

Identifying the Real Anti-Christ of Bible Prophecy

Part 1

-The Prophecy of Daniel 7-

[15]

**Remember to pray for wisdom before you begin*

INTRODUCTION: The metal image prophecy in Daniel 2 sets the foundation for the rest of the book of Daniel to build upon. When we understand it and this prophecy of Ch. 7, we set the stage for unmistakably identifying who the genuine Anti-Christ of Bible prophecy is! When we get the facts correct about this, the other prophecies of Revelation fit together nicely! Most importantly, when the proper interpretation is put together with who the Anti-Christ really is, we are able to pinpoint who God's end-time remnant church is. Everything fits together smoothly like a jigsaw puzzle. Keep in mind that the term "Anti-Christ" by proper definition can also mean "in place of," not just "against." We will find out in this study that according to the Apostle Paul, he will come out of the Christian church and even claim to be part of the Christian movement. Be ready for some shocking revelations which come irrefutably straight out of the Word of God!

1.) What does the Apostle Paul have to say about the Anti-Christ who was to come shortly after his time? 2Thessalonians 2:3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that _____ of _____ be revealed, the son of _____;* **4** *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he _____ God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is _____.* **Who else is called the "son of perdition" in scripture? John 17:12** *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is _____, but the _____ of _____;* *that the scripture might be fulfilled. John 6:70* *Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you _____, and one of you is a _____?* **NOTE: The context of the first text [John 17] is Jesus' prayer for His disciples and Judas was the one who apostatized and professed to be a follower of Jesus. Toward the end he subtly turned against Jesus. Interestingly Paul also referred to the "man of sin" or the Anti-Christ as the "son of perdition" and says that he would sit in the temple of God (the Christian church) and be as God. Now let's go to the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and let them positively identify who the actual Anti-Christ is. There will be NO guess-work in this!**

2.) What does the prophet Daniel see taking place in this vision of ch. 7? Daniel 7:1 *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a _____ and _____ of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the _____ of the matters.* **2** *Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four _____ of the heaven strove upon the great _____.* **3** *And _____ great _____ came up _____ the sea, diverse one from another.* **NOTE: As with most prophetic visions, there is quite a bit of symbolism involved. Let's allow the Bible to interpret itself. We don't need to speculate or**

conjecture.

- 3.) First, what do beasts represent in Bible prophecy? Daniel 7:17 *These great _____, which are four, are four _____, which shall arise out of the earth. 23a Thus he said, The fourth _____ shall be the fourth _____ upon earth, NOTE: The Bible itself explains these symbols. Beasts or animals represent kings and kingdoms in particular.*
- 4.) Next, what do waters or sea represent? Revelation 17:15 *And he saith unto me, The _____ which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are _____, and _____, and _____, and _____. NOTE: This basically denotes a large population area of people. Ever heard the expression "He looked out over a sea of people?"*
- 5.) What do winds represent in prophecy? Zechariah 7:14a *But I scattered them with a _____ among all the nations whom they knew not. Jeremiah 25:31 A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will _____ them that are _____ to the sword, saith the LORD. 32 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, _____ shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great _____ shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. 33 And the _____ of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor _____; they shall be dung upon the ground. NOTE: Winds represent human strife, commotion and turmoil. To summarize everything so far would be this: In a populated part of this world, political strife and turmoil were taking place as through all of this- 4 great kingdoms emerged throughout history that would affect this part of the world and would in some way or another also affect God's people. Keep in mind, these kingdoms and powers would in their time and place in history ultimately, unmistakably point to the real Anti-Christ!*
- 6.) What was this first beast that Daniel saw coming up out of the sea and what kingdom does it represent? Daniel 7:4 *The _____ was like a _____, and had eagle's _____: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. NOTE: Keep in mind that Daniel 7 parallels ch. 2 of Daniel except that in Daniel 7 we see more information and details given which help us determine exactly how this was fulfilled in history. History plainly reveals that this first world kingdom (the winged lion) represents Babylon.*
- 7.) What do wings represent in this prophetic scenario in which the lion has 2 wings and the leopard has four? Jeremiah 4:13 *Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind: his horses are _____ than _____. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled. Habakkuk 1:6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans {Babylonians}, that bitter and _____ nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs. 7 They are _____ and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. 8 Their horses also are _____ than the*

leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall _____ as the _____ that hasteth to eat. **NOTE: Wings denote speed and the swiftness at which it conquered other nations. By the way, images of winged lions have been found throughout the ruins of Babylon.**

8.) What is the second beast rising out of the sea and what kingdom does it represent?

