Christ's own manifestation at His coming (vs. 8).

17. Jesus speaks of him as one who comes in his "own name." (Joh 5:43).

Joh 5:43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes "in his own name," you will accept him.

18. We have detailed record of what the Antichrist will do but no where do we find him identified.

19. This is unfortunate given the games "jack-leg theologians" have played over the years; they often attempt to identify the man.

20. At one time Adolph Hitler was purported to be "the beast;" instead he was a beast acting like an "antichrist." Then there were those who bet on Mussolini.

21. In the 1960s there was a popular movement to make John Kennedy the Antichrist.

21.1 After all they said He won the nomination for President at the Democratic Convention with a total vote of 666, he was a devout Catholic with "allegiance" to the Pope in Rome, in WWII he was "brought back to life for he was presumed to have gone down with PT 109 and when he received a head wound from Oswald many thought it was a "done deal." There were even articles published that he was recovering on a Greek island owned by Onasis the wealthy Greek tycoon.

21.2 Needless to say when he was lying in state some expected him to "arise" and take over leadership of first the U.S. and then a European Federation.

22. There have been those who considered Henry Kissinger as the Antichrist with his sidekick Richard Nixon as the False Prophet.

23. Unfortunately many theologians today call for people to look for the Antichrist as over against the Scriptures which demands that church age saints look for the return of the Lord even our blessed hope.

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

24. We are ready for an expanded translation of verse nineteen:

Expanded Translation

Dan 7:19 I was greatly puzzled and wanted to know more of the fourth beast, for this beast was different from all the others and in fact he was more terrifying than all the others combined; with its iron teeth and bronze claws it could be seen crushing and devouring its victims and trampling them underfoot. This beast showed no mercy whatsoever.

End Lesson Taught 3-31-2002