

Keys to Prophecy



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#3 - Antichrist: The Great Pretender

Daniel 7

Antichrist - When I say the word "Antichrist" - What do you think of?

What books of the Bible talk the most about the Antichrist?

The way the word is used by many - We would expect it to be an integral part of Daniel and Revelation

BUT - "antichrist" is never mentioned in a prophetic context - Nowhere in Daniel or Revelation

So what Bible books actually mention the "antichrist"?

- 1 John 2:18-19 (1169) ¹⁸*Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **Antichrist** is coming, even now **many antichrists** have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.*

- "Anti" - Definition - against - opposed to Against or opposed to Jesus as the Christ - Messiah
 before - pre-dating Before or pre-dating Jesus as the Christ
 in place of Taking the place of Jesus as the Christ

An apostate or former Christian is "anti-Christ"

A FAKE Christian - Someone who once identified with the Christ followers,

but then turned against them, is "anti-Christ"

Many (multiple) anti-Christ's were already present at the time John writes this letter to the church

So "anti-Christ" does not refer here to any particular powerful person - but to any apostate Christians

- 1 John 1:22-23 (1169) ²²*Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist** who denies the Father and the Son. ²³*Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.**

Anyone who denies Jesus is the Christ is "anti-Christ"

"Christ" is the Greek word for the Hebrew "Messiah," meaning "anointed one"

"Messiah" refers to the promised one from God who would be the savior of the world

Anyone who denies the unique relationship between Jesus the Son and God the Father is "anti-Christ."

This seems to refer to denying that Jesus is truly GOD in human flesh.

So anyone claiming Jesus is just a prophet, or a "good man," or an impostor or a false Messiah

and not THE "Son of God" and Savior of the world - is called an "anti-Christ"

- 1 John 4:3 (1170) ¹*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

“Anti-Christ” is about an attitude - a spirit - a spirit that is against Jesus as the Christ-Messiah.

Denying that Jesus is God in the flesh - Claiming Jesus is just a man - or just a god - Not the God-man

And that “spirit” is already present at the time John writes this letter to the church.

This verse also seems to identify “anti-Christ” with false prophets

If there is a specific “Antichrist” person - According to this verse he is already in the world in 100 AD

- ☐ 2 John 1:7 (1172) ⁷*For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an **antichrist**.*

Anyone who spreads lies or deceit about who Jesus was is an “anti-Christ”

That is it! - All the verses in the Bible that use the word “anti-christ”

An awfully lot has been written about the Antichrist - Books - Whole series of books - Movies

Giving the impression that the prophetic portions of Scripture are loaded with “antichrist” predictions

I believe much of what is popularly believed and written about Anti-Christ is fiction

You might call it “historical fiction” - Rooted in truth - in some core Biblical concepts - But mostly fiction

Tonight we are going to study a prophecy that predicts a great power which is “anti-Christ” - against Christ

A great false prophet - false Messiah - A poser - A great pretender - A masquerader

An instigator of false doctrine - Darkening people’s understanding of God - Horribly successful

An evil - cruel - powerful apostate religious leader - A wolf in sheep’s clothing

One who persecutes those faithful to Jesus - with the inhumane force of coercion

But I just want you to be aware that the Bible does not apply the name “Antichrist” in any apocalyptic prophecies

So let’s try to separate fact and fiction - set aside pre-conceived opinions - And see what the Bible says

- ☐ Turn to Daniel 7 (864) - and Daniel’s prophetic vision recorded there

Some of you here have never looked at Dan 7 before - Others of you are experts

Wherever you fall - Can I ask a favor? - Pretend like you’ve never heard anything about Daniel 7 before

And try to see things differently - A different picture

Daniel 7:1 *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.*

Who had the dream in Daniel 2? - King Nebuchadnezzar

So there are two differences between Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 - What are they?

1. Nebuchadnezzar is no longer the king - Belshazzar is - A grandson - 50 years have elapsed since Daniel 2
2. Daniel has the dream - himself

Daniel 7:2-3 ²*Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.”* ³*And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.*

- ☐ Four winds stirring up the Great Sea - Daniel sees a storm at sea - Winds whipping up the waves

- ☐ And climbing out of that stormy sea are four great beasts - Each different

The Four Beasts

Daniel 7:4 *The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.*

- ☐ 1st Beast - “like” a lion - wings of an eagle - wings plucked off - stood like a man - human mind given to it
“heart” in Scripture never refers to an organ that pumps blood - Always the mind or conscience

Daniel 7:5 *And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’*

- ❑ 2nd Beast - like a bear - raised up on one side - three ribs - arise, devour much meat

Daniel 7:6 *After this I looked, and there was another, 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.*

- ❑ 3rd Beast - Another - like a leopard - 4 wings - 4 heads

Daniel 7:7 *After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.*

- ❑ 4th Beast - dreadful - terrifying - iron teeth - devoured and crushed - different - 10 horns
No description that compares to any known species of animal - Just dreadful

- ❑ And this beast has 10 horns - How many? - TEN

Daniel 7:8 *I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.*

- ❑ While contemplating the horns - Another horn comes up - a little one - comes up among the 10 horns
3 of the first horns are pulled up by roots before it
When getting new teeth as a child - The old tooth has to pop out - New tooth pushes out the old
This horn pushes out three as it comes up - "by the roots" - Meaning totally extinct
Eyes like a man - Human intelligence
Mouth uttering pompous words - Great boasts - Great claims - This will become very significant

Daniel 7:9-10 ⁹*I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire;*
¹⁰*A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.*

Kept looking - God has Daniel's attention - Action packed thriller in progress
Until thrones were put in place - Ancient of days was seated - His throne a fiery flame
The throne is a flaming fire - With a fiery river flowing out from the throne
The court was seated - The books were opened
What kind of a scene is this? - A Judgment - A courtroom - A great cosmic courtroom

Daniel 7:11-12 ¹¹*I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.*
¹²*As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, Yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.*

Kept looking - What is now catching Daniel's attention?
Because of the sound of the boastful words of the horn...
Kept watching - till the beast was slain - Its body destroyed and "given to the burning flame"

REVIEW - To this point - A progression of 4 beasts - The 4th beast has 10 horns -
Among the 10 horns - We see a "little horn" - Uproots 3 - Speaking great boasts - making great claims
Whatever these claims were - they were so great - they demanded the response of heaven
Boasts of such a nature that heaven itself gets involved

- ❑ How did heaven respond? - The court sat - Judgment ensued
Why does this judgment take place? - To deal with this little horn - and beast on which it is rooted
What is the result of this judgment - The beast was destroyed - and thus the little horn is done away with
Thrown into the river of fire that proceeded from the throne

Daniel 7:13-14 ¹³*I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.*
¹⁴*Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*

