

THE MYSTERY OF PROPHECY EXPLAINED

PART THREE - EXAMINING SOME SCRIPTURES DEPICTING THE ANTICHRIST

LESSON 50: Daniel 2 describes the kingdoms of the world important to prophetic events, from the time of the Babylonian Empire through the Second Advent of Christ.

- Each kingdom is successive, without any "gap" of time. This is why a graven image of a man was chosen to symbolize the world kingdoms. There is no "gap" in the human body, each limb and member is joined to the previous limb and member. History testifies to the rapid succession of these kingdoms, without so much as a gap.
- The last prophetic kingdom described is that of the ten toes, made of clay and iron. These kingdoms came into existence as a result of the fall and division of the ancient Roman Empire, circa A. D. 476. History testifies to this fact. These kingdoms have always remained approximately the same number: 10. They will never truly unite into a New World Order comprising one huge Church-State with a common religion, political structure, and economy, like that of the ancient Roman Empire. This is because iron and clay will not mix, (verse 43). These western European 'kingdoms' will remain intact until the Second Advent of Christ, (the stone cut out of the mountain without hands), who destroys them in judgment.
- PLEASE NOTE: No two-stage return of Christ. No successful conversion of the world to Christianity. No "gap" in the image or in the time of the successive kingdoms. One follows the other quickly. The United States is not depicted.

LESSON 51: Daniel 7 describes the same kingdoms in different terms.

- These same kingdoms are depicted as wild and ferocious beasts. In describing these beasts, the pronoun first used is the pronoun, 'it.' A kingdom is an 'it.' A person is a 'he.' The fourth beast is unique and cannot be compared to any beast previously on earth. It is the most fierce and cruel. This is the last of the great empires, the Roman Empire.

LESSON 52: Out of the head of the 4th beast, the Roman Empire, is seen 10 horns, (verse 7). These are the same kingdoms as those depicted in the 10 toes of the graven image. We know this because they are both of the same number and last in sequence.

LESSON 53: These 4 Beasts, which are 4 kingdoms, (Dan. 7:23), are also 4 kings, (Dan. 7:17). The 4th Beast is described using the pronoun, 'he,' in Dan. 7:19. A king is a person, and a person is a 'he.'

LESSON 54: History concurs with the Bible, that each of the 4 world kingdoms, (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome) were ruled not by one 'king,' but were ruled by several kings in succession, who replaced the incumbent king when deceased. Thus, we have the doctrine of 'one representing many, who succeed each other in office.' The 4th Beast, the Roman Empire, had several rulers or kings before it fell, circa A. D. 476. Yet Daniel states, *These great beasts, which are four, are four kings* (verse 17).

LESSON 55: Out of this 4th Roman Beast emerges 10 horns representing 10 kings (and by inference, 10 kingdoms, because a king, by nature, must rule a kingdom). Out of their midst, a little horn, (a king of a little kingdom), quickly arises.

- There is no 'gap' of time between the vision of the Beast and the vision of the 10 horns. The same holds true with the rise of the little horn from among them, (verses 7-8).
- The little horn is described as dominant and combative: i.e., he plucks up 3 horns by their roots, (verse 8).
- He is described as a man with eyes and a mouth speaking great things. He is a "seer" or prophet, who speaks with great authority.
- The little horn is also called the 'beast' in Dan. 7:11. He is slain at the last judgment. The One who judges is the Lord, and His people, (Dan. 7:13, 22; Mark 14:62).
- Following the judgment and demise of the little horn, the Son of man is given dominion, glory and a kingdom forever, (Dan. 7:13-14).
- NOTE: The Lord comes *once* and is given dominion and a kingdom at that time. No two-stage Advent of Christ is described.
- The little horn is described as the enemy of the saints, making war against them, and prevailing, (Dan. 7:21). NOTE: this war is ongoing until the last judgment.
- The little horn is described as speaking great words *against* the true God. His war against the saints is of such a duration and intensity that "he wears out" the saints, (verse 25). NOTE: 3 1/2 literal years is not a sufficient duration to wear out the saints. Wimpy saints, maybe, but not the ones described in Hebrews 11.
- The little horn has such great authority that he can change the dates of important events, and even the laws, (verse 25).

- His war against the saints continues for times, time and 1/2 a time. This culminates in his judgment, (verse 26).

LESSON 56: There are many more compelling prophecies in Daniel, but the aim of this study is to keep it simple.

LESSON 57: Truths gleaned from Daniel 2 and Daniel 7:

- It was the prophet Daniel who saw the little horn. The prophet knew nothing of the Antichrist until he was revealed to him.
- The little horn is the beast, who is the Antichrist. They are one and the same person. The one represents many.
- The prophets of God point out, preach and teach the identity of the Antichrist.
- The prophets of God speak judgment and doom for the Antichrist.
- The time of the little horn/beast/Antichrist's appearing was immediately after the dissolution of the Roman Empire into 10 kingdoms.
- The little horn/beast/Antichrist is a king and a false prophet, who opposes the true God. He has great authority.
- The little horn/beast/Antichrist is the enemy of the saints, who persecutes and kills them.
- The little horn/beast/Antichrist continues in power from the time of the fall of Rome to the one-stage Second Advent of Christ.
- PLEASE NOTE: Due to the tremendous time span between the division of the Roman Empire (during which time the Antichrist arose) to the destruction of those kingdoms by Christ (which has yet to happen), the little horn/beast/Antichrist cannot be one single man in history, but must be one man at a time who holds the office of king and prophet until his decease, at which time he is replaced by a successor. (Review lesson 54 for this principle.)

