

**THE REVELATION & END TIMES (Part 8)**  
**DANIEL'S VISIONS**  
**OF THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD AND THE KINGDOM OF**  
**GOD**

*The Lord's Day, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019*

**Reading: Daniel 2:1-28**

**INTRODUCTION:**

As an introduction to this series on *The Revelation and End Times*, we firstly looked at the subject of ***The Resurrection of Life in 1 Corinthians 15.***

Then, as we continued on, we followed a particular order, so as to lay a foundation of proper understanding of what the Scriptures teach on this subject:

***PART 2, Introduction to The Revelation: Revelation 1***

***PART 3, The Coming of the Lord: Revelation 22***

***PART 4, The Fall of Jerusalem and the End of the World: Matthew 24***

***PART 5, The Millennium: Revelation 20***

***PART 6, The Last Days: Isaiah 2, Joel 2, Daniel, Hebrews 1, Jude, 1 John 2***

***PART 7, Israel in The Last Days: Romans 9-11***

***BRIEFLY, IN SUMMARY, HERE ARE SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS OF THESE STUDIES WE NEED TO KEEP IN MIND AS WE CONTINUE:***

- 1. THE REVELATION, LIKE MOST OTHER PROPHECIES AND VISIONS, WAS GIVEN IN SYMBOLIC FORM – most of it is not to be understood literally. This is plainly stated in the first verse: *Revelation 1:1*, THE Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and **he sent and signified it** by his angel unto his servant John;**
- 2. THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD, IS AT THE END OF THIS WORLD, at the time of the general resurrection and the judgment of all, both the quick and the dead, and it is His *second* coming, not His third or fourth, and meanwhile, all things continue as they have done throughout the whole Christian era until that day comes: *Revelation 22: 10* And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is**

filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely;

3. **THE MATTERS OF DISCUSSION OF JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES IN *MATTHEW 24*, WERE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ABOUT THE LOOMING FALL OF JERUSALEM IN 70 AD (JUST 40 YEARS AWAY AT THE TIME), NOT AT THE END OF THE WORLD**, the main implication being that so-called signs of the times, were for *those* times – NB. *Matthew 24:34*, “34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.”
4. **THE DOCTRINE OF A 'MILLENNIUM,' A LITERAL THOUSAND YEAR PERIOD, AFTER THE RETURN OF CHRIST, IS NOWHERE FOUND IN SCRIPTURE**, but is a figment of men's imaginations, and a powerful tool of the Jesuits, who invented the prevailing Futurist scheme of interpretation of prophecy, so as to counter the doctrine of the Protestant Reformers, as all the Reformers were saying that the Popes of Rome are fulfilling the prophecies of the “Antichrist” (*1 John 2:18*) and “man of sin” (*2 Thessalonians 2:3*). *The Revelation* teaches that this so-called 'millennium' is not a literal thousand years but the number '1,000', is symbolic and spiritual, that the “thousand years” is not based on earth, but in heaven, and is enjoyed by every born again believer, beginning at the new birth and continuing with our spiritual ascension into heaven at the time of our physical death – that is the scene of the vision of John; it has nothing to do with a temporal kingdom on earth, based at Jerusalem. *Revelation 20:4*, **And I saw thrones**, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon*

their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **These are “souls”, not glorified/resurrected bodies!** John sees them in heaven, not on earth! He sees them in the New Jerusalem, not the old.

5. **THE “LAST DAYS” ARE NOT SOME FUTURISTIC SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE CHRIST'S RETURN**, but they are the ending of the Old Covenant and the Jewish world and nation, and the establishment of the New Covenant in Christ to all nations, and they span the whole period between Christ's first and second advents, i.e. the whole Christian era until the end of the world. ***Hebrews 1:1* GOD**, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...**” When Paul wrote his ***Epistle to the Hebrews***, the last days were already upon them – the “last days” are the days of Jesus Christ, and when He returns and raises the dead for judgment, “then cometh the end”, as Paul specifically states in ***1 Corinthians 15:24***.
6. **THE PLAN GOD HAS FOR ISRAEL IN THE 'LAST DAYS' IS THE SAME AS THE PLAN HE HAS FOR ALL NATIONS – CHRIST, AND CHRIST ALONE!** Christ and His Church have been the focus from *Genesis* to *Revelation*, beginning with Adam and his bride Eve, the first picture-prophecy of Christ and His Church, from the beginning of the world to the end and through all eternity, because all who are God's elect, God's chosen children, were chosen *in Christ* “before the foundation of the world” (***This is specifically stated in Ephesians 1:4***), and whether these chosen ones are Jew or Gentile, all of them will be found to be safe in Christ at the final judgment, for the Father has given them to Him (***John 6:37-40***, **37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.** **38** For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. **39** And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that **of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.** **40** And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.), and His precious blood has redeemed them: ***Hebrews 10:14***, “14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified,” i.e. those set apart for Him, and given to Him by the Father, He has eternally saved and secured by His death and resurrection

and His righteousness imputed to them. **This is God's perfect plan of redemption for His elect from every nation, and it maintains the pre-eminence of Christ from beginning to end. *The Jesuits' Devil-inspired Futurist scheme of interpretation of prophecy, which has deceived the great majority of Christians to this day*, places not Christ but the Jews, at the centre of God's kingdom and programme, but Scripture places Christ Himself, with His "bride" the Christian Church, as central and ultimate to His eternal purposes.**

***TO ILLUSTRATE THE EXTENT OF THIS FUTURIST DECEPTION BY THE JESUITS, NAMELY FRANCESCO RIBERA***, whose infamy in Bible prophecy interpretation dates back as far as 1590, as a very real manifestation of the "Antichrist" and "man of sin" "deceiving the very elect", let me share briefly from a recent discussion I had with a man who was extolling the virtues of other religions, such as Judaism and Buddhism: He claimed that both Judaism and Buddhism taught wisdom and good values etc. as does Jesus Christ, he parroted and promoted **that popular oxymoron "Judaeo-Christian values"**, and he did so in an attempt to justify himself, after I had challenged him, that he as a Member of Parliament, was promoting Judaism instead of Jesus Christ, and that, if he would be faithful to the Australian Constitution, he must promote Jesus Christ, not any of His enemies and rivals, because it is Jesus Christ only, the "Almighty God", to Whom our founding fathers looked as they established this nation on the Constitution in 1901, they did not give any reference to the Jews or to any other religion. But, astounding as it may seem to us who are believers in Christ and in Scripture, this man stated what many are saying today, and I quote him: "*Jewish religion preceded Christianity and was a huge influence on what is seen today as western civilization*". What gross ignorance this is! And what awful blasphemy! As Jesus Christ, the Creator of "all things visible and invisible" (***Colossians 1:16***), the "Alpha and Omega" (***Revelation 1:8,11***), He who has "neither beginning of days, nor end of life" (***Hebrews 7:3***), is said to be preceded by the Jews and their wisdom! **WHAT THIS UNBELIEVING MAN COMPLETELY MISSES IS, THAT IF THE JEWS EVER HAD ANY WISDOM, IT WAS GIVEN TO THEM BY JESUS CHRIST! WHAT HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND ABOUT CHRISTIANITY IS, THAT CHRISTIANITY PREDATES JUDAISM AND EVERY OTHER 'ISM' KNOWN TO MAN**, because the names of all the elect of God were "written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the

foundation of the world” (*Revelation 13:8*), so *Christ’s sheep were numbered and named and predestinated in Him, long before there ever was such a thing as a Jew or a Gentile, thousands of years before Buddha and Confucius were born as mere sinful men!*

Therefore, let us shun the lies of the Roman Antichrist, agree with the Word of God, and give Christ the glory and honour which is due to Him only, and by God’s grace, let us also stop the mouths of the gainsayers, unrepentant sinners, who blaspheme our Lord Jesus with their proud and pompous words!

