

Daniel 7—2 of 2

Fort Payne

#0539

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When Jesus was seated on the Mount of Olives with some of His closest disciples, they asked Him concerning His second coming and the end of the world and He gave them certain signs. And in the midst of that discourse in Matthew 24:14-15 He said:

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come” [Matthew 24:14](#).

Then, in the 15th verse, He spoke particularly of the prophet Daniel and He said:

“...Whoso readeth let him understand” Matthew 24:15.

“Whoso readeth let him...”

What?

Understand.

Jesus wants us to understand Daniel’s prophecy especially in connection with the coming kingdom.

Now, as we have just notice in this review, the kingdoms of man are to come to an end and when God gave the King Nebuchadnezzar that vision of the great image of the kingdoms of man you’ll notice that each metal is less valuable than the one before. Gold, silver, brass, iron and mud and this is the way the history of man is instead of getting better things get worse. Until today, the hearts of men are troubled and distressed because they don’t know what’s coming. Thank God you and I can know what’s coming; this wonderful book, the Bible, foretells the future.

Now this afternoon, were going to look at the seventh chapter of Daniel. We’re going over another vision, another wonderful vision that God gave the prophet Daniel. And remember Jesus says about the book of Daniel, whoso *readeth* let him what? Understand. Jesus wants us to understand this prophecy of Daniel 7 was given when Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson, was on the throne of Babylon. And Daniel at this time had been a prophet for many years and God had communicated with him and

at this time He gave him this special vision dealing with events from his time on down to the very end of time.

When men look at the kingdoms of this world, they think of them as something glorious and wonderful. But when God looks at these kingdoms, He presents them as beasts of prey. The seventh chapter of Daniel gives us, as it were, Bible cartoons picturing the nations of history. You know in newspapers and magazines, nations are often pictured as animals. We have the Russian Bear, we have the British Lion, the American Eagle and when we see those used in a cartoon, we know what the cartoonist is talking about. He's talking about not some wild animal but about a *nation* that is represented by this symbol and so it is in this seventh chapter of Daniel. In fact, we are told in Daniel 7:17 that these beasts are kings, the angel explained that. And in the 23rd verse he shows that he's using *king* for *kingdom*. "...the seventh beast shall be the fourth kingdom on earth..." So, the fourth beast is the fourth kingdom, the third beast is the third kingdom, the second beast is the second kingdom and the first beast is the first kingdom.

Now what did they look like? I want you to take a look at them. You'll find there in your Bible in the fourth verse that the first beast was like a lion. And just as the first kingdom in Daniel 2 was represented by the golden head of the image, here Babylon is represented by a lion, the lion with eagle's wings. How fast a lion with eagle wings could travel couldn't it? This pictures the rapid conquest of Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon.

But in the fifth verse, we see another beast coming and just as in the dream of Daniel 2 the Medo-Persian empire was represented by the breast and arms of silver. So Daniel saw this second kingdom represented by a bear. Now we've seen the lion and the lion represents what? Babylon. And then comes what? The bear. And that's Medo-Persia.

The sixth verse introduces the third beast of the third kingdom and that's a leopard. But this leopard has four heads and four wings it really gets places fast. And this four wings represent the tremendous rapidity of Alexander's conquest. You remember, he conquered the world from Greece and Macedonia, defeated Darius, and made himself the ruler of the world. But you know Alexander, though he conquered the world, he couldn't conquer himself. He had a bad habit. Today, we'd call him an alcoholic and he died in a drunken stupor. King of the world but not king of himself and when he died, his generals got to quarrelling among themselves as to which should rule and they ended up with four of them dividing it among themselves and that's the four heads of the leopard.

Now in the seventh verse, Daniel sees a fourth beast come up. And this great beast had iron teeth and it devoured and brake in pieces and it's said to be different to all the other beasts and it had 10 horns. Now, you never see a beast in nature with 10 horns, did you, anymore than you saw one with four heads. And God uses these strange symbols; He's picturing different things about these earthly kingdoms, you understand.