Kept looking - One like Son of Man - Coming with the clouds of heaven

Who is the "Son of Man"? - Jesus used this term to refer to Himself while he was on earth

Coming with clouds - Jesus, at his trial, quotes from this verse (Matthew 26:64) referring to His 2nd Coming
 This "Son of Man" is presented before God

After the little horn is judged and removed - and the beast destroyed

☐ Jesus is brought before the Father - To receive the eternal kingdom

The dominion is taken away from the little horn and given back to Jesus

What is the purpose of this judgment - contextually so far - To destroy this "little horn" imposter - usurper

To do away with whatever activity the little horn is responsible for

To restore dominion back to Jesus - And His dominion will never pass away or be destroyed

To complete the scenario - Let's take a sneak peak ahead to v.26 - There is one more step

Daniel 7:26-27 ²⁶*But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.*
²⁷*Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*

The court shall be seated - They shall take away his dominion - That matches vs.10-11

☐ THEN - Then the kingdom and dominion - Shall be given to the people - THE SAINTS of the Most High

Dominion passes from the "little horn" to Jesus - and on to the saints - the Redeemed

This is part of a greater story - Which began way back in the Garden of Eden

Adam and Eve were given dominion over the world at creation - Genesis 1:26-28 (1)

They lost it when the enemy deceived them the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

We'll look at that part of the story on a future study

Jesus regains that dominion from the enemy - And gives it back to US - Restored - Like before sin

So you can see that this "little horn" is an "anti-Christ" - Against Christ - An enemy of the "Son of Man"

This "little horn" must have usurped the kingdom of the "Son of Man" and His people, the saints

Because his removal is a necessary part of the kingdom being restored to the "Son of Man" and the saints

Notice: This fits perfectly with the gospel

Because of sin - we lost everything - And are unable to gain it back by anything we do

Jesus wins it all back for us - By His mighty outstretched arms - And GIVES it back to us

We are saved by trusting in his gift of GRACE!

Now back to verse 15 -

Daniel 7:15-16 ¹⁵*I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.*
¹⁶*I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:*

Daniel was distressed - alarmed - upset - bothered - concerned

He saw terrible things happening to God's people - Not a pretty sight

Daniel approached an angel - asked about the meaning - "So he made known to me the interpretation"

☐ This is an INTERPRETATION directly from the angel - No speculation

Daniel 7:17-18 ¹⁷*Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.*

¹⁸*But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.*

But the four beasts are not just four kings in a kingdom - Look forward to v.23

Daniel 7:23 *Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.*

- So these FOUR BEASTS represent a succession of FOUR KINGDOMS - 4 great powers in earth’s history
Representing nations by symbolic animals is something we still do today
US – Eagle Russia– Bear China - Dragon England - Lion

So the angels says - There will be four great kingdoms on earth - But then...
Don’t despair - The kingdoms will then be restored to saints - Forever and ever

- The angel jumps directly to the end of the scenario - to the ultimate outcome - the GOOD NEWS
Passing over the 10 horns, little horn and judgment

Do you see a parallel between this vision and that of the dream of the Great Image in Daniel 2?
Watch how the picture builds

Daniel 2 predicted four great kingdoms - after which would come the Kingdom of God - the Stone
Four kingdoms - Then division (10 toes - Feet of iron and clay) - Then God’s eternal kingdom

<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 2 - The Great Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 7	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Metals = 4 Kingdoms Gold - Babylon Silver - Medo-Persia Bronze - Greece Iron - Rome <input type="checkbox"/> 10 toes - Divided kingdom <input type="checkbox"/> Stone - God’s eternal kingdom	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Beasts - rise from water = 4 Kingdoms Lion Bear Leopard 4 th Beast <input type="checkbox"/> 10 horns + Little Horn + Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> Kingdom Restored - to Christ - to Saints	Repetition and Enlargement

- The exact same flow of events from Daniel 2 - is presented and expanded in Daniel 7 -
With added details about the LITTLE HORN and the JUDGMENT

You will notice the concept of “**repetition and enlargement**” -
Throughout Daniel and Revelation - each prophecy builds on the ones given before
God repeats enough of previous prophecies to let us get our bearings - see the continuity and placement
Then God enlarges on the picture with new details at some important point in the scenario
I have found that this principle works perfectly - bringing all the great prophecies into a single coherent picture
of how God is working for the salvation of mankind and the ending of sin and suffering

- Interpretation and Application - Now let’s apply the symbols historically

Daniel 7:17 *Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.*

- Symbolically - Where did these four earthly kingdom beasts come up out of?
v.2-3 - The “four winds” stirring up the Great Sea -

What do water and wind symbolize in Bible prophecy?

- Revelation 17:15 (1186) *The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

So in Bible prophecy water represents - People, multitudes and different ethnic and language groups.

What happens when wind blows over the water - especially from all directions? - A storm - Waves whipped up
 Ever heard the term - “the winds of strife” or “the winds of war”
 Look at how the Bible uses wind and waves to represent war

- ☐ Jeremiah 25:32 (756) *“Behold, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation,
 And a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth.*

Disaster among nations is likened to a great whirlwind

- ☐ Jeremiah 49:36-37 (785) ³⁶*Against Elam I will bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven,
 And scatter them toward all those winds;
 There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.
³⁷For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies,
 and before those who seek their life.
 I will bring disaster upon them, My fierce anger,” says the LORD;
 “And I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them.’*

Here the concept of the “four winds” is made clear - what we would call the points of the compass
 From every direction - and toward every direction
 This great wind is “the sword” of war conquering and disbursing the nations

- ☐ Isaiah 17:12-13 (670) ¹²*Woe to the multitude of many people who make a noise like the roar of the seas,
 And to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!
¹³The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters;
 But God will rebuke them and they will flee far away,
 And be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind,
 Like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.*

Here God uses both water and wind together -
 Water representing the people and nations - scattered by the whirlwind of war

One additional point here - the “Great Sea” was the ancient name for what we now call the Mediterranean Sea
 So this prophecy specifically symbolizing war among the peoples around the Mediterranean region

- ☐ Now let’s go back our chart and apply the four beasts - Where we saw the parallel between Daniel 2 and 7

<u>Daniel 2</u>	<u>Daniel 7</u>	Application
4 Metals = 4 Kingdoms Gold Silver Bronze Iron 10 toes	4 Beasts - rise from water = 4 Kingdoms Lion Bear Leopard 4 th Beast 10 horns Little Horn Judgment	Babylon - 605-539 BC Medo-Persia - 539-168 BC Greece - 331-168 BC Rome - 168 BC - 476 AD
Stone - God’s eternal kingdom	Kingdom Restored - to Christ - to Saints	Saints receive the Kingdom

