

A Study of the Book of Daniel

The Rise of the Anti-Christ

Chapter 7

Review: So far we have studied the first six chapters of the book of Daniel. Briefly, these six chapters are summarized as follows:

- Daniel 1:** Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem, took Daniel and his friend's captive, and attempted to merge the things of God with paganism. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah purposed in their heart to remain true to God and His laws, regardless of the consequences.
- Daniel 2:** Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a image made of different metals. Through Daniel's interpretation, God prophetically revealed future world kingdoms starting from Daniel's time to Christ's second coming.
- Daniel 3:** Nebuchadnezzar rejected God's prophecy, set up an image of all gold, and legislated and enforced false worship. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to disobey God's law and were thrown into a burning fiery furnace. But, because of their faithfulness to the true God in heaven, the Son of God was with them and saved them from the fiery furnace.
- Daniel 4:** This is Nebuchadnezzar's "*testimony*" chapter. Nebuchadnezzar was being drawn to God through the events of chapters 2 and 3. In Chapter 4, we learn that he had accepted God and His rule, but only after going insane for seven years.
- Daniel 5:** Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, had a drunken party, and misused God's holy sanctuary vessels, thus rejecting and blaspheming God. That night Cyrus led the Medo-Persian army in and captured Babylon. Belshazzar was killed as the kingdom of Babylon (*Head of gold*) came to its end. Now came the reign of the Medes and Persians (*Arms and chest of silver*), just as God had prophesied.
- Daniel 6:** The experience of "*Daniel in the Lion's Den*" tells us that Daniel remained true to God, even when it was not politically correct. God's angels protected Daniel from the lions, and we saw that Daniel's prayer life was a type of the prayer life of Jesus, our great High Priest. We were challenged to evaluate our commitment to remain true to God's law as Daniel did, even in the face of conflict. Plus, we noted the parallels between Daniel 3, 6, and the end-time decree of Revelation 13.

These first six chapters have established some of the foundation blocks upon which we will build, as we move into one of many significant prophetic chapters in the book of Daniel. As we prayerfully continue our study, God will give us many revelations, insight and understanding of these prophecies and how they affect us today. We need to, by His grace, be willing to respond to the Light and Truth He reveals to us.

Introduction to Daniel 7

The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation apply with particular force to the end of time. Jesus' parting words to His disciples sound a warning to you and I, urging us to study the book of Daniel for ourselves.

Matthew 24:15-16, 20

“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), then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.” “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day.”*

Jesus warned the people of His day that the destruction of Jerusalem was imminent, and He commanded them to read and understand the book of Daniel. But Jesus’ warning in Matthew 24 also has application for the end of time. This prophecy foretells the condition of the world at the end of time, just before the second coming of Jesus. That’s why Jesus said that need to better understand the book of Daniel.

Daniel’s prophecies reveal with uncanny accuracy 2,600 years of human history, beginning with ancient Babylon and continuing down through to the second coming of Jesus. Therefore, prophecies from the book of Daniel, also sheds light for our day. Confucius said, “*A picture is worth a thousand words.*” In these prophecies, God’s teaching method uses picture symbolism as He paints the scenes of human history with pictures. We have already seen that, as we studied the metal image of Daniel chapter two. There we saw the succession of kingdoms, starting with Babylon, followed by Medo-Persia, then Greece, followed by Rome, and then the division of the Roman Empire into ten kingdoms, known today as Europe.

<u>Metal</u>	<u>Kingdom</u>	<u>Time Ruled</u>
The Head of Gold	Babylon	606-539 B.C.
The Chest of Silver	Medo-Persia	539-331 B.C.
The Belly & Thighs of Brass	Greece	331-168 B.C.
The Legs of Iron	Rome	168B.C.-476 A.D.
Feet with Ten Toes of Iron & Clay	The Division of Europe	476 A.D. - Present

In Daniel 7, the same period of history is covered, but additional details are also given. This principle in prophetic writing is called “**repeat and enlarge.**” Instead of four metals, chapter 7 uses four beasts to represent the same kingdoms in prophetic history. Let’s begin our study.

Daniel 7:1-3

*“In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the **four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.** And **four great beasts came up from the sea,** diverse one from another.”*

Daniel saw a wind-whipped sea, out of which four fierce beasts marched out in strange succession. **Wind, water, and beasts** are common symbols in Bible prophecy. Let’s look at the meaning of these symbols when used in Bible prophecy.

