

Intro- In Ch. 7 Daniel is older now, about 70, and its 14 years before Persia conquers Babylon.

- * In his later years, God used Daniel to receive dreams and visions to reveal important prophecy for the world and Israel, detailing how history would progress, right up to Christ's 2nd coming.
- * In vs 2-14 Daniel described what he saw, and the last part of his vision was a scene of heaven, with God on His throne, angels all around, and God's Son being given authority over the earth.
- * Then in v16, it seems Daniel actually saw himself in this vision of God's throne room, so he approached 1 of the angels in the scene, and asked him what all this meant.
- * So from vs 17 on, the angel explained all the items that Daniel asked about, and as we explored the details, we learned that Daniel was shown 4 things.

1. He was shown that from his time far into the future, Satan would infiltrate, influence, and use 4 godless, vicious world empires, to keep humanity in constant turmoil (v2-7).
2. He also learned that at the end of history, God would commission His Son the Messiah to return to earth and carry out God's judgment on these godless empires, and a sinful world--
-- and then set up His righteousness kingdom on earth, and rule forever over all His saints, which would be all those who yielded their life to Him in faith, throughout history.
3. He then learned that the final empire that would rule just before Christ returned, would be extremely powerful, led by ten kings, and it would literally cover the whole earth.

4. Finally- Daniel's main question was about this little horn he saw in v8- (read)

- Daniel asked more about this little horn (which is a king), and the angel gave more explanation about him, than any other detail in Daniel's vision.
- Scripture shows- this is the antichrist who rises in the end times to led the final world empire.
- The other Empires Daniel saw, were led by powerful men, Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, Persia was led by Cyrus, Greece by Alexander the Great, and Rome by the Caesars.
- But the final form of the Roman Empire will be led by a ruler much like those other leaders, but who far surpasses any of them in intelligence, strength, arrogance, godlessness, and cruelty.

@ So the final detail is- "THE LITTLE HORN"- THE ANTICHRIST. (20-21, 24-26 -- read)

D. "THE LITTLE HORN"- THE ANTICHRIST. (20-21, 24-26 -- read)

- * More than 100 bible passages describe many different details about what this man will be like, what he will do, and how he will finally be destroyed. (important end time info)
- * We will see 4 things about him- Character, Attributes and Abilities, Actions, and his Aemise.

1st- **THE ANTICHRIST'S CHARACTER.** In the bible, names are important because they were used to describe a person's character, and God very clearly named this man.

- Dan. 8:23 calls him 'a stern-faced king'- referring to someone strong and intense.
- Dan 11:21 calls him 'the contemptable (vile) person, .. who will do as he pleases'.
- 2 Thess. 2 Calls him "the man of lawlessness". (NKJV- "son of perdition"- child of hell)
- Revelation calls him the beast, and 1 John calls him 'the antichrist'. (5 times in NT)
- His name "antichrist" means 2 things. He will oppose Christ and all that represents Him, and he will set himself up as the counterfeit Christ for the world to accept and worship.
- He will stand **against** Christ, and raise himself up to be accepted **in the place of** Christ.

Q- Satan never originated anything except sin. For 6,000 years he's tried to counterfeit the works of God, and this man will be Satan's counterfeit, a false Christ, a forgery of Jesus.

Sum- This man will be the wickedest man to ever live, the opposite of everything that is godly, righteous, honest, and truthful. He will be vile to the core.

- * But also, he will be the greatest man the world has ever known, when you consider what the world glorifies and holds important. He will fit perfectly into this sinful world, and be admired and esteemed by the world's people. (Hollywood, world business + education)

2nd- **THE ANTICHRIST'S ATTRIBUTES AND ABILITIES.** (The bible gives many details)

1. He is described as having - a sharp and clever intellect.

- Vs 8 says he has "eyes like that of a man". This is a symbolic statement.
- In the bible, "eyes" often represent having good insight and great intelligence.
- In Eph 1:18 Paul prayed that "the eyes of *their* understanding *would* be enlightened".
- Antichrist will be very intelligent, and extremely shrewd, and will know how people think, and use that to sway and gain control and authority over them.

2. He will be a great orator. Vs 8, 20 (Rev 13:5)

- Vs 8, 20- he has "a mouth that speaks boastfully". In Rev 13:5 he "speaks proud words".
- Every powerful leader in history thought much of themselves, and displayed that to their people by lifting themselves up before them as a great leader. He will do the same.
- He will sound like a typical politician tooting his own horn, but to a much greater degree.
- And since the world loves pride and arrogance, they will glorify him for his.