- ☐ - v.17 - The four beasts are four kings - or (v.23) kingdoms
- ☐ 1st - Babylon - 605-539 BC - Babylon was the head of Gold - Does the Lion symbol also fit Babylon?
 Lion with eagles wings was an icon of ancient Babylon -
 Carved in relief in the bricks of its walls of the great Ishtar Palace Gate - Now in the Berlin museum
- ☐ 2nd - Media Persia - 539-331 BC - Medo-Persia was the Chest and Arms of Silver - Does the Bear fit Medo-Persia?
 Bear - Raised on one side - A two sided power with one side stronger
 The Medes and Persians - Persia was the dominant of the two powers in coalition
 Three ribs likely represent three main kingdoms defeated in its rise to power - Egypt - Lydia - Babylon

As we already studied - Isaiah 44 and 45 makes it clear that Cyrus, the Persian would conquer Babylon
 Isaiah 13:17-19 (666) - Predicts that the Medes would overthrow Babylon
 Jeremiah 51:11,28 (789) - Also predicts that the Medes would destroy Babylon

- 3rd - Leopard - What kingdom replaced Media-Persia? - Greece - 331-168 BC
 As we already studied - Daniel 8:20-21 (866) - Clearly states that Medo-Persia would be conquered by Greece
 Greece was the Belly and Thighs of Bronze - Does the Leopard symbol fit Greece?
 How many wings and heads did the Leopard have? - Four
 Four Wings - Double the flying power - Great speed
 Alexander the Great conquered all the known world in just seven years - on foot - incredible speed
 Four Heads - When Alexander the Great died - 323 BC - Drunk - Near Babylon
 His kingdom was divided up among his generals - Four kingdoms, but all still very Greek
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- Map
 - West — Macedonia and Greece - under Cassander
 - East — Thrace and Asia Minor - under Lysimachus
 - North — Syria - Babylonia - Mesopotamia - under Seleucus I
 - South — Egypt - under Ptolemy II
- 4th - The Terrible Beast - What kingdom replaced Greece? - Rome - 168 BC - 476 AD
 Rome was the Legs of Iron - Does this "Beast" symbol fit Rome?
 The legs and feet divided into 10 toes - This Beast has on its head 10 horns
 And as we will see in a moment -
 The description of this "beast" parallels in detail the description of the legs of Iron in Daniel 2
 And it is indeed with the reign of Rome and its division
 that the prophetic repetition and enlargement focuses most in this chapter
- v.18 *But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.*

The angel jumps past the 10 horns - past the little horn - past the judgment - Straight to the outcome
 Bad News - World dominion will be in the hands of four successive kingdoms - But...
 Good News - IN the end the saints will win - The dominion lost by Adam and Eve will be regained!

That was the short version - Are you satisfied with that answer? -
 Are you ready to go home now satisfied that you understand the prophecy of Daniel 7? -
 NO? - Neither was Daniel!
 Do you want to know more? - Of course! - About what?
 The 10 horns - The little horn - And the judgment!
 And that is exactly how Daniel felt!

Daniel 7:19-22 ¹⁹*Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;*
²⁰*And the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.*
²¹*I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them*
²²*Until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.*

- Daniel was not satisfied with the first - abbreviated - explanation
 He wants to know specifically - The exact meaning of **4th beast** -
 And he lists the things about the 4th beast he wants to know
 - Which was different from the others
 - Exceedingly dreadful
 - Teeth of iron - Nails of bronze
 - That devoured and trampled

- ❑ And not just the 4th beast - But those **10 horns**
- ❑ AND - that "**Little Horn**" -
 - And again he lists the things about the Little Horn that tweaked his curiosity
 - Which uprooted 3 of the 10
 - Had eyes
 - And that boastful mouth
 - This is the third time these boastful words have come up - Must be important
 - Whose appearance was greater than his fellows
 - He outgrew the other seven remaining horns - Became dominant over them
 - Which was waging war against the Saints of God - And overpowering them

Does that sound like something God would intervene on? - And He does!
- ❑ Until God came - And **judgment** was made - in favor of the Saints - Why? - They were being persecuted
 God passed judgment in AGAINST the little horn (v.11) - Which is therefore in favor of the saints
 So Jesus and the saints could possess the kingdom again forever

So, in response to Daniel's specific questions - the Angel now provides further explanation
 Covering the items Daniel specifically pointed out - Starting with the 4th beast

Daniel 7:23 *Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth,
 Which shall be different from all other kingdoms,
 And shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.*

- ❑ The 4th beast is a 4th kingdom - Devour the whole earth - Trample and break in pieces - ROME
- ❑ And look at the description of the Iron legs of Daniel 2 - compared to the 4th beast of Daniel 7

<p><u>Daniel 2</u> <i>And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.</i></p>	<p><u>Daniel 7</u> <i>v. 7 - A fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. v.23 - The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth... and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.</i></p>
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YET - it will be destroyed - And then all the world will serve Jesus

- Daniel 7:24 *The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom.
 And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.*
- ❑ 10 horns = 10 Kings
- ❑ Out of 4th kingdom = Arise from breakup of this 4th Kingdom - Rome
 As we saw in Daniel 2 - The Iron legs of Rome split up into the 10 toes of Iron and Clay -
 Divisions of the then-known world
- ❑
 - Alamanni (German)
 - Burgundians (Swiss-Austrian)
 - Franks (French)
 - Visigoths (Spanish)
 - Suevi (Portugese)
 - Anglo-Saxons (English)
 - Vandals (North Aftica) - destroyed in 533
 - Heruli (Italy) - destroyed in 493
 - Ostrogoths (Italy) - destroyed in 538
 - Lombards (Italian)

- Little Horn - according to v.24-25
 - Another will arise - AFTER them -
 - Different from the other 10 horns
 - Will subdue 3 kings - This is the third time that is mentioned - Must be important
 - How many of those 10 came to an end prematurely? - THREE - Does that sound familiar?
 - The Little Horn - Subdued or pushed up 3 of the 10 in its rise to power
 - Historically that is exactly what happened - As we shall see a little later
- Daniel 7:25 *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.
Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.*
- Shall speak pompous words - This is the fourth mention of this - With an addition...
 - Previously - Speaks great boasts
 - Now - Great boasts "against Most High" - against God - This is the issue of Dan 7
 - Great boasts being made by this "little horn" power - against God - Defaming God's name
 - Misinformation - Lies - Libel -
 - Even trying to usurp God's place on earth
 - This certainly fits the concept we saw earlier about who an "anti-Christ" is
 - Does God sit back and just let it happen? - NO - At least not forever
 - There is a judgment - God intervenes - Brings it to an end
 - Shall persecute the saints of the Most High -
 - Parallels v. 21 - Making war against the saints and prevailing against them
 - Not only does this Little Horn make great claims against God - Misrepresent God
 - But he attacks - persecutes - tortures - and kills - all who would seek to truly follow God
 - Shall intend to change times and law
 - Given the context - of an attack on God and on his people
 - This now expands that attack against God's times and God's law
 - Times - This is the same Hebrew word as in v.22 - the "time" for the saints to possess the kingdom
 - This Little Horn power tries to rearrange God's plans and predictions
 - Exerting its will over that of God's will
 - Imposing its own control of time and events
 - Not releasing the saints at the time of judgment
 - Just like Nebuchadnezzar with his Image ALL of Gold in Daniel 3
 - Law - The Little Horn also will mess around with God's law - making changes
 - God says one thing - The Little Horn says, "NO, let's do it a different way"

