

Lesson 16

Four Great Empires of Man

In review of Lesson 15, God tells us through his prophet Daniel, that there will be four great human empires.

The First Empire

The Babylonian Empire, we know from history was established around 605 BC and is conquered by the Persians in 539 BC. The Babylonian Empire therefore only lasts 66 years. Do not confuse this with the City State of Babylon, this was a regional power, that had existed as such for hundreds of years, but when Nebuchadnezzar became king, he set out to conquer the entire known world, and in fact he did.

The Second Empire

The Persian Empire, was the second great empire of Man, and from history we know that it is established with the conquest of the Babylonian Empire in 539 BC and continues on until it is in turn conquered by the Greeks in 331 BC. The Persian Empire therefore lasts for 208 years.

With this knowledge of the first two empires, we can extrapolate from history what the next two empires will be.

The Third Empire

The Greek Empire, is the third great empire of Man, and from history we know that it was established when Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire in 331 BC, and continues for 163 years when it is overrun by the Roman Empire in 168 BC.

The Fourth Empire

The Roman Empire, is established in 168 BC and though it is never conquered it falls apart from bureaucratic corruption. We also know from history that the Roman Empire split into two halves, the Eastern Roman Empire and the Western Roman Empire, then in 476 AD when the city of Rome was sacked and the Imperial government was decimated, the Western Roman Empire is said to have come to an end.

When Daniel receives the visions of prophecy, God gives this information not as history already lived to be looked back at as we can do, but as history yet to be realized.

Remember: God revealed these four empires to Daniel during his life from about 600 BC to 550 BC. By having Daniel write down these prophecies God thus told us of future events, hundreds and thousands of years before they actually happened. I ask you, who but the Creator God could foretell events so far in advance?

Chart of the Four Empires

The following is a chart to help you to see the sequence of Kingdoms spoke of in King Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the Statue and the Metals attributed to each Empire of Man.

Verse in Daniel	Empire	Metal identifier	Beginning and Ending Dates	Years
2:32	Babylon	Head of Gold	605 BC - 539 BC	66
2:32	Mede Persia	Chest of Silver	539 BC – 331 BC	208
2:32	Greece	Belly & Thighs of Brass	331 BC – 168 BC	163
2:33	Rome	Legs of Iron	168 BC – 476 AD	644
2:33	Ten Nations	Feet of Iron and Clay	476 AD - Present	1539 Plus

Only One God

Why did God tell us of future events in human history?

There is only one God, and in these prophecies of future empires, God gives proof that he is the God of Creation. Who else but the God of Creation has the ability to see into the future with 100% accuracy? No human being has the ability to see even one day into the future with any kind of real vision, unless that human is given his visions from God first.

This showing of future events, tells me that God is making it clear to all who are not blind, that he God is real, that he God does exist, and that he God is actively involved in giving truths to offset Satan's lies. This is also a sign of proof that God is the author of the books of the Bible, and that those men who penned the words, where conduits of God's words to the pages in the books. Those who penned the words are not those who spoke the words. The definition of a *Prophet of God* is, one through whom God speaks.

In continuing God's lessons, I do not want to dwell long in the chapters of the Book of Daniel that do not have a direct bearing on the identity of the anti-Christ, but I do encourage you to read and understand them.

Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Idol

Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Daniel 3:1

Even though King Nebuchadnezzar has been shown that the God of Creation is the only true God, by Daniel's knowledge of the Kings dream, and his interpretation thereof, the King continues to worship his own pagan gods. Even though the King has been shown by Daniel that he Nebuchadnezzar is the King, because God made him the king, and that he sits on the throne of a mighty empire, by the pleasure of God, the king still denies God and because of his own vanity and conceit considers that all he has accomplished, is by his own hand and power, and has nothing to do with the will of any god.

A Dedication Attendance is Commanded

*Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasures, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. **Daniel 3:2***

Now that this great golden statue has been completed, the king calls on all of the rulers of the Babylonian Empire to be present at the statues dedication. I suggest that the king got the idea for the statue from the multi-metal statue from his dream.

All Required to Give Worship to the Statue

*Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then an herald cried aloud, "To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: **Daniel 3:3-5***

Twenty three years have passed since the King had the dream concerning the multi-metal statue. From this the King had been witness to many of God's miracles, such as would have convinced most that the unseen living God was real and had power over the Earth, but Nebuchadnezzar in his arrogance and disbelief constructed a great statue made of gold, then commanded that all his government officials were to bow down and give worship to this golden statue.

Penalty for not giving worship

*And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. **Daniel 3:6-7***

Such a strong penalty would cause anyone who did not know the Living God, to fall down and give worship to this statue made of gold by the hands of human craftsmen.

The Accusers of the Jews

*Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever. Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image: Also whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. **Daniel 3:8-12***

Nebuchadnezzar has constructed a statue of Gold that he then orders all to worship. The three companions of Daniel; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who like Daniel were also Hebrew slaves, refused to bow down and worship this false god. The Bible does not tell us where Daniel is during this; therefore he does not seem to be involved directly.

The Kings Wrath

*Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Then Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?" **Daniel 3:13-14***

Remember: Nebuchadnezzar is the King of the Babylonian Empire, his word is law, and so when he tells you to bow down and give worship to a statue, it is required of you to do so, failure to do so amounts to the same thing as treason against the king.

God's First Commandment states that we are to put no other god before the Creator God. As righteous observers of God's Law, the three companions had to choose, keep the Commandment of God or give obedience to the King and give worship to a Graven Image and an Idol.

Proof of Loyalty Offered

*Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?" **Daniel 3:15***

This is not just an offer of giving the three companions of Daniel a chance to prove they are loyal to the king, but it is also a challenge against the God of Creation. Nebuchadnezzar is challenging God to once more prove his power to save these three who give worship to him.

A Declaration of Faith

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. **Daniel 3:16-18***

Even though King Nebuchadnezzar has been shown that the God of Creation is the only true God, by Daniel's knowledge of the Kings dream, and his interpretation thereof, the King continues to worship his own pagan gods. Even though the King has been shown by Daniel that he Nebuchadnezzar is the King, because God made him the king, and that he sits on the throne of a mighty empire, by the pleasure of God, the king still denies God and because of his own vanity and conceit considers that all he has accomplished, is by his own hand and power, and has nothing to do with the will of any god.

The three companions of Daniel are ordered to give worship to a Gold Statue of one of the many Pagan gods of Babylon, but they tell the king to his face that they refuse because it would be a sin against their God, the God of Creation. The following reveals the Faith that these three had, that they would rather know death than to blaspheme against God the Father.

The Bible does not tell us where Daniel is during this; therefore he does not seem to be involved directly.

We are not careful to answer thee in this matter

You are careful when you make excuses or try to avoid a confrontation in some way. What these three are saying is they are not trying to be careful, that they will speak their conscience regardless of the consequences.

God will deliver us from the burning fiery furnace

The three, are of the belief that God will deliver them from the death of being thrown into a furnace, if that is the will of God to do so. These three have no worry for themselves because they know that if it is God's Pleasure that they not die, they will be protected by God, or if it is not God's pleasure to keep them alive, that they know that they will still know life so long as they stay true to their faith in God. How many of you who are reading these words, have that kind of certainty in your faith of the God of Creation?

God will deliver us

Again they repeat their belief that the God of Creation will protect them. This is Faith in the full measure of a person's abilities. Could you being given the choice of giving worship to this Gold Statue or being thrown into a furnace make such a choice? I would like to think that I would, but unless we are actually tested, it is only hope, without any true assurance.

We will not serve thy Pagan gods

Do you think that the King will give these fellows any mercy or respect because of their commitment to their god? Even though the King has witnessed firsthand the power of the God of Creation, he still attempts to invent a god of his own, one that he can control, not one who has control over him.

The Fiery Furnace

*Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. **Daniel 3:19-20***

Infuriated with the three friends of Daniel, the King orders them to be thrown into a furnace. As you can see from your study of the Book of Daniel, God does give protection to the three. The King is used to getting his way, and when he says do this, he expects that it will be done. For these three, who after all are Jewish slaves, to tell the King to his face that they refuse an order of the King, well that simply cannot be tolerated.

The Mighty Men Die

*Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. **Daniel 3:21-22***

In order to demonstrate to us that this furnace was in fact very hot, God tells us that those men who threw the three into the furnace perished themselves from the heat as they threw the three in. This is to give proof and witness to the power of the Lord our God.

Inside the Fiery Furnace

*And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. **Daniel 3:23***

The three are in fact thrown into the furnace even though those that threw them in perished from the heat of it.

God protects his children who love him

*Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, "Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said unto the king, "True, O king." **Daniel 3:24***

Evidently, the King decided to witness the three being thrown into the furnace himself.

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Remember: Nebuchadnezzar has witnessed miracles that God manifested through Daniel, he knows the power of God, yet he, in his arrogance still places himself in direct conflict with God, first in having the God Statue constructed, and then demanding that even those who worship God Almighty must also worship this Pagan god.

Four In the Furnace

He answered and said, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." **Daniel 3:25**

To the amazement of the King and his attending advisors, the three were seen, with a fourth man (like the Son of God), in the midst of the flames of the furnace unhurt by the flames and heat, in that they are seen by the King walking around inside the furnace.

The Power of God

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. **Daniel 3:26**

When they then stepped out of the furnace, all in attendance were astonished in that not even the clothes they wore were in any way damaged by the fire, nor did they have the smell of smoke upon them.

God's Miracle

*And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counselors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats charged, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. **Daniel 3:27***

With this miracle witnessed by the King, along with that concerning his dream that Daniel gave meaning to, Nebuchadnezzar the King finally began to see and accept the True God, but like the Pharaoh of Egypt with Moses, the King was not fully convinced.

Nebuchadnezzar's Own Words

Chapter 4 of the Book of Daniel, was not written entirely by Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar contributed to this chapter with his own words and thoughts.

*Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the King's Word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. **Daniel 3:28***

In this verse, King Nebuchadnezzar is acknowledging the power that the God of Creation has, even over a fiery furnace, to save the lives of those who trust in him.