So, here we have these four beasts, the lion representing Babylon, the bear Persia and the leopard Greece and the diverse or dragon-like beast is Rome, the iron monarchy of Rome. How many did it have? It had 10 horns. Let us notice the next thing he says:

“I considered the horns and behold there came up among them another little horn” Daniel 7:8.

Grew right up, you understand. Here were the 10 horns all on this head of this terrible beast. And as the prophet saw, he saw a little horn coming up just like a shoot, you know, in the woods, coming up. “...whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots...” Here's the picture you see—when the prophet looked, at first he saw 10 horns. But then he saw an 11th horn, a little horn, coming up among the 10 and it took the place of three of them, “...and behold in this horn were eyes, like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.” Wouldn't that be an interesting sight? How impressed the prophet must have been to watch those movements in the horns.

So, to start with, there were 10 horns on this beast and then there were only seven of the original ones, but the three that were rooted up, this one had taken their place. Well now, all of this was in symbol and as Daniel looked, what? He saw something else happening. All this was happening on earth. But then his attention in the ninth verse was taken to heaven and he saw the throne of God. He saw that throne like a fiery flame, and in the 10th verse, he saw the angels. Thousands, thousands ministering to God, 10,000 times 10,000 standing before Him, then he says the judgment was set and the books were opened. Here is the judgment seat. Is God the judge of the universe? Oh yes! Does He have books of record? That's what it says. And the angels brought the books in and prepared for the court scene. What for? To deal with what has been happening here on earth.

You notice that as it goes on, it makes things clear. Now, having looked at things in heaven his attention is again, in the 11th verse, directed to things on earth.

“I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake” Daniel 7:11.

So this horn, this little horn, was speaking great words and the judgement is the answer to that. God is going to deal with those who speak great words against Him. In the 13th and 14th verses we see Jesus coming with the clouds, not to this earth, but to the Ancient of Days, His Father. And in the 14th verse, He receives dominion and glory and a kingdom that all people, nations and languages should serve Him. Here is the same kingdom that was represented in Daniel 2 by what? What represented that kingdom in Daniel 2? That's the stone that did what with the image? Smote and broke it all to pieces and the stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Here in plain language that Christ receives that kingdom as a close of that judgment. And all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. That's the everlasting kingdom. It will never pass away. That's the kingdom you and I want a part in right? Now, as Daniel saw this vision from first to last—the four beasts, the 10 horns, the little horn, the great words spoken by the little horn, then the judgment scene in heaven and Jesus receiving his kingdom—and he wanted to understand.

And so he came to one of those in the vision, one of the angels and he told him in the 17th verse, "These great beasts which are four kings shall arise out of the earth..."

And, as we have called attention to in the 23rd verse, the word 'king' there is used for kingdom: "...the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth..." So, we have it clear then from God himself, through the angel, these four beasts represent four what? Kingdoms. And as we saw in Daniel 2, we see here that's Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. Those are the four great empires of antiquity from Daniel's time on down into the Christian era. Now, we noted in our study last week that, according to Daniel 2, there would be just four of these universal empires. Just four and no more. What would happen to the four? Be divided. Here we see how many divisions there would be 10—10 horns. And so it says here in the 23rd verse, "...the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth which shall be diverse from all kingdoms and shall devour the whole earth and tread it down and break it in pieces."

That's what Rome did. It's called an Iron Monarchy. And the 10 horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise. And it's a fact of history that between the years 351 and 476 of the Christian era, Rome was broken up into 10 powers. And we have a number of them in Europe still. For instance, we have the Franks that built what we call France today. We have the Alemen that made Germany, the Visigoths Spain, the Svevi Portugal and the Anglo Saxons made England. But there were three that are no more and they were dispossessed, their power taken away because they opposed that little horn that came up. And notice what it says about him, the 24th verse.

"And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be

diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the Most High [speak against God] and shall wear out the saints of the Most High and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion to consume and to destroy it unto the end" Daniel 7:24-26.