3. He will have great political ability.

- V20 says- "He looked more imposing than the others".
ESV -- "he seemed greater than his companions". NASB- "larger than his associates."
- The word for "great" describes him as a master of leadership. He will have great personal presence as a leader, and be able to impress, influence, and sway people.
- In Rev 6:2 John shows him coming on a white horse to conquer, but he does so, mostly by his powerful influence. Dan. 11 says he comes peaceably to take the kingdom by flattery.
- He'll be the greatest worldly wise political ruler ever, able to influence, sway, bribe, promise, flatter, convince, and deal his way into world rulership. (Stalin, Hitler, but worldwide)
- And because of his leadership, he will be followed like no other man in world history.

4. He will be a great military strategist.

- As he comes to power over the first 3 1/2 yrs of the Trib. he will protect Israel from their enemies, and he will have to fight certain wars to steadily gain political control, and he will win every war he wages.
- Rev 13:4 says that the lost world who follows him will worship him saying--
"who is like the beast, who can make war with him?"

5. He will be a savvy financial expert.

- Rev. 6:5-6 shows that after the rapture, the world's economy will collapse, so the world will yearn for someone to rescue the world's financial system.
- Dan. 11, Rev 13, and 18 describe his world economic system that will control everything financial, on a global level, which he will put in place by his false prophet.

Sum- In regard to attributes and abilities, this man in every way, will be the ultimate wicked worldly leader, and the kind of person the world will be ready to embrace to lead them. 3

3rd- THE ANTICHRIST'S ACTIONS. (10 details)

1. He will appear on the world scene at the beginning of the tribulation.

- Right now, the Holy Spirit is in the world convicting the lost of sin, righteousness, judgment,.
- But He's also here restraining sin, and indwelling all believers in the world.
- 2 Thes. 2:3-7 speaks of God removing someone from the earth, so the lawless one can take control. This likely refers to the Spirit being removed as the church is raptured.
- At the rapture, multiple millions of people disappear, creating great fear and desperation.
- Q- "Great leaders rise out of great crisis, an the rapture will make way for antichrist to rise to acceptance as the one who can bring order out of the chaos". (like Hitler)

2. He will rise out of obscurity.

- Dan. 7:8 calls him "a little horn"- meaning he will start out as a little king.
- And v24 says he arises after the 10 kings of this final empire come into leadership.
- This may show he will be a new leader from a small European nation, and vs 20 and 24 say he will "subdue" 3 of those 10 kings, to rise to prominence.
- In some way, he will snatch away the authority of 3 of those 10 kings, then replace them and gain the allegiance of all the 10 kings, to become the main ruler of the final empire.

3. He will use religion to exert great influence.

- Humans were created to know there is a God, so the world is a very religious place. (Rom 1)
- So after the true church is raptured, the false church and the multitudes in pagan religions will hunger for spiritual leadership, in the midst of all the chaos.
- Rev. 13 shows Satan will give antichrist a religious man as his right hand, who appears as a gentle lamb, but speaks with great authority. (called the "false prophet" in Rv. 16, 19, 20)
- He will be the ultimate religious deceiver, using satanic miracles to sway the populace.
- The antichrist will use him to bring the world under his authority by the power of religion.
- It will be this man's job to lead all world religions into 1 religious entity (1 world church), and as time goes on, he will finally bring the world to worship the antichrist as God.
- 1 prophetic writer said- "just as John the Baptist was sent by God to introduce Jesus as God, this man will be Satan's "John the Baptist" to lead the world to worship antichrist".
- * This again shows how shrewd antichrist will be in gaining the allegiance of the world.
(**Note-** for decades, The Vatican has brought religious heads together to unify them)

4. The antichrist himself, will gain loyalty with miracles, signs, and wonders.

- 2 Th 2:9-10 says- "The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan, displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing."
- Many of his signs will be counterfeit. But Rev 16 shows he will do real miracles by Satan.
- Israel's leaders accused Jesus of doing miracles by Satan, This man will do them.

5. He will also advance his control and authority, by helping Israel.

- Early in the tribulation, as the antichrist rises to lead the European Empire (2nd Rome), Dan. 9:27 tells us he will make a 7-year agreement to protect Israel from its enemies.
- He will allow them to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem so they can worship there.
- This formal political move is actually what starts the time clock on the 7- year tribulation.
- Since Israel became a nation in 1948, their land, and especially the city of Jerusalem, has been the interest of the UN, and several nations have desired to have it.
(For their religion, for Israel's oil)
- Jerusalem is the center of the 2 great religions of Christianity and Judaism, and a major center for Islam as well. (all 3 religions stemmed from Abraham).
- And Israel has had to fight constant wars against the surrounding enemy nations that want to destroy them. (Watch the news)
- The antichrist coming to help Israel, will cause Israel to think their Messiah has finally arrived, and they will fully embrace him. But before long, he will turn on them. NEXT--