*Therefore I make a decree, "That every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their house shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. **Daniel 3:29***

With this acknowledgment I would think that the King would convert to the worship of the True God, but I would be wrong.

*Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon. **Daniel 3:30***

Even though the king promotes these three, I think it out of fear of their God and not so much that the king has any faith in the one living God.

Remember: the king gives worship to many different gods, so to add another to the list is no big deal to the king.

Giving Glory to the High God

Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. How great are his signs! And how mighty are his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation. Daniel 4:1-3

King Nebuchadnezzar after first resisting the God of Creation and then coming to the realization that God is real and has power over men, decides to give an account of that which God has inflicted on him, so that we of future generations will know his conversion from a worshiper of pagan gods to a worshiper of the God of Creation.

Another Dream

I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace: I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. Daniel 4:4-6

In the dream of the multi-metal statue, God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar and through him you and me, a time line in history of four great empires and then the ten nations that would arise from those four. With this dream, the King is once more frightened, and I would assume, that now that the king has converted to the worship of the One True God, that he is anxious to know the meaning of this new dream.

Daniel is called before the King

Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof. But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the

*holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying, “O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof. **Daniel 4:7-9***

The king tells all of the other soothsayers, but they are unable to discern the meaning of the Dream, so the king calls Daniel and tells him of the dream.

Take Note: This dream of the mighty tree occurs about 10 years after the first dream concerning the multi-metal statue.

A Mighty Tree

*Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it. **Daniel 4:10-12***

The King has another dream, and again no other but Daniel is able to interpret. In this dream, the King sees a great tree that grew strong and reached unto the heavens. The tree was full of fruit, and gave shade to the beasts of the field, and the birds made their nests in the branches thereof.

Cut Down this Tree

*I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; He cried aloud, and said thus, “Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: **Daniel 4:13-14***

This tree is a symbolism for the Babylonian Empire, and all that make their home in the tree are the multitude of peoples and nations that are a part of that empire. In this dream, God is demanding that this tree (The Babylonian Empire) be cut down. This is a warning from God to Nebuchadnezzar that all that he has

accomplished in establishing this empire is about to be taken away from him, if he does not remove himself from the false gods, and give worship to the God of Creation.

Leave a stump

*Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: **Daniel 4:15***

This is a prediction of that which will befall the king if he does not repent his sins. *Leave the stump of his roots in the earth*, the stump of the tree, is a symbolism of the Kings Son, Belshazzar.

Even with a band of iron and brass, is a symbolism that the Son's power will be held in place without an ability to grow or expand. I see this as a sign that the Babylonian Empire under the Son will enter into a period of stagnation.

And let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: is a reference to Nebuchadnezzar, and that he will be made to eat the grasses of the earth as a beast of the field would do.

Heart of a Beast

*Let his heart be changed from Man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. **Daniel 4:16***

God is giving warning to the King that if he does not repent; that God will cause that the king will be transformed into a semblance of an animal, and will spend seven years as a beast of the field.

The Will of God is Supreme

*This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. **Daniel 4:17***

Then an angel from God came and ordered the tree to be cut down. The angel does this to reveal to Nebuchadnezzar that his arrogance and haughty indifference to the true God and to the people that he ruled over, was to be punished, to show to all who hear this story, that they will know that the most High rules over the kingdoms of men, and gives to whom he will, those who will be kings.

Nebuchadnezzar asks Daniel to interpret

*This dream, I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee. **Daniel 4:18***

Evidently, the king was not fully converted, so God gives the king yet another dream warning of things to come.

Daniel is stunned

*Then Daniel, whose name was Belshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belshazzar answered and said, "My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies." **Daniel 4:19***

At first the king must have thought that even Daniel was unable to interpret the dream, but Daniel was in fact stunned, when he realized that the dream was a foretelling of the fall of the greatest king the world had ever known, Nebuchadnezzar.

The Great Tree

The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto

*heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: **Daniel 4:20-24***

In these verses Daniel is spelling out what the dream contained so that the King would know up front that Daniel knew the dream also.

By the Pleasure of God

That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beast of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Daniel 4:25

Daniel tells the King that this dream is a warning from God, that if he the King does not end his sins that he will be driven from the company of men, for seven years, and that he the King will dwell with the beasts of the field, where he shall eat grass, as do the oxen.

A Condemnation of the King

*And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility. **Daniel 4:26-27***

In this verse, Daniel is pleading with the king that he hears and obeys the will of God; else God will take his vengeance out upon the king. Daniel is like the other three, full of the Faith that the Word of God must be obeyed, and that those who disobey will be punished. Therefore, he pleads with the King to repent his open hostility to God and to the people of his Empire.

The Kings Arrogance wins out

All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he (Nebuchadnezzar) walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" **Daniel 4:28-30**

As you can see the king did not heed Daniel's warning or repent his sins against God.

Condemned by his own words

While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, "O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; the kingdom is departed from thee." **Daniel 4:31**

A year after having the dream concerning the Great Tree, the King while walking in his palace, with his own words condemns him to the fulfillment of that dream. For seven years the King is inflicted as the dream said he would be.

God Punishes Nebuchadnezzar

And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beast of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. **Daniel 4:32-33**

Despite all of the miracles and other works of God seen with his own eyes, the King Nebuchadnezzar was unwilling or unable to recognize the power of God. For his arrogance and because he was no doubt influenced by Satan, the king paid a severe penalty.

The Kings Mind returns to him

And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the Earth are reputed as nothing: and he does according to his will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the Earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, "What doest thou?" **Daniel 4:34-35**

I am unaware in the Bible where God makes such another showing of a single man, to take his humanity away from him like this. Little wonder that it came to the King an awakening of faith. It was then that King Nebuchadnezzar began to worship the only true God. Having spent seven years as a beast of the field, Nebuchadnezzar never resumes as King of the Babylonian Empire; that went to his son, Belshazzar. Nebuchadnezzar went into retirement, to study the ancient Jewish texts and to give worship to the God of creation.

Glory to God on High

At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his was judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase. **Daniel 4:36-37**

With this Nebuchadnezzar is acknowledging that God is supreme and that the kings of the Earth rule at the pleasure of God, and if they rebel against God that God will punish them.

The Arrogance of the Son

These events take place around 538 BC or seventeen years into the reign of Belshazzar the son of Nebuchadnezzar. Even though the father has realized his folly and come to worship God Almighty, the son who is aware of all that has transpired between his father and God, still remains hostile to the one true God.

The Kings Feast

*Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. **Daniel 5:1-2***

Belshazzar is King Nebuchadnezzar's son, who becomes king when his father is afflicted with the animal syndrome. Belshazzar has seen all the miracles that his father has seen, yet he is still unconvinced in the power of the God of Creation. I see this attitude of taking the sacred artifacts, of the Jewish Temple, and using them to serve as dishes for his meal with his guests, as a deliberate blasphemy against God. I see it as the young Kings way of showing arrogant disrespect to the God of Creation.

The Holy Temple Vessels

*Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. **Daniel 5:3***

If you go to the Book of Exodus you will find the description given for the making of these vessels. These were not to be used by anyone save that of the Messiah upon his arrival. They were Holy and Sacred to the Hebrews and other citizens of the Nation of Israel.

Gave Glory to the Pagan Gods

*They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. **Daniel 5:4***

In this showing of disrespect to the God of Creation, the Babylonians once more gave direct and intended insult to the God of Creation. By giving praise to all the other pagan gods, and not to the God of Creation, they reveal the disrespect and hatred they hold for God.

The Hand of God

*In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. **Daniel 5:5***

*Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. **Daniel 5:6***

The king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him. The word countenance is defined as: somebody's face, or the expression on it, or a person's composure or self-control, which is to say that the young King became extremely frightened by the sight of the hand appearing out of thin air and writing on the wall. I don't know about you, but that would put a fright into me as well, even if I had not sinned.

So that the joints of his loins were loosed, is a gentle way of saying that he messed himself, because of his fright.

And his knees smote one against another; he becomes so frightened that his legs will not hold him to the point that his knees shake hitting against one another.

The Wise Men are called to explain

*The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylong, "Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom. Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof. **Daniel 5:7-8***

The king's wise men knew not what language was written on the wall, so were unable to interpret it.

Fear Came upon Belshazzar

*Then was King Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished. **Daniel 5:9***

Put yourself in Belshazzar's place. You are having a party, and enjoying yourself, then this mystical aberration of a man's hand seen upon the wall of the room. The hand is not just seen, but then it starts to write something on the wall, but in a language that you are not familiar with. Wouldn't you be frightened out of your wits as well?

The Queen's Advice

*Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, "O king, live forever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed: there is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Beltshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation. **Daniel 5:10-12***

Again, no other but Daniel is able to interpret that which the hand had written upon the wall. Daniel is then called and he gives this explanation of the hand writing to Nebuchadnezzar's Son now the king, Belshazzar. I am of the belief that what the Hand of God wrote on the wall was written in ancient Hebrew, which is why Daniel could read it and not the other so called wise men.

Daniel is called

Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, "Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry? I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent

*wisdom is found in thee. And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing: and I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom. **Daniel 5:13-16***

So you can keep this in context, this aberration of the hand of God occurs around 538 BC, or around 32 years after Nebuchadnezzar has the dream of the Mighty Tree.

Babylon is Conquered

*Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. **Daniel 5:17***

In the above, Daniel is declining any compensation for his interpretation of the writings on the wall.

God humbles King Belshazzar

*O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: and for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down. But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, has not humbled thine heart, thou knewest all this; but has lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou has praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: **Daniel 5:18-23***

Even though Nebuchadnezzar's son had witnessed and had intimate knowledge of his father's encounter with the God of Creation, King Belshazzar never accepted that his father's fall was because of a god, but was simply an aspect of a sick mind of a deranged man.

Daniel's Interpretation

Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, Te-Kel, U-Phar-sin. Daniel 5:24

This is the interpretation of the thing:

Mene; "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it."