Key Point:

To help us understand prophecy, God’s Word gives these symbols a consistent meaning in both the Old and New Testaments. That’s why we must use **Scripture to interpret the symbols found in Scripture.**

Beast: Beasts represent kingdoms.

Dan. 7:17 – “*These great beasts . . . are four kings.*”

Dan. 7:23 – “*The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom.*”

Sea: The sea, or waters, represents multitudes of peoples.

Rev. 17:1, 15 – “*The waters . . . are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.*”

Isaiah 57:20 – “*The wicked are like the troubled sea.*”

Psalms 65:7 – “*The noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the*

people.”

Winds: A symbol of war and strife (diplomatic, political, and military) that shapes world history.

Jer. 49:36-37 – “I will bring the four winds . . . I will send the sword after them.”

Rev. 7:1-3 – “I saw four angels . . . holding the four winds of the earth. . . Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

Prophecy foretells of four great kingdoms that would rise and fall. The four metals, from the image of Daniel chapter 2, of gold, silver, brass, and iron represent these four powers. History reveals that there have been only four world kingdoms since Daniel’s day. Let’s look at the historical picture that Daniel chapter seven lays out:

Daniel 7:4

“The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.”

First Beast: Lion with Eagle’s Wings = Babylon (606 to 539 BC)

Like the head of gold from the image in Daniel chapter 2, the lion with eagle’s wings represented the kingdom of Babylon. The symbols for Babylon are all descriptions with the highest praise; gold is the finest of metals; the lion is king of the beasts; the eagle is lord of the air. Ancient Babylon was a mighty empire, and archaeology reveals that a winged lion was the official symbol of the Babylonian Empire.

Jer. 4:6-7 – Jeremiah refers to Babylon as a lion “*from the north*.”

Dan. 4:33-34 – Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony parallels the lion symbol in Dan. 7:4 whose “*wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made to stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart given to it*.”

A picture of a winged lion from ancient Babylon made by Nebuchadnezzar.



Daniel 7:5

“And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.”

Second Beast: Bear, raised up on one side = Medo-Persia (539 to 331 BC)

The same night that Belshazzar had his drunken party, Cyrus led the combined armies of the Medes and the Persians in and Conquered Babylon. Medo-Persia was prophetically represented as a bear with three

ribs in its mouth. These “**Three ribs**” stand for the last three great conquests of Medo-Persia, Egypt, Lydia, and Babylon, that empowered them to rule the world. “***Raised up on one side***” implies the lop-sided balance of power in this empire: at first the Medes and Persians ruled jointly, but later the Persians rose to be the stronger power.

Dan. 8:3, 20 – The ram, another symbol of Medo-Persia, had one horn higher than the other. This parallels the description in Dan. 7:5, “*raised up on one side.*”

Horn: A symbol of kings, kingdoms, divisions of kingdoms, power, authority

Dan. 7:24 – The ten horns are ten kings [kingdoms] that shall arise.

Dan. 8:21 – The great horn is the first king [kingdom].

Rev. 17:12 – The ten horns are ten kings.

Daniel 7:6

*“After this I beheld, and lo another, **like a leopard**, which had upon the back of it **four wings** of a fowl; the beast had also **four heads**; and dominion was given to it.*

Third Beast: Leopard with four heads and four wings = Greece (331 to 168 BC)

The third world empire was represented by a leopard with four wings and four heads. Leopards are swift runners, but this unusual leopard was made even swifter with its four wings, as wings represent speed in Bible prophecy. Under Alexander the Great, the Grecians literally flew from conquest to conquest in conquering the world. On October 1, 331 B.C. Alexander the Great defeated Darius III at the battle of Arbela. With the overthrow of the Persians, Alexander the Great and Greece, then ruled the world.

Wings: Represent great speed for conquest.

Hab. 1:8 – “*Swifter than leopards . . . shall fly as the eagle*”

Jer. 4:13 – “*His horses are swifter than the eagles of heaven.*”

Deut. 28:49 – “*The Lord shall bring a nation against thee . . . as swift as the eagle flieth.*”

In June, 323 B.C. Alexander the Great died in Babylon, at the age of 32, as a result of an illness that was probably brought on by a drinking binge. The Scripture in Daniel 7:6 described the Leopard as having four wings and **four heads**. After Alexander’s death, civil wars popped in an attempt to ascend to power. The kingdom was eventually divided up between his four generals: Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus.