So we have a picture here of the Little Horn going up against God - His people - His plans - His commands
A complete usurping of the power and prerogatives of God himself
 - The saints will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time
 - Time - A different Hebrew word than in v.22 -
 - The same Hebrew word as in Daniel 4:16,23,25,32 - The 7 times of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity
 - This word seems to refer to a specific time period - probably a year!

This Little Horn inflicts a terrible time of trouble against all who want to truly follow God
To be persecuted - prevailed against - until the time of the judgment
And the duration of this period of tribulation will be - a time - times - and half a time
This appears to be a specific time prophecy - which we will come back to a little later
-
- So - Let's put together a comprehensive list of the identifying marks of this Little Horn power
 - Truly - the focus of this prophecy is more on this Little Horn - than on any of the other powers**

- v.8 - Another horn - a little one
- Coming up among the 10 horns
- Uproots 3 horns
- Eyes like a man
- Mouth speaking pompous words

- v.20 BEFORE WHICH 3 FELL - repeating the uprooting in v.8
- Eyes - repeated from v.8
- Mouth which spoke pompous words - repeating from v.8
- Appearance greater than his fellows - Claim superiority over the other horns
- Making war against the Saints and prevailing against them - until the time of judgment

- v.24 ARISE AFTER THE 10 - Coming up among the horns that were already in place
- DIFFERENT from the first horns - Separate - Unique - of a different look, type, or character
- SUBDUE THREE KINGS - The third reference to uprooting 3 - causing 3 to fall
- Shall speak pompous words AGAINST THE MOST HIGH - The third reference to these pompous words
With the addition that they are directed against the Most High
- PERSECUTE THE SAINTS of the Most High - Matches making war and prevailing from v.20
- Intend to change times and law
- Saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time

Now that is an impressive list - Detailed - Plenty of data to go on

God must intend for us to be able to make a positive identity of this Little Horn

He has gone to great lengths to tell us exactly what it is all about

Just looking at history -

What power came into being after the breakup of Rome into what became the nations of Europe?

What little power arose that came to claim and exercise superiority over the other kings of Europe?

Which made audacious, boastful and monstrous religious claims relating to God - and against God

Claiming power to change God's law - And to direct God's affairs here on earth

With a man at it's head - Who exercised a "different" kind of power than the other kings?

That persecuted all who disagreed with it - for a long period of time

- The Medieval Christian Church - Centered out of Rome

When the Christian church finally ruled the world - What do we call it? - The Dark Ages

The church told the other kings of Europe what to do - And they listened - For over 1000 years

How? - Through religious-superstitious control of the people - It controlled the nations

The medieval church persecuted and killed all who disagreed with it - Its teachings - Its claim to authority

The medieval church spoke monstrous things about God - Things contrary to who God really is

In future studies - We will be looking at some of those monstrous misrepresentations

And try to separate church error from Biblical truth

The medieval church claimed the authority to change God's law

Prophecy is simply pointing out the Christian Church - of the Middle Ages - The medieval Roman Papacy

What the church Jesus Christ started degenerated into under the rule of men

Be careful - Don't just say "the Catholic church" - This happened long before there were Protestants or Catholics

It is so easy for us Protestants to point at those evil Catholics - To demonize the other guy - Us vs. Them

When this prophecy took place - It was before the Reformation - No Catholic or Protestant - Just Christians

Pull yourself out of your Christian shoes for a moment - Into the shoes of a Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist

When non-Christians look at history - Especially medieval history - Like the Crusades! - What do they say?

"O - That was the Catholics - not the Baptists - Presbyterians - Pentecostals - Adventists - etc."

NO! - What do they say? - "That was Christianity! - Those who claimed to be followers of Jesus Christ"

That was US - Christianity - The Christian church

That is what became of the church Jesus Christ started - When Christianity came to rule the world

An apostasy happened - in the Christian church - Paul predicted it

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 (1138) *¹Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the **falling away** comes first, and the **man of sin** is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

Paul predicts the same thing Daniel 7 portrays - That the church would apostatize
To the point of claiming to be God - In the place of God - Exercising the prerogatives of God
God's church would become blasphemous - And say monstrous things about God

- vs.7-10 *⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

A corruption - A rot - Already present in the Church in Paul's time -
Would continue to be present until Jesus comes again
Would be less and less restrained as time went on - Would get worse and worse
Satan himself would get into the church - And come to work through the church
The Church would become a deceiver - a liar - And a powerful one - An "anti-Christ"
Until - Finally - fully corrupt - it would be destroyed at the 2nd coming of Jesus

Did the apostle Paul see that the Church would go thru a time of apostasy? - YES
When would that apostasy begin? - It was already at work in Paul's day
Would God have people who remained faithful thru the ages? - YES - Those who "love the truth"
And those faithful, truth-loving saints of God would be persecuted by the unfaithful Christians

Who did this power claim to be? - God's representative on planet earth - Claimed to be Christian
The work Jesus began - To illuminate the truth about God - Was almost wholly extinguished during Dark Ages
The church Jesus left - Almost wholly undid what Jesus showed us about God

The distorted pictures many people have about God in Christian North America today - and around the world
Where do they get those pictures? - From Jesus? - NO! - From the Church in middle ages
There would be a power - A poser - A pretender - A masquerader - Claiming to be God on earth -
Claiming to be Christian - But really anti-Christ - Stepping into the place of Christ
Instead of giving people the truth about God - It would pervert God's truth into lies
It would speak some of the most monstrous things about God ever to be said in human history
We are going to look at several of those key distortions over the next few studies

There has been more blood shed by the Christian church in the name of Jesus
than by any other power in history - God forgive us
I don't want to be a part of that kind of Christianity - Do you?
I want to be a part of a different kind of Christianity - Don't you? - One that actually reflects CHRIST
It's not about Catholics vs. Protestants - It's about truly following Jesus Christ - and His truth

You can be... A Protestant and speak monstrous things about God?
A Catholic and speak monstrous things about God?
A Protestant and speak beautiful things about God?
A Catholic and speak beautiful things about God
And look at Mother Theresa - What kind of a God do you see in her?