Te-Kel; "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

Pe-Res; "Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." Daniel 5:25-

28

Despite the fact that Belshazzar witnessed the miracles that his father had seen, the son never accepted that the signs and miracles were from the God of Creation. I suggest that the reason Belshazzar had the Temple vessels brought to the party, was to give a direct and deliberate insult to God, because he did not believe that God had any power to punish him any more than any of the other pagan gods that were worshiped by the Babylonians.

Daniel is given honor

Then commanded Belshazzar and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. Daniel 5:29

Even though Daniel had declined any payment, the King gave honor to him even so.

In this account of the Kings Feast and the vision of the Hand of God, God wants that we who study these writings, understand the influence of Satan upon both King Nebuchadnezzar and his son Belshazzar. As you can see, the influence existed but was superficial at best, through the course of the next three empires of Man, Satan's influence and out right control will increase.

The Persians

*In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two, (62), years old. **Daniel 5:30-31***

Darius the Mede is made king over the City of Babylon as well as the territories that the Persians call Babylonia, but I want you to understand, this Darius the Mede is not the Great King of the entire Persian Empire.

With this then is given verification that the second part of the metal statue, from Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the Chest of Silver, is a symbolic representation of the Mede-Persian Empire.

There are many historians of today who will say that this account of the Book of Daniel is in error, thus rendering the entire Book of Daniel in question, because they look at this Darius the Mede as being the Great King, King of Kings, but he is not, and the Book of Daniel never suggests that he is. The confusion is Satan's Lie, so as to invalidate the prophecies of the Book of Daniel, one of which gives the year that the Messiah will begin his ministry as Jesus the Christ and others that give prediction of the establishment of the anti-Christ Power.

And so the son is dethroned and the Babylonian Empire is conquered by the Mede-Persian alliance.

Governmental Structure

*It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom and hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage, (LOSS). **Daniel 6:1-2***

This gives an excellent view of how the Persian's government is established. Again, this governmental breakdown is just the Persian Empire's one province of Babylonia, which includes the land from the Persian Gulf, through the lands adjacent to the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, south to and including Egypt.

Remember: there are two other provinces, which have their own Kings separate from that of Darius the Mede.

This area (Babylonia) is then divided into 120 districts, which the Persians referred to as kingdoms, each with its own lesser king. These kings are then overseen and under the rule of three Presidents. The three Presidents are then subject to and under the rule of the provincial King, who is in turn subject to the Great King, or the King of Kings of the entire Persian Empire.

The first Great King of the Persian Empire was Cyrus the Great, who was the one king who united the Persians and the Medes into a single nation. Cyrus was Great King for but a little while until he was killed in one of the last battles of the conquest of the Babylonian Empire.

High Level Administrators Retained

*Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. **Daniel 6:3***

It is usually the case when one nation conquers another nation the rulers or leaders of the conquered nation are removed from power if not killed outright. But in the case of Daniel, the Persians look with favor upon him, for his fame was renowned throughout the entire civilized world. For this reason, Daniel is allowed to remain at the same station that he enjoyed under King Nebuchadnezzar within the province of Babylonia and under the power of King Darius the Mede.

The Lion's Den

Governmental Intrigue

*Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. **Daniel 6:4***

The other presidents and the princes conspired between each other to unseat Daniel from his place over them, but in their attempts to find a flaw in him that could be used against him with King Darius; they found none, for Daniel was honest, and proficient at performing his duties to the king.

Religious Persecution

Then said these men, "We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel except we find it against him concerning the law of his God." Daniel 6:5

The Persians were a pagan people giving worship to a plethora of gods and goddesses; they soon realized that the only way to defeat Daniel was to trick King Darius into enacting a law that either prevented Daniel from giving worship to the God of Creation, or to force Daniel to choose between God and the pagan gods.

Word and Honor

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live forever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes, and Persians, which altereth not. Daniel 6:6-8

No deceit nor vice could be found in Daniel, so these men knowing his devotion to his God, conspired to cause a law to be written that no one was to give worship to nor ask any petition from any god or man, save the king for thirty days. With the law thus written, there would be no choice but to find Daniel guilty of not keeping the Kings law.

The words: according to the law of the Medes, and Persians, which altereth not, has to do with the strong sense of honor that the two peoples, Medes and Persians, lived by. Once a Persian or a Mede made a promise, he was honor bound to fulfill it. To lose your honor was worse than to lose your life. This was true of individuals and of the government and its leaders as well.

I see this reliance on personal honor a quality of personality sorely missing in the world today. Even though most people of the ancient times worshiped Pagan god and not the God of Creation, they did so because they were deceived by Satan, as is the case in today's world, the only difference is in the fact that these pagan worshipers, still held strong to the morality of God, even though they failed to give true and correct worship of the God of Creation.

Even though many give lip service to being Christian, they not only fail to give true and correct worship of God, they also fail to uphold and live by the Morality of God, again, due to the ever growing influence of Satan.

Darius signs the Decree

*Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree. **Daniel 6:9***

When King Darius signs the Decree, I believe that he is still unawares of the intrigue all around him, and so he signs it in ignorance of the intended victim.

Attempt to manipulate the King

As I say, this is a conspiracy between the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, which tells me that the King was not aware at first what he was signing, which is to say that these men thought the king to be a fool whom they could manipulate and control.

In Full Knowledge of the Law

*Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. **Daniel 6:10***

The word "Aforetime", means in the past, which is to say that Daniel continued in his normal established habit of giving worship to God just as he always had, with no change in his habit because of the law. Even though Daniel knew that he would be in violation of the Kings law, he continued in his prayers to God, for

he knew as do all who worship as God commands, the need to worship God as he commands, is above all laws of Man. Daniel chose God over his station and place of power and prestige in the king's court.

The Accusers Petition the King

*Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Then answered they and said before the king, that Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day. **Daniel 6:11-13***

By accusing Daniel of refusing a decree from the King, these others hope to depose the power and position that Daniel has with the King, thereby increasing their own power and influence over the king.

I see this also as Satan's attempt at removing God's Prophet, Daniel, from the court of the King so as to remove God's influence, through Daniel, of the King.

The King realizes he has been played

*Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him. **Daniel 6:14***

Take notice to the words, *displeased with himself*, for they inform us, that the King knew he had been played by these men who were set upon bringing Daniel down. The King therefore was not pleased that he would have to have the sentence carried out against Daniel.

The Medes and Persians were cousins to one another, and therefore had the same in cultural background. They were an honorable people, which once an oath was made they were honor bound to carry it out. That King Darius had signed this law into effect forced that he would have the punishment carried out, even though he preferred Daniel over all the other Governors and Princes.

The King Endeavors to save Daniel

The words, *“set his heart on Daniel to deliver him”*, tells me that the King despite his desire not to, set his heart to fulfill his duty, but that the king made a personal effort to circumvent his own law, so as to save Daniel from the lions.

Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, “Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, that no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.” **Daniel 6:15**

What they are saying has to do with the honor of the Persians and the Medes, in that once an oath is made or a law is written it cannot be changed even by the King himself.

The King has faith God will protect

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, “Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.” **Daniel 6:16**

This, the King tells Daniel with hope in his words, for he does not want Daniel to be harmed. I suggest, though it is not given in the Bible or in the history books, but that God caused the King to have the lions fed in the abundance, so that when Daniel is placed into the lion’s den, they are not hungry. I am sure that there are many who will say that if this were true, it would somehow reduce the miracle of Daniel not being harmed, but I say, that in my study of the Bible, God makes use of the simple things to achieve his purpose, and resorts to true miracles only when there is no other choice. Besides, such a possibility is hinted at in **verse 6:14**.

One thing too I want to point out, King Darius, as well as King Nebuchadnezzar both had respect for the God of Daniel, even though they were both worshipers of Pagan gods.

Daniel is sealed in the Lions Den

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. **Daniel 6:17**

Once an edict or decree is made by the King it becomes the law and not even the king can go back on his word. It is for this reason that King Darius must place Daniel in the Lion’s Den even though he does not want to.

The King engages in fasting

*Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him. **Daniel 6:18***

Fasting is usually associated with a form of worship, and is prevalent with the Jews and their prayers with God. This then suggests to me, that King Darius the Mede may have been a convert to the worship of the God of Creation, or at the very least, he was knowledgeable of the Jewish worship procedure. I see this as Darius, giving prayer to the God of Daniel, in hopes that God would save Daniel.

Know this: The Persians and the Medes was a very religious people. They had a plethora of gods that they worshiped, but they were strong in those religious practices. With this knowledge, you can understand that it is not without possibility that the King would pray to the God of Creation, as he would to any of the other gods, even though he was not a convert to the true Faith.

Daniel survives the Lions

*Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?” **Daniel 6:19-20***

I can see that the king worried about the welfare of Daniel would return early in the morning so to free Daniel from the Lion's Den before the lions woke and decided to have Daniel for breakfast.

The word **“lamentable”** means, **disappointingly bad**, **mournful**, therefore another proof that the Kings did not want Daniel harmed. The overall suggestion of the words used when the King calls out to Daniel, tells me that he is hopeful that Daniel is still alive after being in the lion's den the entire night.

Daniel Lives

*Then said Daniel unto the king, “O king, live forever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.” Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. **Daniel 6:22-23***

As you can tell by Daniels words that he held no anger against the King, and I would even suggest that there is a hint of love in his words.

Once Daniel is inspected and there was no hurt found upon his body from the lions, he is declared innocent of any crimes and released by the king.

The Condemners are Condemned

*And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den. **Daniel 6:24***

Whether it was God’s intent or not, I do not know, but I think that one of the reasons that King Darius was unable to sleep through the night, is because he was plotting just what form his revenge on these governmental officials would be for their attempt at manipulating their King.

The God of Creation given Glory

*Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, “That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.” **Daniel 6:25-27***

If you are not a student of history, the above verse, **6:28**, lets us know that Darius is king of the Babylonian province, and that Cyrus the Great, is king of kings of the entire Persian Empire, I point this out so show how Satan has been attempting to discredit this account of the Lion's Den and Daniel and his prophecies.