Daniel 7:7, 19

v. 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.**”*

v. 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;*”

Fourth Beast: Dreadful & Terrifying = Rome (168 BC to 476 AD)

The dreadful, terrible, non-descript beast, sometimes thought of as a dragon, represented the cruel, crushing power of the kingdom of Rome. In the image of different metals, from Daniel chapter 2, we saw the kingdom of Rome was symbolized by iron that “*Subdueth all things.*” At the battle of Pydna, on June 22, 168 B.C., Rome defeated the Macedonians (*Those left from the Grecian dynasty*), to rule the

then known world. The iron monarchy of Rome ruled the world for more than five centuries. Notice that this scary beast in Daniel 7 has **iron teeth**, representing the cruelty of Rome, and **bronze claws**, representing the culture, language, and pagan beliefs of Greece which Rome adopted. Today we use the term “*Greco-Roman*” to describe the assimilation of Greek culture by Rome.

This beast also had 10 Horns. As already noted, horns denote kingdoms or power.

Daniel 7:24

“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.*”

Ten Horns: Daniel 7:24 says: **“The ten horns are ten kings that shall arise.”** No animal in nature has ten horns. These symbolic horns forecast, a thousand years in advance, the break-up of the Roman Empire into exactly ten parts which correspond to the ten toes in Daniel 2. These divisions laid the foundation of the modern European nations.

1. Franks (French)
2. Visigoths (Spanish)
3. Lombards (Italians)
4. Suevi (Portuguese)
5. Alemanni (Germans)
6. Anglo-Saxons (British)
7. Burgundians (Swiss)
8. Heruli } UPROOTED BY THE LITTLE HORN (Dan. 7:8, 24) Now extinct
9. Vandals } UPROOTED BY THE LITTLE HORN (Dan. 7:8, 24) Now extinct
10. Ostrogoth’s } UPROOTED BY THE LITTLE HORN (Dan. 7:8, 24) Now extinct

Daniel 7:8 The Little Horn

“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.”

Until this point, the beastly vision corresponded with the metallic man. Now Daniel 7:8 introduces a new character, **the little horn**, to this prophetic drama with new information, fulfilling the prophetic principle of **repeat & enlarge**. Jesus referred to this abominable **little horn power** when He said, **“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:) Matthew 24:15 and warned us that we must understand the little horn power because it has significance for today.**

In this vision, Daniel saw the next important development in Europe, after the break-up of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D. into ten kingdoms. **The little horn power**, different from the ten horns, would arise.

Daniel 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.”

Daniel 7:24

“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.*”

We will identify who the **Little Horn Power** is after we finish our study of Daniel chapter 7.

Daniel 7:9-10 A Judgment Scene

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.”

Psalms 5:3-6 – This psalm pictures God coming to judge His people, alluding to Dan. 7:9-10.

Daniel 7:21-22 – Judgment is given in favor of God’s people.

Sometime after the appearance of the little horn, Daniel saw a judgment scene in heaven. God the Father, the Ancient of Days, was seen sitting on, as Ezekiel describes it, His chariot-like throne. The Bible tells us that God’s chariot is the **Ark of the Covenant**:

1 Chronicles 28:18

*“And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the **chariot of the cherubims**, that spread out their wings, and covered the **ark of the covenant of the LORD.**”*

God’s sanctuary has two rooms: The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The priests ministered in the Holy Place daily, but, one time a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place to ask God a cleansing of the sins of his people had committed throughout the year, and to cleanse the sanctuary from the people sins. The Ark of the Covenant was in the Most Holy Place. Therefore, the judgment scene of Daniel 7 must be located in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary.

Malachi 3:16-18

“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”

In the judgment, special books are used by God to discern between the righteous and the unrighteous. In this sense, the books protect God’s people from injustice.

Daniel 7:11-12 The Little Horn Will Be Destroyed

“I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.”