We are so content to have our little labels - God has said there is nothing in a name - It's what's in your heart
Do you really want to see God for what He is really like? - To understand what His true character is?
A right picture of Him? - Are you believing the right things about God?
Or has your heart been darkened by the very church who claimed to be following Jesus?

- Did the Medieval Christian Church fit all the characteristics of our comprehensive list?
 Before you leave tonight, I will give you a handout documenting each of the points on this list
- Another Horn - A little one - Different
 A little kingdom - Independent state or nation - Of a very different type - A church-nation combination
 Many nations have an official religion - Here a religious establishment became a little nation
- Coming up among the 10 - Arising after the 10
 After Rome was divided up - Then the church came to gain political power in the new divided Europe
 We will see that in more detail over the next couple of studies
- Uproots 3 - Before which 3 fell - subdued 3 kings -
- History tells us that the fall of the Heruli, Ostrogoths and Vandals -
 was directly connected to their opposition to the rising authority of the Roman Christian establishment
 They were all peoples who had been taught and accepted a form of Christianity - Called "Arianism"
 They taught that Jesus was a created being used by God - Not eternal God in human form
 This view of Jesus was considered heretical by the church of Rome
 Arians refused to acknowledge the authority of the church of Rome in matters civil or religious
 Thus Arians posed a threat to the ultimate power of the Roman bishop over all Christianity
 And that threat played a pivotal roll in their ultimate overthrow and extinction
- The "Arian" Heruli - took over Italy in 476 - Sacked Rome -
- They were annihilated by the Ostrogoths in 493 - as encouraged by both...
 the Roman Emperor in Constantinople - and the Bishop of Rome
 The Ostrogoths - Also "Arians" - Turned out to be just as hard to deal with as the Heruli had been
- And the "Arian" Vandals had conquered North Africa - Where much of Rome's food supply came from

 In about 530 - Justinian - The Roman emperor - Ruling from Constantinople - Re-wrote the Roman law codes
 Within those codes - He designated the Roman bishop as the ultimate governmental authority in the west
- Justinian sent out his army under Belesarius - And completely destroyed the Vandals in 533
 Then he marched his army into the city of Rome - To attack the Ostrogoths
 The Ostrogoths laid siege to the city of Rome in March 537 - Siege lasted one year - Almost starved out
- In March of 538 - Another Roman army landed and attacked Ravenna - The Ostrogothic capital
 Forcing the Ostrogoth army to break the siege and rush home to defend their own city
 Caught between two Roman armies - They were broken beyond repair - Soon disappear from history

 These THREE nations - All Arians - All antagonistic to the power of the Bishop of Rome
 Disappear completely from history - Plucked up by the roots - Gone - Fulfilling Bible prophecy
- Eyes like a man - Human intelligence - As opposed to Divine intelligence
 The medieval Christian church developed the doctrine of the succession of Saint Peter
 And the concept of the POPE as the infallible representative of Christ on earth developed
 A man with absolute power - to lead the church - and to control the salvation of the people
- Mouth speaking pompous words - against the Most High
 The handout which I will give you at the close - contains a number of quotations
 Taken from medieval church sources - which make great claims relating to God
 That the pope was God on earth - Personally in charge of heaven and hell - people and angels
 With the power to forgive sins - And to determine people's salvation - and eternal destiny
 Such statements as - "We hold on this earth the place of God almighty"
- Appearance greater than its fellows - than the other horns
 The medieval church system told the kings of Europe what to do for over 1000 years
 By controlling the minds of the people through religious superstition - the church controlled their kings

For example - Henry IV of Germany - Tried to go independent of the church
 The pope excommunicated Henry - Threw him out of the church, - and heaven!
 The priests were told to withhold the sacraments from the people who supported Henry
 Meaning all the people would also be excluded from heaven
 The people were told by their priests to withhold support from the king - Refuse to pay taxes
 Henry just about went bankrupt
 Henry ended up crossing the Alps in winter - standing four days barefoot in the snow
 Before the pope would give him an audience
 Henry then repented - and promised to behave like a good king - And was re-admitted to the church
 The priests then told the people to again support Henry - and restored the sacraments

- ❑ War on the Saints - Prevailing - Persecute the Saints of the Most High
 Again - the handout I will give you - documents a few examples of the 10s of millions who died in that era
 Because they refused to bow to the authority and dictates of the medieval Christian church
 Choosing instead to live their lives by the dictates of Scripture - not the church
 The Inquisition - Albigenses - Waldenses - Huguenots - St. Bartholomew's massacre
 It is conservatively estimated that over 100 million people died at the hands of the medieval Christian church

- ❑ Intend to change times and laws
 Again - the handout I will give you - documents the church's claims to have authority to change God's law
 The 10 commandments themselves
 The medieval church - in claiming to be God on earth - did claim authority to change God's law
 Came to teach that church tradition and church laws superseded Scripture's commands
 Claimed the changes it made in God's laws were a mark of its authority

We are going to explore God's law - as it relates to prophecy - in a future presentation
 That is one of the KEYS to unlocking Revelation - How we look at and respond to God's law!
 Don't miss it

- ❑ Saints given into his hands for a time, times and half a time
 We'll come back to this in a few minutes

Let me give you three examples of the distortions of medieval Christianity -
 As seen first in Catholic and then also in Protestant settings

1. One little example - Of how bad Christianity had become in its beliefs and practices is...

- ❑ King Ferdinand's Letter - Sent with Columbus - on his second voyage to Haiti -
 To be read to the local inhabitants upon arrival
- ❑ *Our Lord God Eternal...chose Saint Peter as leader of mankind... He seated Saint Peter in Rome as the best place from which to rule the world.... Those who lived at that time obeyed Saint Peter as Lord and superior King of the universe, and so did their descendants obey his successors...*

The late Pope gave these islands and mainland of the ocean and the contents hereof to the above mentioned King.... Therefore, their Highnesses are lord and masters of this land....
- ❑ *Therefore we request you... recognize the Church and its highest priest, the Pope, as rulers of the universe... allowing the religious fathers to preach our holy Faith to you... We...will receive you with love and charity, respecting your freedom... and your rights of possessions and we shall not compel you to baptism unless you, informed of the Truth wish to convert to our holy Catholic Faith... in exchange for which Their Highnesses bestow many privileges and exemptions upon you.*
- ❑ *Should you fail to comply...we assure you that with the help of God we shall use force against you, declaring war upon you from all sides and with all possible means, and we shall bind you to the yoke of the Church and of Their Highnesses; we shall enslave your persons, wives and sons, sell you or dispose of you as the King sees fit; we shall seize your possessions and harm you as much as we can as disobedient and resisting vassals. And we declare you guilty of resulting deaths and injuries, exempting Their Highnesses of such guilt as well as ourselves and the gentlemen who accompany us. We hereby request that legal signatures be a fixed to this text and pray those present to bear witness for us, etc.*

How would you like that to be your first introduction to the gospel?
 Have monstrous things been said about God by the very people who claim to represent him?
 Making God out to be after the mold of the pagan gods - not the God of the Bible
 It is easy to point the finger of accusation
 But how many times have we done the same to others around us in our sphere of influence?
 How many times have we said wrong things about God?