Those who condemned Daniel were the spawn of Satan, in that they used deception and lies to get the King to sign into law that which they knew would cause Daniel to be found guilty of breaking the law. In the above story, Daniel is a focal point in the contrast between the forces of Satan and of God. This shows that to put your faith in God, both in your life and in your worship, has its rewards. God protects those who love him.

Purpose of Prophecies

*So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian. **Daniel 6:28***

Lest we forget, the purpose of the prophecies is to reveal who God is and to establish the advent of the Messiah. Chapters 3 through 6 of the Book of Daniel, give an inside view concerning the personality of God, as well they reveal how God protects those who worship and serve him as he God demands that they worship him, and meads out punishment to those who do not.

When Darius orders those that conspired against Daniel to be thrown into the Lion's Den, as well as their families, I felt a twinge of sympathy for the families; after all they were innocent of any sins. But God wants that we understand from this, that he God has mercy on those who give correct worship to him, and has little or no tolerance for those who do not, a lesson to be learned by those who call themselves Christian, who think that they give correct worship to God, but do not.

Daniel and his three companions are prisoners and slaves, first of the King of Babylon, who with the permission of God concurs and destroys the nation of Israel, and then later, after Babylon is concurred, they remain slaves to the Kings of Persia. Even though they have been given stations of honor and power by their new masters, they are still slaves and at their masters beck and call. But always their faith and love for the God of Creation, keeps them safe in an otherwise hostile land.

Rise of the anti-Christ

Daniel has this vision of the rise of the anti-Christ in the year 555 BC, while the son of Nebuchadnezzar still reigns as King of the Babylonian Empire, which is around 17 years before he has the previous confrontation in the Lion's Den, during the reign of Darius the Mede.

These events or visions are not given to Daniel in **chronological order**; it is not the events as experienced by Daniel that dictates these prophecies place in the pages of the Bible, but the times that the visions reveal.

Daniel receives visions

*In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. **Daniel 7:1***

The dream of Nebuchadnezzar that God gave the interpretation of, occurred in about 603 BC, this vision that Daniel himself is given, takes place in about 555 BC. That is about 48 years later and in the first year of Belshazzar's reign, before the hand of God wrote on the wall during Belshazzar's party, which occurs in 538 BC.

If you figure Daniel to have been a young man of say 19 at the time of Nebuchadnezzar's first dream, he would be around 67 years old when he has this vision. In that point in time, when most men live to be Thirty Five to Fifty years old, he would be considered ancient not just an old man.

A Time Reference

Take Note: God gives us a time reference in this verse, "*In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon.*" This time reference can be revealed, in a year as we keep our calendar in this the first years of the Twenty First Century, by the study of history, which is why I say that it is around 555 BC when Daniel receives this vision.

A Land of war and strife

Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heavens strove upon the great sea. Daniel 7:2

Again remember: The previous discussion concerning King Nebuchadnezzar and his son Belshazzar were of actual events and people. These visions that Daniel receives are symbolisms of other things, and must not be taken literally, which means that we need to take the time to determine what they are symbolic of in order to fully understand what God is showing us.

Remember as well: that God reviews what he has already explained, then expands upon that information with new information. Therefore, the four winds of the heaven are not literal winds, nor is the sea a literal sea but are symbolic of something else.

Four Winds of Heaven

Based on its context as used in this verse, I suggest that the “**Four winds of heaven**” are simply the passage of time. That God uses the phrase, “**Strove upon the great sea,**” suggests to me that the passage of time was a violent and tumultuous period in time.

Four Beasts Arise

And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. Daniel 7:3

The Sea

The “**Sea**” on the other hand, as used in context to kingdoms or nations, I suggest represent populated areas of the world, where other nations or kingdoms once stood before, a place with a history of strife and conflict.

The “Sea” is not a sea but is symbolic of the lands or area of the Earth where the four Great Empires of Man rise out of. The area or lands where the four nations or empires (the four beasts) arise out of, is a violent and tumultuous place with a steady flow of nations and peoples at war with one another.

Can you see the colorful visualizations that God creates by using symbolic representations of what he is telling us? In a land of strife with wars and nations conquering nations through the passage of time, four Great Empires will arise.

A Time Reference

The dream of Nebuchadnezzar that God gave the interpretation of, through Daniel, occurred in about 603 BC, this vision that Daniel himself is given, takes place in about 555 BC. That is about 48 years later and during the first year of Belshazzar's reign, before the hand of God wrote on the wall during Belshazzar's party.

If you figure Daniel to have been a young man of say 19 at the time of Nebuchadnezzar's first dream, he would be around 67 years old when he has this vision. In that point in time, when most men live to be Thirty Five to Fifty years old, he would be considered ancient not just an old man.

In other words, over the passage of time, four great nations, or what we would call Empires, would rise out of regions of the earth that had been other nations in the past. This follows with the four primary kingdoms of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The four parts of the statue are replaced by four beasts; therefore, remember this, in Bible prophecy, symbolisms using beasts are nations or kingdoms and empires.

This verse seems to verify my previous assumption, the sea being symbolic of populated regions of the earth, and each of the beasts or nations would be diverse from each other, which is supported in the following verse from the Book of Revelation.

And he saith unto me, “The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” **Revelation 17:15**

You see that the sea is representative of a populated area. We will get into the meaning of who the whore is, in a later lesson.

Remember: how I said earlier that the Books of the Old Testament were incomplete, and that things spoken of in the Old Books need things written in the New Testament to make them fully understandable. This is one such occurrence.

The First Beast like a Lion

The First was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: 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. Daniel 7:4

The first beast is like a lion, and had eagle's wings. Which suggests, a nation of conquest, that being the lion, and that the conquests were accomplished in relative short time, the reference to wings of an eagle, which is symbolic of speed.

The wings thereof were plucked, which suggests once the kingdom expanded to a certain point, it then stopped expanding altogether.

That the beast was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, suggests that some kind of transformation of the kingdom or its leader, the king, took place.

A Transformation Occurs

That a man's heart was given to it, suggests that this transformation was one of charity, passion, and mercy and of course faith and worship in the God of Creation. This we have been shown in earlier chapters of the Book of Daniel where King Nebuchadnezzar was converted from an arrogant man filled with self-importance to one who worships the God of Creation.

These are all pointers or descriptions that allow us to look to one kingdom, to determine its identity. In the metal statue of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the first part of the four main parts, explained to us is the head of Gold, so this beast being the first of the four beasts to come out of the sea, must be another representation of the Babylonian Empire, and the lion is symbolic of King Nebuchadnezzar and his transformation from a pagan king to the worship of the God of Creation. To help support this, God has provided us an identifier from another book in the Bible as shown in the following verse.

As Swift as the Eagle Flies

*The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; **Deuteronomy 28:49***

This reference in Deuteronomy is a prophecy made by one who lived even before Daniel, Moses, at around 1451 BC, or about 896 years earlier. It is a warning to the nation of Israel, that if it did not repent its sinful ways, God would send another nation to destroy Israel. Take note of the references to the Eagle, and the phrase, *and had eagle's wings*, as given as a description in **Daniel 7:4**.

I include **Deuteronomy 28:49**, here to show that God is consistent in the fulfilling of his prophecies. I don't know about you, but as far as I am concerned, the only way such consistency could occur over a period of centuries, is if there were an intelligence behind it, (God), and don't try to tell me that there is some kind of conspiracy spanning hundreds and thousands of years, that is the cause of such accurate predictions.

The Lion has eagle's wings, and **Deuteronomy 28:49**, speaks of the nation against Israel as coming *swiftly as the eagle flieth*. The conquering nation is far off, from Israel, at least considered far off in the time of Daniel. Its people, of the nation that would conquer Israel, would speak a language not known to Israel. This is to show the Israelis, that it wouldn't be one of their nearby adversaries, but an unknown that God would use to destroy them.

Wings are Plucked

Now in **Daniel 7:4**, the lion's wings are plucked, which suggests that the speed that it had to conquer is removed from it. We know this is true of Babylon from our knowledge of history, in that the wings represent the King Nebuchadnezzar himself, who was the guiding force behind the rise of Babylon to such dominance and power.

Lifted Up from the Earth

The reference to, *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*, is again a reference to the King Nebuchadnezzar, in that the lion is made to stand like a man, because it is transformed from a vicious conquer to a worshiper of the God of Creation. That is also why

the heart of a man was shown to be given to the lion, having a heart is symbolic of someone who has mercy and compassion for others, something King Nebuchadnezzar didn't have until his transformation.

God uses these imageries, so that they can be verified outside the Bible by actual historical events, and I know from my study of the history of these times, that in this case concerning the King of Babylon, these things are true.

The Second Beast

*And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. **Daniel 7:5***

Following the fact that the first beast is another reference to the Babylonian Empire as was the statues head of gold, then it stands to reason, that this second beast must equally be another reference to Mede-Persian Empire, which from what we have already studied conquers the Babylonian Empire.

One Side Higher than the other

The words, *and it raised up itself on one side*, is a reference to the differences in military capability that existed between the Medes and the Persians. The Medes had built up a small kingdom of their own before the Persians came into the picture, in fact the Persians started out paying tribute to the Medes, and the Medes paid tribute to Babylon. What these words are referring to directly however is the military power disparity between the stronger Persians and the weaker Medes, which is verifiable in history.

The Three Ribs

The words, *it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth*, is a reference to the fact that the Persians had to conquer the three provinces of the Babylonian Empire to make the conquest complete.

One province was called **Frigia** by the Babylonians, but was called Media, by the Medes and Persians. I am not sure of the spelling, but it was the area north of the Mesopotamia region, extending into modern day Turkey.

The second province was called **Lydia**, which was in the western end of modern day Turkey.

The other and third province was Babylon itself, which extended from the Persian Gulf through the Mesopotamia and down the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea and into and including Egypt.

Review and Enlarge

If you recall, in **Daniel 2:32**, the second part of the metal statue was the chest of silver, and as we have already established this was the Persian Empire, this all ties together as a way of verifying that we understand that God is using different descriptions or symbolisms to mean the same thing. This time however a little more information is added during progressive visions, to assist in this verification.

