

## The End Times According to Grace Daniel's 69 Weeks

### Upcoming Lessons

The Rapture: Our Blessed Hope  
Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week: The Final Seven Years  
The Millennial Reign, The Great White Throne, and A New Heaven and Earth

## Visions and Dreams: Daniel's 69 Weeks

### A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF BIBLE HISTORY

- I. **God's prophesies of a coming Savior (Seed) at the fall of man.**  
*Genesis 3:15 NASB*  
*And I will put enmity  
Between you (Satan) and the woman,  
And between your seed and her seed (the Promised Savior);  
He (the Promised Seed) shall bruise you (Satan) on the head,  
And you shall bruise him (Jesus) on the heel."*
- II. **God's Covenant with Abraham is an everlasting covenant.**  
*Genesis 17:7 NASB*  
*I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.*
- III. **The Law was added until The Seed should come.**  
*Galatians 3:16-19 NASB*  
*Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. <sup>17</sup> What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. <sup>19</sup> **Why the Law then?** It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until the seed would come** to whom the promise had been made.*
- IV. **While it is foretold that God would minister to the Gentiles, the concept of the Church and the Church Age was not specifically mentioned prior to the coming of Christ.**  
*Isaiah 42:6-7 NKVV*  
*"I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness,  
And will hold Your hand;  
I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people,  
**As a light to the Gentiles,**  
<sup>6</sup> To open blind eyes,  
To bring out prisoners from the prison,  
Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.  
*Isaiah 49:5-6 NKVV*  
*And now the LORD says— He who formed me in the womb to be His servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength. He says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. **I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.**"**

**Luke 2:29-32 NKJV**

*(Simeon speaking) "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,  
According to Your word;*

*<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation*

*<sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,*

*<sup>32</sup> **A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,***

*And the glory of Your people Israel."*

*The Church is not a subject of prophecy but of Revelation. The burden of prophecy is the Jews, Palestine, Jerusalem, and the Messiah. -Clarence Larkin, The Book of Daniel*

- V. **The Church Age is the "gap" (interval of time) between Daniels 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week. During this time, God fulfills his promise to be a "light to the Gentiles".**

**2 Peter 3:9**

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

- VI. **End time prophecy is predominantly concerning Israel and Jesus.**

*Because Western culture is the only world that most Westerners know, as we turn to the Bible and read the end-time prophetic passages, many make the mistake of reading their own worldview and personal experiences into its pages. The problem with this, of course, is that the Bible is and always has been a thoroughly Jerusalem-, Israel-, and Middle Eastern-centric book. As we will see, biblical prophecy tells a very Jerusalem-centered story. Jerusalem is the city around which the entire story of the return of Jesus revolves. This is the city from which Jesus will literally rule the earth after His return. This fact must not be missed. -Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Antichrist*<sup>1</sup>*

- VII. **All believers in Jesus, the Church, are promised to escape the judgement and the wrath of God which is to come.**

**John 5:24 NKJV**

*(Jesus said) "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."*

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 NKJV**

*For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, **even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.***

- VIII. **While God will judge those who refuse to believe in Jesus, during this Church Age there is an amazing dispensation of grace extended to all people so that they have an opportunity to repent (of not believing).**

**2 Peter 3:9**

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

**1 John 2:2**

*And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Now then, we are*

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<sup>1</sup> In referencing this book, we are not endorsing the idea of an Islamic antichrist.

*ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

**IX. While generally this grace is extended to all during this time of grace, there are some notable exceptions which leads us to conclude that at God's discretion, He will judge individual non-believers.**

**A. God judged Herod for accepting worship as God.**

*Acts 12:21-23 NKJV*

*So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them.*

*<sup>22</sup> And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" <sup>23</sup> Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.*

**B. God judged imposters existing among the church with sickness and death. Or, one might argue, they opened themselves up to this outcome. These were not believers.**

**1. Ananias and Sapphira**

*Acts 5:1, 3, 5*

*But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. (Notice he was referred to as "a man". Usually, in the book of Acts believers are identified as such.)*