Daniel 7:5 And behold another beast, a _____, like to a _____, and it raised up itself on _____ side, and it had three _____ in the mouth of it between the _____ of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. **NOTE: The bear that lived in this part of the world was merely a European sub-species of our modern Grizzly bear. This beast was raised up on one side (lop-sided) which meant this was the dual kingdom of Medo-Persia in which the Persians became stronger and became predominate.**

9.) What is the third Beast coming on the scene and what does it represent? Daniel 7:6

_____ this I beheld, and lo _____, like a _____, which had upon the back of it _____ wings of a fowl; the beast had also four _____; and dominion was given to it. **NOTE: This third beast was a leopard which represented the kingdom of Greece. It conquered Persia and went on to conquer with stunning speed. This is why the prophecy says it would have four wings. We saw earlier that wings are symbolic of speed and when there are two pairs of wings, it means that Greece took over the broad territory with extra speed that Persia once prevailed over. King Alexander was its first king and by the age of thirty-two Alexander had no more territory to conquer. Soon after this, King Alexander had a drinking spree and then died of excess alcohol intoxication. Interesting how Alexander could invade and conquer that whole territory of the world but he couldn't conquer his addiction to alcohol. Just before his death he called his four generals together to decide who should take over since he didn't have a son as an heir. After Alexander died the four generals decided to divide up the kingdom of Greece into four territories which are (Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus) hence, the symbolism of the four heads on the leopard.**

10.) The next scene that Daniel saw in this vision must have been startling! What did he see next? Daniel 7:7

After this I _____ in the night visions, and behold a _____ beast, dreadful and terrible, and _____ exceedingly; and it had great _____ teeth: it devoured and _____ in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was _____ from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten _____. **23** Thus he said, The fourth _____ shall be the _____ kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall _____ the whole earth, and shall _____ it down, and break it in pieces. **NOTE: This was kind of a non-descript beast. Was it something like a dinosaur or like a Tyrannosaurus-Rex? Who knows? But we refer to it as a dragon-like beast. Notice it had iron teeth. Where else did we see in a previous prophecy -Daniel 2 and the metal -iron? We saw that the legs of iron represented the iron monarchy of Rome. So far**

we see the clear parallel of Daniel 2 and these beasts of ch. 7. The kingdom of Rome was very strong like iron. It was brutal and powerful in its acquisition of conquering territory and it lasted long in its reign of over six hundred years. All you have to do is look at some of the history of persecution on the early Christian church and realize that the description of this beast in Daniel 7 is very accurate. This beast also had ten horns. This is very important. [See question #11 below] Keep in mind that this was the power that ruled during Jesus' time and the Jews resented having the Romans rule over them. Now from this point on, it is very important to follow the natural flow and sequence of history and how it unfolds. We're about to see what is going to come on the scene next, -the ANTI-CHRIST power!

11.) What do "horns" represent in Bible Prophecy? Daniel 8:21 *And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great _____ that is between his eyes is the first _____. Revelation 17:12a* *And the ten _____ which thou sawest are ten _____,*

12.) What about the next scene Daniel sees of the horns? Daniel 7:8 *I considered the _____, and, behold, there came up among them another _____ horn, before whom there were _____ of the first horns _____ up by the roots: and, behold, in this _____ were _____ like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking _____ things. NOTE: Take note of several points here in this verse. A little horn pops up, but in the process of it coming up, three of the original ten (the tribes of Heruli, Vandals & the Ostrogoths) are uprooted by the roots to be no more. History shows this actually happened when this power took over. As we are going to see with more characteristics coming up, this little horn power is the Anti-Christ power. Let's look at more of the characteristics given in ch.7 and we will list all these characteristics and as you look at these, YOU as the Bible student will be able to identify who this power is without any doubt!*

