



SESSION 5 **REVELATION OF THE ANTICHRIST, PART 2**

Daniel 7:15-28

He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One.

INTRODUCTION

There are universal laws of etiquette that govern much of our social interactions with one another. Examples include saying please and thank you, opening the door for a lady and never, under any circumstances, giving away the ending to a movie. Have you ever had the ending of a movie you wanted to see spoiled by someone? Did you see it anyway? How did it change the way you watched? Did you notice pieces of the story and how they contribute to the ending that you otherwise may have missed?

While you never want to have the ending of a movie spoiled, the truth is that knowing how things will end enlightens you to the unfolding of the rest of the story. It provides insight into particular characters or plot developments that otherwise may have gone unnoticed. It spotlights what is significant and helps you dismiss what is ultimately not important.

The future has already occurred in the mind of God. The end has already been determined. Through the study of Biblical prophecy we gain insight into the unfolding of human events and are enlightened to the time and circumstances surrounding the last days.

We know the end of the story – the enemy will be defeated! Christ wins!

Knowing how things will end clarifies what is truly important now and brings perspective on present-day living in light of future certainties to come.

The Vision Interpreted

- 15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.
- 16 “I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:
- 17 ‘These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.
- 18’But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’
- 19 “Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet,
- 20 and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates.
- 21 “I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them
- 22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.
- 23 “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

- 24 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.
- 25 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.
- 26 'But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.
- 27 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'
- 28 "At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

"...when he finally appears he will be hailed as a savior, a man to bring order out of political and economic chaos, a man who deserves to be worshiped." - Charles Ryrie

NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *If you could go into the future to see one person, place or event, where would you go and who or what would you want to see?*

2. *If the future has already occurred in the mind of God, what confidence can we then have in His sovereignty over our lives?*

“I’m all for world peace. However, it’s hard to have world peace without a world king. And some day we shall have a world king who will rule it right.” - Tommy Nelson

3. *What four historical kingdoms are alluded to in Daniel 7:17?*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

UNPACKING THE TEXT:

2 Thessalonians 2:4

The term anti in Greek means “against, or in the place of”. The Antichrist will set himself up against Christ and seek to take the place of Christ.

4. *What does it mean when it says The Antichrist will attempt to make alterations to time and law?*

5. *How does understanding the rise and ultimate defeat of The Antichrist help keep your perspective in today’s world? How does knowing that “we win” in the end encourage you right now in the present?*

“He will make himself god, he will author the idea that everyone is to worship him and the world will have its peace, so to speak, underneath his rule.” - Tommy Nelson



SESSION 6 NEAR AND FAR: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ANTICHRIST, PART 1

Daniel 8:1-14

It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.

INTRODUCTION

Impressionism was a 19th century artistic movement which strayed from the more conventional forms of visual arts. It was characterized by more sweeping visible brush strokes and a more loosely defined composition of elements. It broke away from what was traditionally considered beautiful and tried to depict a fresh, spontaneous, original vision. Claude Monet is one of the most notable impressionist artists. He was a master at this style of painting which aimed to communicate the overall picture of the piece and was less focused on the exact details.

In many ways Old Testament prophecy is a beautiful impressionist masterpiece. The prophet, speaking the very words of God, aimed to represent the overall picture of history but was less focused on the exact details of how that picture would specifically materialize.

It is not until we take a closer look at the New Testament that some of the more loosely defined elements of prophecy can be fully understood. Future details are revealed which in turn brings deeper meaning and significance to past people, places and events.

In this session we will begin our study of Daniel chapter 8 and use the Biblical method of “Near and Far Fulfillment” to gain more insight into the person of The Antichrist. This Biblical tactic takes a closer look at some details of the deeper meaning behind history. It then provides insight into how those historical details specifically contribute to the grander picture of human history yet to be revealed.

Vision of the Ram and Goat

- 1 In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously.
- 2 I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal.
- 3 Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns were long, but one was longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last.
- 4 I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no other beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power; but he did as he pleased and magnified himself.
- 5 While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground; and the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.
- 6 He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath.
- 7 I saw him come beside the ram, and he was enraged at him; and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and there was none to rescue the ram from his power.
- 8 Then the male goat magnified himself exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken; and in its place there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

The Little Horn

- 9 Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land.
- 10 It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down.
- 11 It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.
- 12 And on account of transgression the host will be given over to the horn along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper.
- 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, "How long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to be trampled?"
- 14 He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the holy place will be properly restored."

NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *What does the biblical method of “Near and Far Fulfillment” do?*
2. *What historical ruler provides insight into the character and practices of The Antichrist? Give some specific examples of how this ruler sheds light on the person of The Antichrist.*
3. *What is the correlation between Antiochus Epiphanese's attempts to Hellenize Israel and the system of government and religious tyranny The Antichrist will seek to establish in the last days?*

“He kicks off the Tribulation period, so he is a very important person in World History.” - Tommy Nelson

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. Daniel writes in approximately the 500's B.C. about kings and kingdoms that did not even exist yet. However, everything he wrote has proven to be historically accurate. What does this say about the integrity of the Word of God? What hope does this provide?

5. Based on the study of Daniel thus far, summarize what has been discovered about The Antichrist. When will he appear? What will he seek to do? How long will his empire last? What will be his final demise?

“If this is written, in indeed, the 500s B.C., what can we say about this book? It’s the Word of God.” - Tommy Nelson