*<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? (Yes, why indeed? Jesus said we would know a tree by its fruit.)*

*<sup>5</sup> Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. (If Ananias were a believer, God would have dealt differently with him using the form of correction, not death. If he were a believer, he would not have done such a thing.)*

**2. Those who took of the Lord's supper in a "unworthy manner".**

We conclude that Christians are known by their fruit. What Christian would turn the Lord's supper into an unloving event when the poor are ignored and left without food while they eat and get drunk? Taking communion in an unworthy manner is to ignore the purpose of the Lord's supper which is to remember Him and His sacrifice and to show disdain for the brethren. Jesus said, "By this shall all know that you are my disciples that you have love for one another." John wrote, "He who doesn't love does not know God for God is love."

**X. After the Church age (dispensation of grace), those who have refused to believe in Jesus will be punished, both for not believing and for their sins.**

*John 3:17-21*

*(Jesus said), "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

*John 8:24 YLT*

*I said, therefore, to you, that ye shall die in your sins, for if ye may not believe that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins.*

**XI. Daniel's visions, The Olivet Discourse and much of the Book of Revelation are prophecies to the Jewish people. Daniel's visions detail Gentile history ONLY in relation to Israel, this is why not every nation is mentioned, for example, China, South America, The U.S.A., Australia, and India.**

*Of Daniel himself we know more than of any of the other prophets. He was of the Tribe of Judah, and of noble, if not royal, blood. He was carried captive from Jerusalem in the third year of Jehoiakim, B. C. 606, in the first invasion of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar. He was probably twenty years of age when he was taken to Babylon, and in a short time he rose to a very high position in the Empire, which he held during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. At his (Nebuchadnezzar's) death Daniel went into retirement and is not heard of again until he was summoned to pronounce the doom of Belshazzar. He lived through the whole period of the "Seventy Years Captivity," and became the "Chief President" over the 120 Princes of the Kingdom, under Darius the Median, when he was at least ninety years old. He is the only spotless character in the Bible outside of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is not one flaw to be found in his character. He was a man "greatly beloved" of God. He associated with kings and politicians. He led a public life. He held office, yet his character was never impeached. He talked with angels. The Lord Himself appeared unto him, and he had visions of God. -Clarence Larkin, The Book of Daniel*

*Daniel's visions detail the rise of the rule of the Gentiles, after the fall of the Jews, beginning with the first world ruler, Nebuchadnezzar, and ending the times of the Gentiles with the return of Jesus as the king of kings and Lord of lords. -Clarence Larkin, The Book of Daniel*

*The "Times of the Gentiles" began when God transferred earthly rule from the Kings of Israel to the Gentile king Nebuchadnezzar, and they will continue until Israel again becomes the "Head of the Nations." Daniel is distinctly the Prophet of the "Times of the Gentiles." His vision sweeps the whole course of Gentile World Rule until the setting up of the Messianic or Millennial Kingdom of Christ. -Clarence Larkin, The Book of Daniel*

*In the Golden Headed Image of Nebuchadnezzar's "Dream" we have a "Visualized Portraiture" of the "Times of the Gentiles." The phrase "The Times of the Gentiles" is not found in the Book of Daniel, but is a New Testament phrase used by the Lord. It was used by Him in His "Olivet Discourse" in reference to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, where He said—"And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the TIMES OF THE GENTILES' be fulfilled." Luke 21:24. In the phrase, "The Times of the Gentiles," Jesus had reference to a "PERIOD OF TIME" of certain chronological limits, that corresponds to the time that the Jewish Nation shall be without a king. -Clarence Larkin, The Book of Daniel*

## THE 70 WEEKS

### *Daniel 9:24-25*

*"Seventy weeks are determined  
For your people and for your holy city,  
To finish the transgression,  
To make an end of sins,  
To make reconciliation for iniquity,  
To bring in everlasting righteousness,  
To seal up vision and prophecy,  
And to anoint the Most Holy.  
<sup>25</sup> "Know therefore and understand,  
That from the going forth of the command  
To restore and build Jerusalem  
Until Messiah the Prince,  
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;  
The street shall be built again, and the wall,  
Even in troublesome times.*