6. Over a 3 1/2 year period, he will finally take full control of the world.

- Rev. 17 shows as he uses the 10 kings to rule with him, God will finally put it in their hearts to give all their authority to the antichrist. This leads to several more things he does--

7. Once he gains full control, he will blaspheme God, and set himself up as God.

- Dan. 7:25 says "he will speak against the Most High". Rev 13:6 says "He will open his mouth to blaspheme God, and slander his name, his dwelling place and those in heaven."
- 2 Ths. 2:4 says "He will oppose and exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped". (This will happen at the midpoint of the trib. 3 1/2 years)

8. Dan. 7:25 also says "He will try to change the set times and laws".

- Time in our present world is based on the Lord Jesus Christ. BC stands for - before Christ. AD- are initials for the Latin phrase- 'anno-Domini'-- "the year of our Lord."
- Also, most of the world's legal systems are based on many of the principles of justice and punishment found in the OT law.
- Once he sets himself up as God, he will try to wipe out any thought of God, Jesus, the bible, and try to change how time is kept, and how law is carried out. We see this now.
- BC (before Christ) is now BCE- before Common Era, AD is now CE- the Common Era. (They're trying to remove any knowledge of Christ as the central figure of history)
- Law is changing. Criminals are now victims, not to be punished, but encouraged.

9. When he blasphemes God, Israel will realize the antichrist is a phony.

- At this point, this ruler will enter Israel's temple, and stop their worship of God.
- 2 Thes 2:4 says- "he will set himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

10. As he takes over, to complete his blasphemy of God, he will turn on Israel.

- Dan 7:21 says -- "this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them".
- Dan. 7:25 says he will "oppress God's saints,... and they will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time". (3 1/2 yrs)
- He will start out protecting Israel. But after gaining worldwide control, his hatred of God will come out, and he will try to destroy anything that reminds the world of the true God.
- So he will seek to destroy God's earthly chosen people, the Jews, and he will also try to destroy the believers who are being saved in tribulation.
- Jesus taught about this in **Mat 24:15ff**, and warned Israel to be ready to flee for their lives.
- During that last 3 1/2 years, antichrist will slaughter 2/3rds of the Jews in the world.
- But God will bring 1/3rd of them to a place of protection (most believe is Petra in Jordan), and those Jews will fully embrace Christ as their Messiah and Lord, when He returns.

Sum Once antichrist uses his worldly greatness, the ten kings, false religion, miracles, and his favor of Israel, to gain full control of the world, he will do what Satan has always wanted to do, he will be Satan's man to fully control humanity.

4TH- The final thing we learn about is-- THE ANTICHRIST'S DEMISE.

- At the end of time, God only allows Satan to work more fully in the world for 7 years.
- During that time, God will bring 3 sets of judgments on the earth to get people's attention, and along with that, He will send 144,000 Jewish witnesses to win multitudes to Christ.
- * And when tribulation ends at Christ's return, He will destroy the antichrist, the false prophet, and the lost that followed them, and then send Satan and his demons to the bottomless pit.
- * Then Christ will set up His eternal righteous kingdom. Read Vs 14, 18, 27.

CONCLUSION. (V 28- read) Why was Daniel so troubled at his vision and its meaning?

1. Daniel knew from Jeremiah and Isaiah, that Israel's captivity would only last 70 years, and Cyrus of Persia would let Israel return to their land. This time was only 15 years away.

- But the negative part was- the Jews hoped that when they returned to their land, Messiah would soon come and fulfill the prophecies spoken of Israel's future greatness.
- But now Daniel knows Israel will be dominated by 3 other future empires, each larger and more vicious than the last; And the last one will have the most terrible ruler, who will blaspheme God, and try to completely destroy the Jews. (7:25)

2. Daniel also knew what Moses wrote about Israel's captivity in Deut. 28.

- Moses promised that God would let terrible things happen to Israel for their disobedience.
- Daniel already saw some of this, now he knows it will continue a long time. (Greek paganism)
- Previous Empires lasted an average of 150 years. If this was true of the coming Empires, it troubled Daniel to know that Israel's deliverance by Messiah was at least centuries away. (Prov, 13:12- "hope deferred makes the heart sick.")

APP- WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM ALL THIS?

a. Our world is not getting better, it never has been. It's getting worse and will continue to do so.

Listen to John- 1 Jo 2 and 4- "Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. You have heard that he is coming, and the spirit of antichrist is already in the world." (Things will get worse)

b. This reminds us that God is in control, and is progressing history according to His plan, and if He is in control of the future, He is surely in control of our present.

c. These truths remind us to live in light of the fact that this world is not our home.

We have a future glory waiting for us, with our Lord and Savior, and it may come soon.