After the judgment, the Little Horn Power will be destroyed by fire. Our study in Daniel chapter 3 showed that those who were not in harmony with God could not survive the fiery presence of His glory. Here are some parallel passages of Scripture that show the destruction of the Little Horn Power/Beast/Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:”

Revelation 19:20

*“And **the beast was taken**, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**”*

Revelation 11:3-5

*“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. **And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.**”*

The Little Horn/Beast power will be destroyed by fire, and to those who try to harm God’s witnesses, fire will devour them.

Daniel 7:13-14

Jesus Will Receive His Everlasting Kingdom

*“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom,** that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: **his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.**”*

Mark 2:10-11

The Son of Man = Jesus

*“But that ye may know that **the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, **Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.**”*

Key Point:

In the four gospels, the term “*Son of Man*” is applied to Jesus 78 times. In vision, Daniel saw Jesus coming to the Father, and as a result of judgment, He receives His kingdom.

John 5:22

*“For **the Father judgeth no man,** but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”*

John 5:26-27 – The Son of Man presides in the judgment.

*“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; **And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.**”*

Key Point:

Christ comes to the Ancient of Days (His Father) to receive His kingdom. Jesus enters the throne room of the Most Holy Place to judge, and deliver His people by rescuing them from the Little Horn Power. Jesus receives (1) dominion, (2) glory, and (3) the kingdom, as a result of the judgment.

(1) **His everlasting dominion** – The Little Horn’s dominion is taken away as Christ reclaims His rightful dominion.

(2) **His glory** – The glory usurped by the Little Horn is restored by the judgment in heaven.

*“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God, and give glory to him;** for **the hour of his judgment is***

come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Rev. 14:6-7).

(3) His everlasting kingdom – Only the obedient will comprise Christ’s kingdom “*that shall not be destroyed.*” The true King of kings finally rules the world.

Daniel 7:15-16

*“I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and **the visions of my head troubled me.** I came near unto one of them that stood by, and **asked him the truth of all this.** So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.”*

This vision troubles Daniel and he asks one of those standing before God about its meaning.

Daniel 7:17-28

*“**These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.** But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. 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; **And of the ten horns** that were in his head, and **of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things,** whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and **the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;** Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, **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. **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, 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. 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. Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.”*

The heavenly messenger gives Daniel some detail, so he could have understanding of this unusual vision. Now that we have read through the chapter, we have identified that the four beasts are the same as the four metals from the image of Daniel 2, representing Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and then Rome. The ten horns are the same as the ten toes, as point us to the division of the Roman Empire. Now this prophecy takes us deeper, and gives us more information about what will take place after the division of the Roman Empire into ten kingdoms. Let’s now go back and identify who the Little Horn is.

IDENTIFICATION of the LITTLE HORN POWER

In Daniel 7:24 it says that the Little Horn Power arises **after** the break-up of Rome into ten kingdoms. So it would have to arise after 476 A.D. What power arose in Europe by uprooting three nations? How was that power different from the four kingdoms and the other ten horns [or kingdoms]? Who or what is the Little Horn?

Notice the following points that help us to identify the little horn power in Daniel chapter 7.

- 1. It came up among the ten horns (vs. 8, 20, 24).** The Little Horn would arise out of the head of the fourth beast, the Roman Empire.
- 2. It would arise after the ten horns (v. 24).** Chronologically the Little Horn would arise after Rome fell in 476 AD.
- 3. His character would be “diverse” or different from the ten horns (v. 24).** While the ten horns were political kingdoms, the Little Horn Power would have a different character and derive his authority from a different source. By bold religious boasting, he would claim God-like authority.
- 4. Three of the ten kingdoms would be uprooted by his rise to power (vs. 8, 20, 24).** The Little Horn power would “*subdue three kings.*”
- 5. It would have “eyes like a man” (vs. 8, 20).** Throughout the Bible, eyes are a symbol of divine intelligence, but this Little Horn has “*eyes like a man*” and not God. This power is guided by human intelligence, human leadership, and human authority. With a man as its leader, the Little Horn Power usurps God’s leadership.
- 6. Its mouth would speak “great things” and “great words against the most High” (v. 25).** The little horn power would speak great and pompous things against God Himself. By speaking blasphemies, he was trying to take the prerogatives that belong only to God.
- 7. It would persecute God’s people (vs. 21).** During its reign, the Little Horn would be a persecuting power, seeking to hurt those who remain obedient to God.
- 8. It would last for “a time and times and the dividing of times” (v. 25).** The following are a few parallel Scriptures that declare the same time period.