*Daniel 12:4*

*“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”*

*Daniel 12:9*

*And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*

*<sup>10</sup> Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.*

**XII. God’s Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream by Daniel**

*Upon the threat of death, Nebuchadnezzar demanded that his wise men reveal not only the interpretation of his dream but the dream itself. No one was able, so the king decreed that all the wise men should be slain. When Daniel heard of this, he and his companions prayed and God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel*

**Daniel 2:28**

*The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?”*

*<sup>27</sup> Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. <sup>28</sup> **But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.***

**XIII. Daniel interprets the dream as four world powers that were to come which were not named in the dream, but which were later named to Daniel in his visions.**

**Daniel 31-45**

*“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. <sup>32</sup> This image’s head was of fine **gold**, its chest and arms of **silver**, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of **iron**, its feet **partly of iron and partly of clay**.*

*<sup>34</sup> You watched **while a stone was cut out without hands**, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. **And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.***

*<sup>36</sup> “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. <sup>37</sup> You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; <sup>38</sup> and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—**you are this head of gold**. <sup>39</sup> But after you shall arise **another kingdom inferior to yours**; then another, **a third kingdom of bronze**, which shall rule over all the earth. <sup>40</sup> **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.** <sup>41</sup> Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. <sup>42</sup> **And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.** <sup>43</sup> As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. <sup>44</sup> **And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall***

*break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.* <sup>45</sup> *Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”*

#### XIV. Daniel’s Vision of the 70 Weeks

- A. Sixty years later, God spoke more detail about the coming kingdoms in visions.
- B. Although the names of three of the kingdoms are not named until Daniel’s second vision there are Babylon (gold), Medo-Persia (silver), Greece (bronze). The fourth kingdom is traditionally thought to be Rome. (Some argue that it is Islam.)

*The opening words of this chapter take us back to the first year of Belshazzar's reign, the date of which is uncertain. In all probability he was not associated with his father as King of Babylon over three years, and as he was slain in B. C. 538, the first year of his reign would have been the year B. C. 541, at which time Daniel would have been about eighty-five years old. The date then of the Visions of this chapter must have been sixty-two years after Nebuchadnezzar had his "Dream" of the "Golden Headed Image." Larkin, Clarence*

*We are now ready to study the meaning of the "Four Beasts" that Daniel saw in his "Vision." As we proceed we shall find that they correspond with the "Four Metals" of the "Image" that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his "Dream." Why, you ask, should there be a repetition of the same revelation? The answer is, that men and God see the nations from a different standpoint. Man sees in them the concentration of wealth, majesty, and power, as seen in the "Golden Headed Image." God sees them as a set of RAPACIOUS WILD BEASTS DEVOURING ONE ANOTHER. Larkin, Clarence*

*Then this Vision of the "Wild Beasts" was given to Daniel that he might have additional light on the "Times of the Gentiles." Larkin, Clarence*

#### Daniel 7:1-14 (The Vision)

**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.

<sup>2</sup>Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.<sup>3</sup> And **four great beasts** came up from the sea, each different from the other.<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup>“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!’

<sup>6</sup>“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.

<sup>7</sup>“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**.<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup>“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;

<sup>10</sup> 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.**

<sup>11</sup> “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. <sup>12</sup> As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

<sup>13</sup> “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.**

<sup>14</sup> 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.**

#### **Daniel 7:15-27 (The Vision Explained)**

<sup>15</sup> “I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. <sup>16</sup>

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: <sup>17</sup> ‘Those great beasts, which are four, are **four kings which arise out of the earth.** <sup>18</sup>

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

<sup>19</sup> “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; <sup>20</sup> **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.

<sup>21</sup> “I was watching; and **the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,** <sup>22</sup> **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.**

<sup>23</sup> “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.**

<sup>24</sup> 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.**

<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> ‘But the court shall be seated,

And they shall take away his dominion,  
To consume and destroy it forever.

