

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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I CONSIDERED THE HORNS

“I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

Daniel 7:8

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One of the intriguing aspects of studying the book of Daniel is all of the separate topics that his thoughts inspire. This book is considered an apocalyptic writing. The word apocalyptic means “having to do with a revelation or to reveal.” The book of Daniel is thought of as an apocalypse because the ideas Daniel talks about are revealed to the reader by symbols and images. They concern the march of history from Daniel’s time till the end of the age. So far chapters 7 and 8 have shown us the history of the gentile world using the pictures of fierce animals and even common or ordinary animals that have taken on frightening characteristics. In chapter 7 we see one of the beasts as having 10 horns. As Daniel considered these horns he noticed a small horn that appeared among the 10. This eleventh one has several strange characteristics. *“I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”*

(Daniel 7:8) This horn has power to overthrow three of the 10 horns. It has eyes like a man and a mouth that spoke great things. When the student compares this passage with Revelation 13 he finds a striking similarity to a beast John saw which is also out of the sea. *“And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue³ forty and two months.”* (Revelation 13:5) Careful Bible scholars have identified this beast in the Revelation as being a symbol of the Antichrist. Daniel saw him in his vision in chapter 7 and his antitype in chapter 8. The Apostle John saw him in his vision on the Isle of Patmos. Paul told the Thessalonian believers about him in his second letter to them. The Antichrist will be an individual who would arise and “who, by way of eminence, should be fitly called the Antichrist; and who, before being destroyed by Christ, should utter horrid blasphemies against the Most High, and practice great enormities upon the saints.” (Unger. P. 68.) “In this vision in verse eight of chapter seven, there is another ‘little horn.’ There is an eleventh king.

He is the powerful, final dictator, the Antichrist. ... The Antichrist, according to the sixth chapter of the Apocalypse, comes into history on a white horse. He presents himself as the promised deliverer for all the difficulties and woes of a world bogged down and enmeshed in insoluble problems. This man seemingly has all the answers and can lead nations into prosperity and peace. But he is followed by the red horse of war, the black horse of famine, and the pale horse of death. The Antichrist brings woe, bloodshed, and violence to the world. He finally plunges all humanity into the battle of Armageddon." (Criswell. Vol 3. P. 67-68) In Scripture he is known by several different names. In Daniel 9:27 he is called the "*Awesome desolator*". In Matthew 24 he is the "*Abomination of desolation*." Paul refers to him in II Thessalonians 2 as the "*Man of Sin*" and the "*son of perdition*".

Revelation chapter 13 describes the Antichrist as a beast from the sea that moves with the speed of a Leopard and the strength of a bear. He will be offered to the world and will be received with favor at first. He will

speak peace to the Jews and give them claim to their land. He brings peace to them for three and one half years.

Paul speaks of the Antichrist in II Thessalonians chapter 2. It appears that the people of the church at Thessalonica had been concerned about the coming of Christ and the events that should precede that event. The persecution they were enduring caused them to fear that they had been taught incorrectly. Paul tells them that Christ's coming to earth would not happen until "*there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition*". (II Thes. 2:3) That could not happen as long as the Holy Spirit was active in the earth holding back the full force of sin and Satan. (Vs 7) He encourages them, "*Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*" (Vs. 15) We know that that day will not come until the Lord Jesus comes and takes His church to Heaven in the Rapture. In I Thessalonians chapter 3, Paul reminds the believers that one day the Lord Jesus will return in the air and catch His church away. At

this point the Holy Spirit will no longer exercise his ministry of restraining sin and this Man of Sin will be revealed. That “snatching away”, or Rapture, will begin the “forty and two months” (three and one half years.) when the Antichrist will speak mighty and great things. Daniel tells us that for another three and one half years (“*a time and times and the dividing of time.*” Dan. 7:25b) he will “*speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws*” (Dan. 7:25a). This is more clearly understood when Daniel 9:24 and the following verses are studied and the 70 weeks of Daniel are fully understood. Daniel speaks of 70 7 year periods of time. These are expressed in English as weeks and means weeks of years. The final or 70th week of Daniel is yet to begin. The first 69 weeks began when the Jews were released from captivity in Babylon and will concluded at the Triumphal Entry of the Lord Jesus into Jerusalem just before his crucifixion. The 7 year period we are discussing, is called the Tribulation and completes the 70th week of the prophecy. Mr. Schofield gives a through

explanation of Daniel's 70 weeks in his notes on Daniel 9:24. There is a pause in the 70 weeks between the 69th and 70th week. This is the period of time that we are living in now, between the 69th and 70th week, and is considered a time of grace from God. It gives man time to repent and believe on Jesus for salvation before judgment falls. When Jesus returns for the Church at the Rapture the day of Grace or Salvation will come to an end and no one else will be born again. At that point the final week or 7 years will begin. This is the time that Antichrist will be revealed and trouble the people of God. These people will be the Jews and the rest of the world. At this time the believer is with the Lord in Heaven in the Rapture.

This Satan "inspired leader will rise to dominate the world in the end time, persecute the saints, seek to destroy the Jew and banish the name of God and His Christ from the earth, and thus take over. This would mean the thwarting of God's plan for the Messianic millennial kingdom, involving the restoration of Israel (Acts 1:6) and universal peace. He is

destroyed by the second advent of Christ (Rev. 19:11-16) who sets up the earthly kingdom (Rev. 20:1-3)” (Unger. P. 68)

Notes

Unger = Unger’s Bible Dictionary. By Merrill F. Unger. Moody Press. Chicago, Illinois. 1972.