

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

BOOK OF DANIEL

THE ANGEL (DANIEL 7:15-18) HE WAS DISTURBED, AND FOR GOOD REASON

As Daniel was looking at the vision from v1-14, he becomes "terrified" and then asks an angel (more than likely Gabriel) next to him for clarity

- This was a vision, not a dream. Imagine something like Star Trek's holodeck where the characters appear real and can be interacted with

KINGDOMS

The angel tells Daniel the beasts are "kings" that will "rise from the earth." This is not just kings, but whole empires/governments. Daniel is also told that the "holy ones of the Most High" will receive a kingdom and "posses it forever"

- Unlike empires that advanced through force, ours will be handed to us

OUR KINGDOM OPERATES DIFFERENTLY

We don't take by our power, brute force, or political tactics. **Whatever we achieve and gain in this life and in eternity is a gracious gift of God**

- In these times we must **not fight with rhetoric, slander, or malice, but petition God through prayer to wage war against evil** (Ephesians 6:12)

WHO ARE THE "HOLY ONES"?

This part has a double interpretation. The holy ones to Daniel would have been Israel because he knew nothing of the NT church, and it alludes to the fact that there will be a literal reign of Christ on earth before eternity.

- Many believe a remnant of believing Jews will be present for the 1000 year reign because it was promised to David

IT WILL ALSO BE THE NT BELIEVERS

We as Christians are grafted into the tree that is Israel (John 15) and therefore inherit the same promise and relationship with God/Christ. We have not replaced the Jews. That thinking is called "replacement theology" and it is incorrect.

- Do not get hung up on things that are not essential to the mission and purpose of Christ!
- As Believers, we can disagree on minors, while still advancing the majors

PREVAILING (DANIEL 7:19-22)

THE FOURTH BEAST

As Daniel was listening to the angel, he could not get the terrifying fourth beast out of his head. Daniel was probably being prompted by the Holy Spirit to focus on the most important beast and end-times events

- Remember this beast is linked with Neby's dream in Chapter 2, and is identified as the Romans

THIS EMPIRE WILL BE REVIVED IN SOME WAY

Revelation 17:12 says the "horns you saw are 10 kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings with the beast" implying that a final empire will arise from the ideology of Rome

- Led by the "little horn" or Antichrist, Man of Lawlessness, Beast

THERE WILL BE DISSENTION

The Roman Empire will eventually be parceled into 10 empires. 10 leaders will unite, but there is dissention, and an 11th leader will rise up, subdue 3 of the lesser 10 leaders (leaving 7 excluding the Antichrist) and lead this coalition, essentially, the whole world. His destruction will be one of the events of the 2nd coming.

BEFORE THIS HAPPENS, WE WILL BE PERSECUTED

As Daniel was watching this drama unfold in his vision, he saw the "little horn" wage war against the people of God and prevail until the "Ancient of Days arrived"

- Revelation 7 describes Jews and Christians going through tribulation. There will be a remnant of Jews preserved, but many Christians and Jews die

WE ARE ALL MIGRATING

1 Peter 2:11 tells us that we are "strangers and temporary residents" in this life. We must know that our kingdom has not yet arrived, but it is coming. So, we must not lean on our understanding, but in His promise of a new home

- It will appear to the world like we are losing until Christ comes back.

A POLARIZING SAVIOR

Jesus said in Matthew 10:34 that He came to "bring a sword." I believe this is in reference to morality and defining of lines as we grow closer to the "end of days."

- This shows that the rebellion to God will grow, but so will the allegiance to Him. **I believe we will see a great revival before Christ returns.**

The evidence of revival is confession, repentance, and changed lives. Great movements toward righteousness, evangelism, and social justice occur, and Believers are spending time in prayer, reading and obeying God's Word, while powerfully using their spiritual gifts.

TIME (DANIEL 7:23-25)

THE FIRST LOOK AT THE ANTICHRIST

Daniel 7, and specifically v24, is so important because this is the first time in the Word we see a description of the Antichrist

- At first, this will be just another human king. But, then he will rise to be greater than the other horns before him, more charismatic, powerful, and running the most absolute dictatorships in history

SATAN WORKS IN SUBTLETIES (GEN. 3) AND IS VERY PERSUASIVE WITH HIS LIES

This man will seemingly fix the world and unify it. People will be deceived, even many "Believers," and will worship him (Matthew 24:24)

- His religious counterpart will do seemingly miraculous things and eventually build an "image" to him (Revelation 13:15)

THE WORLD ISN'T ENOUGH (25)

World domination does not satisfy the Antichrist. He will eventually grow so arrogant that he will challenge God and even claim to be God. Because of this hatred to God, he will take his anger out on God's people, the church

- God will allow this persecution, but only for a time

EVEN TRYING TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS

This leader will create new constitutions, change religious laws to be humanistic, and change the laws of nature, morality, and economics. This will happen for "a time, times, and half a time"

- This is the 2nd half of the 7 Years of Tribulation after a peace treaty with Israel is made, and then broken.

"TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME" REPRESENT 3½ YEARS.

For 7 years the Antichrist will be in power, and for the last 3 ½, it will be at its peak.

- There is much debate on how long or even if we see any of this 7 years. This also brings up debate of a "rapture" and if that happens pre, mid, or post tribulation.

THE PEOPLE'S KINGDOM (DANIEL 7:26-28)

REMEMBERING WHO'S IN CHARGE

v26 refers back to v10 when we see God on His throne, the books of our lives opened up, and the court of supreme justice about to convene

- This justice that is about to take place is for the Antichrist first. When the court sits, he will lose his power and be completely destroyed

GIVING THE KINGDOM TO THE PEOPLE (V27)

We see an amazing contrast of the dictator Antichrist and the loving and gracious God who gives His Kingdom over to His followers during the 1000 year reign

- After the 1000 years, all of humanity will be resurrected (Revelation 20:11-15) ultimately judged and sent to their eternity

MY THOUGHTS CHANGE ON THIS

I thought that all believers help reign during this 1000 years, but it seems like this may be a special reward just for martyrs

- It goes back to Revelation 6:9-11 when John sees the martyred souls waiting to be avenged, but are encouraged to wait. John has seen the vengeance, now maybe he sees the reward?
- Revelation 20:5 offers more clarity by simply saying everyone else didn't come back to life until the 1000 years is over
- Promillennialists think this is more symbolic of an honor or emblem of a reward just for people who have died for Christ

STILL "TERRIFIED GREATLY"

Daniel says his "faced turned pale" and he "kept the matter to himself." This is because Daniel saw human history similar to how God must see it. **Without His redemption, it is brutal, immoral, lost, and depraved.**

- This will be our present and our eternity if we are not humble and wise
- The Crushing Stone: Matthew 21:43-44, Acts 4:11,12

GOD SEES WHO WE TRULY ARE

- The question is not if we can hide from God, but if we are wise enough to confess, repent, and allow the only True King to save us from ourselves now, and condemnation in the future.