Revelation 12:14 Woman goes into the wilderness for a Time, Times, and half a Time.

“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

This parallel passage uses similar terminology to define the period of the persecution of God’s church, as symbolized by a woman: **“A time, and times, and half a time.”**

Revelation 12:6 Woman goes into wilderness for 1260 days.

“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” (1260 Days)

Revelation 13:5 The Little Horn’s reign lasts for “**42 months.**”

“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.”

These parallel passages of Scripture use similar terminology to define the period of the persecution of God’s church, as symbolized by a woman. The Bible definition for the word “Time” means a year. A Jewish calendar year had 360 days. Notice, a prophetic day is actually a literal year.

Ezekiel 4:4-6

*“Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: **I have appointed thee each day for a year.**”*

God clarifies that a prophetic day is equal to a literal year. Therefore, we have the **day for a year** principle for Bible prophecies. Understanding that a month in the Bible is based upon lunar reckoning (i.e., 1 month = 29.56 days, rounded to 30 days), and given the above references, “*a time, and times, and half a time*” adds up to 1,260 prophetic days or literal years for the reign of the Little Horn Power:

Time = 1 Year	= 12 months	= 360 days	= 360 Years
Times = 2 Years	= 24 months	= 720 days	= 720 Years
<u>½ Time = ½ Year</u>	<u>= 6 months</u>	<u>= 180 days</u>	<u>= 180 Years</u>
Time, Times and half a time	= 42 months	= 1260 days	= 1260 Years

The prophetic periods of “*42 months*” and “*1260 days*” also equal 1,260 years, based on this same biblical “*day for a year*” principle. Thus the little horn power would have dominion over and persecute, “*Wear out the saints,*” God’s people for 1260 years.

9. It would “think to change times and laws” (v. 25).

The Bible says that the Little Horn Power would be different from the preceding powers because it would be both a political and a religious power. In addition to speaking great things against Most High and persecuting the saints of God, the Little Horn would also think to change the “*times and laws*” of God (Dan. 7:25). Which **law** from God’s holy Ten Commandments deals with **time**? The fourth Commandment.

History gives only one possible identity of the Little Horn Power.

Daniel chapter 7 unmistakably points to the Roman Papacy of the Middle Ages as the Little Horn. The Roman Empire finally disintegrated in 476 AD as the ten kingdoms of Europe arose. After these ten kingdoms were established, **a Christian church-state entity, the Roman papacy, was established.** This church-state power grew over several centuries and rose to prominence in Western Europe. **The Little Horn came into existence exactly when the prophecy said it would.** Of the ten divisions of the Roman Empire, the Roman papacy rose to power as **three of the Germanic tribes were destroyed [uprooted]** in Italy: The **Heruli** in 493 A.D., the **Vandals** in 534 A.D., and the **Ostrogoth’s** in 538 A.D. This happened just as Daniel predicted, and the remaining seven kingdoms can still be found in modern Europe today.

In 538 AD, Justinian decreed that the Bishop of Rome had the authority to use state power to enforce the churches religious mandates. With the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoth’s out of the way, the Papacy now held universal sway for the next 1260 years. In 1798 A.D., at the end of the 1260 years, Napoleon sent General Berthier to Rome, who took Pope Pius VI captive and temporarily ended the union of church and state embodied in the Roman Church. Thus the Roman church received a deadly wound that would later be healed. This did not stop the Roman Catholic Church from functioning as a church, but did take away their political power and influence.

The Bible says this power was “diverse” or different from the powers before it. For the first time in history, a church/state power arose, slashing the sword in the name of Christ. Ruling from Rome, the Little Horn’s combination of spiritual and political power reigned in the place of the ancient emperors.

Let’s study the parallel predictions in the New Testament regarding the experience of the Christian church and the coming of the Antichrist.

Acts 20:29-31. Paul warned the church at Ephesus of the coming apostasy:
“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased

not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

Key Points:

Paul’s Warning Included Three Important Points:

1. First, **opposition would come from the outside.** Like wolves, men would attack God’s people with satanic persecution, attempting to destroy the church. By the grace of the Lord, the church would still survive.
2. The next problem would be much more serious: **APOSTASY would arise from WITHIN.** In God’s church, men would begin speaking perverse, crooked, and twisted things.
3. Paul warned that **the beginning of this apostasy would come quickly.** These apostates would be *“of your own selves,”* Paul warned in his last words to the elders at Ephesus.