*Now let us turn to our subject today:*

### ***INTRODUCTION TO DANIEL’S VISIONS OF THE KINGDOMS OF MEN AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD***

***FIRSTLY, BACKSLIDING HAS BEEN THE COMMON EXPERIENCE OF GOD’S CHURCH FROM THE TIME OF ADAM:*** There is nothing truer than that history repeats itself, that “there is no new thing under the sun” (*Ecclesiastes 1:9*), and that men and nations never seem to learn from the errors of history.

We therefore see a similarity between different times when the people of Israel backslid, following the idolatries of the heathen, allowing the worship of Baal (the Sun God) and Ashtoreth (the Goddess of Fertility) to dominate the very nation (even as we, in a long time Christian nation, have also allowed essentially the same Paganism to dominate our present world, in the form of what is now called 'multi-culturalism'), and this idolatry in Israel, coupled with the treachery and murder and gross immorality, which prevailed (again, just like ours today), to the point where the Lord sent the Assyrian armies to take them captive, ending the Northern Kingdom of Israel in about 640 BC, being the end result and judgment of God on the Pagan idolatry of Solomon, and later, in the remaining kingdom of Judah in the south of Israel, He sent the Armies of Babylon (Chaldea) to besiege Jerusalem, Daniel and others being taken captive to Babylon, about 526 BC, and hence the ultimate fall of the Kingdom of Judah in 507 BC. And then after their return to Jerusalem after 70 years’ captivity in Babylon, and another 483 years after Cyrus’ decree to release the captives, Christ was baptized in the Jordan, and Israel received final warnings from Christ and His apostles, of yet another and final destruction, which was to fall upon a people who had rejected and crucified the Lord Himself, and had His prophets murdered also – this took place in 70

AD at the hands of the Roman armies. (*My reference for these dates is a little book called, “The Wonders of Bible Chronology”, by Philip Mauro.*)

*Backsliding, backsliding, backsliding – the experience of all mankind!*

**SECONDLY, LET US NOTE: ALL THE KINGDOMS OF MEN SHALL FALL, DESPITE ALL THE WARNINGS OF THE WORD OF GOD – ONLY THE KINGDOM OF GOD SHALL PREVAIL AND REMAIN FOR EVER.** This is something all men would do well to learn, but the history of all the kingdoms of men underlines this fact concerning fallen man, and the Word of God by His prophets has always had in view a coming King Who would reign for ever, over an entirely different and eternal kingdom – Remember Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world” (*John 18:36*).

All the writing prophets of the Old Testament, who prophesied before and during the Babylonian captivity, also spoke of Christ Who was to come – the eternal King of an eternal kingdom. Daniel is an important one of those prophets.

**THIRDLY, MATTHEW HENRY’S INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL IS HELPFUL AS A BACKGROUND FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING:** *I’ll take the time to read some of this to you because it is so helpful, but don’t be concerned if you can’t take it all in immediately – the notes are available in full for those who wish to revise or just keep this as a future reference: MATTHEW HENRY:* The book of **Ezekiel** left the affairs of Jerusalem under a doleful aspect, all in ruins, but with a joyful prospect of all in glory again. This (*book*) of Daniel fitly follows. Ezekiel told us what was seen, and what was foreseen, by him in the former years of the captivity: **Daniel** tells us what was seen, and foreseen, in the latter years of the captivity. When God employs different hands, yet it is about the same work. And it was a comfort to the poor captives that they had first one prophet among them and then another, to show them *how long*, and a sign that God had not quite cast them off. Let us enquire, **I. Concerning this prophet** His Hebrew name was *Daniel*, which signifies the *judgment of God*; his Chaldean name was *Belteshazzar*. He was of the tribe of Judah, and, as it should seem, of the royal family. He was betimes eminent for wisdom and piety. Ezekiel, his contemporary, but much his senior, speaks of him as an oracle when thus he upbraids the king of Tyre with his conceitedness of himself: *Thou art wiser than Daniel*, **Ezek. xxxviii. 3**. He is likewise there celebrated for success in prayer, when Noah, Daniel, and Job are reckoned as three men that had the greatest interest in heaven of any, **Ezek. xiv. 14**. He



began betimes to be famous, and continued long so. **Some of the Jewish rabbin are loth to acknowledge him (*Daniel*) to be a prophet of the higher form, and therefore rank his book among the *Hagiographa*, not among the prophecies, and would not have their disciples pay much regard to it.** One reason they pretend is because he did not live such a mean mortified life as Jeremiah and some other of the prophets did, but lived like a prince, and was a prime-minister of state; whereas we find him persecuted as other prophets were (**ch. vi.**), and mortifying himself as other prophets did, when he *ate no pleasant bread* (**ch. x. 3**), and fainting sick when he was under the power of the Spirit of prophecy, **ch. viii. 27**. Another reason they pretend is because he wrote his book in a heathen country, and *there* had his visions, and not in the land of Israel; but, for the same reason Ezekiel also must be expunged out of the roll of prophets. **(CAN YOU SEE HERE A HINT OF THE CORRUPTION OF THE JEWISH SCHOLARS, THAT BASED ON THEIR OWN SELF-IMPORTANCE, THEY WOULD JUDGE THE BOOKS OF SCRIPTURE, EVEN CONTRARY TO THE OBVIOUS FACTS IN THEM! MATTHEW HENRY GOES ON TO EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR THIS CORRUPTION)** **BUT THE TRUE REASON IS THAT HE (*DANIEL*) SPEAKS SO PLAINLY OF THE TIME OF THE MESSIAH'S COMING, THAT THE JEWS CANNOT AVOID THE CONVICTION OF IT, AND THEREFORE DO NOT CARE TO HEAR OF IT (*emphasis added*).** But Josephus calls him (*Daniel*) one of the *greatest of the prophets*, nay, the angel Gabriel calls him a *man greatly beloved*. He lived long an active life in the courts and councils of some of the greatest monarchs the world ever had, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Darius; for we mistake if we confine the privilege of an intercourse with heaven to speculative men, or those that spend their time in contemplation; No. *Who* was more intimately acquainted with the mind of God than Daniel, a courtier, a statesman, and a man of business? The Spirit, as the wind, blows where it lists. And, if those that have much to do in the world plead that as an excuse for the infrequency and slightness of their converse with God, Daniel will condemn them. **Some have thought that he returned to Jerusalem, and was one of the masters of the Greek synagogue; but nothing of that appears in scripture; it is therefore generally concluded that he died in Persia at Susan**, where he lived to be very old. **(HERE WE SEE HOW MATTHEW HENRY SHINES BRIGHTLY AS A FAITHFUL BIBLE COMMENTATOR, AS A WITNESS TO CHRIST, HE RESORTS TO SCRIPTURE ALONE FOR THE TRUTH!)** **II. Concerning this book.** The first six chapters of it are historical, and are plain and easy; THE LAST SIX ARE PROPHETICAL, AND IN THEM ARE MANY THINGS DARK, AND HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD, WHICH YET WOULD BE MORE