<sup>27</sup> 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.’**

## **XV. Daniel’s Second Vision**

**A. Soon after Daniel’s first vision, God spoke to him in more detail about the coming kingdoms in a dream and visions and this time named names. The detail and accuracy of**

**this vision have led some to believe that it was written after these things happened, but there is no evidence for that.**

*The deterioration of the "Times of the Gentiles" is seen in the DIMINISHING VALUE OF THE METALS from gold, to silver, to brass, to iron, to iron and clay. Whereas if the world is growing better the metals should have been in reverse order. The weight of the Image also declines. The specific gravity of gold is 19: 5, of silver 10: 47, of brass 8, of cast-iron 5, of clay 1: 93. The "Image" is TOP-HEAVY. From this we see that Gentile dominion is represented by a huge "METALLIC MAN" that degenerates in character from head to foot. Larkin, Clarence*

### **Daniel 8:1-14 (The Vision)**

**In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar** a vision appeared *to me*—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.<sup>2</sup> I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I *was* in Shushan, the citadel, which *is* in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.<sup>3</sup> Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was **a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.**<sup>4</sup> I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor *was there any* that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.

<sup>5</sup>And as I was considering, suddenly a **male goat came from the west**, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat *had* a **notable horn between his eyes.**<sup>6</sup> Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.<sup>7</sup> And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, **attacked the ram, and broke his two horns.** There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore the **male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.**<sup>2 9</sup> And out of one of them came a **little horn** which grew exceedingly

great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious *Land*.<sup>10</sup> And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down *some* of the host and *some* of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.<sup>11</sup> **He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away**, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.<sup>12</sup> Because of transgression, an army was given over *to the horn* to oppose the daily *sacrifices*; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did *all this* and prospered.

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain *one* who was speaking, **“How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?”**

<sup>14</sup>And he said to me, **“For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”**

### **Daniel 8:15-27 (The Vision Interpreted)**

Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.<sup>16</sup> And I heard a man’s voice between *the banks of* the Ulai, who called, and said, **“Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.”**<sup>17</sup> So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, **“Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.”**

<sup>2</sup> This refers to Alexander the Great who quickly subdued the Medo-Persian Empire, but died young. His kingdom was divided among four princes, the “notable ones”.

<sup>18</sup> Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. <sup>19</sup> And he said, “Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be. <sup>20</sup> The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. <sup>21</sup> And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. <sup>22</sup> As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

<sup>23</sup> “And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness,

**A king shall arise,  
Having fierce features,  
Who understands sinister schemes.**

<sup>24</sup> His power shall be mighty, but not by

**his own power;  
He shall destroy fearfully,  
And shall prosper and thrive;  
He shall destroy the mighty, and also the  
holy people.**

<sup>25</sup> “Through his cunning

He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;  
And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart.

He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity.

**He shall even rise against the Prince of  
princes;**

**But he shall be broken  
without human means.**

<sup>26</sup> “And the vision of the evenings and mornings  
Which was told is true;

**Therefore seal up the vision,  
For it refers to many days in the future.”**

<sup>27</sup> And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king’s business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.

## XVI. Historic Fulfillment

<sup>3</sup>As the four beasts are revealed, they perfectly parallel the four kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

- **A WINGED LION**

The first beast “was like a lion and had eagles’ wings. Then as I looked,” Daniel wrote, “its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it” (Daniel 7:4). Many commentators view the lion as an appropriate symbol for Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar himself was referred to by the prophet Jeremiah as a “lion from the thickets of the Jordan” (Jeremiah 49:19). More than 120 lions, fashioned out of colorful glazed ceramic brick, decorated the “Processional Way” of the ancient capital city of Babylon. The Processional Way was a walled road leading out of the city through the Ishtar Gate. Ishtar, a Mesopotamian goddess, worshipped both by the Assyrians and the Babylonians, was represented by a lion. The winged lion, then, would correspond to the head of gold in Daniel 2. The comment “and a man’s heart was given to it” is often understood to refer to the humbling of King Nebuchadnezzar as recounted in Daniel 4.