LESSON 58: Matthew 24 describes the Antichrist in terms similar to Daniel.

- Christ, the Prophet, reveals the doctrine of the Antichrist to His disciples. He does not reveal it to the masses.
- Had He not revealed it first, they would not have asked.
- It is the first and most important end time prophecy announced by Christ.
- He introduces the doctrine with a stern warning, TAKE HEED. Shamefully, this warning is not being taken seriously today. Preterists claim Antichrist is past, in the person of Nero. Futurists claim Antichrist is to come, after their 'secret' Rapture escape. Thus, they will never wage war with him. Historicists are the only ones who have believed and obeyed the admonition of the

Lord. They are the only ones who have identified and denounced the Man of Sin as the predicted Antichrist of Scripture.

- Christ will not return before the advent of the Antichrist, as Daniel teaches.
- The Antichrist will be one man, yet many, (verses 4-5), as Daniel teaches.
- The Antichrist will have an allegedly orthodox confession, proclaiming the Deity of Christ, (verse 5, "I am Christ." "Jesus is Lord," is a similar confession.) Many so-called Christians will be deceived by his Christian profession.
- He will claim to be the vicar or special representative of Christ on earth, by coming in Christ's name with power and great authority, (verse 5).
- He will cause wars to rage, as does the little horn/beast.
- He will exist even through the rise and fall of kingdoms, as does the little horn/beast.
- He and his followers will betray, persecute and kill the saints, as does the little horn/beast.
- The Antichrist will never be without his false prophets, (verse 11), who do their job well.
- There will be a war of long duration waged over the proclamation of the Gospel, including the identification of the Antichrist, (verses 5-14). The little horn/beast also "wears out the saints of the Most High."
- There is a time decreed to end the affliction of the saints, as it is also decreed in Daniel 7.
- It is during the great tribulation that false Christs will abound, (verses 21-26). False Christs are Antichrists, as well as false idols called Christ. These Antichrists will claim an apostolic 'anointing.'
- These Antichrists will possess supernatural powers to perform great signs and wonders, which are really deceptions, (verse 24).
- The Elect will not ultimately be deceived by them, but will know their real identity.
- All these numerous events must take place prior to the one-stage Second Advent of Christ. NOTE: kingdoms do not rise and fall in a 3 1/2 year time period. Neither is that a sufficient time frame for a plethora of false Christs and false prophets to rise to power to deceive the masses of the world. The admonition of "enduring unto the end" also implies and necessitates a longer time period than 3 1/2 years.
- OF SPECIAL NOTE: Christ refutes the notion of His return being a secret: *Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold he is in the secret chambers: believe it not.* Had He returned to a remote desert location, out of public view, or had He been sequestered in a secret chamber, out of public view, that would be a secretive return. But Jesus refutes the notion of secrecy.
- Verse 30 reveals a world mourning at Christ's visible one-stage return. The world is not praising the Lord as converts to Christ as the Reconstructionist/Preterists pretend.

- Verse 31 declares the trump of God is blown at Christ's one and only Advent, which is visible to all. It is not a secret appearing of Christ.
- Verse 36 reveals William Miller, and others, false prophets.
- Verse 38 reveals the Reconstructionists busy as beavers kingdom building when judgment falls.
- Verses 43-51 indicates the proliferation of false prophets and false teachers in the church of the end times. The ministers of Antichrist reign and rule.

LESSON 59: To learn more, read an in-depth treatise on the [Abomination of Desolation](#).

LESSON 60: The Antichrist is described in II Thess. 2 as the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition.

- Paul the Apostle teaches on the Antichrist to dispel false rumors and errant doctrine.
- His teaching is directly tied into the 2nd Advent of Jesus Christ.
- He warns of a great deception surrounding the Advent of Christ and the advent of the Antichrist, (verse 3). This is exactly what is occurring today despite his warning.
- Paul lays out the chronology of end time events:
 - (1) The appearing of Jesus Christ is preceded by the appearing of the Man of Sin. Daniel 7 & Matt. 24 concur.
 - (2) The revelation of the man of Sin is preceded by a 'falling away,' or apostasy from biblical truth.
 - (3) The 'falling away' is preceded by the removal of an 'it,' also called a 'he.' (verses 6-7.)
 - (4) The Holy Spirit cannot be the 'let,' or 'restrainer:'
 - a) He is not an 'it.' A kingdom is referred to as an 'it.' (see Lesson 51.)
 - b) God will never remove His Spirit or His prophets (see Lessons 19 & 20), nor will He ever leave Himself without a witness, (John 16:8-11). Nor does He pray they be removed from the world. (In John 17:15, He prays His Church remain *in* the world).
 - c) There was no reason for Paul to speak of the Holy Spirit cryptically. In his first epistle to the Thessalonians, he openly spoke of the Holy Spirit, (Chap. 1, vs. 5-6, for example.) In his 2nd epistle, he speaks of Christ consuming the Man of Sin with the *Spirit* of His mouth. So why the secrecy if the 'let' was the Spirit?

