

The Rise of “Little Horn”!

Daniel 7:1-8, 19-24; Revelation 13:1-4

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- The numerous attempts to identify the Antichrist throughout history
- The Antichrist will not be revealed until after the rapture of the church.
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8-- *“mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And 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.”*
- **You can tell a lot about the CHARACTER of a man by the NAMES by which he is labeled.**
 - **Antichrist**—1 John 2:18--*“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 you know that it is the last hour.”*
 - “Anti” can mean “to stand against”, and thus the Antichrist will oppose Jesus Christ.
 - “Anti” can also mean “instead of”, and thus the Antichrist will be a false Christ.
 - **The “man of sin” or “son of perdition”**
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4-- *“Let no one deceive you by any means; for the Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of Go, showing himself that he is God.”*
 - **The “beast” of Revelation 13**

The Rise of “Little Horn”!

A. Historical Perspective: Daniel’s Vision

- Daniel 7:1-8-- *“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. Daniel spoke, saying, ‘I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 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. 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!” 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. 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. And as 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 up by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”*
1. **Gentile nations are represented as four animals that emerge from the sea.**
 - a. The sea is symbolic of polluted, turbulent humanity.
 - Isaiah 57:20-- *“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose water cast up mire and dirt.”*
 - b. The “four winds of heaven” are controlled by four angels who are agents of God’s judgment.
Revelation 7:1

- c. Picture of God hurling His judgment upon successive Gentile nations, culminating in the last kingdom, the Kingdom of God.
2. **The Four Animals Identified**
- a. **The “head of gold”(Daniel 2) depicted as a “Lion with Eagle’s Wings”**
- 1) The lion and eagle were symbols of the Babylonians
 - Jeremiah 4:7-- *“The lion has come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of nations is on his way. He has gone forth from his place to make your land desolate. Your cities will be laid waste, without inhabitants.”*
 - Ezekiel 17:3 -- , *“A great eagle with large wings and long pinions, full of feathers of various colors, came to Lebanon”*
 - 2) Daniel watched as Nebuchadnezzar was transformed into a worshiper of God.
- b. **The “chest and arms of silver” (Daniel 2) depicted as the “Bear”**
- Isaiah 13:17-19-- *“Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, who will not regard silver; and as for gold, they will not delight in it. Also their bows will dash the young men to pieces, and they will have no pity of the fruit of the womb; Their eye will not spare children. And Babylon, the glory of the kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans’ pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.”*
- 1) Depicted as “laying on its side” —one-sided union of the Persian and Median empires
 - 2) “Ribs sticking in the mouth” —three major conquests.
- c. **The “bronze abdomen thighs”(Dan 2) depicted as a “Leopard with four wings and heads”**
- 1) Alexander the Great, the Grecian leader, conquered the world in four years.
 - 2) “Four heads” are his four generals who each ruled a quarter of his kingdom.
- d. **The “legs of iron and feet of iron and clay” (Dan 2) depicted as a “Beast”**
- Revelation 13:2-- *“leopard, but had feet like those of a bear, and a mouth like that of a lion.”*
3. Parenthesis: *Why does God repeat Himself? Why does God give the same vision to Daniel as He did to Nebuchadnezzar some 50 years earlier?*
- a. **To demonstrate that God’s plans do not change!**
- Genesis 41:32-- *“And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.”*
- b. **To give us a new perspective on world history.**
- 1) Daniel 2—God’s plan from man’s perspective. A magnificent, beautiful, impressive statue.
 - 2) Daniel 7—From God’s perspective. Four, ferocious beasts
4. **Daniel’s particular interest in the fourth kingdom, the Roman empire.** *“Different from all the others”*
- Daniel 7:19-- *“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 with the residue of its feet”*
- a. **Not a single nation dominating the earth, but a collection of nations.**—Revelation 17:15
 - b. **The influence of the “West” on the world: trade language, fashion, technology**
 - c. **The assimilation of different cultures into one.**
 - d. **It will never be conquered by another Gentile world power.**

B. The Prophetic Prediction: Final Form of the Fourth Kingdom

1. The Formation of 10: "ten toes" (Dan 2) and "ten horns" (Dan. 7)

- Daniel 7:23-24-- *"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 ten horns are ten kings who shall rise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings."*

a. The "ten horns" are ten kings or Western leaders who will form the last rendition of Western power.

- Revelation 17:12-- *"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as of yet, but they received authority for one hour as kings with the beast."*

- 1) They are "kings without a kingdom", that is, leaders but not necessarily heads of state.
- 2) They will be ruling simultaneous, not consecutive for they will be ruling when the "little horn appears"

b. The final form goes through three stages:

- 1) Group of 10 leaders will form some ruling body in the old Roman empire.
- 2) A strong man, called the Antichrist will emerge and consolidate these ten leaders and the territories they govern into a united empire. As he makes his power move, three of the leaders will object, and thus removed or killed.- Daniel 7:8. They will be replaced by three new leaders.
- 3) The 10 will submit to the authority of the Antichrist and relinquish their power. The Antichrist will rule over the entire reunited Roman empire, and by declaration and edict, exert his power over the entire world.
 - Revelation 17:16-17-- *"And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled."*

c. The final form of the Roman empire will come to an end at the second coming of Jesus Christ, when He will establish the fifth kingdom, the Kingdom of God here on earth.

2. The Rise of "Little Horn"

- 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."*

a. He has an insignificant beginning—a "little horn"

- 1) He's "little horn", not "Big horn" of Daniel 8—Alexander the Great who conquered militarily the then known world. Little horn's rise to power will not be by military might, but rather by political maneuvering.
- 2) He will start small and push his way into power.

b. The source of his power...

1) He will get his power, his authority from Satan himself

- Revelation 13:1-4-- *"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great*

authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?'

- Revelation 12:9-- *"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*
 - a) **Satan will give to him all kinds of supernatural power**
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10a -- *"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish."*
 - b) **Satan will also give to him "his throne", that is, the nations of the world.**
 - Matthew 4:8-9-- *"The devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give you if You fall down and worship me.'"*
- 2) **He will be incredibly intelligent**—Daniel 7:8
- 3) **He will also be an articulate, persuasive, powerful, charismatic speaker**—Daniel 7:8

C. Present Perspective: Antichrists today

1. **While THE Antichrist is not in power today, there are antichrists in our world today.**
 - 1 John 2:18-- *"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour."*
2. **Antichrists today are those who deny that Jesus is the Christ,**
 - 1 John 2:22-- *"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son."*
3. **How to tell a true believer from one who is antichrist...**
 - a. **Not by the miracles or signs that they might perform**
 - Matthew 7:22-23-- *"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*
 - b. **Not by how charismatic or educated they might be**
 - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15-- *"false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore there is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."*
 - c. **BUT by what they believe about the person of Jesus Christ.**
4. **Bottom line: Not everything labeled "Christian" is "Christian"!**