God is Real and Alive

This is how God is making sure that we are certain of what he is telling us. God is using the teaching method of **Review then Enlarge**. For me, this is yet another example of intelligence behind the century's long history of the Bible. More proof to me, that God exists, and that he is not asleep, but watching out for **those of us who keep his commandments, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Third Beast

*After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. **Daniel 7:6***

Logically, if these first two beasts are the same as the first two parts of the metal statue, then it follows that this beast must also be the same as the third part of the metal statue. We still do not know with certainty what nation this represents, but in this verse God gives us more clues to help us find out.

Like a Leopard

The first reference is it was **like a leopard**, which suggests speed. I associate this to the speed at which it conquers other nations.

Wings of a Fowl

The second reference is that the leopard had upon its back four wings of a fowl. This again is a reference to speed, couple that with the speed of a leopard, and you have a conquering kingdom that moves with extreme speed.

Alexander's Four Generals

If you are a student of history, you will know that Greece conquered Persia, or that Alexander the Great, as king of the united Greece and Macedonians, conquered Persia. This is supported by the fact that the four wings are also a reference to the four Generals that fought with Alexander, and it was because of their skills why Alexander was able to conquer Persia in such a short time.

It can be argued that Alexander was a brilliant tactician; however it was his four Generals that made his plans work out. If you are a student of history, you will know that Persia conquered Babylon, and Alexander the Great as the King of the Macedonian and the Greek alliance, conquered Persia. With that knowledge, and these other clues already given, I have to assume that this the third beast as well as the third part of the mettle statue, (Brace), in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, is representative of Greece.

Four Heads

The last imagery of Daniel 7:6 is that the beast has four heads. Again, if you know history, you will know that the empire built by Alexander the Great was divided between his top four generals upon his death.

Once again, the imagery is consistent with historically verifiable events. If you doubt my assertions, in time God tells us himself this identity. Keep in mind, this prophecy was given to Daniel hundreds of years before they happened and it is unlikely that Daniel could have known the identity of the third part of the statue or the third beast, even so, he wrote down what God gave him to write exactly as God gave him to write it, which is the definition of what a Prophet of God is.

Fourth Beast

*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. **Daniel 7:7***

Roman Empire

Now, I am sure that you will agree that the third part of the metal statue and therefore the third beast, which is the leopard, is symbolic of Greece. Having this knowledge to work with, it is only logical to assume that the fourth part of the metal statue or the long legs of iron and therefore the fourth beast is the Roman Empire.

If you know history, you will know that Rome conquered Greece, as well as those other nations which had been in the western portion of Persia, and the other nations along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, including Egypt. Let us see if the Bible supports this assumption.

Iron Teeth

In order to verify that this beast is the same nation as the fourth part of the metal statue, God has given us unmistakable references. **Iron teeth** of the Beast, to coincide with **the iron legs** of the statue.

Breaking into Pieces

The Beast is shown to be **breaking into pieces** those nations that came before it. In history we know this to be true of the Roman Empire. In history the purpose of the early conquests of Rome was to bring civilization to the rest of the world, which Romans viewed as barbarians. To accomplish this, Rome had to utterly destroy all nations that it conquered, not just militarily but culturally as well.

Ten Horns

The Beast had **ten horns**, just as the feet of the metal statue had **ten toes**.

If you are not yet convinced that these two imageries are references to the Roman Empire, read on, there are more proofs to come.

The reason God took the time and effort to give us insight into the mind of King Nebuchadnezzar is to establish that Satan has over the last several centuries been slowly establishing his influence and control over the nations and leaders of Man. With each of the four Great Empires, Satan has had a greater and greater influence, cumulating with almost absolute control over most of the Emperor's of Rome.

The Ten Kingdoms

*I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things, (Blasphemies). **Daniel 7:8***

As you will recall from **Daniel 2:33**; the toes of the statue represented ten nations that will rise out of the fourth kingdom, the above verse expands upon this by showing that yet another nation rises up, a little horn.

Remember: this is an End of Times prophecy, therefore once God has shown this historical background pointing to the ten nations, he will now give further descriptions to these nations, so we will know who they are, and what role they are to play in the Second Advent of Jesus Christ, as well as what power the anti-Christ has over them.

A Horn is a Kingdom or Nation

Remember: I told you that a beast in Bible Prophecy is symbolic of a nation or Empire?

Take note: that whenever a horn is used in Bible Prophecy, it is symbolic of a kingdom but not of an empire, the Ten Horns on the Head of the Beast represent the Empire as a whole, but the horns separately represent ten smaller kingdoms or nations, which arise up from the remnants of the greater empire.

Having given us enough information thus far to show that the fourth beast is the Roman Empire, God continues past that empire to get to the prophecy that he intends, the rise of the anti-Christ power.

Take Note: the anti-Christ has been interfering with the affairs of Man since Satan lied to Adam and Eve, it is to the anti-Christ Power, to not only influence but to control and to have the power to put on trial, torture and murder the Saints of God, which God is giving these prophecies of.

As I indicated before, God wants that you understand the history of Satan's role in manipulating and control of the nations of Man. In this, God is also showing the growing power of Satan and his growing influence and control of the leaders and rulers of the nations of Man through the centuries.

The Little Horn

Comes Up from within

I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things, (Blasphemies). **Daniel 7:8**

As you will recall from Daniel 2:33; the toes of the statue represented ten nations that will rise out of the fourth kingdom, the above verse expands upon this by showing that yet another nation rises up, a little horn.

In the Book of **Daniel 7:8** above, God introduces another kingdom. Not part of the original ten, but that it comes up from within those ten. The words; **there came up among them another little horn,** reveals this.

A Little Kingdom

I view it as another Kingdom, because it is depicted as a horn, which the original ten kingdoms are represented as. Though this is a little horn, which I interpret to mean, not having the military or economic power of any of the ten.

Three Plucked Out

Even though it is a little nation, it somehow manages to **pluck three of the ten out by the roots.**

I interpret this to mean that this Little Nation, somehow causes three of the original Ten Nations that rise out of the remnants of the Roman Empire, are somehow destroyed to the point that they no longer exist as nations or a people.

This is verifiable in history, but to show you this now is premature in that it feel it is best that you have all the facts concerning the anti-Christ before I reveal its identity.

Eyes of Man

The next imagery of this verse is *the eyes like the eyes of man*. The phrase, *“Having eyes like a man,”* suggests to me that this little kingdom does not have a King at its head, but some other kind of ruler or leader. The imagery of having eyes historically refers to the ability to see things not naturally available to the average person, such as being involved with the occult, or supernatural. However, it can also be a reference to the fact that a man is at its head, or in control, but not necessarily a king. The full implication of this imagery will become evident soon.

Mouth speaking great things

And a mouth speaking great things, is symbolic of someone who blasphemies God and his Holy Gospel.

In order that you will not misunderstand the meaning of the phrase, *“great things,”* I will give definition to it. The Hebrew word *“Rabrab”* is used in the original text. This translates to *“domineering in character.”* The translators of the Bible to English should have given the word *“blasphemies,”* as a better replacement for the words *great things*.

In other words, this little horn or nation is speaking with a domineering character and blasphemies against God, and his true worship.

The Little Horn is the anti-Christ

This little nation therefore is the first reference to the anti-Christ. Yes the anti-Christ is not a man, though the reference to “eyes of a man, and a mouth that speaks great things,” is a reference to the head of the Kingdom as being a man or a continuation of men over the centuries, but the anti-Christ itself is not a man but starts out as a little nation.

The question I asked is what nation of Man is that which God tells us is the Little Horn? This question will be answered in time. As I said, you need all the facts first.

A View of the End of Days

*I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame and his wheels as burning fire. **Daniel 7:9***

This verse takes a leap in time from the ten nations that fill the void left by the fall of the City of Rome to the Second Advent of Christ. In the End of Days, God will take the independence of the seven nations that remain of the original ten, away from them. This follows through concerning the ten toes of iron and clay, of the statue, and how they will be crushed by the rock that is hued out but not by hands.

Thrones Cast Down

I beheld till the thrones were cast down. The thrones being spoken of here are the seven nations that remain of the original ten kingdoms. This verse is a vision shown to us of those Seven Nations being destroyed by God.

The Ancient of Days

The description of *The Ancient of days* needs to be remembered. It will be used to describe yet more imagery both in Daniel and Revelation. You need to remember this, so you will know that the one that is mentioned is in fact God the Father, he is the Ancient of days.

The Throne Fiery Flame

His throne was like the fiery flame. There are two symbolic depictions revealed in these words.

When you read words that speak of the Throne of God, I am sure you visualize an ornately carved large wooden chair with jewels and gold inlays, like what a human king or emperor would sit upon in his royal splendor. This is not what the Throne of God is however. Do not think of God as a Man that would sit upon a chair. Think instead of what the foundation of God's rule of the universe is. God has established a kingdom in heaven just as he will a kingdom on earth, think about what it is that this kingdom has as its core principle of governance. It is this that is, the Gospel of God as is summarized by the Ten Commandments, which are the throne of God.

God established his authority of governance on this his True Word, or his Holy Gospel. It is this, as abbreviated and summarized by the Ten Commandments which are the throne of God. If you look at the Ten Commandments, you should be able to see that they represent in brief the fullness of God's Holy Gospel, in an easy to remember format. All that is spoken of in the Gospel of God, has as its base that which the Ten Commandments represents.

Enveloped in Fire

The Throne of God is depicted as being **enveloped in fire**, because the Word of God is truth, and truth is supreme over lies and deception. When you believe a lie to be truth because you have been deceived by those lies, then when you are shown the truth and the lies are manifest to be lies, then the truth is as a fire in your heart. If when you hear the truth, you embrace it and accept it as the truth, then that fire will be a cleansing fire of purification.

If however you reject the truth, preferring to keep the lie, then the fire is a consuming fire causing you pain and discomfort. To illustrate this, Jesus tells us that "**Many,**" in the End of Days, as it was with the Jews of Jesus' day, when they hear the Word of God will be offended, it is this discomfort of hearing the truth that cause those people to be offended.