The full text of this letter is contained in the handout

That is a Catholic example - But after the Reformation, Protestants did not always represent God much better

- 2. Protestant atrocities - Check out the Acadian deportation from Nova Scotia in 1755
 Where the good British Protestants performed an ethnic cleansing of the industrious French Catholic Acadians
 All the men were ordered to the church to hear the proclamation - Then imprisoned there
 Eventually all - men - women - children - aged - were crammed into 4' foot high holds of ships
 with no accommodations or sanitation
 And deported to various places in the American Colonies and Europe - Not knowing where they were going
 10,000 or more were deported - Nearly half died - Families were forever separated
 All property was confiscated - All the homes and barns were burned - to prevent any chance of return
 Eventually a large group ended up in Louisiana - developing into the French Catholic Cajon population there

In Daniel 7 - God calls to us - "Do not believe everything the Church has always said about me"

- 3. Why does Atheism exists today? - Not because certain people are brilliant and atheism is the smart option?
 Rather - People have an innate sense of what God ought to be like
 Then they see a picture of God from people who claim to follow God
 which is so far out of harmony with what they sense God ought to be
 They conclude - "If God exists he can't be like that"
 So they simply choose to believe that - He just doesn't exist
- Opening night I shared with you some quotations by Charles Darwin
 Things he wrote in letters to his American botanist friend Asa Gray - who was a Christian
 Charles Darwin - The father of the atheistic theory of evolution
 Is a prime example of what the church's distorted view of God can lead to in a brilliant man's thinking
 Darwin makes it clear that...
 His whole study of nature and development of the theory of evolution was motivated by theological concerns
 Darwin looked at nature and saw random and deliberate cruelty - such as...
 - Parasitic flies who hatch their larva in the bodies of other living organisms
 - Cats playing with mice
 And concluded that an all loving and all powerful God would not create such things
 Yet - He admitted he could not see how the wonders of nature and man could result from brute force alone
 He admitted to being bewildered - And not satisfied with the answers he had come up with
 He finally concluded - An all powerful, all knowing, all loving God could not pre-ordain such evil - cruelty
 And he finally decided to write God out of the picture and go with chance
 He would rather live in a world of blind chance - Than under a God of cruel design

The Handout I will give you at the close of tonight's topic - Contains these statements from Charles Darwin

Religious teachings have failed to deal adequately with the problem of suffering - of evil
 The church actually explained suffering - even eternal torture - as ordained - intended - predestined by God
 All part of a loving God's designed plan - and therefore somehow to His glory
 That somehow the conscious unending agony of the created being He LOVES -
 will bring him glory and pleasure - forever

Atheism looks at what God ought to be - Then at what nature shows - And how religion has explained it... -
 Says, "No way"
 At least atheists reject the wrong picture of God - Though they don't embrace the right one yet
 Some of us haven't even gotten that far yet - Still have a wrong picture

It is high time that the Christian church ceases to be in a state of apostasy
- and become the church Jesus intends it to be

To share truth in this world about the love of our heavenly father - That's what we were called to do

Middle ages distorted Christianity must die - My hope that it will die in my experience and yours

That you would come to see God as He really is - and what He really thinks and feels toward you

That all pictures of God shaped by the Middle Ages rather than the ministry of Jesus - are totally eradicated

How many would like that? - To be able to see what God is really like?

The Little Horn speaks such monstrous words against God - Acts in such beastly ways towards God's true followers
That God finally intervenes in judgment

Why? - Why was this little horn judged?

Did the lion - bear - leopard - or 4th beast evoke a response from heaven? - NO

But this Little Horn - because of its great boasts - finally gets a reaction from heaven

The misrepresentations of God - That keep people from being able to truly love and trust God

The roadblocks Satan had placed in the way of a full restoration of relationship between God and man

There is a reckoning - It is destroyed - And the Kingdom is returned to Jesus - And then to the saints

By the way - This interpretation of the little horn power of Daniel 7 - as I have presented it to you tonight

Is not an isolated teaching by one single denomination - Many know this prophecy well

It is a protestant teaching whose adherents have included...

Martin Luther - who founded the Lutherans

George Whitfield

John Calvin - who founded the Presbyterians

Jonathan Edwards

John Knox - The reformer to Scotland

John Fox (author of Fox's Book of Martyrs)

John Wesley - who founded the Methodists

Roger Williams (the first Baptist pastor in America)

John Wycliffe

John Bunyan - Who wrote Pilgrim's Progress

William Tyndale

Sir Isaac Newton - the scientists

The handout will list a number of quotations from the reformers showing this interpretation

This is not an interpretation I just came up with - It was the interpretation of the Reformers

Yet you don't hear it much any more from Christian teachers

It has become very unpopular in the atmosphere of political correctness over the last half century

Let's finish up by looking at the final identifying point - The time prophecy of v.25

Daniel 7:25 *Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.*

The phrase appears to be a Time Prophecy - A prophetic time period during which this Little Horn would rule
The word for time here refers not just to time in general - but to an appointed or specified time period
In Daniel 4:23 (860) - It applies to the length of time King Nebuchadnezzar would lose his mind
and live like an animal - Which appears to be seven years

Daniel 7:25 gives this time period as - a Time, times and half a time

A Time = one year

+ Times would = 2 years - There is a dual tense in the Aramaic - Which is used here

+ half a time = ½ year - How many years is that?