- **A LOPSIDED BEAR**

The next kingdom to emerge is portrayed through the symbolism of a lop-sided bear: “And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’” (Daniel 7:5). The lopsided bear represents the Medo-Persian Empire, of which the Persian portion was much stronger than the Median portion. Commentators both

<sup>3</sup> From Richardson, Joel (2012-06-08). *Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic*

*Antichrist* (pp. 81-82). Joel Richardson. Kindle Edition.

ancient and modern see the three ribs in the bear’s mouth as symbolic of the three provinces of Media, Persia, and Babylon. Jerome, in the late fourth century, wrote, “Therefore the three rows in the mouth of the Persian kingdom of the Babylonians, the Medes and the Persians, all of which were reduced to a single realm.”

- **A FOUR-HEADED LEOPARD**

The third beast to emerge is a four-headed leopard: “After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it” (Daniel 7:6). Nearly as quickly as Alexander the Great conquered the Middle East, his life came to an end in 323 BC. After his death, Alexander’s vast empire was divided up by his generals, friends, and family. What ensued were roughly fifty years of wars between these various successors, known as the Diadochi. By the third century, Alexander’s kingdom was largely controlled by four dynasties. These four divisions were: the Ptolemaic dynasty ruling over Egypt the Seleucid dynasty ruling over the region extending from modern-day Turkey to Afghanistan and Pakistan the Lysimachean dynasty ruling over the modern region of Bulgaria the Cassandrian dynasty ruling over the region of Macedonia or modern-day Greece.”

**XVII. It is not revealed to Daniel the empire represented by the fourth beast. There are two main views as to what nation the fourth beast refers: Rome and Islam. Following are arguments for both.**

ROME	ISLAM
<p><i>The "Image" symbolizes the four great World Empires in their UNITY and HISTORICAL SUCCESSION. There are to be four, and only four, great World Empires on the earth from the accession of Nebuchadnezzar to the throne of Babylon, to the Second Coming of Christ. They are represented by the four metals of the Image. Larkin, Clarence</i></p> <p><i>The Fourth Empire, the ROMAN, is not named in the Book of Daniel, but it is pointed out. In Daniel's Vision of the "Seventy Weeks," Dan 9: 26, we read, that after the "cutting off" (Crucifixion) of the "Messiah the Prince" (Christ), Jerusalem and the Temple were to be destroyed by a PEOPLE, from whom later should come a "Prince," whom we shall see will be the ANTICHRIST. Now we know that Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans in A. D. 70, and that Antichrist is to be the last Emperor of the Roman Empire, and as Antichrist is the "LITTLE HORN" of the "Fourth Wild Beast,"</i></p>	<p><i>THE RISE OF THE FOURTH KINGDOM The first problem with the Roman identification of the fourth kingdom is that the Roman Empire does not meet the specific criterion of Daniel 2:40. This verse, speaking of the nature of the rise of the fourth kingdom, says that when it emerged, it would crush all three of the other kingdoms: "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron ... and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others" (NKJV). Later in Daniel 7, speaking of this same empire, we find a very similar description: "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces'" (v. 23). Richardson, Joel (2012-06-08). <i>Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Antichrist</i> (pp. 57-58). Joel Richardson. Kindle Edition.</i></p> <p><i>The first meaning of the word crush refers simply to geography. By examining the maps at the end of this chapter, it is clear that the Roman Empire only conquered roughly one-third of the regions controlled by Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. About two-thirds of the regions controlled by these empires were left entirely untouched by Rome. In fact, the Roman Empire never even reached the two Persian capital cities of Ecbatana and Persepolis. Richardson, Joel (2012-06-08). <i>Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Antichrist</i> (p. 58). Joel Richardson. Kindle Edition</i></p> <p><i>If we are to be honest, to say the Roman Empire fulfilled Daniel 2:40 would be a stretch at best. On the other hand, the historical</i></p>

that corresponds to the "Iron" of the Image, then the "Fourth Empire" is the "Roman." Larkin, Clarence