The Sword of Jesus

When Jesus returns, it will be his gospel, as taught to us in his teaching of the New Testament and Old Testament, which will defeat Satan and his lies, once the truth is shown in its unaltered form. God does not have to use violence or force of arms to defeat Satan, just the truth of his words is all he need use.

Burning Wheels

And his wheels as burning fire. As with the Throne of Fire, the *Burning wheels* have a similar meaning. The question is, “*What wheels?*” Where is it shown that God has any wheels? Is it that Jesus will return to the Earth riding a chariot, and the wheels of it will be on fire? Do not be so literal in your interpretation of what God is speaking of. As I have shown the Throne of God is not literal, but is symbolic of God’s Holy Gospel, so too are the Wheels of God, symbolic of the Books of the Bible.

The Word of God is as fire consuming the lies of Satan. Where then do we, the Sons of Man, acquire the Word of God? We find the Word of God, by studying and researching the Books of the Bible, to find God’s True Word. Once we find God Truth, Satan’s lies melt away and no longer have power over us.

The *Wheels of Fire* which has the power to turn God’s Word of Fire into a weapon which we can then use against Satan’s lies are the Books of the Bible written by the Prophets of God.

A View of Judgment Day

*A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. **Daniel 7:10***

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him. The Word of God is as fire to those who do not want to hear the truth. This above verse is a depiction of Judgment Day, and as those who are not the Saints of God stand before God, the truth of God’s words will be as fire to the sinners.

The Books were opened, refers not just to the Book of Life but also to the ledgers that God maintains of each of our lives. So, when a sinner stands before God, the ledger pertaining to his or her life will be read back to the sinner and all who are in attendance. And it is this reading that will show the sins of each of the sinners,

and the heat of these truths will burn as fire upon their souls; some will be cleansed and given into eternal life, but others will be consumed and given into eternal death.

Truth Destroys the anti-Christ

*I beheld then because of the voice of the great words (blasphemy) which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. **Daniel 7:11***

Again the translators used the phrase, "great words," if you replace it with blasphemous words, you will better understand the full meaning of this verse. Daniel, in this vision, is standing in observance to this event, which will take place after the Second Advent of Christ. He is witness to the destruction of the little horn, or what we call the anti-Christ. The anti-Christ is portrayed by Jesus as a **Beast**, and it is that Beast that is slain and whose body is destroyed as given in the above verse. The anti-Christ is the Church that is based upon Satan's False Gospel, (LIES). Just as God's True Word will be as a burning fire on the souls of the sinners, it will be a consuming fire on Satan's Lies, and the Church which stand upon those lies.

The Nations that Survive

*As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. **Daniel 7:12***

Symbolism of a Beast

Take note that God refers to the horns or nations that fill the void of the fall of Rome, to that of beasts, as he does to the little horn which is a symbolism of the anti-Christ. This symbolism of showing them as beast has relevance in the Book of Revelation.

Remember: the symbolism of a beast represents a nation, kingdom or empire, but the symbolism of a horn, represents, a kingdom or nation, but not an empire.

Therefore, this verifies my earlier interpretation, that the seven remaining kingdoms would lose their independence, however, this verse adds to the other by telling us that the governments of some of the other

nations of Man will be allowed to continue in those nations for a little while longer, but that those nations that give support to the anti-Christ, thus making them part of the anti-Christ, will be destroyed up front.

A Season and Time

The phrase, “a season and time,” is a period of time, but not specific so as to give certainty in its duration. There are several others that I will give explanation to as we get to them. I in all honesty, do not know how much time this phrase suggests. It is a time that will take place after the Second Advent of Christ, so has no purpose of giving the identity of the anti-Christ, so I will not dwell on it.

Establishing God’s Kingdom on Earth

*I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **Daniel 7:13***

Remember: Daniel is seeing this as a vision. He therefore gives descriptions of what he sees, based upon his personal knowledge and his point in time. Therefore, when he refers to someone like the Son of Man, he is referring to an image of a man, as opposed to an image of a beast. This man that Daniel sees is Jesus, who was born into the likeness of a Man, and it is Jesus who is brought before the Ancient of Days or as you may recall, this is a reference to God the Father.

Dominion given to the Son of Man

*And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. **Daniel 7:14***

Jesus Christ Revealed

If you recall from the metal statue, a rock would be hued out without hand, that would smash to bits the four empires as well as the toes of the statue, and that this ROCK is a symbolism of the Messiah, that I know to

be Jesus. Because this verse is also showing the anti-Christ as being destroyed by Jesus, it gives us verification that the Rock Hewed out but not by hand, is also a reference to Jesus Christ.

Just put yourself in Daniels position. Here, this man, “the son of Man” is brought before God, then is given from God, dominion, glory and a kingdom. Daniel has no way of knowing who this man is, yet God himself is giving him Kingly authority over all the inhabitants of the remaining seven nations, and the rest of the nations of the Earth. Daniel knows that this is the Messiah; I know from my study of the Bible, that the Messiah is and can only be Jesus. I will reveal the truth of this as these lessons progress.

An Everlasting Kingdom

*How great are his signs! And how mighty are his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation. **Daniel 4:3***

His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, would suggest to those who are not diligent in their study of the Bible that this is saying that Jesus’ Kingdom on Earth will be everlasting, but that is not what this is saying.

In the first part of the above verse God gives dominion over the Earth to the Son of Man, but the subject is not the Son of Man but God, the ancient of days, and it is the Kingdom of God that will last for ever and ever, not the Kingdom on Earth.

Remember: Jesus will rule only one thousand years, which is not forever. This is given support in the following verse.

These words were written by King Nebuchadnezzar who was talking about the God of Creation, not Jesus. It is God’s kingdom that is *an everlasting kingdom*. As long as Man has walked the face of the Earth, throughout all Man’s generations, God has been here, and was, is and will always be the ruler of the Earth and all of creation not the kingdom given to Jesus.

God Gives Interpretation

*I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. **Daniel 7:15-16***

Daniel is telling us in this verse that he is confused and uncertain what God is showing him.

This is where God interprets this vision of Daniel for us. Thus verifying or not, what I have been asserting in my commentary of the above verses from the Book of Daniel.

Four Beasts are Four Kingdoms

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

This verifies that these beasts are symbolic of the four Kingdoms or Empires, as are the four parts of the metal statue.

Remember too: the imagery used in the prophecy was that the beasts arise out of a churning sea, but here God asserts that the sea is in fact out of the Earth, which does not negate my assertion that it means a land of previous kingdoms, or an already populated area of the Earth.

The Saints of God will Possess

*But the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even for ever and ever. **Daniel 7:18***

Whereas the earlier image was of only one man, the Messiah, here Daniel is being told that the man was symbolic of the saints of the most “High,” and that it is they who will rule the remaining seven nations and all the Earth.

Remember: the words used to describe the Messiah were, “One like the son of Man.” As you can see, no discussion of the Messiah is given, only that the image being given dominion is that of “One like the

son of Man,” but not a man itself. Jesus is the Messiah, and is born the Son of Man in that his mother is Mary the daughter of Man.

I don't know about you, but I have always been told that it will be Jesus that will rule for one thousand years, perhaps what God is telling us here is that after the thousand years, Man will once more be given dominion over the Earth, and that authority will last for ever and ever.

I assume that this is still true, and that Jesus as the head priest of the Christian Faith, sits on the throne but that it is the Saints of God, whom he rules over. That in this kingdom, only the Saints will remain, all others that refused to worship God as he commands, have been judged and removed from the Earth. This again is of course my interpretation, you can decide for yourselves after diligent study, whether I am correct or not.

The Fourth Beast (Nation)

*Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; **Daniel 7:19***

Remember: Daniel lived 600 years before Christ, so this beast, which we now know to be the Roman Empire, was troubling to him. He understood, I am sure, that it represented a kingdom or nation, but had no way of knowing what nation. It is for this reason that Daniel is uncertain and wishes to be given understanding.

This same confusion and desire for understanding has been my driving force in my personal study of the Bible, and I pray that once you have started to read these lessons you also hunger to know more.

Little Horn more Stout

*And the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, (blasphemies), whose look was more stout than his fellows. **Daniel 7:20***

Here is another clue as to the identity of the little horn, or the anti-Christ. Its look was “more stout,” than the other nations. The definition of the word “Stout” is: “Having or marked by boldness, bravery, or determination; firm and resolute.” Therefore, this little nation is smaller than the others in military and economic prowess, yet because of its bold determination, it has torn up by the roots three other nations. Once again God refers to this little nation as speaking blasphemies against God and his laws. To speak blasphemies is to be anti-God. Therefore this little nation is the anti-Christ.

Makes War with the Saints of God

I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; **Daniel 7:21**

The same horn made war with the saints, to make war is to persecute, and to torcher, maim and kill.

And prevailed against them, indicates that the anti-Christ will be successful in destroying the Saints of God, over a period of time.

A similar description is given in another Book of the Bible as shown in the following verse.

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. **Revelation 12:17**

The woman being spoken of here is the one described in the following verse.

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. **Revelation 12:1-2**

The True and Correct worship of God

I will give a complete discussion concerning all the symbolisms being used in these two verses, later, but for now understand that this is a symbolism of the Messiah, but not the man Jesus, but the gospel that he preached and the Faith that comes from his gospel. It is this Faith that the woman, who is symbolic of the Church of Christ, is pained to deliver.

The Woman is the Church of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of God as fulfilled by the Teachings of Jesus Christ which is the Child that is waiting to be born, and it is that Gospel, which is the foundation of the Church of Christ, and in turn has for its foundation, the Gospel of God as abbreviated in the Ten Commandments.

Satan's Puppet

Though the words used are different, the meaning behind them is the same. Therefore, the reference to the little horn is also a reference to the dragon, whom we know to be Satan. I interpret this to mean that the little horn, or this little nation, the anti-Christ, is somehow under the control or in partnership with Satan. Why else would it make war on the saints? As I have said before, the anti-Christ is Satan's Earthly representative. It takes its direction from Satan. Through his anti-Christ, Satan has the ability to directly affect people, and to control and influence whoever is his will to do so.