INTELLIGIBLE IF WE HAD A MORE COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE NATIONS, AND ESPECIALLY THE JEWISH NATION, FROM DANIEL'S TIME TO THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH (***I EMPHASISE THESE WORDS OF MATTHEW HENRY BECAUSE I WANT TO COMMENT BRIEFLY AT THIS POINT: WHEN GOD WITHHOLDS KNOWLEDGE, MAN IS NATURALLY DETERMINED, LIKE EVE, TO SEARCH OUT WHAT GOD HAS HIDDEN, AND THE SAME OLD SERPENT IS EVER-READY TO HELP. HENCE, APOCRYPHAL BOOKS ARE CLAIMED TO FILL THIS VERY GAP IN HISTORY WHICH MATTHEW HENRY SPEAKS OF, SO THE CHURCH OF ROME HAS PLACED THEM BETWEEN THE COVERS OF THE BOOKS OF SCRIPTURE, AND THEREBY, SUCCESSFULLY DECEIVES MANY BY LEADING THEM TO SUPPOSED WISDOM THAT IS NOT OF GOD, NOT WRITTEN BY GOD'S CHOSEN PROPHETS. NOT ONLY DO APOCRYPHAL BOOKS UNDERGIRD WEIRD DOCTRINES LIKE THE BIZARRE MARRIAGE AND PRODUCTION OF OFFSPRING BY ANGELS AND HUMAN BEINGS, BUT THEY ALSO CLAIM TO FILL THE HISTORICAL GAP BETWEEN OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT TIMES – DON'T BELIEVE THEM! THEY ARE NOT OF GOD! BUT MATTHEW HENRY RIGHTLY STATES THAT WE HAVE ONLY SKETCHY DETAILS FROM SCRIPTURE ABOUT THIS PERIOD OF TIME, AND SO, LET US STAND FIRM ON THE FACT THAT WHAT GOD HAS PROVIDED IS SUFFICIENT FOR US – "SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, REPROOF ETC."*** (2 TIMOTHY 3:16). ***THE MERE WRITINGS OF MEN ARE NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AT ALL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCTRINE!***) **MATTHEW HENRY CONTINUES:** **Our Saviour intimates the difficulty of apprehending the sense of Daniel's prophecies** when, speaking of them, he says, *Let him that readeth understand, Matt. xxiv. 15.* The first chapter, and the first three verses of the second chapter, are in Hebrew; thence to the eighth chapter is in the Chaldee dialect; and thence to the end is in Hebrew. **Mr. Broughton observes** that, as the Chaldeans were kind to Daniel, and gave cups of cold water to him when he requested it, rather than the king's wine, God would not have them lose their reward, but made that language which they taught him to have honour in his writings through all the world, unto this day. **Daniel, according to his computation, continues the holy story from the first surprising of Jerusalem by the Chaldean Babel, when he himself was carried away captive, until the last destruction of it by Rome, the mystical Babel, for so far forward his predictions look, ch. ix. 27.** The fables of Susannah, and of Bel and the Dragon, in both which Daniel is made a party, are **APOCRYPHAL STORIES (*Emphasis added*)**, which we think we have no reason to give any credit to, they being never found in the Hebrew or Chaldee, but only in the Greek, nor ever admitted by the Jewish church. **There are some both of the histories**



**and of the prophecies of this book that bear date in the latter end of the Chaldean monarchy, and others of both that are dated in the beginning of the Persian monarchy. But both Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which Daniel interpreted, and his own visions, point at the Grecian and Roman monarchies, and very particularly at the Jews' troubles under Antiochus, which it would be of great use to them to prepare for; as his fixing the very time for the coming of the Messiah was of use to all those that waited for the consolation of Israel, and is to us, for the confirming of our belief, That this is he who should come, and we are to look for no other.**

*Let us thank God for this faithful commentary of Matthew Henry on the God-inspired book of Daniel.*

***FOURTHLY, THE HISTORIC SETTING OF THE PROPHET DANIEL: Daniel 1:1-9,*** “IN the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. 3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring *certain* of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; 4 Children in whom *was* no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as *had* ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. 5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. 6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel *the name* of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-nego. 8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.”

***THE LORD HAS GIVEN US SUFFICIENT HISTORICAL DETAIL IN DANIEL'S INSPIRED WRITINGS TO UNDERSTAND FULLY, THE PROPHECIES AND THEIR FULFILMENT.*** There are historical facts, which are undeniable, which no prophecy interpreters disagree on. Let us stick to the facts and avoid the so-

called expert interpreters and their interpretations, above all, let us be aware of the spurious things the Church of Rome injects into these matters. As we continue, by God's grace, we shall see just how certain we can be about the main things, the main purposes and details of the prophecies and their fulfilment, because the prophets were all writing for the benefit of God's people, and they are all about Christ and Christ alone – these are not unsolved mysteries, as some would have us believe, because if you believe their lies, the experts will have you eating out of their hand, but our sufficiency is the Lord Himself and His inspired Words, we do not need anything else, we do not need the Serpent's forbidden knowledge.

***SO, DANIEL WAS WELL RESPECTED IN BABYLON, AND SOON BECAME A GREAT MAN, JUST AS JOSEPH DID IN EGYPT BEFORE HIM – Proverbs 16:7, “When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”***

Let us also remember, before we go on, that Daniel's attention to detail in matters of food and drink had relevance to the Old Covenant requirements for God's people – the New Covenant has no such requirements in meat and drink, because **those ritualistic matters were symbolic of the spiritual Truth which was to be revealed in Christ under the New Covenant, they are not matters of health as some modern heretics teach, but were matters of obedience required under the Old Testament, and no longer relevant under the New.**

The Lord bless you as you consider these wonderful inspired Words given to the prophet Daniel and others, so many centuries ago, and, according to His promises (again, through the prophets), preserved to every generation of His people, whose names were written in heaven before the world was! Amen.

**THE REVELATION & END TIMES (Part 8)**  
**DANIEL'S VISIONS**  
**OF THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD AND THE KINGDOM OF**  
**GOD**  
**INTRODUCTION**

*Continued, The Lord's Day 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019.*

The prophet Daniel was part of a remnant of God's people, when they were carried away as captives to Babylon, so he saw the reality of the backsliding of his people and the awful results. He lived in banishment from his home country. Because of this great tragedy, the words of *Psalm 137* have been immortalised to this day:

BY the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us *required of us* mirth, *saying*, Sing us *one* of the songs of Zion.