What does diverse mean? Different. He'll persecute the people of God. Imagine a power here on earth trying to tamper with the law of God, especially that part that has to do with time.

Now, we have here in Daniel, for the first time introduced, some mathematical predictions. We have a definite time prophecy brought to view. This power represented by the little horn in Roman history was to endure, it says, for "a time." That's a Hebrew expression for a year. And "times", that's two years. And "the dividing of time" or *half a time*. Also in Revelation 13 and Revelation 11 this same time is called 42 months. Well, you can see if you have three and one half years and 12 months in each year you've got 42 months. "Time"/one year, "times"/2 years, that's three and a half. And three and a half times 12 is 42. So, in fact, this period is mentioned seven different times in the books of Daniel and Revelation. Sometimes it's called, like we have it here, three and one half years. Sometimes it's called 42 months and sometimes it's called a 1,260 days. It's called that in Revelation 12.

So all those seven times combined together to tell us exactly how long the period is 1,260 days. But in bible prophecy, just as a beast represents not a literal animal but a kingdom, so a prophetic day stands for a year of literal time. And that you'll find in Ezekiel 4:6, "I have appointed thee each day for a year."

You know how it is on the map. You look on a road map, the road between here and New Orleans or between here and Washington D.C.; the map has a scale of miles and one inch may represent a 100 miles. But the scale of miles tells you just how much an inch represents, doesn't it? And so on God's great prophetic map, the scale is this:

One day of prophetic time equals a year of literal time. So, time, times and dividing of time equals three and one half years prophetic time, and 1,260 days prophetic time equals 1,260 years of literal time. So, here we have something interesting. This little horn is Roman because it comes out of the fourth kingdom, the Roman kingdom. It comes in history sometime after the 10 kingdoms have established themselves. That would be some 400/500 years after Christ. And you notice that it has political power because it overthrows three of these other kingdoms. It also is a

religious power because it speaks against God, blasphemes God. It dares to tamper with God's law and that part relating to time and it lasts from the time of its supremacy for over 1,000 years, 1,260 years.

Now there's one power dear friends, and only one in all history, that has ever met these predictions and while we must be kind to all men we must declare the truth of God's word. And it is a fact in European history that beginning with the year 538 A.D the Bishop or Pope of Rome, as he is called, claimed to exercise and did exercise power over the nations of Europe. It is fact that the Pope, who sat there in the Vatican, claimed that he was over all the kings of Europe. He claimed that God had given him that power, that he had the power to set up kings and put down kings. It is a fact that three anti-Catholic powers—the Vandals, the Ostrogoths and the Heruli—were rooted up before him. It is a fact, that for 1,260 years, beginning with his supremacy in 538 A.D down to 1798 A.D, for those 1260 years he ruled from Rome. You know, students of Bible prophecy were very interested, as the year 1798 dawned, to see just what was going to happen at that time. And just a few years before that king, the great French revolution came and by 1798 Napoleon was in power. And his general Berthier, at the head of a French of liberation, entered the city of Rome in February 1798, took Pope Pius XII prisoner and carried him into captivity and for two years there was no Pope. And ever since then, has the Papacy had the power over all the nations of Europe that it had before then? Its power was broken in 1798 exactly 1,260 years after its reign of supremacy began.

Isn't it marvelous how prophecy fulfilled, dear friends? Marvelous! Some other afternoon I'm going to study some of the prophecies of Revelation dealing with what I'm studying this afternoon that will bring in some details that Daniel doesn't mention. Daniel and John, they work together. They're like a team, these books of Daniel and Revelation.

Now, let's note in some of these other statements, it says, "he shall speak great words against the most high." You know the Pope has, for over a 1,000 years, claimed powers that belong to God alone. He claims himself and through his priest to forgive sin and nobody but God can forgive sin. He claims to have power to set up kings and put down kings and God hasn't given that power to his church or to any religious figure in this world has he? Oh no, no! And he has even allowed himself to receive a title which belongs alone to Christ as the Head of the Church and he's even been called Lord Our god the Pope. So, he has indeed spoken great words against God and he has thought to change the Law of God. We'll notice that another time at our dwelling.