= 3 ½ years

Does that look familiar to anyone? - There is another 3½ years in the Bible - Whose ministry was that? - Jesus
Jesus ministered and taught on earth for 3½ years

Jesus claimed to be God on earth - In human form

He said, "He who has seen me has seen the father" - "The Father and I are one"

And through that claim - The truth about God was clearly and fully revealed

For 3 ½ prophetic years - another power - The Little Horn - A pretender - A masquerader - A usurper
Would claim to represent God on earth - Claim to BE God on earth

When it ruled for 3 ½ prophetic years -

Instead of speaking truth - It would speak boastful words in claiming to be like God - or to be God -
Truth would be distorted by monstrous lies - Those lies would be believed and enforced
People's relationship with God would be hindered by misconceptions and falsehoods

3½ times - 3½ prophetic years - This is a time prophecy that is mentioned SEVEN times in Daniel and Revelation

1. Daniel 7:25 (865) Time, times and half a time - We see it here

2. Daniel 12:7 (871) Time, times and half a time

Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

3. Revelation 12:14 (1182) Time, times and half a time

But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

4. Revelation 13:5 (1183) - 42 months - Referring to the Beast made up of Daniel 7 parts

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

How many months are there in 3½ years? - 42

5. Revelation 11:1-2 (1181) - 42 months -

¹Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ²But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

6. Revelation 11:3 (1181) - 1260 days -

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.

In the Hebrew culture, a month was determined by the phases of the moon - From new moon to new moon

How long is a lunar "moonth" - 29.530589 - an average of 30 days - From new moon to new moon

In the story of the flood - 150 days is identified as 5 months - That works out to be five 30-day months

Genesis 7:24; 8:3 (6) - Water prevailed on the earth 150 days

From the 17th day of the 2nd month (7:11) - When the water broke forth on the earth

Until the 17th day of the 7th month (8:4) - When the ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat

30 days times 42 months = 1260 days

Do you see how these time prophecies all begin to fit together - To verify each other

7. Revelation 12:6 (1182) - 1260 days -

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

The same prophetic subject and time frame - Depicted seven times - in three interlocking symbols

3 ½ times (3 places) - 42 months (2 places) - 1260 days (2 places)

Seven times God mentions the prophetic time period when Christianity would rule the world?

God must believe this time period - and the issues involved - are really important for us to know

God must be trying to get our attention - This is vital - God must intend for us to understand it

Why is this so important?

It is vital that you do not believe what the Church is going to say about God during this time

It is vital that you hold on to the pictures of God that Jesus showed us - and not the church

So - Let's put this 3½ years - 42 months - 1260 days prophecy together

Consider Daniel 7 (864) - How much of it is symbolic? - The whole thing

If we take this 3½ years literally - It would be the only literal thing in Dan 7 - Would that make sense to you?

If everything else is symbolic - Wouldn't it imply that even the time period is symbolic?

When literal years are used in Scripture to refer to other kingdoms - We see numbers like 20 - 40 - 50 years

The prophecy of Daniel 7 covers four world-ruling kingdoms and beyond - Spanning nearly 1000 years

Followed by this little horn - Which lasts until the Judgement and the coming of Jesus

And a time period of only 3½ years? - That makes no sense, either

It would make sense that this time period is also to be taken symbolic -

Just like the lion, bear, leopard, beast, horns, etc

How has a DAY been used symbolically in the Bible -

Remember - We don't pull some private interpretation out of the air - We must look for clues within the Bible

And there are two passages where God has used a DAY symbolically to represent a year

Numbers 14:34 (140) - *According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years...*

The Israelites sent 12 spies north into the land of Canaan to check things out - They were gone for 40 days

10 came back with stories of giants - Said they felt like grasshoppers when looking at these giants

Said the giants would eat the Israelite children for dinner

Discouraged the people - Said, "Let's go back to Egypt. We were better off there!"

2 of the spies - Joshua and Caleb - Said, "No! God is with us! Let's go! God will slay the giants for us!"

The people sided with the 10 - Decided to kill Joshua and Caleb - and return to Egypt

Instead - God said - You will all wander in the wilderness for 40 years - A year for each day spent spying

And your children - whom you said would be lunch for the giants - they will then go in and possess the land

Ezekiel 4:4-6 (804) - ⁴ "Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity. ⁵ For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. ⁶ And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.

We don't know much about the details of these time periods

But each day seems to represent a year that God's people Israel spent in apostasy against him

Israel here refers to the northern Kingdom - While Judah refers to the southern Kingdom

Repetition of the prophecy has already done the math for us - 3½ times = 42 months = 1260 days

And we have a Biblical clue as to what we might do with those days - A DAY represents a YEAR

The question is: If we apply this concept here - Does it fit? - Does it work? - 1260 years

If so - Then we would expect the Little Horn medieval Christian Church to rule for 1260 YEARS

Remember - The little horn would uproot three horns in his rise

That gives us a clue as to when the Little Horn would be considered to be "in power"

Therefore the little horn can be considered to have "risen" when the THIRD HORN IS UPROOTED

History is clear - The third horn - The Ostrogoths - Their power was fatally broken in the spring of 538

538 + 1260 = what? - Do the math

1798 -

Did anything significant take place in 1798 - regarding the rule of the Medieval Christian church?

In February of 1798 - In the aftermath of the French Revolution...

Napoleon's French general Berthier entered Rome -

*He proclaimed a free and independent republic - under the special protection of the French army
The object of the French directory was the destruction of the pontifical government,
as the irreconcilable enemy of the republic.*

The aged pope Pius VI was summoned to surrender the temporal government

*On his refusal, he was dragged from the altar, his rings were torn from his fingers,
and finally, after declaring the temporal power abolished,*

the victors carried the pope prisoner into Tuscany, whence he never returned.

A provisional government was acknowledged - as established by the sovereign people

Every other temporal authority emanating from the pope was suppressed -

He was no longer to exercise any function

The pope died in France shortly thereafter.

Although a new pope was elected, medieval Christianity had lost its Political power.

In 538 - The balance of power tipped in favor of the medieval political rule of the Church

1260 years later - 1798 - The church had that political power forcibly taken away

Other political powers finally exerted superiority over the medieval church-state system

Ending the prophesied 1260-year era of control

Nevertheless, although apostate Christianity's political reign ended in 1798 AD,

Her spiritual influence and effect on our perceptions of God's character would take much longer to break

Though Medieval Christianity no longer rules the world - Aren't its effect still alive and well with us today?

No matter what church we attend - We still have pictures of God shaped largely by medieval Christianity

What most Christians teach today about this very prophecy is a legacy of Medieval Christianity

I'll share more about that in future studies

What God is calling you to...? - Is to see Him differently - accurately - truly

Misconceptions - block relationships - With each other - With God

The spiritual fulfillment we long for - is impossible - When gross misunderstandings of God cloud our minds

We cannot truly relate - trust - enjoy God - no matter how hard we try - Until we clean up our picture of God

And move beyond the medieval misrepresentations of apostate Christianity

God wants to clean up that picture

For all that I have shared with you - If you remember nothing else - please hold on to this point...

The Bible prophesied in detail of when the church would do damage to God's name and people

Why does God take the time to share this information with us? - in such detail? - Because God knew...