In case you are not sure, the reference to the saints means the Saints of God, or the followers of Christ and his teachings, those that adhere to and keep the Ten Commandments and accept that Jesus is God in the flesh of a man.

The Saints Possess the Kingdom

*Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. **Daniel 7:22***

The Ancient of Days is God, and judgment is given to the saints of the most high. I feel obligated to give a premature clue as to the identity of the little horn (anti-Christ), it has to do with the fact that it persecutes and murders, the true faithful of Jesus Christ, in the name of God. After all, that is what happens when you make war. What this verse is referring to is the saints, because of their unflinching faith in Jesus are martyred by the little horn or the anti-Christ. The anti-Christ puts them on trial, declares them blasphemers, and heretics, and then burns them at the stake or beheads them.

God in his mercy in the Last of Days will give his judgment on those who were martyred, and declare the Saints of God innocent of the charges for which they were murdered, effectively overturning the judgment of the anti-Christ, for God is the ultimate authority in the universe, and his law supersedes all others.

The judgments given against the Saints by the anti-Christ were false and therefore the death of those so judged was unfounded. God therefore overturns those false judgments and restores the Saints to life.

The Fourth Beast

Thus he said, "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces." Daniel 7:23

This verifies my interpretation, that the fourth beast is a kingdom. That it is the Roman Empire, is supported by the fact that it is never conquered, but falls apart from within, and that the Roman Empire first is divided in two then latter one of those two is divided into the ten kingdoms which arise out of it.

The Whole Earth

One thing I would like to point out to you here, when the Bible refers to the whole earth, do not take that in a literal sense. In the time of the ancient peoples, the Mediterranean Sea and the lands that border it, was the whole earth. Therefore, when it refers to the fourth kingdom, which we now know to be Rome, we know that Rome did not conquer the whole earth, only the area of Europe and those lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

Civil Power Still Exists

One thing more you might want to consider, concerning the fourth empire, (Rome), was never conquered; it simply split in two then split again into ten smaller nations. Except for the three kingdoms plucked out by the anti-Christ, these nations still exist today. These nations along with the United States still have power and influence over most all the rest of the world. Therefore, when the above verse tells us: **"and shall devour the whole earth,"** this may still be valid, and that it was not the Roman Empire, but its offspring that would devour the whole earth, let's not forget the years of Imperialism that the nations of Europe and then America engaged in.

Religious Power Still Exists

There is another thing that you might want to give consideration to. The Roman Empire still exists even today. When the civil government collapsed from the sacking of the City of Rome, in 476 AD, the Church of Rome remained intact. From that point on, until it received the mortal wound that healed, the Church of Rome functioned as the imperial glue that kept the nations of Europe from any true sovereignty of their own. All Kings and peoples of the nations of Europe throughout the Dark Ages, were subject to and aligned with the Church of Rome to one degree or another. In this way, the Roman Empire never really came to an end. When God gives prophecy, “and shall devour the whole earth,” that it is in fact the Church of Rome that brings this to fulfillment, by using its influence and control of the nations of Europe, and their military power.

Ten Kings Arise

*And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. **Daniel 7:24***

The Bible interprets itself. The ten horns, of the fourth beast, are ten kingdoms that will rise out of the remains of the Western Roman Empire, and the little horn is a kingdom, and will arise out of the ten and destroy three of them in the process. Also take note that in this verse God refers to the anti-Christ as “He,” which will be helpful to understanding Chapter 11 of Daniel, and all its references to the anti-Christ and how “He” causes nations to act towards other nations.

After the Ten

These key words will have significance later as yet more identifiers of the anti-Christ are given. The words “another shall rise after them,” should tell you that this little horn will arise out of the ten, but not until after the ten are first established.

Diverse from the others

The words “diverse from the first,” is another clue in determining this little horn’s, or the anti-Christ’s identity. The word “Diverse,” is defined as: having different forms of the original. So this Little

Horn, or this Little Nation, is like the other kingdoms, yet there is something different about it that makes it distinctive from the others.

Again, there is a reference, in that the little horn will in some way cause the *destruction of three* of the original ten kingdoms, which is yet another identifier of the anti-Christ and can be determined from historical records.

What nation located somewhere in Europe or North Western Africa, after it was formed as a nation, caused three of the original ten kingdoms to be destroyed? Only with the knowledge of history could you have this information. In one of the following lessons I will go over in detail, the historical evidence that gives identity to the anti-Christ.

A Religious Leader

*And **he** shall speak great words (Blasphemies) against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. **Daniel 7:25***

Speaks Blasphemies

And he shall speak great words against the most High.

Remember: if you replace the word great with blasphemous, you will have a better understanding what this little horn or the head of this little nation is saying. This suggests to me that the head of this little nation has some kind of religious designation, in that it blasphemes against God, which would suggest that the head of this little nation preaches Satan's False Gospel, in that he speaks words in opposition to God's Holy Gospel.

Wears out the Saints

The words, "*shall wear out the saints of the most High,*" is another way of saying that the war that the anti-Christ conducts against the Saints of God is successful, and that the saints are diminished in number over

the time that the anti-Christ is given to make war on them. The phrase, **“wear out the saints of the most High,”** refers to the persecution of the saints of God. If you missed it earlier, the saints are those who accept Christ as the living God, and declare him to be their savior, and keep the commandments of God, of which I number myself. Therefore, what these words are saying is that the anti-Christ persecutes the Saints of God continuously.

Persecutes the Saint

The word **“Persecutes”** means: to systematically subject a group of people to cruel or unfair treatment because of their ethnic origin or religious beliefs. This can best be shown in the Catholic Church’s **“Trials of Inquisition,”** tortures, hangings and burning at the stake, of those who opposed or refused to submit to the Church’s false dogma and traditions.

If you consider, the ten horns or nations which arise from the one, the Roman Empire, then the little horn comes up from among them, and starts persecuting the saints. This is verifiable in history, and it is the Church of Rome that history shows us that did these **atrocities,** therefore it is the Church of Rome that is the anti-Christ as it is symbolized as a little horn.

Persecutes Continuously

Here is something for you to think about. In these verses we are told that the anti-Christ will persecute the saints of God continuously. Knowing this to be true, and you considering yourself to be a Christian, or a Saint of God, then why are you not being persecuted? Could it be possible that you do not fit the definition that Jesus gave of who a Saint of God is, which is: **those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ?**

The commandments of God are the Ten Commandments. Do you keep all of the Ten Commandments as they are spelled out in the Book of Exodus Chapter 20? The testimony of Jesus Christ is twofold, Jesus testified that he is God in the flesh of a man, the Messiah, and that which he taught was to bring to completion (to fulfill) our understanding of the morality of God as listed in the Ten Commandments. Do you accept this of Jesus, and then live your life and change your morality from one of sin to one as is God? If this is who you are then you are a Saint of God, if you fall short of any of what this definition entails, then you are not a Saint of God.

Anti-Christ Arises

Therefore, sometime after the dissolution of the Western Roman Empire, ten smaller kingdoms arise. After this, another will rise up from among the ten, plucking up three of them in the process. Historically we know the city of Rome was sacked and fell to the barbarians, in the year 476 AD. Therefore, this Little Nation has to have come up some time after that. The Church of Rome was established by Emperor Constantine in the 300's AD, so many will say that the Church of Rome can't be the anti-Christ because it existed prior to the establishment of the Ten Kingdoms. It is not the establishment of the anti-Christ on Earth by Satan that brings to fulfillment of God's prophecies as given in the Book of Daniel, but the establishment of the anti-Christ as a national power with the ability to persecute and murder.

In the year 538 AD Emperor Justinian gave the Church of Rome sovereignty of the lands that are known as the Vatican. This sovereignty constitutes the establishment of an independent nation. It is this that transforms the Church of Rome into the anti-Christ, and because this occurs after the establishment of the Ten Kingdoms, The Church of Rome then fits this prophecy.

So you will understand, the anti-Christ is the Hand of Satan upon the Earth, and as such has existed since the time of Adam and Eve. Though it had influence to one degree or another, it never had the power to persecute or murder those who gave true and correct worship to the God of Creation until it is established through the Church of Rome in 538 AD. It is this event that God give prophecy of in the Book of Daniel.

A Time Prophecy

So you will know this is also a time prophecy. The words, "a time and times and the dividing of time," denotes a period of time. What this time prophecy does is to inform us of the amount of time that this little nation, the anti-Christ, will have the power to make war on the saints.

3.5 Something

In the last part of this verse, it is revealed that these lies of the anti-Christ and its persecution of the saints will be allowed to go on for a time and times and the dividing of time.

These are not just words. They refer to a specific time period, 3.5 something. How do I know this represents 3 ½?

First, time = 1,

Times = 2,

A dividing of time = ½.

Add them together you get 3 ½.

This verse does not elaborate as to whether it is 3.5 days, weeks, months, or years, it only gives us a number, which is representative of a time period not yet made clear. There are other verses of this same time period in the Bible, but told or given in a different way, in so doing, God gives us other references to assist in understanding this time symbolism and its duration.

Forty and two months

One such is found in the following:

*And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. **Revelation 13:5***

Remember: I showed how God teaches us by giving information then latter on gives us additional information, building upon that which he has already given. That is what he is doing in this verse, **Revelation 13:5**. This verse is referring to the anti-Christ with words so close as those used by Daniel, as to make it impossible not to see this. But instead of saying *time, times and a dividing of time*, as he did in the Book of Daniel, God uses words that have greater meaning, forty two month.

1260 Days

Forty and two months is 42 months, which translates to 3 ½ years. If you take 42 and divide it by 12 months in a year, you get 3.5 years. If you then multiply 3.5 times the number of days in a year as kept by those of the time of the Apostle John, or 360 days, you get, 1260 days.

Keep this number, 1260 days in mind for future reference. It is important in revealing another identifier of the anti-Christ. I am convinced that whenever this time-period is mentioned, it refers to the same time in history, same beginning date to the same ending date, in other words they run concurrent to one another.