But all of this was to continue for how long? 1,260 years. And then what was to happen? What was to be God's answer? "The judgment shall sit and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end." Now, a week from today, the Lord willing, we're going to study the eighth chapter of Daniel which locates the time of this judgment hour which has the answer to all the problems of this world.

The problems of the earth will never be solved by the United Nations in New York or by any other human organization. Men have been trying ever since the days of Nebuchadnezzar to establish a kingdom in this world which would be enduring, but the gold gave way to the silver, the silver to the brass, the brass to the iron and the iron to the clay and thus it is continued over 2,000 years. God's answers to the problems of men is not through some human kingdom. The judgment must sit and God will take away the wicked kingdoms of this world and set up a kingdom of which Jesus Christ will be the head. I want to be in that kingdom don't you? I want you to notice what's said here in the 27th verse:

“And the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given unto the people of the saints of the Most High, Whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and all dominions shall serve and obey him” Daniel 7:27.

Notice Jesus is going to share this kingdom with His people and one of the great purposes of the judgment that's pictured here, as the angels bring in the books of record and as the deeds of men are reviewed and measured, one of the great purposes of that judgment is to establish the list of the citizens of that new kingdom. Won't it be a wonderful thing, friends, to pass from this troubled reign of sin into the everlasting kingdom of our blessed Lord? Won't that be a wonderful thing? What does it say? His “kingdom is an everlasting kingdom”, which shall not pass away. His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

This world is run with war and strife and trouble; this world has disease, sickness of every kind. But there, there will be no sickness, no pain, and no death. Turn over to Revelation 21, the last book of the Bible. I want you to notice the picture of this coming kingdom; oh, it's a wonderful kingdom. Better than Nebuchadnezzar's golden kingdom on the Euphrates. Better than anything that men have established. Revelation 21:1:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea. And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and He will dwell with them and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God” Revelation 21:1-3.

God is going to live with men here in this world. Isn't that wonderful? That's what He said. This world, that has been the battle ground with Satan for 6,000 years, is to be the eternal home of the people of God. I read on:

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” Revelation 21:4.

Think of it, no tears of sorrow, no cries of pain, no sickness, no death, no cemetery, no jails, no hospitals. Won't it be wonderful friends? Why would men sell such a glorious hope for the fleeting sinful things of the world? Esau sold his birthright for one meal. Ah friends, many a man today is selling his soul for things that are just as foolish. Thank God you and I have the privilege of being citizens of that new and everlasting kingdom. Who are they? Revelation 22:14:

“Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city” Revelation 22:14.

There will be no police in that city; everybody will be loyal obedient citizen. There will be no jail, for there will be no rebels, no criminals and it is now in this judgment hour time that God is making up the list of those who will people that knew an everlasting God.

Ah, but somebody says that I broke the commandments. I can't go. There's good news, friends. This is the Gospel of the kingdom. The Gospel is the good news that no matter how great a sinner a man has been, he can have his sins forgiven and washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ. For it is written in 1 John 1:9:

“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” 1 John 1:9.

You see, those beasts were represented, which represented the nations: lion, bear, leopard and the awful dragon. They're all beasts of prey, consuming, blood thirsty, destructive. But then Jesus is represented as the Lamb of God, meek, gentle. And He wants us to be like Him. Can God take a man that is wicked, impatient, and change him into a lamb-like, Christ-like person? Can He do that, friends? Thank God He can. That's the good news of the Gospel.

May I ask you a question? Is there anybody here this afternoon that says Brother Frazee I want you to pray for me? I need the changing cleansing power of

Jesus to get ready for that kingdom. May I see your hands? God bless you everyone,
my friends. There's help for everyone. Shall we stand?

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Refrain:
Savior, Savior,
Hear my humble cry,
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

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