4 How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?

5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget *her cunning*.

6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

7 Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, *Rase it, rase it, even* to the foundation thereof.

8 O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy *shall he be*, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.

9 Happy *shall he be*, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.

This was a very real and historic event! I wonder how many Australians today, New Zealanders, or citizens of the United Kingdom, stop to consider that we are coming very close to being like Daniel – not that we are being carried away from our home land, but that we are becoming strangers in our own country, because of the planned invasion of Christian nations by the Antichristian, Globalist powers of today's world?

We still have a Christian Constitution and a Christian Flag, but many Church buildings are disappearing or being converted into places of profane, worldly pursuits, and the Lord's Day has been virtually eradicated from our country! And many people are saying, "What is wrong with our economy? What is

happening to our industries? Why doesn't our government care what is happening to ordinary Australians?" But how many of our people will suffer and die without opening the Word of God to see the answers? Not many it seems. **But when the Lord's Day is a forgotten institution, why is it so amazing that we are having so many national problems? It is less than 50 years ago that the Lord's Day was honoured by the whole nation.** What is highly ironic for Australia and the UK today, is that it is the Arab nations, the Moslems, the remnants of ancient Babylon, whom the Lord has brought against us, to be our greatest scourge! Well might the Church sing Psalm 137 today, two and a half millennia after the days of Daniel!

As we began this study of Daniel in our previous session, we observed that backsliding the common experience of humanity since Adam, and we made some general observations about Daniel, and noted also that all the kingdoms of men shall fall, but only the kingdom of God shall remain. Let us continue to observe how Daniel stood firm and faithful as a man of God in a time of great tragedy, how the Lord helped him and revived His people:

***FIFTHLY, DANIEL'S PROPHECY OF CHAPTER 2 – THE MOMENTOUS OCCASION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM AND THE INTERPRETATION GIVEN BY DANIEL THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF GOD:***

1. ***THE KING'S "SPIRIT WAS TROUBLED" BY THE DREAMS (2:1).*** This is an amazing thing: that the Lord would speak to a heathen king in a dream, but let us remember just how important and strategic this king and his kingdom of Babylon were, in the unfolding of God's great plan for His kingdom and His people (remembering also that Christ and His Church were always in view as God's grand plan of all ages – hence this vision and prophecy is not really about the kingdoms of men but the kingdom of God). Many approach Bible prophecy with a view to understanding the kingdoms and empires of men, and try to predict the return of Christ based on an understanding of the world's empires, but the primary purpose of all prophecy is to reveal Christ and His eternal kingdom!

**LET US TAKE GENERAL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THIS, THAT THE LORD IS ABLE TO DIRECT RULERS TODAY ALSO, AND THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS STILL AT THE CENTRE OF ALL GOD'S PURPOSES.** Too many Christians have been duped into thinking that God is not really involved in the affairs of this world, that God is not involved in politics. But the Bible teaches otherwise.

Let us therefore remember Paul's exhortation to Timothy: **1 Timothy 2:1-4**, "I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." Let us pray for rulers in spite of their blindness and foolishness. It may be that the Lord even wants to save some of them. And whether He saves their souls or not, He is well able to direct their steps – they are not the free agents they think they are. **Psalm 75**, "4 I said unto the fools, Deal not foolishly: and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn: 5 Lift not up your horn on high: speak *not with* a stiff neck. 6 For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7 But **God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.**" Let us never forget that great men do not have the power they think they have, but all "power belongeth unto God" (**Psalm 63:11**), and it is the Lord Jesus Who alone sits upon an unending and unchanging throne. Let our faith be solely in Him, of Whom the Holy Ghost said, "Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom *is* a right sceptre" (**Psalm 45:6**).

**BELIEVERS ARE NOT LIKE THE HEATHEN, RUNNING TO ASTROLOGERS, OR GAZING INTO CRYSTAL BALLS, BUT THERE MAY BE RARE TIMES WHEN GOD GETS OUR ATTENTION IN EXTRAORDINARY WAYS.** After all, He *is* our God. He *is* with us, according to His many exceeding great and precious promises, just as He was with His people of old. Let us not despise prophesyings (**1 Thessalonians 5:20**), but let us "prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (**5:21**), relying absolutely on the "more sure word of prophecy" (**2 Peter 1:19**), which is the Scriptures.

2. **NOTE, THAT THE "MAGICIANS, AND THE ASTROLOGERS, AND THE SORCERERS, AND THE CHALDEANS" (2:2) OF THIS HEATHEN REALM COULD NOT HELP THE KING**, though he promised "gifts and rewards and great honour" (**2:6**) to anyone who could.

**THERE IS NO HELP FOR MAN BUT IN GOD, THROUGH CHRIST!** The prophets understood that God was their only help: David, in the heat of battle, penned **Psalm 60**, "O GOD, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again.....9 Who will bring me *into* the strong city? who will lead me into Edom?"

10 *Wilt* not thou, O God, *which* hadst cast us off? and *thou*, O God, *which* didst not go out with our armies? **11 Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.** 12 Through God we shall do valiantly: for he *it is that* shall tread down our enemies.”

**VAIN IS THE HELP OF MAN! IF ONLY THIS GENERATION COULD SEE THIS!** People turn hither and thither in desperate times: Israel's first king, Saul, turned to a witch when God would no longer hear his prayers; some turn to their friends; some try to find solace in alcohol, or in pleasure seeking; some poor souls even resort to suicide because they think there is no hope. It is a shameful thing that the Lord Who created heaven and earth, and invites all the earth to come to Him for help, is despised by so many, but well might the Church sing, “*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home. Beneath the shadow of thy throne, Thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defence is sure*” (Isaac Watts). People run to and fro, looking for wisdom, when all the wisdom we could ever need is in the Scriptures. People even go to preachers and the words of wisdom of preachers, and they quote what Spurgeon said, or Martin Lloyd Jones etc., without even resorting to Scripture – the world has gone mad! And the Church is just as mad, for not looking to God and Christ and the written, infallible Truth of the Scriptures alone – to **CHRIST ALONE AND TO SCRIPTURE ALONE**, as Martin Luther said, but many today will quote this perfect exhortation and confession of Luther, and then turn around and quote other preachers without heeding Luther’s advice (which is to go to Christ alone and Scripture alone)! I’m not saying you should ignore faithful preachers, but that the words of faithful preachers are not above the Word of God, and the words of faithful preachers point you to the Word of God, and if they don’t point you to the very Words of God, then they are not faithful preachers! **PAUL CHARGED TIMOTHY TO COMMIT THE MINISTRY OF GOD’S WORD TO “FAITHFUL MEN WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS” (2 TIMOTHY 2:2)!** THE AWFUL IMPLICATION OF THIS IS THAT UNFAITHFUL MEN ARE UNABLE TO TEACH OTHERS! Let me put it this way: If you had one more thing you could say to the world and to the Church before you die, what would you say? Would it be a Spurgeon quote, or a John Owen quote, or the Prayer of Saint Francis? Or would it be a carefully selected Scripture,



such as *Hebrews 1:1-3*, “GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high...”? Would you give them Scripture alone, and would you point them to Scripture alone and to Christ alone with your last breath? And how do you know whether this breath you are breathing now is not your last breath? So why would you waste any breath at all on promoting men? “Vain is the help of man!”