It would be hard to tell the difference between what He is really like - and what people say about Him

It is difficult to see what the Bible really says about God without being influenced by what the church says

We need to listen to what God is saying about himself - Not what any church teaches -

We need to discover what He says about Himself in his Word - Only in that are we safe

God is calling us back to the truth

The judgment will be set - will take place - When it does - according to this prophecy - What's the result?

The work of Little Horn will be wholly undone - and dominion will be given back to Jesus

That all people might no longer serve the church and its distorted picture of God

That all people might serve Jesus and HIS true revelation of God

There are 2 types of Christians today - 2 Christian churches today

One - Speaking monstrous things about God

Based on the "3½ times" ministry of the medieval church - that has apostatized

That you must either love God or he will kill you - Endlessly

And if you don't do what the church says - They will burn you

So you had better do what the church says or else

The other - Speaking wondrous things about God

Based on the 3 ½ years of Jesus ministry - the REAL thing - Not the counterfeit

Jesus says, "If you have seen ME you have seen the Father" -

Look to Jesus, not the imposter - That will produce a Christianity that is radically changed

Make sure your eyes are on the truth - Not the pretender - The masquerader

There is a pretender - A masquerade has ensued - Make sure your eyes are on the truth

Tonight - You may feel like Daniel did - Look at verse 28

Daniel 7:28 *This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart.*

This is not easy stuff - To accept that we - the Christian Church - have said such monstrous things about God
That we - have taught things about God which have made many reject Him - run from Him
That we have had a significant role in why so much of the world hates Christianity today

What are we going to take home from this study tonight?

I do not want to leave you thinking this is all about bashing someone else's religion - or bashing our own
God does not bash people - God loves people - God died to save all people
But God does warn us against apostasy

- ❑ So let me leave you with three final points
- ❑ GOSPEL - We have here a perfect example of the Gospel
How do the saints regain the kingdom - The dominion lost in Eden?
Do they earn it in any way? - NO - It is a GIFT - A GRACE from God
God - in Christ - Regains the kingdom - And gives it back to us - v.27 - That is the GOSPEL
- ❑ JUDGMENT - Has been so often taught as a fearful thing - Will you be ready when your name comes up?
How will you fare when every word, thought and motive of you heart comes into judgment?
But notice - v.22 - Judgement is to be made 'in favor' of the saints
Do we have anything to fear in the judgment?
No - Not if we are in Christ Jesus -
- ❑ John 5:24 (1030) *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

We do not come into judgment (Greek word: *crisis*)
We have already passed from death into life
The judgment is GOOD NEWS - The evil that has imprisoned and tormented us will be executed
And the judgement will vindicate us and set us free!
- ❑ TRUTH - God warns us to never look anywhere for truth but to... the Scripture
Do not look to any church for truth - Churches are groups of people - And people often get it wrong
We need the church for fellowship - We are not to forsake assembling ourselves together
We need each other to stay balanced
But we must always hold close to Scripture for truth
The medieval apostasy would never have happened if the church has remained faithful to Scripture
We will explore how that apostasy happened on a future night
The medieval drift away from truth was not because anyone decided to be bad
Rather it was due to social, political and religious forces which over centuries slowly encouraged drift
Drift towards things that seemed humanly right - but were not Biblically correct

And that TRUTH is a Person -

- ❑ John 14:6 (1042) *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

Jesus is the way, the TRUTH and the life
The core of Scripture is to bring you back into right relationship with God - through Jesus Christ
Right relationship is more important than right doctrine
Because right doctrine can be held in a totally wrong spirit - Truth without love
But a right relationship with Jesus will always bring you to the truth - in the spirit of love

- Jesus' precious blood was shed for every person who has ever lived - or ever will live - on this earth
 He bore the sins of us all - Not to appease an angry God - But as God he bore the hit of sin for us
 God does not kill sinners - Sin is killing us
 God came on a rescue mission to save us from SIN - From what sin is doing to us
 How can we misrepresent such a God with teachings that make people turn from him

As we continue in this seminar - We will be looking at a number of ways God has been maligned by His own church
 We want to clear away the medieval distortions - And see the God Jesus came to show - That the Bible reveals

Tonight - We have seen a super important - often repeated - prophecy of Christianity gone wrong
 The understanding of the Little Horn is crucial to deciphering Revelation - as well as the rest of Daniel
 We have seen that Judgment is not something to be feared - But to welcome
 Judgment is to get rid of this monstrous distortion - And return dominion to Christ and the Saints

Do you want to be part of a Christianity that is true to Christ and Scripture?

How can your Christian experience stay true to the Gospel - in the midst of the corruption of this world?
 How can your relationship with Jesus remain pure and grow strong - no matter what pressures come against you?

- Tomorrow night - We will look at how our personal walk with Jesus can avoid the "Little Horn" corruption
 How we can serve God by faith - and walk in obedience to Him - and stay true all the way to the end
 So many who begin a walk with Jesus grow lax and fall away - back into old lifestyle patterns
 So many of those who hold firm and seek to obey - fall away into formalism, legalism and behaviorism
 They stick it out with Christ to avoid hell - But there is no vital relationship or spiritual power

It is kind of like marriage - It is easy to get married - It is another thing to stay married for life - Joyfully married
 A majority of marriage fall apart - Things fall apart and couples call it quits - Look elsewhere for love
 Many marriages that stay together lose their spark - and just stick it out in a loveless formality
 Obeying the strictures of marriage but not enjoying the realities of love and relationship

Last night we looked at the nuts and bolts of the gospel - and how a relationship with Jesus assures eternal life
 How Jesus has already lived - died - risen - and reigns - Having done ALL that is needed for our salvation
 To add anything to what Christ has already done - is Anti-Christ

The early Christian church fell off the wagon of the Gospel - during the middle ages
 Interposing the power of the church between people and Jesus - Claiming to have control over people's salvation
 Twisting the truths of Scripture - Misrepresenting the character of God
 Corrupting the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ with all kinds of human forms, ceremonies and sacraments
 Which were made necessary for Salvation - In addition to what Jesus has already done for us

And Satan is still trying to corrupt our own spiritual experience with the same deceptions
 Turning us from relationship to ritual - From trusting Jesus to trusting our own obedience
 And thus Satan too often manages to steal our joy - our growth - and our assurance of salvation

Tomorrow night we want to see how we can avoid this Anti-christ syndrome
 And learn how to make that spiritual experience last - for a life time - and for eternity

As you exit - The ushers will hand you a two-sheet exhibit documenting much of what I have said tonight
 Quotes from the Medieval Christian Church documenting some "great words" against the Most High
 King Ferdinand's letter - in full
 Quotes from various reformers concerning the identity of the Little Horn
 Three quotes of Charles Darwin from his correspondence with Asa Gray