

# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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## A KINGDOM THAT SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED

*“And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”*

Daniel 7:14

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Daniel 7:14

“In the seventh chapter of Daniel as in the second chapter of the prophecy, God gave to the seer in vision and in interpretation the whole sweep of human history to the end of the age. In this seventh chapter Daniel sees the nations of the world as vicious, ferocious, carnivorous animals. . . . The last empire is broken into separate nations, represented in the second chapter by the ten toes of a colossal image of a man, and in chapter seven, represented by ten horns out of which comes up a separate horn, diverse, apart from the others. This is the Antichrist who shall be the final world dictator.” (*Criswell*. Vol 4. P. 47) In Daniel’s dream he sees these ferocious beasts as they are brought to judgment before the “Ancient of Days.” This is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ as seen in the Old Testament. He is the one who will sit in judgement over the nations of the world. (John 5:22) “This throne scene is fully

elaborated in Revelation, chapters 4-20. Evidently in the five verses of Daniel cover the same ground as the seventeen chapters of Revelation. It is a judgement scene where in the Ancient of Days – none other than ‘the high and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity’ (Isaiah 57:15) – takes possession of the earth’s kingdoms through the Son of man – a name our Lord claimed for himself. (Matthew 24:30)” (Wycliffe. P. 790.)

In this special passage of Scripture we find two different representations of the Lord Jesus. These images, The Ancient of Days and The Son of Man, bring into focus for us in one place the two natures of the Lord Jesus. We see him high and lifted up upon the throne as God. The Son of man is the Lord Jesus in His humanity. As such he will rule over the nations. *“And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”* (Vs. 14)

The visions of Daniel's dreams disturbed and puzzled him. He did not understand what he was seeing. He then sought an explanation. *"I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things."* (Vs. 15-16) A being who was later identified as the angel Gabriel (8:16; 9:21) gives him the interpretation of the things. He explains that the four beasts are four king, or kingdoms that will rule the earth in succession. He learns that *"the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even for ever and ever."* (Vs. 18) We, who love the Lord, will rule with the Lord Jesus one day. "Beginning at verse 19, the prophecy advances far beyond the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, to give details of predictions concerning final Antichrist and the relations the people of God will have with him in eschatological times." (Wycliffe. P. 790) The fourth beast of Daniel 7: 19 and following is almost universally recognized as

the Roman Empire in all of its shapes as it has come down through history. (i.e. Holy Roman Empire) The fourth beast is characterized as having 10 horns. Out of these ten horns another arises that has eyes and a mouth. This king makes war with the saints and dominates them for a time. *“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”* (Vs. 25) This beast is further described in Revelation 13. There John seems him as a beast from the sea that incorporates images of the other three beasts. *“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and*

*two months.*" [3.5 years] (Revelation 13:5-7) Daniel tells us that the Antichrist will blaspheme and torment the followers of God "*until a time and times and the dividing of time.*" (Vs. 25b) That is, three and one half years. [a time, {two} times, and the dividing {half} of time = 3.5) At that time the Antichrist will be defeated and the saints of God shall reign with the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul describes the Antichrist and the outcome of those who follow him in II Thessalonians 2:3-12. Paul says that "*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.*" (II Thessalonians 2:8) There is much that can be said about the work of the Antichrist but for this study we will conclude with the facts that he will not appear as such until three- and one-half years after the Tribulation begins. The Tribulation begins with the Rapture of the Church from this world. "*The Judgment will be set.*" (vs 26) That is, the verdict will be given. Antichrist will be defeated. Chapter 2 tells us that he will be crushed by the stone that was cut without hands. (2:34) "*And the*

*kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” (Vs. 27)*

The prophecy of Daniel 7 is not an easy passage to understand. One thing is certain. There will be two sides in the last days: the side of the Antichrist and the side of Christ. You want to side with the Lord Jesus. The great blessing that we find is that those who are on the Lord's side are on the winning side. Satan will strive and fight the people of God but will be ultimately defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity. (Revelation 20:10) We will reign with the Lord Jesus and be with Him for all eternity.

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