**THE HEATHEN KING DIDN'T KNOW OF THE GOD WHO CREATED ALL THINGS AND IS THE JUDGE OF ALL MEN, BUT, BY GOD'S GRACE, DANIEL WAS ABLE TO INTRODUCE HIM TO HIM.** By God's grace, we can do likewise, if only we are prepared to present to people the Words of God and not the words of men. May God help us to do so! Do you think the people around you know the God Who created all things visible and invisible? Do they know His name is Jesus Christ? The truth is that they don't know Him from a bar of soap!

**THANK GOD IF YOU WERE RAISED IN A CHRISTIAN HOME,** if your parents or grandparents took you to Church or to Sunday School. Your upbringing may not have been perfect, the religion you were taught may not have been perfect, but if you were taught something of the Creator and Jesus the Lord from heaven, and the commandments of God and His judgment, count it a great blessing and privilege, and remind yourself of those things and give thanks always, so you too can be a witness for Christ!

**THANK GOD FOR THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WE HAVE IN THIS NATION AUSTRALIA, AND OUR MOTHER COUNTRY, GREAT BRITAIN,** that our founding fathers knew the true and living God, they knew Who Jesus Christ is, and gave honour and glory to Him in our Constitution and Flag, and in all public office. Thank God for this, because this present generation is not like the founding fathers were, but is a generation which has forgotten the Lord and all His benefits, and is doing its utmost to jettison every vestige of the Christianity we were founded on and the Bible which gave us that foundation.

**PEOPLE NEED MEN LIKE DANIEL AND HIS GOD-FEARING FRIENDS, IN EVERY PLACE, IN EVERY GENERATION, SO THAT WHOLE NATIONS DON'T PERISH IN IGNORANCE, UNDER THE WRATH OF GOD.** We are commissioned as part of Christ's Church, from the beginning, to "preach the gospel to every creature" (*Mark 16:15*) – it is the only means of salvation, and the only means of any people obtaining any wisdom at all.

3. ***THEN THEY LOOKED TO GOD FOR THE ANSWER (2:10-11)***, "10 The Chaldeans answered (truthfully, though the king accused them of deception) before the king, and said, **There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter:** therefore *there is* no king, lord, nor ruler, *that* asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. 11 And *it is* a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, **except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.**"

**THESE HEATHEN SOOTHSAYERS AND MAGICIANS KNEW OF SOME POWERS HIGHER THAN THEY COULD ACCESS, BUT DID NOT KNOW THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD,** nor did they understand that He is "one Lord" (*Deuteronomy 6:4*), as Daniel did. This is Heathenism the world over – a vague awareness of spiritual powers, but in practice, even when they have the best of intentions, they are without moral and rational foundation, and are nothing more than devil worshippers. Their false gods are many – hence 'Multiculturalism', the politically-correct slogan of today, is a world-wide resurgence of this ignorance of Heathenism today. When trouble comes to such people, they are without answers and without hope. Like fool's gold, when subjected to the acid test, they disintegrate; they melt away to nothing. It is a sad fact that so many people seem like good people; they seem to be wise; they even seem to have a great measure of Christian character, but when they are put to the test, it is revealed they don't have faith in Christ, which is the one vital thing, they don't rely on Scripture at all, but on the fickle, changing opinions and ideas of men. It is far better for you and me, if by God's mercy and grace, we are tested, so that our fault is revealed before it is too late. Let everyone who is in trouble turn to Christ, and he will not be disappointed! He continues to say to all, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (*Matthew 12:28*). And only Jesus can give that rest that every man needs. Today, the fields are white unto harvest, because there is such a dearth of real faith in the

true God – they think the concept of ‘God’ is my idea, your idea, somebody else’s idea, but not the unchanging Truth from the Scriptures. The Scriptures must be preached from the housetops if this awful decline is to be arrested! Only the Word of God is of any help to man. The mere help of man (without God) is worse than no help at all! Man must be helped by God, and God alone! Let us never doubt the power of God’s Word to do wonders. He always vindicates His own Word!

***WE SEE THAT THE VISION WAS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF THE DAY (BABYLON), BUT ALSO ABOUT ITS EVENTUAL FALL, IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, AND ABOUT THE KINGDOMS THAT WERE TO FOLLOW.***

**The Lord is gracious**, even when dealing with Heathen kingdoms, especially where His own people dwell. In similar fashion, **He will give a reprieve**, as in the case of recent rain after so long a drought, but bear in mind, that a reprieve is not a solution, just a reminder that it is God Who gives every good gift, it is a warning, and a delaying of the outpouring of God's wrath, and note also that these reprieves experienced by the ungodly in their realms, are not so much for their sakes, as for the sakes of God's own elect in their midst: **Romans 8:28**, “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.” That is, “all things!” Not just some things. Babylon enjoyed a measure of blessing for the sakes of God's people within it, but the day of its final downfall *did* come. There is always a day of reckoning for the ungodly. The Medes and Persians destroyed Babylon, just as Babylon had previously destroyed Israel! It is the same for every nation upon the earth, even as it was later on for the nation of Israel, which wearied the Lord for generation after generation, until in 70 AD, when He destroyed them just as He had destroyed the Canaanites before them, just as He had destroyed the Babylonians who took them captive, and for much the same reasons and the same sins. What about Australia? She is skating on thin ice. Will she hear the Word of God? Will she respect God's Word? Let us never give up hope, while there is still time and opportunity.

Therefore, the king had good reason to be anxious, and determined to remember the dream and find its interpretation, for he instinctively knew it was of great significance. The dream was from God, therefore it came with conviction and fear. Let us pray for such a merciful change in our rulers today.

4. ***BUT, BEING A HEATHEN KING, AND UNGODLY MAN, HAVING NOT THE SPIRIT OF GOD, AS DID DANIEL AND HIS FELLOW BELIEVERS, NEBUCHADNEZZAR FLEW INTO A RAGE AND WANTED TO DESTROY ALL THE MAGICIANS AND SOOTHSAYERS, INCLUDING DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS (2:12-13).*** Such is the ignorance that drives unbelieving, unregenerate men, even today – with their best intentions, they are just fools, like the proverbial “bull in a china shop.” We see it in our local government: they spend money beautifying the town. They cut down trees and plant new ones. Then another Council comes along a few years later, and in its wisdom, cuts down those trees and plants more new ones, and all the while they let the roads fall into disrepair. But more importantly, their pomp and pride and foolishness lead them to do far more serious damage than wasting money and failing to provide proper maintenance of public property – they also enact and enforce laws that defy all godliness (such as business on the Lord’s Day), and even laws that result in the persecution of God’s people, who, by the way, are the only ones who *can* help these fools and give them sound advice, but very often they will not listen to advice, and their arrogance increases as they ripen for judgment. They are in power, and who are you (Nay, Who even is Jesus Christ) to give them advice? They will find out, because every Word of God will be vindicated and magnified. Let us pray for the vindication and magnification of God’s Word sooner, rather than later.
5. ***BUT THANK GOD, AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME (BECAUSE “TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, AND A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE UNDER THE HEAVEN” - Ecclesiastes 3:1), BY THE GRACE OF GOD, KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR DID LISTEN TO DANIEL.*** Such a phenomenon can only be by the hand of God, because no merely natural thing could effect such a change in such a powerful man. But in reality, all things are by the hand of God, if only we can see it.
6. ***NOTICE DANIEL’S PLAN OF ACTION: HE CALLED HIS FRIENDS TO PRAYER: 2:17-18,*** “17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: 18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.”

