**The Book of Daniel**
**Chapters 7-12**

**Lesson 5**
*"The Lord changes the time and the epochs...
and gives wisdom to the wise."*

Chapter 7-12 Outline

1. The vision of four great beasts and their judgment and its interpretation

2. The vision of the ram, the goat, and the little horn and its interpretation

3. Daniel's prayer of repentance for Israel

4. Angels interpret Daniel's visions and explain the final conflict that will occur in heaven and on earth

The four beasts in chapter 7 symbolize the same kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar's Daniel Ch. 2 dream of the great statue

 Babylon

 Medo-Persia

 Greece

 Rome and its ten toes

v. 19 Daniel was most interested in the fourth beast

The nature of the beast: 10 horns; a single prominent horn; three fallen horns

v. 20 The horn makes war with the saints and prevails

v. 25; The little horn "wears the saints out"

How Satan and the spirit of the antichrist wars on the saints and "wears them out." By:

  1. Accusing us of real or imagined unholiness

2. Relentlessly tempting us

3. Whispering accusations against us and our family and friends to us

4. Encouraging fear, anxiety, resentment, self-pity, depression, despair

5. Spreading "doctrines of demons"

6. Trying to separate us from our good relationships *(Christian friends, church, family)*

7. Driving us to give up, lose our passion for the Lord, His people, His service

8. Trying to convince us that we have little to offer to others

How we overcome Satan and the spirit of the antichrist:

Eph. 6:10-11; 13

*Be strong* in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil’s schemes...Therefore *take up* the full armor of God, so that

when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and having done everything, to stand.

There are six parts to the armor:

  Three parts of the armor we "have on"; three we must "take up":

  We have "already" braced our mind with the belt of *Truth*

  We have put on the breastplate of Christ's *Righteousness*

  We have put shoes on our feet with the gospel of *Peace*

 We must actively take up the shield of *Faith*

  We must put on the helmet of helmet of *Salvation* *(to "save, "protect our head, mind)*

  We must take up the sword of the *Word of God*

The fourth beast

 10 kings and kingdoms

 3 are overpowered by the boastful "little horn"

The beast makes war on the saints and "prevails" *(temporarily)*

When the Ancient of Days comes *(and his Son),* judgment is given for the saints against the little

horn

Then the saints are given "the kingdom"

The fourth evil kingdom devours the whole earth. It seeks to change the times and the law

The Romans changed the Jewish calendar and law to the Gregorian calendar and Roman law

Islam has also changed the calendar and law to "Anno Hijra "and Sharia law

Nov. 15, 2020 AD is Cheshvan 28, 5751 on the Jewish calendar

 Nov. 15, 2020 AD is 28 Rabi ul Awal, 1442 on the Islamic calendar

The saints are overcome for *3½ years--* this favors an end-times antichrist reference

Rev. 11:2

"But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Do not measure it, because it has been given

over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for 42 months. And I will empower

my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”

v. 26-27 The little horn's dominion shall be taken away and destroyed

The Lord will then set up an earthly kingdom including the kingdoms existing at the time of

the end and give this everlasting kingdom to the saints

The remaining Gentile kingdoms will serve and obey the Lord in the Millennium

Zech. 14:9; 16

9 On that day the LORD will become King over all the earth—the LORD alone, and His name

alone…16 Then all the survivors from the nations that came against Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Micah 4:1-3

And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the Lord will be

established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills and the peoples

will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up the mountain of

the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways."

Isaiah 11:9

"They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, 'For the earth will be full of the

knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.'"

Daniel Chapter 8

v.1 Third year of Belshazzar (553 BC)

v. 2 In the vision "I was in Susa," the capital of Persia

v. 3 Daniel has a vision of a ram with two horns, one higher; and of a goat

 v. 4 The ram charged westward, northward and southward *(it came from the east)*

 The ram represented the Medo-Persian empire that was going to soon conquer Daniel's

Babylonian empire

The Medo-Persian empire has also been represented by the *chest and arms of silver* in Nebuchadnezzar's statue vision

 And also by the *bear*, the second beast, in Daniel's chapter 7 vision

v. 5-7 A male goat came from the west with a big horn

 The goat attacked the ram and overcame him

 The goat represented Greece with Alexander the Great as the horn

Why the wrath of the goat?

