

# Daniel (Fort Payne) 2 of 2

## *Identifying the Antichrist*

#0539

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 25, 1976

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:

“And 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.

And in the 15<sup>th</sup> verse, He spoke particularly of the prophet Daniel, and He said:

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

What?

“...understand” Matthew 24:15.

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

Now, as we have just noticed 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 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 we’re going to look at the seventh chapter of Daniel, and 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...” Matthew 24:15.

What?

“...understand” Matthew 24:15.

Jesus wants us to understand. And 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 23<sup>rd</sup> verse, he shows that he's using "king" for "kingdom."

"...The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth..." Daniel 7:23.

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, a lion with eagle's wings. How fast a lion with eagle's wings could travel, couldn't he? And 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 is 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 or the third kingdom, and that's a leopard. But this leopard has four heads and four wings. It really gets places fast. And these four wings represent the tremendous rapidity of Alexander's conquest.

You remember Alexander the Great conquered the world from Greece and Macedonia, defeated Darius, and made himself the ruler of the world. But you know, Alexander, while 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 quarreling 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. All right.

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 says it was different from all the other beasts and it had 10 horns.

Now, you never saw a beast in nature with 10 horns, did you, any more 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 Grecia, and the diverse or dragon-like beast is Rome, the iron monarchy of Rome. Now, how many horns did it have? It had 10 horns.

Well, let's 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 the 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.

"...Before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots..." Daniel 7:8.

There's the picture, you see. When the prophet looked to start with, he saw 10 horns. But then he saw the 11<sup>th</sup> horn, a little horn coming up among the 10, and it took the place of three of them, plucked them 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.

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 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 10<sup>th</sup> verse, he saw the angels, thousands, thousands ministering to God, ten thousand times ten thousand standing before Him. Then, he says:

“...The judgment was set, and the books were opened”  
Daniel 7:10.

Here is the judgment seat. Is God the judge of the universe? Oh, yes! Does He have books of record? That’s what this 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 this clear.

Now, having looked at things in heaven, his attention is again in the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 judgment is the answer to that. God is going to deal with those who speak great words against Him.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> verses, we see Jesus coming with the clouds, not to this earth but to the Ancient of Days, His Father. And in the 14<sup>th</sup> verse, He receives:

“...dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people,  
nations, and languages, should serve him...” Daniel 7:14.

Here is the same kingdom that was represented in Daniel 2 by what? What represented that kingdom in Daniel 2? That stone that did what with the image? Smote it and broke it all to pieces.

“...And the stone... became a great mountain, and filled the  
whole earth” Daniel 2:35.

Here in plain language, it says that Christ receives that kingdom at the close of the judgment.

“...That all people, nations, and languages, should serve him...” Daniel 7:14.

That’s the everlasting kingdom that 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—he wanted to understand it.

And so, he came to one of those in the vision, one of the angels, and he told him in the 17<sup>th</sup> verse:

“These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth” Daniel 7:17.

And as we have called attention to in the 23<sup>rd</sup> verse, the word “king” there is used for “kingdom.”

“...The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth...” Daniel 7:23.

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 fourth? It would be divided. Here we see how many divisions there would be, 10—10 horns.

And so, it says here in the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 shall tread it down, and break it in pieces” Daniel 7:23.

That’s what Rome did. It’s called an Iron Monarchy. And the 10 horns out of this kingdom are 10 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 parts. 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 Alemanni that made Germany, the Visigoths Spain, the Suevi 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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...” Daniel 7:24.

What does “diverse” mean? Different.

“...from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the Most High...”  
Daniel 7:24–25.

Speak against God.

“...and shall wear out the saints of the Most High...”  
Daniel 7:25.

He’ll persecute the people of God.

“...and think to change times and laws...” Daniel 7:25.

Imagine a power here on earth trying to tamper with the law of God, especially that part that has to do with time.

“...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 7:25–26.

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.

And in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation, it’s called a “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 a half years and 12 months in each year, you’ve got 42 months. “Time,” one year, “times,” two 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 a half years." Sometimes it's called "forty and two months." And sometimes it's called "a thousand two hundred and threescore days." It's called that in Revelation 12. So, all those seven times combine together to tell us exactly how long the period is, 1260 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 the fourth chapter and the sixth verse:

"...I have appointed thee each day for a year" Ezekiel 4:6.

You know how it is on the map. If you look at 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 hundred 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 the dividing of time equals three and a half years prophetic time. And 1260 days prophetic time equals 1260 years of literal time.

So, here we have something very 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, 1260 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 a 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 1260 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 drew near, to see just what was going to happen at that time. And just a few years before that came, the great French revolution came. And by 1798, Napoleon was in power. And his general Berthier, at the head of a French army of liberation, entered the city of Rome in February 1798, took Pope Pius VI prisoner, and carried him into captivity. And for two years, there was no pope, and never 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 1260 years after its reign of supremacy began.

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

Now, let's notice some of these other statements. It says:

"And he shall speak great words against the Most High..."  
Daniel 7:25.

You know, the pope has for over a thousand 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 titles that belong 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, the Lord willing.

But all of this was to continue for how long? Twelve hundred sixty years. And then, what was to happen? What was to be God's answer?

"But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end"  
Daniel 7:26.

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 this 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 has continued for over 2,000 years.

God's answer 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 27<sup>th</sup> verse:

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to 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, friend, 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 dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" Daniel 7:14.

This world is rent with war and strife and trouble. This world has disease, sickness of every kind. But there, there will be no sickness, no pain, no death.

Turn over to Revelation, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter, 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 says. This world, which has been the battleground 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 cemeteries, no jails, no hospitals. Won't it be wonderful friends? Why would men sell such a glorious hope for the fleeting sinful things of this 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?

Turn over the page to Revelation the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter and the 14th verse:

“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'll be no police in that city. Everybody will be a loyal, obedient citizen. There'll be no jails, for there'll 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 new and everlasting kingdom.

“Ah,” but somebody says, “I've broken the commandments. I can't go.”

There's good news, friend. 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 which represented the nations, lion, bear, leopard and that awful dragon, they're all beasts of prey, consuming, bloodthirsty, destructive. But when

Jesus is represented, He's 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, sinful 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.

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #569, first stanza.*

Now, before we have our closing prayer, I just want to say something about our meeting next week. It was suggested that there might be some that would like to come a little early and have a Bible study, where we can take our Bibles and just go down these verses that we've gone over this afternoon and review them and ask questions about them and get them firmly fixed in our minds.

It's also been suggested that the children might like to come and have a little story hour during that time.

Now, if you'd like to have that, we'll arrange for that next time, and we thought if you wanted to do that we might come a half-hour early, and instead of meeting at three-thirty we'd meet at three. And we'd have this Bible study and story hour for the children, and the children could have their story hour while the adults have their Bible study. And then, we'd have another preaching service as we continue to study the book of Daniel.

Would you like to have that? Could I see the hands of those that think that would be a good thing? All right. Well then, we'll look forward to seeing you next Sabbath afternoon at three o'clock instead of three-thirty, and we'll have a good time together, I know.

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