**LET US PRAY ALWAYS, AND RELY ENTIRELY ON THE LORD OUR ROCK!**  
He will never fail us nor forsake us. He calls us and commands us to

pray! In doing so, the great God of all the earth stoops to allow His own children a part in His mighty acts. Let us count it a privilege to pray. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (**James 5:16**). Where is the righteous man who can call down God's blessings? There is not one on earth! But thank God, there is One in heaven! “Jesus Christ the righteous.” “If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*” (**1 John 2:1-2**). Therefore we must pray *in His name, pleading His righteousness, His worthiness and His merits for us, and God will answer our earnest pleas, but we must give diligence to follow His righteousness as well, so that, while our righteousness is the gift of God, not our own but Christ’s perfect righteousness imputed to us, nevertheless the righteousness of God must also be our own experience in a good measure.*

**AS THE MATTER WAS URGENT, THE LORD ANSWERED DANIEL IMMEDIATELY: 2:19**, “19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision.”

**THEN DANIEL IMMEDIATELY PRAISED THE LORD AND GAVE HIM THE GLORY: 2:20-23**, “20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what *is* in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. 23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king’s matter.” Let us also give thanks, let us observe what the Lord does and give glory to God alone in all things!

**THEN DANIEL TESTIFIED TO THE KING'S OFFICER AND TO THE KING HIMSELF: 2:24-28**, “24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise *men* of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. 25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the

king the interpretation. 26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name *was* Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? 27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; 28 **But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets,** and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.”

**LET US BE LIKEWISE READY TO TESTIFY OF THE TRUE GOD OF HEAVEN, THE ALL-KNOWING, ALL-WISE, ALL-POWERFUL, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.** There is no greater joy and privilege than to speak of Him and to speak for Him. But we are so unworthy to represent Him. Let us pray earnestly for more and more grace to do so and be faithful. What is really striking about Daniel’s story is that his name is a household word today (how many ‘Daniel’s’ do you know?) That name is so well-known today because of Daniel’s faith and his unashamed witness to His God and the Scriptures. How greatly we need such men today! May God be merciful and raise them up to serve Him and not merely blend with the unbelieving world as so many do! Amen.



**DANIEL'S VISIONS**  
**OF THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD AND THE KINGDOM OF**  
**GOD**

*Continued, The Lord's Day, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019*

**CHRIST "THE STONE"**

**Reading: Daniel 2:27-49**

While Daniel the prophet was in captivity with his people in Babylon, the Lord gave him important visions which identify the major kingdoms which would basically rule the world, from his time right through to the end of the world, and of an infinitely greater kingdom than all these – (the Kingdom of Heaven), and Christ, its Eternal Ruler. (Daniel's time being 526-457 BC – i.e. the 70 years' captivity of the Jews in Babylon).

***A LITTLE BACKGROUND TO THE STORY (FROM 2 CHRONICLES 36:20-21),*** “11 Zedekiah *was* one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. 12 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD his God, ***and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. (See Jeremiah 25 & 29)*** 13 And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel. 14 **Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.** 15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: 16 **But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.** *(We see in this and in Jeremiah's prophecies an uncanny parallel to our own situation and times: The leaders of our own nation and churches likewise follow the ways of the Heathen and forsake the God of our fathers, and when they are warned or rebuked, they behave in the same childish and irresponsible way as the kings of Judah did! The conclusion is obvious – a time will come when the wrath of the LORD will arise against his people, till there is no remedy! I don't think many Australians are willing to believe this! And that makes me very afraid for the future of my people. We must continue to pray earnestly for God's merciful intervention, because, look what happened next!)* 17

**Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees (i.e. Babylon),** who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave *them* all into his hand. 18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all *these* he brought to Babylon. 19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. 20 **And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:** 21 **To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: *for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.*** 22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, **that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished,** the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, 23 **Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.**” (*This is an extraordinary statement by a Heathen king – he seemed to be in touch with the true God, and be aware of the awesome significance of his own place in God’s grand plan of the ages! We cannot know the hearts of men, only the Almighty can know their hearts. But we can, and must, if we are wise, observe the hand of God upon great men: Winston Churchill was one such great man in recent history, and he was strategic in God’s grand plan for the nations of Europe, and for the protection of the United Kingdom and her allies in war time, and Churchill also seemed to be aware of the hand of the Almighty on him at the time. Whether Churchill was a Christian or not is doubtful, but we can observe the hand of God on him. Likewise today, Donald Trump seems to be such a man of world-wide significance. Some would write him off as an ungodly man, some think he is just a blundering fool, but we would all do well to patiently and prayerfully observe what the Lord is doing. The Queen of England, on the other hand, seems to be a ruler who said all the right things in her Coronation Oath in 1953, but has failed to be the champion of God’s people she has sworn to be. Let us pray for rulers today and expect God’s goodness to prevail for us, according to His Word of promise and instruction – see Romans 13.)*

***IN DANIEL 9, IT IS REVEALED HOW THE LORD MOVED DANIEL TO SEEK GOD’S FACE ABOUT THESE 70 YEARS OF THE CHASTISEMENT AND EXILE OF HIS PEOPLE,*** and how the Lord gave him a word of prophecy revealing the very time that Christ would appear in Jerusalem after the rebuilding of the temple and the city. I mention this as a point of reference only, but we won't go into the detail of it at present, but before I go on,

***A BRIEF WORD ON SOME GOOD RESOURCES ON THE CHRONOLOGY OF BIBLE EVENTS AND PROPHECY:*** A great work of chronology has been done by **the Irish bishop, Ussher**. Others have built on his work, but for a concise reference to all important dates, gleaned from the Bible without relying on secular history, the little book, **“The Wonders of Bible Chronology,”** by **Phillip Mauro**, is what I would recommend for modern readers.

**Eric Watson's book, “2600 Years of Time Prophecies in Daniel and Revelation,”** is also helpful in the understanding of time prophecies.