13.) What are some of the other characteristics brought out about this little horn power? Daniel 7:20 *And of the ten _____ that were in his head, and of the other which _____ up, and before whom three _____; even of that horn that had _____, and a mouth that spake very _____ things, whose look was more _____ than his fellows. 21* *I beheld, and the same horn made _____ with the _____, and prevailed against them; 24* *And the ten horns out of this kingdom are _____ kings that shall arise: and another shall rise _____ them; and he shall be _____ from the first, and he shall subdue _____ kings. 25* *And he shall speak _____ words _____ the most _____, and shall _____ out the _____ of the Most High, and think to change _____ and _____: and they shall be _____ into his hand until a _____ and _____ and the _____ of time. NOTE: The ten horns represent the ten tribes that come out of the Roman Empire. The little horn power uprooted three of these tribes. See the list of the characteristics of this little horn power. There are about 12 or more but 9 are listed on this "Anti-Christ Characteristics" list below.*

Characteristics of the Little Horn

1. Arose out of the pagan Roman power –the 4th world kingdom and is (part Roman in its characteristics)
2. This little horn or kingdom came up among the ten nations of Western Europe [It's a tiny kingdom in western Europe]
3. It would have a man at the helm who would represent or speak for it (Daniel 7:8)
4. When it came into power it would subdue or overturn 3 other kingdoms completely (Daniel 7:8, 24)
5. It would be “diverse” or unique from the other horns (a religious/political power) (Daniel 7:24)
6. It would “make war” or persecute the saints and God's true followers (Daniel 7:21, 25)
7. This power would last a “Time, Times, and half of a Time” [1260 days(years)] (Daniel 7:25)
8. It would “speak great words against the most High” It would blaspheme God's name & position (Daniel 7:25; Rev. 13:5)
9. This power “would think to change Times and Laws” It would “try” to change “prophetic” Times and change God's Law (Daniel 7:25)

NOTE: Before we conclude who this “little horn” [Anti-Christ] power is, let's break down a few of the characteristics above so we can get a clearer picture of who we're talking about.

14.) Before we look at the time period of the reign of this “little horn” power, how do we determine prophetic time in Bible prophecy? Do we take it as literal or symbolic and how do we know? Ezekiel 4:6 *And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty _____: I have _____ thee each _____ for a _____.* Numbers 14:34 *After the _____ of the _____ in which ye searched the land, even forty _____, each _____ for a _____, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty _____, and ye shall know my breach of promise.* **NOTE: These are the main texts that depict a “day” for a year in Bible prophecy. There are a number of other scriptures that bring out this basic premise, but these will suffice. How do we know that in Bible prophecy we should use the day-for-a-year principle? The above verses are basically mini-prophecies themselves. If you were to use the literal day calculation for time prophecies, they don't make any sense, but when you use the day-for-a-year principle, they find accurate fulfillment. Hence it becomes obvious this is the correct method to use.**

15.) In regards to the 7th characteristic above, how does “Time, Times and dividing of Time calculate out? A “Time” in Bible prophecy means a year. A prophetic “Time” or “Year” (in Jewish calendar) had 360 days. Therefore:

1 “Time” = 360 days

2 “Times” = 720 days

½ “Time” = 180 days

3 ½ “Times” = 1260 days (day for a year in Bible Prophecy) = 1260 years

NOTE: As this same Anti-Christ system is referred to throughout the book of Daniel and Revelation, this same time period of its duration is mentioned a number of times but in

three different ways. Let's look at these other ones:

Daniel 12: 7 "A Time, Times, and a Half a Time"

Rev. 11:2 "Forty and Two Months"

Rev. 11:3 "Twelve Hundred and Sixty Days"

Rev. 12:6 "Twelve Hundred and Sixty Days"

Rev. 12:14 "A Time, Times and Half a Time"

Rev. 13:5 "Forty and Two Months"

FURTHER NOTE: A prophetic "month" had 30 days according to a Jewish month. Therefore, forty-two months times [X] thirty days = 1260 days (years). This is the same prophetic time period as the "Time, Times, and dividing of Time." And of course, these are all talking about the same Anti-Christ power or system.