In his second letter to Thessalonica, Paul pleaded with the church to **remain pure**, but he still knew that apostasy would creep in. Scholars have recognized that this chapter builds upon, directly quotes, and alludes to Daniel chapter 7. Christians from all denominations agree that Paul warned of the Antichrist power and his leading role in the apostasy of the Christian church.

2 Thess. 2:3-4.

*“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the second coming of Jesus] shall not come, except **there come a falling away first**, and that **man of sin** be revealed, **the son of perdition**; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is worshipped; so that **he as God sitteth in the temple of God** [the church], showing himself that he is God.”*

Key Points:

1. **“Falling away”** comes from Greek word APOSTASIA which literally means *“a falling away or departure from the purity of faith,”* thus *“an apostasy.”*
2. **“Son of perdition”** is used in only one other place in Scripture – to describe Judas Iscariot who betrayed his Lord. In other words, the Antichrist would also betray the Lord within the church of God. Popular Christianity would get caught up in a landslide of apostasy and betray the gospel while still maintaining an outward form and profession of faithfulness.
3. **“Man of sin”** literally means in the original Greek *“the man of lawlessness.”* Paul warns us that the Antichrist would stand in opposition to the law of God.
4. **“He as God sitteth in the temple of God.”** This phrase reveals that the Antichrist would claim for himself the prerogatives of God. Paul speaks of God’s temple as a symbol of His church (**Eph. 2:19-22**). Therefore, this man of sin would actually take his *“seat”* of political authority within the church.

A parallel vision in Daniel 8 records more details of the Antichrist’s apostasy in Christianity. Using a similar symbol of a little horn that grows strong, Daniel wrote:

Daniel 8:11-12.

*“Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host [Jesus Christ], . . .and it cast down **the truth to the ground**; and it practiced, and prospered.”*

The Bible is clear, the great struggle of the ages is not a battle against atheism and unbelief.

Persecution from powers outside the church only proved to fan the fires of faith. Friends, the great apostasy started from within God’s church. Satan’s great triumph is the corruption of Christianity. **The devil has hoodwinked the Christian world. The Antichrist has already come as an historical**

power in Christian Europe.

Daniel 7:25 describes the length of the little horn's reign in history and the nature of the apostasy in its attempt to destroy the church.

Daniel 7:25

*“And **he shall speak great words against the most High**, 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.**”*

Key Points:

1. *“And he shall speak great words against the most High,”*
2. *“and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws:*
3. *“and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”*

The Little Horn Power reigned for 1260 years. The papacy was established in power by the decree of Justinian in 538 AD after the last of the three kingdoms, the Ostrogoth's, had been uprooted from Rome. Exactly 1260 years later, the papacy came to a temporary end when the pope was taken captive in 1798 and died in exile during the French Revolution. **The Bible says, “He shall wear out the saints of the most High.”** This can only refer to persecution. Historians tell us that as many as 100 million people died at the hands of popes and priests during the Dark Ages. Friends, the Roman church was the greatest murderer of human history – bar none, but sadly this was done *“in the name of religion.”*

The nature of the Antichrist's deception is aimed at the law of God.

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

*“And **he shall speak great words against the most High**, 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.**”*

When someone meddles with God's law, he is actually meddling with God Himself! His law is an expression of His character and supports His position as the Creator. On this earth, Jesus lived among us as God in the flesh. If anyone had a right to change God's law, it would have been Jesus. Yet Jesus Himself told us that nothing would change in the law of God.

Matthew 5:17-18 (Goodspeed Translation)

“Do not suppose that I have come to do away with the law or the prophets. I have not come to do away with them but to enforce them. For I tell you, as long as heaven and earth endure, not one dotting of an i or the crossing of a t will be dropped from the law until all is observed.”

The Bible says of the Little Horn Power, **“He would think to change times and laws.”**

Now isn't that interesting! Only one commandment in the law talks about God's holy worship day. This doesn't mean the others aren't important, but God Himself foresaw the day when the Christian church would forget His holy day. The seventh-day Sabbath is the special sign that He is the Creator and the Giver of rest in our lives. In remembering the Sabbath, we are, in fact, remembering Him.