- (5) Daniel tells us the 'let' is the Roman Empire and its emperor, the 4th Beast. Upon its demise, the little horn/beast/Antichrist comes to power. This fact would indicate the necessity of discretion and ambiguity. To openly preach and teach the fall of the Roman Empire would be tantamount to treason, with serious consequences.
- The Man of Sin is the full grown Antichrist who was in his infancy in the days of St. John. (I John 2:18.)
- His name reflects *lawlessness*, the actual translation of his name from the Greek. This same characteristic is seen in the little horn/beast who thinks to change times and laws.
- The Man of Sin is also the Wicked One, though he deceives the world into believing his feigned righteousness, (verse 10), to be true righteousness, thus accepting his false Christian profession as true.
- The identity of the Man of Sin is a mystery to the world of the unsaved, the mystery of iniquity.
- He will claim great powers, performing signs and lying wonders under the authority and outworking of Satan.
- Yet he will claim himself to be the chief priest of the temple of God, the New Testament Church, where he 'sits,' having his seat of authority.
- The temple of God cannot be understood to be a rebuilt Jerusalem temple:
 - (1) Jesus has decreed that it will never be built again, (Matt. 24:2). Two thousand years later, Jesus' prophecy holds true, and Jesus cannot lie.
 - (2) Paul admonishes that we are the temple of God, (I Cor. 3:16-17).
- The Man of Sin will oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God, i.e., including the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as well as idols of false Christs.
- He will not call himself 'God' openly, but by his actions and decrees will 'shew' himself to be God. The Elect will discern this fact. The Man of Sin will be worshipped as God, though he will not admit to it.
- The Man of Sin is called the Son of Perdition, linking him directly to Judas Iscariot, (John 17:12):
 - (1) Judas was a member of Christ's inner circle, as is the Man of Sin.
 - (2) Judas was a bishop, as is the Man of Sin, (Acts 1:20).
 - (3) Judas was a devil posing as a Christian, as is the Man of Sin, (John 6:70).
 - (4) The Man of Sin, being a devil, will introduce doctrines of devils as law, proving his lawlessness and unrighteousness. This the little horn/beast also does.
 - (5) Judas was empowered by Satan, as is the Man of Sin, (John 13:26; II Thess. 2:9).

(6) Judas betrayed the Lord with the kiss of friendship, as does the Man of Sin.

- The Man of Sin will be destroyed by Christ at His one and only appearing.

LESSON 61: The Little Horn/beast is destroyed by Christ at His Second Advent; the Man of Sin is destroyed by Christ at His Second Advent. The Little Horn/beast and Man of Sin are one and the same: the Antichrist.

LESSON 62: The Man of Sin/Little Horn/beast will sit authoritatively in the false, apostate Church, as its Head. So will the Antichrist, who is the same person.

LESSON 63: This false church will have the earmarks of apostasy as described in I Timothy 4:1-3.

- In the latter times, after the Roman Empire is removed and the little horn emerges, the false church will apostatize, departing from the true faith, promoting doctrines of devils, such as forced celibacy, and fasting forbidding meat.

LESSON 64: The Antichrist as described in I John.

- John warns Christians that *the* Antichrist is coming, though there are many antichrists in his day, (verse 18). [The definite article is in the 1894 Scrivener reconstruction of the KJV Greek text, as used by Jay Greene, Sr., in his Interlinear Translation.]
- The Antichrist will come from among professing Christianity, (chapter 2, verse 19).
- The true Christian will discern the false Christian from the true, (verse 20).
- The Antichrist will deny that Jesus alone is the Christ by supplanting the salvation provided by Christ with other saviors and other saving works, (verse 22).
- The Antichrist will be a false prophet, (chapter 4, verse 1).
- The Spirit of the Antichrist, the spirit of error, can be discerned from the Spirit of God, the spirit of truth, by virtue of his confession denying the incarnation of Christ, (verse 3).
- PLEASE NOTE: John corroborates Paul's testimony. The Antichrist/Man of Sin will be a false Christian. They also describe one who will usurp and oppose Christ's office and finished work; not openly, but with craft and great subtlety. Much grace and wisdom will be necessary to discern it. Furthermore, John reinforces Paul's testimony by teaching there will be a great deception by a man who will claim righteousness, but will display sin because he is of the devil, (chapter 3, verses 7-8).

- The Antichrist will be a murderer who will kill Christians, (chapter 3, verse 12).

LESSON 65: We may discern who are our true brothers and sisters in Christ by their recognition of the Seed of the Serpent, the Antichrist and his disciples, (I John 3:10).

LESSON 66: Those who disbelieve the tribulation testimony of the martyrs and the saints call them 'deluded liars' in their hearts. To do so is to manifest hatred toward the brethren. Those who hate the brethren are children of the devil, (I John 3:10).

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