16.) The eighth characteristic is that it "would speak great words against the Most High." In other words, it would be a great blasphemous power. What are the two main definitions of blasphemy according to the Bible? Luke 5:21 *And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh _____? Who can _____ sins, but God alone?* **NOTE:** *One type of blasphemy is claiming the ability to forgive sins. Now Jesus could forgive sins because He was God!* Let's look at the second Biblical definition. John 10:33 *The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for _____; and because that thou, being a _____, makest thyself _____.* **FURTHER NOTE:** *Claiming to be God or in the place of God constitutes blasphemy. . . Let's put all this together now and make an irrefutable conclusion with all these clues that have been given to us from God's Word. What power that is a church/state came directly out of Rome, ruled for exactly 1260 years (in its first phase), relentlessly persecuted the people of God, would blaspheme God by claiming to be in the place of God, claim to be able to forgive people's sins, have a man at its head, located among the nations of western Europe, and when it first came into power would overthrow three nations?? If you follow strictly the Bible's account of all these traits and look at history YOU CAN ONLY COME TO ONE LOGICAL CONCLUSION; it is the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. Guess what? Practically all the Protestant Reformers without question identified the Roman Papal Church as the Biblical Anti-Christ. In part 2 we will look at some of their quotes. ** A special note before continuing on: this series of Bible studies – "Truth for the End Time Bible Studies" is in no way trying to be unkind or attack our Catholic friends as individuals. There are many wonderful people and even sincere Christians in the Catholic communion. We are addressing a system that is not biblical and have a duty to proclaim the truth and warning in Christian love. This is a Biblical mandate!*

So, what has happened now in modern Christianity that most Protestants don't consider the Roman Catholic Church the Anti-Christ power anymore?? Great changes have taken place within the past two centuries or so. Remember the 9th characteristic about this power would think to change "Times" and law? It did in an insidious way through scholarly Jesuits (to stem the tide of the Protestant movement) put forth alternative interpretations of Biblical Prophetic "Times" so that it would turn the

attention of the Protestant's view of the Roman Papacy to some other future Anti-Christ completely different from and away from itself. More about this later in [part 2 "Identifying the Real Anti-Christ of Bible Prophecy"].

Did the Roman Papacy attempt to change God's Law? Indeed, it did by trying to remove the 2nd Commandment about images (they venerate & bow down to many statues of Mary, the saints etc.) and changed the 4th commandment by changing the Sabbath on the 7th day to Sunday, the 1st day. They even claim responsibility of this in their own Catechism. Then because of the deletion of the 2nd law, this left them with 9 commandments so they split up the 10th to be able to have 10 commandments again.

Was it a persecuting force? Incredibly so!! With the force of the Catholic Inquisition, conservative estimates are about 50 million but possibly double that of faithful Christians who wouldn't disobey God's Word or follow pagan practices. They were put on the rack, tortured, placed in horrible dungeons and multitudes were burned alive at the stake!! All in the name of religion! Maybe it's one of the reasons why there are so many atheists and infidels today!

17.) What will eventually happen to this Anti-Christ power and to all who hold onto falsehood and disobey the God of heaven? Daniel 7:26 But the _____ shall sit, and they shall take away his _____, to consume and to _____ it unto the end. 27 And the _____ and dominion, and the _____ of the kingdom under the _____ heaven, shall be _____ to the people of the _____ of the most High, whose kingdom is an _____ kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and _____ him. NOTE: Good News friends!! A better world is coming! Keep in mind that this ch. 7 prophecy is merely an enlargement from the earlier Dan. Ch. 2 of the metal image. What happened after the feet of iron and clay? That big Stone came and struck the image, destroyed it, and then it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth! Jesus is coming again and He will set up an infinitely better world and government that is based on pure unselfish love! Do you desire to be ready for that glorious time? Make preparations for it starting now!

Brief Quiz

CIRCLE ONE

- 1.) True/False** – Over the course of Biblical world history, four great world kingdoms came on the scene each different from the other.
- 2.) True/False** – These were the same kingdoms that were outlined in the Daniel 2 image prophecy.
- 3.) True/False** – Wings represent cunning and deception.
- 4.) True/False** – The Anti-Christ is viciously and blatantly anti-Christian.
- 5.) True/False** – The "Little Horn" or Anti-Christ power claims to be in the place of God and also claims to be able to forgive people's sins.
- 6.) True/False** – This power would last for only 1,260 literal days.

7.) True/False – This Anti-Christ power was a persecutor of God’s faithful people.

8.) True/False – This power would also attempt to change God’s law.

My Response

This whole prophecy of Daniel 7 with each of the world kingdoms coming on the stage of history clearly point to the real identification of the Anti-Christ power. I want to continue to study Bible truth so I can be more fully prepared to resist deception before Jesus Christ comes to set up His Kingdom of Righteousness.

*Signed*_____