 Persia had invaded Greece under Darius I and Xerxes' reigns

 But was defeated at the battles of Marathon and Salamis

Greece was represented by the abdomen and thighs of bronze in Nebuchadnezzar's statue vision--and also by the leopard in Daniel's chapter 7 vision

The goat *(Greece and Alexander)* conquered Asia Minor, the Mideast, Egypt and Persia in

a mere 12 years

 Alexander did this between the age of 20-32

 He was tutored by Aristotle

 He died in Babylon, in Nebuchadnezzar's palace!

v. 8 The horn on the goat was broken *(Alexander died)* and four new horns appeared

 Alexander's newborn son and Alexander's half-brother temporarily took over the

empire

 But four generals wrestled power from them *(and killed them)*

 Initially four, then three kingdoms resulted the kingdoms of Antigone / Seleucid /

Ptolemy

The relevance to Daniel and Israel:

 In the book of Daniel the kings descending from Ptolemy I are referred to as the

 "kings of the south"

 The kings descending from Seleucus I are referred to as the "kings of the north"

Rulers of these two empires fought for over a century to control Palestine (323 – 164 BC)

v. 9 Another little horn arose and went toward the south, east, and the "glorious Land"

Two interpretations:

First *(favored):* this little horn is a seventh-generation descendant of the first Seleucid

ruler, Seleucus I Nicator (312 – 281 BC)

 He is Antiochus Epiphanes IV (170 – 164 BC)

This horn was different than the Daniel 7:8 little horn *(the end time antichrist)*

This little horn comes out of the "four horns," not the "ten horns,"

 That is, it comes out of the Seleucid kingdom, one of the four kingdoms that followed

Alexander the Great

And comes out of the leopard, the goat, and the bronze thighs in the previous visions and dreams — not from the fourth beast (Rome)

Both little horns hate God, the Jews, and the temple

Dan. 8:11-14

It magnified itself, even to the Prince of the host; it removed His daily sacrifice and overthrew the place of His sanctuary. And in the rebellion, the host and the daily sacrifice were given over to the horn, and it flung truth to the ground and prospered in whatever it did. Then I heard

a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, “How long until the fulfillment of the vision of the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of

the sanctuary and of the host to be trampled?” He said to me, “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be properly restored.”

A second interpretation *(less likely):* that this little horn will be the end times antichrist

 v. 10 It grew great, even to the host of heaven, and some of the host and some of the

 stars it threw down.

 v. 11 It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host.

 v. 17 O son of man, the vision is for the time of the end

 v. 25-26 and he shall be broken but by no human hand…seal up the vision, for it refers

 to many days from now.

The vision is best fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes IV 170-164 BC

According to I and II Maccabees *(in the Catholic canon: and in the "Apocrypha" of Protestant Bibles)*

  After successfully invading the Ptolemaic kingdom of Egypt, Antiochus IV captured

 Jerusalem and removed the sacred objects from the temple in Jerusalem

Antiochus suppressed public observance of Jewish laws to secure control over the Jews

He slaughtering thousands

Antiochus established rites of pagan observance in the temple, and sacrificing an

 unclean animal on the altar in the Holy of Holies

Antiochus forbid both circumcision and possession of Jewish scriptures on pain of death

A Jewish patriot named Mattathias called upon people loyal to the traditions of Israel to oppose

 Antiochus

Mattathias and his five sons begin a military campaign against their Seleucid oppressors

In the Maccabean revolt

In 165 BC the temple was freed and re-consecrated, so that ritual sacrifices began again

The festival of Hanukkah was instituted by Judas Maccabeus and his brothers *(sons of*

*Mattathias)* to celebrate this event

  Hanukkah this year is December 10 – 18, 2020

v. 11 The regular burnt offering was taken away and the place of His sanctuary was overthrown

v. 13-14 How long? 2300 days *(6 years) --*Antiochus Epiphanes IV's reign over Israel was from

170 to 164 BC, about six years

"Then shall the sanctuary be cleansed"

v. 15 An angel again interpreted the dream for Daniel

v. 17 The vision was for the end (*the coming of the messiah --the "only," first coming)*

v. 20-22 Gabriel explained that the ram was Medo-Persia and the goat Greece

He explained that the single horn on the goat was Alexander the Great

He explained that the four horns that come up after were the four subsequent Greek kingdoms

Daniel 7:22-23

The four horns that replaced the broken one represent four kingdoms that will rise from that

nation but will not have the same power. In the latter part of their reign, when the rebellion has

reached its full measure, an insolent king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne.

v.24 At the latter end of *their kingdom*  *(the Greek four empire rule)* Antiochus makes the scene

His power is great *(but not his own— it is Satanic)*

He will destroy many mighty men and saints

v. 25 He used deceit and cunning. He shall even rose up against the Prince of princes, and he

shall be broken, but by no human hand .

Antiochus Epiphanes died in 164 BC in Persian of disease while fighting the Parthians

In the books of I and II Maccabees, and according to historians Polybius and Josephus:

*"God struck him with a noisome disease, attended with horrible torments both of body and mind...he died in a state of madness, from the apparitions and reproaches of specters and evil spirits."*

v. 27 Daniel was overcome and became sick

He was appalled by the vision and "did not understand it."

Daniel kept faithfully working despite his physical and spiritual anguish