***HOWEVER, I WOULD ADD A CAUTION ABOUT TIME PROPHECIES:*** Many of the cults, e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians, Seventh Day Adventists, Armstrongites etc., major on these time prophecies, and have made many false predictions based on their calculations – **NB, THE BIBLE IS NOT ABOUT CALCULATIONS, BUT THE PLAIN LANGUAGE OF THE PROPHETS, INSPIRED BY THE HOLY GHOST.** Just be careful that you don't get dazzled by the supposed infallibility of these dates and calculations, because they can take you away from the plain Truth of Scripture. **There are many who will not abandon their false doctrines, because these time prophecies and dates and calculations are just so convincing!** If you want to know the Truth, or prove or disprove a particular doctrine or a particular fulfilment of prophecy, **NUMBERS AND DATES AND CALCULATIONS ARE NOT PROOF; THEY ARE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AT BEST;** they are merely theories which cannot be proven; **YOU MUST PROVE ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF GOD.** Remember the rule of the Protestant Reformers, **“Scripture alone!”** **We must approach the Scriptures with a clear and rational mind, not with the sophistry of the old Serpent.**

***TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE, TO SHOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE RELY ON SCRIPTURE ONLY,*** let us consider how, for example, the overwhelming evidence which shows that the Roman Catholic Papacy is the final beast and persecutor of the Christian Church (i.e. the “antichrist,” and the “man of sin”), as we have seen already in our current studies, *but by contrast to these plain*

*and obvious facts*, the historical view some hold, that the 1260 days of the persecution of the Church in *Revelation 12* are fulfilled as 1260 years, beginning with Constantine in 312 AD and ending with the massacre of the French Huguenots in 1572 AD, while it might seem convincing, really cannot be proven to be the true fulfilment of the prophecy – it is fascinating, but is it really factual? In fact, the only evidence for this proposed time period really, is that the numbers *seem* to line up, whereas, with the identity of the Papacy as Antichrist, everything in Scripture lines up and agrees, so that you would have to be willfully blind not to see it! (In other words, believing the 1260 days are 1260 years in history is not a test of your faith in Scripture, but believing the Pope of Rome is the predicted Antichrist is a test of your faith in Scripture, because it is just so clear and obvious, and all the Protestant Churches agreed on it, based on the very Words of Scripture, not on fantastic calculations and private interpretations)! In the case of the 1260 years calculations, I believe that **fascination has overridden comprehension of plain Bible facts, and there are plain Bible facts which teach that the tribulation and persecution of the Christian Church by the Antichrist will continue to the end of time, not just to 1572, and that the antichrist will continue his reign until Christ returns – remember, Bible doctrine and Bible prophecy are more about facts than times, even though some plain facts about times are recorded for us, and the time prophecies God actually gave us, and meant us to understand as specific time periods, are far more straightforward than the cryptic methods of interpretation of the cults** – and common sense confirms what Scripture teaches in the case of my example here, as we may observe how foolish it would be to tell those who suffered incredible persecution by the Church of Rome in say, World War II, or in the orphanages in Australia in the 1960's, or Abraham Lincoln or John F Kennedy who were assassinated by Rome's agents, or those victims of the bloodthirsty power struggles of the Vatican in the Vietnam War and many like situations, to tell them that the fulfilment of this prophecy of Popery's persecution of the Church ended in 1572! I say this as a caution against an unhealthy focus on numbers and dates, while disregarding the plain sense of what the Scriptures say about a matter, but, God willing, we will look further at this aspect in *Revelation 12* in a later session.

### **THE KINGDOMS OF DANIEL'S VISION OF CHAPTER 2**

Daniel identifies in his first vision, that Babylon is the “head of gold.” He said to Nebuchadnezzar, “Thou *art* this head of gold” (2:38).

**The major kingdoms of the world** which follow are represented by **silver (Medo-Persia), brass (Greece), and iron (Rome)**, with this fourth kingdom of Rome being strong, but divided: **2:40-43**, “40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”

***THEN, AFTER THESE FOUR KINGDOMS, COMES A KINGDOM WHICH IS SET UP BY GOD AND IS ETERNAL, AND SHALL OVERTHROW ALL THE KINGDOMS OF MEN.***

It is aptly pictured by a “stone,” which of course is Christ. Christ is depicted as a stone or rock in various ways in Scripture: He is the *petra*, the great bed-rock on which His Church is built (***Matthew 16:18***); He is also the cornerstone of His Church, the “stone which the builders rejected” but “is become the head of the corner” (***Matthew 21:42***); the “stone of stumbling” and “rock of offence”, to the Jews who did not believe in Him (***1 Peter 2:8***); He is the “rock” which Moses struck, bringing forth water to sustain Israel in the wilderness (***1 Corinthians 10:4***); He is the Rock of Ages that Augustus Toplady and Fanny Crosby sang about, inspired by Moses’ being hidden in the “clift of the rock” when he asked to see God’s glory (***Exodus 33:22***): 22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by”; and here, ***Daniel reveals Him as “the stone...cut out of the mountain without hands”***: ***Daniel 2:44-45***, “44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that **the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands**, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”

**CHRIST IS FROM HEAVEN**, but as the incarnate Son of God, (“God ... manifest in the flesh” - ***1 Timothy 3:16***), He became a man; He “took upon him the

form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (***Philippians 2:7***), and so, **“cut out of the mountain,”** He was a partaker of the earthly flesh of Adam, but, **“without hands,”** indicates He is not only a natural man, but also the eternal God in human flesh (i.e. God incarnate).

***IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT THE FOURTH EARTHLY KINGDOM IS ROME*** (This is confirmed by historical fact, but more importantly, by further prophetic visions), and therefore it is in the days of the Roman Empire, that Christ was to appear and set up His kingdom, which of course, He obviously did.

***A BRIEF WORD ON THE FALSE ‘GAP THEORY’ OF THE DISPENSATIONALISTS (FUTURISTS):*** Dispensationalists, again, are the greatest destroyers of sound doctrine on this point, as they create in their system of eschatology, a so-called 'gap' of about 2,000 years in the time prophecies. They do so in order to accommodate a yet future appearance of Christ to set up His kingdom on earth – the Scripture doesn't suit their false doctrine, so they add a 2,000 year gap into it. Hence they claim that the “image” Daniel saw, is to be raised up again at the end of time, and then Christ will come and destroy it, but this is a fabrication; this is not what the Scripture says – ***THERE IS NO MENTION IN SCRIPTURE OF THE IMAGE STANDING UP AGAIN, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER IT HAS BEEN SMASHED BY THE STONE – THIS IS JUST AN INVENTION OF THE FUTURISTS!*** The Scripture says that the image represents four consecutive kingdoms until Christ appears to set up the kingdom of God, and that the stone (which is Christ) “smote the image upon its feet (i.e. in the time of the Roman Empire, because the feet are part of that fourth kingdom), but the stone also broke in pieces the whole image of gold, silver and brass as well (signifying that all the kingdoms of men are destroyed by Christ)! **Christ did come in the days of the Roman Empire, and He did set up His eternal kingdom, and this is just the plain gospel truth!** People say, “Oh but I still believe the image will stand up again just before Christ returns.” Well, you can believe what ever you like, but please don't lie about what the Scriptures say! The Scriptures do not say the image will stand up again.

