

In today's message, we'll dig deeper into the interpretation of Daniel's dream by the angel Gabriel. We'll see how the antichrist will rise to power, only to be overthrown after 7 terrible years by rule of the King of Kings and His saints (15-18)!

1. Pictured as iron, this fourth kingdom will break in pieces and subdue (2:40). It is evidently the system of world government which was introduced by Rome. That system of government prevails today in western civilization and may be expected to continue until the end of the church age (15-23).
  - a. Chapter 2 teaches that the fourth of these kingdoms will be in existence until violently destroyed by Christ at His coming. This has not yet occurred.
  - b. The tenfold form of the government is the form of government at the time of its destruction. That form of government has not yet occurred.
  - c. The fourth beast appears to be the same as the beast prophesied in Revelation 13 and 17. John's prophecy is of a kingdom that is destroyed by Christ at His second coming.
  - d. The 10 horns are the ten kings who rise in the final state of the fourth kingdom (20, 24; Revelation 17:12ff).
2. The little horn is the coming antichrist (24-25).
  - a. The antichrist will arise after the tenfold form of the final world government has developed. Since he comes after the 10 kings (24), it appears that he will not create this confederacy of nations, but rather dominate it.
  - b. He is human, because he is referred to as "another horn," so he is another human king who will die one day.
    - i. Revelation 13:2 "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."
    - ii. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 "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: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders."
  - c. Since, he begins as a little horn, we may expect antichrist to be obscure at first and gradually gain power.
  - d. He will begin his march to dominion by first subduing 3 other kings of the tenfold alliance (8, 24).
  - e. He will be unique (19) in that he will rule as a dictatorship with absolute power.
    - i. He will force the world to worship him.
      1. Revelation 13:15 "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."
      2. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."
    - ii. He will impose sanctions that have only been tried before restricting buying and selling to those who've taken his mark.
      1. Revelation 13:16-17 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."
    - iii. He will be extremely persuasive and deceitful.
      1. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."
      2. Revelation 13:13-14 "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them

that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

- f. He will be a man of great intelligence, eloquence and persuasive ability (8).
  - g. He will stand out from any other leader before him (20).
  - h. He will be a blasphemer (25; Revelation 13:5-6).
  - i. He will seek to establish his kingdom as the beginning of a new age (25).
  - j. He will persecute the saints, the holy people of Israel (25).
  - k. The antichrist’s rule will be limited to a brief period of 3.5 years (25).
    - i. John describes it as 42 months (Revelation 13:5; 11:2).
    - ii. Daniel later refers to it as a period of one-half a “week” of years (9:27; 12:7).
    - iii. The Church, the bride of Christ, will be raptured, sparing us from this week of years, also known as the Great Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
3. The focus turns to the saints, God’s chosen people, Israel (25-28).
- a. Interestingly, Daniel begins in Hebrew up to 2:4. Then it switches to Aramaic from as the story focuses on the pagan nations; then in 7:25 as the attention turns back to the Jews, Daniel begins to write in Hebrew for the rest of the book.
  - b. Antichrist’s dominion will be destroyed (26).
  - c. Antichrist’s dominion will be given to the saints of the Most High (27).
    - i. This will be fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham and his descendants.
      - 1. Isaiah 2:2-5 “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem, and he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”
      - 2. Jeremiah :31:31-40
    - ii. The saints of the Church Age will also “reign with him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:1-6).
      - 1. The Millennium, the 1000 year reign of Christ is just the initial stage of Christ’s coming kingdom, because Christ’s kingdom is “an everlasting kingdom” (27).
      - 2. Daniel 7:14 “his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”
      - 3. Daniel 7:18 “But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.”
      - 4. Daniel 2:44 “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but is shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

Conclusion:

- 1. Just as surely as God prophesied the rise and fall of past empires, we can take comfort that the prophecies concerning Christ’s coming kingdom will be fulfilled just as surely! Are you ready for Christ’s return?
- 2. Just as God will keep His promise to the nation of Israel, God will keep every promise that He has made to you. If you have trusted Him for you the saving of your soul, will you trust Him with your earthly life?
- 3. What are you doing to warn those around you of God’s coming judgment on this earth?