



SESSION 4 **REVELATION OF THE ANTICHRIST, PART 1**

Daniel 7:1-14

While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history man has anticipated his arrival. Some thought he was Hitler; others Mussolini or Saddam Hussein. Many U.S. Presidents have not gone without accusation either. While some historical rulers have risen in power on the global scene and created an international military and political following for themselves, none compare to the likes of the true Antichrist to be revealed in the end times.

Whether in light of a nuclear threat or in the wake of natural disasters, man has historically thought that God's judgment on the earth had been unleashed and the end of the world along with the return of Christ was near. The specific date of Christ's return has even been predicted on numerous occasions, but of course to no avail.

Christian scholars for centuries have debated over the order of events that surround the revelation of the Antichrist and the Lord's return. Yet while specific times and dates are unknown, Scripture does provide some clarity on the sequence of events that will occur in the end times specifically regarding the revelation of the Antichrist and the return of the Messiah. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 the Apostle Paul writes, "...with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ... Let no one deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed..." Essentially, Paul is saying that Christ's return will be preceded by the establishment of the reign of the Antichrist, the man of lawlessness.

In this session we will explore Daniel chapter 7 and look at the historical progression of events that lead up to the rise of the Antichrist and his ensuing fall at the hands of Jesus Christ.

Vision of the Four Beasts

- 1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.
- 2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.
- 3 "And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.
- 4 "The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.
- 5 "And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'
- 6 "After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.
- 7 "After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.
- 8 "While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

The Ancient of Days Reigns

- 9 “I kept looking
until thrones were set up,
and the Ancient of Days took His seat;
His vesture was like white snow
and the hair of His head like pure wool
His throne was ablaze with flames,
its wheels were a burning fire.
- 10 “A river of fire was flowing
and coming out from before Him;
thousands upon thousands were attending
Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing
before Him; the court sat,
and the books were opened.
- 11 “Then I kept looking because of the sound of
the boastful words which the horn was speak-
ing; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and
its body was destroyed and given to the burn-
ing fire.
- 12 “As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion
was taken away, but an extension of life was
granted to them for an appointed period of
time.

The Son of Man Presented

- 13 “I kept looking in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
and He came up to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before Him.
- 14 “And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
that all the peoples, nations and men of every
language might serve Him,
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
which will not pass away;
and His kingdom is one
which will not be destroyed.

NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. *In this session Tommy Nelson said that the judgment of God on the Gentile nations has been withheld and an “extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time”. What benefit do we as New Testament Christians reap from the mercy of God being displayed in this way?*

5. *What impacts you most through your study of the first half of Daniel chapter 7?*

UNPACKING THE TEXT:

2 Thessalonians
2:1-4

The Antichrist
will kick off the
tribulation period.