Exodus 20:8-11. The Fourth Commandment as given by God Himself:

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and

all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Key Points:

1. The Creator Himself rested on the seventh-day and made that day holy (Gen. 2:1-3).
2. **The Sabbath reminds us that only the Creator can make us holy (Ex. 31:13).**

Just as Daniel, Paul, and Jesus warned us, the Antichrist Power would fight against God’s law.

History tells us that the Roman Church was instrumental in leading the Christian church to forget the Sabbath which had been commanded by God in the fourth commandment. Even today the Roman Church acknowledges her role in that lawless change. This is the instruction about the Sabbath given by the Catholic Church to its converts:

Q. Which is the Sabbath day?

A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

*A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” (Peter Geierman, *The Convert’s Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, p. 50)*

“The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.” (Catholic Mirror, Sept. 23, 1893)

“The arguments . . . firmly grounded on the word of God, . . . leave no escape for the conscientious Protestant except the abandonment of Sunday worship and the return to Saturday, commanded by their teacher, the Bible. . . Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives; either Protestantism and the keeping of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping of Sunday. Compromise is impossible.” (Catholic Mirror, Sept. 23, 1893)

*“If we consulted the Bible only, we should still have to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is, Saturday.” (John Laux, *A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies*, vol. 1, p. 51, 1936)*

*“You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.” (James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of our Fathers*, p. 72-73, 1917 ed.)*

“The Pope is of so great authority and power, that he is able to modify, declare, or interpret even divine laws. . . The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth.”

*(Lucius Ferraris, *Prompta Bibliotheca*, Vol. 5, “Papa,” art. 2, translated from Latin)*

Are you beginning to see how the Catholic Church has set itself up as God on earth and demands that the world follow? **Please keep in mind that God is not exposing Catholic people! In His mercy, God predicted the rise of this lawless Little Horn Power. In love, He is warning us about this system of worship that has turned away from the worship of the Creator and set up its own laws apart from God.**

Daniel 7:9-14 The Judgment Scene

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before

*him: **the judgment was set, and the books were opened.** I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days,** and they brought him near before him. **And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom,** that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, **and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.**”*

The Roman Church prospered during the Middle Ages, just as the Bible had predicted. This prosperity and lawless reign continued until something dramatic happened in heaven. As we just read, the prophet saw a judgment scene taking place in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary. God’s Holy Ten Commandment law abides safely within the hearts of His obedient people and inside the heavenly Ark of the Covenant. During the judgment, dominion was taken away from the Little Horn Power at the end of the 1260 years. The heavenly judgment then focuses on the rightful Ruler, Lord, and King of the universe, Jesus Christ. With all the obedient saints of God, we are called to participate in the restoration of His (1) dominion, (2) glory, and (3) kingdom.

First, dominion is given to Jesus. The Roman Church exercised religious dominion for more than one thousand years. Therefore, Jesus reasserts His dominion over His faithful people. This, points to the reemergence of God’s truths after 1798, truths that had been long trampled by the Little Horn Power.

Second, glory is given to Jesus. This reminds us of the call to worship as proclaimed in Revelation 14:6-7. Christ is pictured as restoring true worship and the true knowledge of God as our Creator.

Third, Jesus receives His kingdom. This refers to His people. God’s kingdom is comprised of His obedient subjects. In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew chapter 5, Jesus taught the foundational principles of His kingdom. While in vision, Daniel saw the Little Horn Power destroyed and Christ’s kingdom reconstituted along proper lines during the heavenly judgment scene. What joy must have filled Daniel’s heart as he saw Christ’s kingdom made up of every nation and tribe on planet earth!

On the Mount of Olives before His crucifixion, Jesus Himself quoted the Prophet Daniel’s vision about the restoration of the good news of redemption and the desolation of the Little Horn Power:

Matthew 24:14-15

*“**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.** 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.”*

Daniel chapter 7 directs our eyes to Christ in the heavenly sanctuary and to the judgment that begins after 1798. The Little Horn’s lawless work is unmasked, and God’s obedient people are vindicated in the heavenly judgment hall. Today Jesus is calling you to be in His kingdom. He wants you to share His pure gospel with all the nations of earth in these last days. Will you give Jesus total dominion over your life? Will you live ever and always for His glory? Will you be an obedient subject of His kingdom, by keeping all of His Ten Commandments?