There are three things that we are to note about the "Fourth Empire." First, as represented by the legs, it takes up in length at least half of the Image, and therefore in proportion the Roman Empire was to last longer than the other Empires. This we know from history to be true. Second, the Image is divided into "two legs," this would imply that the Roman Empire would be divided into TWO PARTS. This we also know to be true, for the Roman Empire was divided into its "Eastern Division" with Constantinople as the Capital, and its "Western Division" with Rome as the Capital, in A. D. 364. Third, the two feet of the "Image" are divided into "five toes" each. These "TEN TOES" have not as yet manifested themselves, so the historical fulfilment of the Image is not yet complete. From what has been said we see that the First Empire was a UNIT, the Second DUAL, the Third became QUADRUPLE, and the Fourth, in its final form, will be TEN-TOED. While the Roman Empire, as a visible Empire, does not exist today, yet its laws, etc., are a controlling power among the nations, and the Empire in a visible form is to be revived, and in its revived and last form it will consist of "Ten Federated Kingdoms," represented by the "Ten Toes" of the Image, at the head of which shall be the last Roman Emperor and Gentile Ruler, the ANTICHRIST. Larkin, Clarence

Islamic Caliphate fully, absolutely, completely conquered all the lands of the others. Richardson, Joel (2012-06-08). Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Antichrist (p. 59). Joel Richardson. Kindle Edition.

THE ISLAMIC CALIPHATE: In contrast to the Roman Empire, the Islamic Caliphate from its inception was an Arab-Islamic-supremacist force that crushed and erased the cultures and religions of the peoples it conquered. This is due to the uniquely all-encompassing ideology of Islam, which includes every facet of life. Islam has rules and commandments that pertain to far more than just theology. It also dictates law, government, language, military, and even the sexual and hygienic practices of those under its authority. The very name Islam means "submission" to the laws of Allah, the Muslims' god, as well as the practices of Muhammad, their prophet. Richardson, Joel (2012-06-08). Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Antichrist (p. 61). Joel Richardson. Kindle Edition.

Wherever Islam has spread, the conquered culture is gradually erased, the symbols and evidences of that former culture destroyed. The religion of the subjugated peoples is most particularly targeted. This is Islam's heritage, the perfect fulfillment of the criterion of Daniel 2:40. Islam is a crushing power, that "tramples the residue with its feet." Richardson, Joel (2012-06-08). Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Antichrist (p. 63). Joel Richardson. Kindle Edition.

Exactly as the prophecy declared, Babylon did fall to the Medo-Persian Empire. Later, the Medo-Persian Empire was also conquered by the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great. Medo-Persia and Greece were very similar in the scope and regions they controlled. They both very clearly succeeded Nebuchadnezzar. But in the midst of Alexander's conquest of the region, he died prematurely, leaving his empire to be quartered out among his generals or successors. This fourfold division of the Alexandrian Greek Empire is discussed in great detail in Daniel 8 and 11. The most significant of these divisions was the Seleucid dynasty, which came to rule over much of the Middle East, from modern-day Turkey all the way to Pakistan and Afghanistan. But eventually the Seleucid dynasty also saw its power wane, signaling the final decline of Greek Hellenistic dominion over the Middle East. Richardson, Joel (2012-06-08). Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Antichrist (p. 65). Joel Richardson. Kindle Edition.

### **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> **For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.** <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> **Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

### **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**

And how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, **that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:19**

For who is **our hope or joy or crown of exultation?** Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

### **1 Thessalonians 3:12-13**

And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; <sup>13</sup> so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father **at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For **you yourselves** know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While **they** are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon **them** suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and **they** will not escape. <sup>4</sup> **But you,** brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for **you are all sons of light and sons of day.** We are not of night nor of darkness; <sup>6</sup> so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> **For God has not destined us for wrath, but for**

obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> **Therefore encourage one another and build up one another**, just as you also are doing.

**2 Thessalonians 2:7-11**

And to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, <sup>8</sup> dealing out retribution to **those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** <sup>9</sup> **These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,** <sup>10</sup> when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

Now, brethren, concerning the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ **and our gathering together to Him**, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not 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.

**2 Thessalonians 3:3**

But the Lord is faithful, **and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.**

**Titus 2:13**

**Looking for the blessed hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,