With this correct definition of what the 3.5 means, the question can be asked, when does this time period begin, and from that we can determine when it will end? God will reveal this as well, read on to find out.

Satan's First Lie

There is something about this that I want you to understand. When Satan in the guise of a serpent told that first lie to Eve, **Genesis 3:4**, though a simple lie, it had profound ramifications for God. Essentially, Satan besmirched the good name and reputation of God. Satan said that God was a liar, and a deceiver. If someone called you a liar, and you were not, then what would you do? How would you convince others, that it was the accuser that was the liar not you? It is this attempt by God to clear his name from any suspicions, why he did not simply remove Satan from existence the second he discovered Lucifer's treachery.

Not a Man

This little horn, or as we now know, this Little Nation, is the anti-Christ that you have been told about since you were a child. The only difference is that the story you know has been altered from the truth, no doubt by the anti-Christ itself.

As you can see from what we have studied so far, that the anti-Christ is not a single man that arises and takes power some time just before the second coming of Jesus, but that the anti-Christ is a small nation, whose long line of leaders, over several centuries, will speak blasphemies against God, his times, and his laws.

You should know that to speak blasphemies does not just mean to talk but also to actually do blasphemous acts, such as rewrite the laws of God. Such as changing the holy day of Sabbath, which God identifies beyond doubt in the Fourth Commandment as being the Seventh Day.

The anti-Christ through lies has changed the day of the Sabbath from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week, for which there is nothing in scripture to back the transference up, showing it to be Satan's lie, Satan's false gospel, which is in direct opposition to the laws of God.

Remember God Truism: if God did not speak it, it is a lie. If there is nothing in the pages of the Books of the Bible that gives support to God or Jesus giving command or instruction that the first day of the week is the Lord's Holy day of rest, then it must be a lie.

Satan's Representative on Earth

Remember: the anti-Christ is Satan's representative on earth. Whatever the anti-Christ does is with the full support of Satan. Therefore, you could say that the blasphemies spoken by the leaders of this little nation are actually the words of Satan, (Satan's False Gospel). Therefore, these leaders are under the influence of Satan or are so closely aligned with the same kind of personality that Satan has, that there is no distinction between the two.

Remember too: Satan is not a single individual, "Lucifer;" Satan is anyone or any group who put themselves in opposition to the Word of God. Lucifer was the first "**Satan**," *the fallen foe*, but all others including those angels that fell from heaven with Lucifer, are also "**Satan**." If you, after hearing the Word of God and the truth there of, still hold to the lies of Satan, then you too are Satan.

For Example: I have shown that the Seventh Day is the true day of the Lords Day of Rest; therefore, if you continue in your observance of Sunday as the true Sabbath, then you are showing that you reject God's Truth, in favor of Satan's Lies, which makes you a child of Satan.

All will be Revealed

In the End of Days, which we are currently well into, that which had been hidden by Satan will be revealed, it is then, for those alive in those days to choose between Satan's Lies that have been considered the truth for centuries, or to acknowledge the Word of God as the truth. This is given support in the following verse.

For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. **Luke 12:2**

For there is nothing covered, refers to Man's understanding of the Bible. Because much of the Bible is given in symbolisms, it is extremely confusing, until the symbolisms are understood. Because of this difficulty in understanding, Satan has been able to tell his lies with little or no opposition. It is this lack of opposition that has convinced the people that the Lie is the Truth through the Centuries. But what the above verse is telling me is that the time will come, "**The End of Days**," when these symbolisms will be given meaning, revealing God's

truth and exposing Satan's lies. That which I have been showing you in the pages of these lessons, is fulfillment of the above prophecy from the Book of Luke.

That shall not be revealed, is Jesus' promise that full understanding of the entire Bible and all that it means will be manifest, at some point, I suggest during the End of Days, and I further attest that all that I have written and placed upon this Web Page, was given to me by God in fulfillment of this prophecy.

Change the Times and Laws of God

Think to change times and laws, refers to God's times and laws. I think you know that God's laws are the Ten Commandments, written in stone by God's own finger, to symbolize that they are to last forever. Here is something you might want to consider. If Satan is trying to change God's Laws, which we know to be the Ten Commandments, then don't you think it wise to keep the Ten Commandments, if you want to worship the true God? If Satan is trying to change them, then for you to not keep the Ten Commandments, does that not put you on the side of Satan instead of the side of God?

Times of God

You might not completely understand what the reference to **times of God** is, therefore I will give explanation.

In the process of Creation, God first established a seven day week. On the first day God began Creation by igniting the Spark of Creation, and then began to manipulate that which he had created. The last day of the week, or the Seventh Day, God rested from all his work. In this God established a seven day week.

In the seven days of creation, **Genesis 1:1 through Genesis 2:5**, God created something else that is not listed as a creation but was created none the less. God created time, or at least the God given way time is to be observed.

Take note: at the end of every day's labor in his creation of the universe, God gives name to the day as well as everything that he created. For example, at the end of the sixth day, God says, "And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." What this means is that God's day begins at sundown, which is another way of saying evening, goes through the night into morning, and then through the day time back

to the evening and ends again at sundown. As you are no doubt aware, we do not keep time in this fashion. The new day for us begins at 12:00 AM or midnight. This was brought about by Satan changing the times of God.

I think you will agree that Satan has had his hand in the affairs of man and their nations, since the beginning. It therefore is only logical that he had some role in influencing the rulers of Rome. I am not sure when, but definitely by the time of the establishment of the Roman Empire, the day came to be measured from morning to the next morning, or Sun up to Sun up. In other words, when the sun rises, is the new day, until it rises again the next day.

If you noticed in the seven days of creation, God measures it from the evening and the morning as part of the new day. What this means is that God is indicating, that from the evening through the night and including the morning, is the new day. At Sun Down, that day ends and yet another new day begins. It is Satan through his influence on the rulers of Man that we no longer live by God's given time of day.

Sundown to Sundown

In short, the new day begins at dusk or at sun down, and ends at dusk or sun down 24 hours later. This can best be demonstrated in the way the Fourth Commandment tells us to observe the Sabbath. The God given time when the Sabbath is to be observed is at dusk on Friday till dusk on Saturday. The new day of Saturday begins at dusk on Friday at sundown. What we call Friday night due to Satan's influence, but in fact is Saturday Night according to God's way of keeping time. The new day of Saturday, begins at sun down, so that night period, should be called, Saturday Night. I know this is a bit confusing, but that is because, Satan has been so successful at his attempt to usurp the very times of God, that Satan's way of telling time is so ingrained into our nature, as to make God's time to be strange.

Violating the Fourth Commandment

You need to be made aware, that Satan has been successful at rewriting the laws of God as well. The most obvious is the day of the Sabbath. If you observe the Sabbath on Sunday, then you are in violation of God's fourth commandment, **Exodus 20:8 through 11.**

God's Judgment

But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume it and to destroy unto the end. **Daniel 7:26**

This is interesting, *the judgment shall sit*. What this means is despite Satan's best efforts, he will fail, and God's judgment over him, which he made in the Garden of Eden, will stand. If you recall,

God's First Prophecy

God himself made the very first prophecy as revealed in the following verses.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." **Genesis 3:14-15**

Christ Defeats Satan

The very first prophecy ever told, not only was told by God, but is the first prophecy of the Advent of Christ, and that it will be Christ who crushes the serpents head, or defeats Satan. The phrase, *"and thou shalt bruise his heel"* in my opinion is a prophecy that has already come to pass. We think of the Jews as being those that caused Jesus to be crucified, but it was Satan's influence over the Jews that caused this. It therefore was ultimately Satan who in fact crucified Jesus, and in so doing fulfilled the above prophecy.

The words, *they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end*, could be interpreted as being God takes away Satan's dominion, but in this regard, I am convinced that the judges were in fact the Angels of Heaven, this I conclude because of the use of the word, *"they."* It is because of them, that God had to clear his good name from the lies leveled against him by Satan to Adam and Eve, and once that is done to the satisfaction of those angels, then God is free to dispose of Satan, but in accordance to the judgment of the Angels.

If God Spoke It

I may be wrong on this, and others have told me as such, but that is what this study is all about. I am attempting to cause you to think about your current beliefs and with this interpretation of the Bible, force you to rethink what you believe and hold it to the light of the Bible, and see if your beliefs still hold true. You have to decide, do you accept that the words in the Bible are not just inspired of God, but that God caused them to be written. If you do, then how can a Christian accept something not supported by the Bible over that which the Bible states? If God spoke it you will find it in the Bible, if God did not speak it then it cannot be supported by the words in the Bible and it is a lie.

Given to the Saints

*And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. **Daniel 7:27***

Take Note: the kingdom under heaven is to be given to the saints of the most High, not the kingdom of heaven itself. This verse goes on to say that God's kingdom, the kingdom of heaven is everlasting, and all dominions, or authority he gives to others, shall serve and obey him. In other words, the saints will be given authority over the earth, but they will still be subordinate to God. This is supported in the following verses.

Jesus Subordinate to God

*For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of Man. **John 5:26-27***

What this is telling me, is that even Jesus as ruler of the Earth for one thousand years, even so is subordinate to God the Father in Heaven.

Daniel is Troubled

*Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart. **Daniel 7:28***

In the above verse Daniel is telling us that he now understands that which God has been showing him, but that this knowledge is troubling to him just the same. I wish to reveal that this is true for me as well. God has given me the power of understanding. It is because of this understanding what is truth and what is lie, that I have embarked upon the arduous task of writing these lessons and Chapters of the Web Page. Even so, I am crushed in my spirit by the knowledge that so much of what is all around us, I now see the hand of Satan involve in. It is sad and depressing when I attempt to show others that I love most in this life, these truths, that they openly reject what I preach, to the point that I am concerned that they may never convert to the true worship of God and therefore be lost to eternal death. The only bright spot in all this is the knowledge that this Web Page is being seen by thousands of people the world over, from all nations and languages. Even though those that I love most reject these writings, it is good to know that many others in the world are at least taking an interest in reading them.