***SOME MISTAKENLY SAY THAT THE “TEN TOES” ARE TO BE A MODERN-DAY REVIVAL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE,*** or that the ten toes represent ten regions of the earth under the modern New World Order, or the supposed ten nations of the European Union, but none of these agree with the Scripture. What is very interesting is that, in view of the currently infamous Brexit movement (Great Britain's exit from the EU), I have watched over three decades false prophets and fake prophecy experts fail, decade after decade –



NB: according to Wikipedia, currently the EU has 28 member-nations (far more than the ten required by the false prophets and their devious schemes of interpretation!

***THEREFORE LET US NOTE CAREFULLY WHAT THE SCRIPTURES ACTUALLY SAY:***

- ***FIRSTLY, NOTE THAT THE BIBLE CALLS THESE LEGS AND FEET AND TOES OF IRON AND CLAY A SINGLE KINGDOM (2:40-44, “And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided (NB: IT IS DIVIDED BUT IT IS ONE KINGDOM!); but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 AND AS THE TOES OF THE FEET WERE PART OF IRON, AND PART OF CLAY, SO THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PARTLY STRONG, AND PARTLY BROKEN. (SO, HERE, EVEN THE TOES ARE DECLARED TO BE THAT SAME KINGDOM, NOT ANOTHER ONE TO COME!) 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”)***

Historians have observed that, as the Roman Empire was breaking down, it was loosely composed of ten separate nations (there is some disagreement about exactly which nations those ten are, but it is all ancient history to us now – it is not even important that we identify the ten nations, but the important thing is that we identify the whole kingdom!), and the Scripture here, refers to that Roman part of the image all the way through as a single kingdom, even though it had two legs and ten toes – I.E. FROM THE LEGS TO THE FEET AND THE TOES, IT IS THE ROMAN EMPIRE, NOT SOME NEW KINGDOM TO ARISE AFTER THE ROMAN EMPIRE;

- ***SECONDLY, NOTE THAT THE STONE SMOTE THE IMAGE ON ITS FEET, NOT SPECIFICALLY ON ITS TOES!*** If the modern day, Jesuit trained, false teachers want to be pedantic about the detail of this image and vision, so bent on identifying the ten toes, and intent on claiming that Christ has

not yet set up His kingdom, and that Christ will not come to set up His kingdom until long after the Roman Empire is completely broken down, in fact, until another completely different world wide kingdom is built which Daniel's image here does not even mention – e.g. the United Nations – then let them be pedantic to their own demise and their own shame as the false teachers and false prophets that they are! They are pedantic about their own inventions; they ought to be pedantic about the Scriptures, but we see that they are weighed in the balances of Scripture and found wanting. The Scriptures (Daniel's vision and image) do not support the idea of Christ's kingdom coming more than 1,000 years after the Roman Empire has ceased to exist! No! **CHRIST COMES TO ESTABLISH HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM, “IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS,” I.E. IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, which was one empire, albeit an empire in conflict and composed of smaller kingdoms and nations loosely connected.**

***HOW MUCH PLAINER COULD IT BE TO SEE THE FULFILMENT OF THIS SCRIPTURE, WHEN CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD AT A TIME WHEN JERUSALEM WAS UNDER ROMAN OCCUPATION,*** and that He was ultimately crucified by the Romans themselves, because the Jews *wanted* to kill Him, but had no power to do so, as they were under Roman rule! And when Christ did come, the Evangelist and historian Luke recorded the exact political details of the time of Christ's appearance in ***Luke 3, “NOW in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judæa, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituræa and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, 2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness”***, which of course, confirms the fulfilment of Daniel's prophecies. And Matthew recorded the fact that, immediately after His temptation in the wilderness, **WHEN JESUS FIRST BEGAN TO PREACH, HIS MESSAGE WAS, “REPENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND” (*Matthew 4:17*).** And all who believed on Him ***received Him as their Eternal King, and when He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we read in Mark 11:9-10, “Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: 10 BLESSED BE THE KINGDOM OF OUR FATHER DAVID, THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD: Hosanna in the highest.”*** They acknowledged that with the coming of Christ was the coming of His kingdom – again, Daniel's prophecy fulfilled! Moreover, Jesus plainly taught that the kingdom of heaven had already begun

at His first advent: (**Matthew 11:11-12**), “11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”

**THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN LITERALLY BEGAN WHEN JOHN THE BAPTIST INTRODUCED JESUS AND PREACHED HIM AS “THE LAMB OF GOD THAT TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD”!**

*I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR CALLING THOSE PEOPLE UNBELIEVERS AND FALSE TEACHERS, WHO MAINTAIN THAT CHRIST'S KINGDOM HAS NOT YET COME, BECAUSE THEY COMPLETELY REJECT THE MAIN THRUST OF ALL THE PROPHETS ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS EVERLASTING KINGDOM – THEY REJECT THE MOST ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE GOSPEL ITSELF: I.E. THAT THE ETERNAL KING CAME TO SET UP HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE! THIS IS THE VERY REASON THE PEOPLE SANG “HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID”! It may be that some of those who claim Christ is not yet reigning, do believe in Jesus and are saved, but they have little idea Who and What He is in Whom they believe. But those who teach this Jesuit-inspired falsehood are without excuse – they are deceivers and false teachers.*

But notice how wonderfully and perfectly the Lord has directed His prophets and provided His written Word and preserved it to all generations, so that not one of God's children ever has had a need to be deceived or left in ignorance concerning God's kingdom! How wonderfully all things are fulfilled in Christ according to the Scriptures! Paul said to the Galatians, “4 But **when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman,** made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” (**Galatians 4:4-6**). And how wonderfully “full” was that time when Christ appeared and set up His eternal kingdom, which is “not of this world” (**John 18:36**), but is everlasting, because, of that kingdom, “there shall be no end” (**Luke 1:33**), and it is even today “breaking in pieces” the kingdoms of men, of those who exalt themselves and “gather themselves together against the Lord and against His Christ” (**Acts 4:26**)! *This was the very substance of the first Christian gospel sermon in Jerusalem (Acts 2): The Son of David is ascended and reigning on heaven’s throne! You crucified Him, but “God hath made Him both Lord and Christ”! Three thousand souls believed Peter’s gospel that*

***day! Why is it that so few believe in Jesus today? Because most of today's preachers are preaching a different gospel than the one Peter preached!***

***THERE IS MUCH CAUSE FOR GRIEF TODAY OVER THE CORRUPT AND WICKED KINGDOMS OF MEN, AND MUCH OF THE PREVAILING FUTURIST END TIMES THEORY IS TO BLAME FOR THE CHURCH'S INABILITY TO PROVIDE ANSWERS FOR A SUFFERING GENERATION.*** The futurist Church has forgotten that Christ alone is the Answer! That He is Lord of all. That we need not look for another! That in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily! That in Him are all the promises of God, "Yea. And Amen!" And that, despite what the false teachers and false prophets continue to say, He *is* risen; He *is* ascended into heaven, and He *is* seated upon the throne of God! And He still receives and saves all who come to Him. He says, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!" And He still says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest!"

Therefore let us worship Him, not only as He who bore our sins in His own body on the tree, but also as He who overcame and sat down upon His throne, Who also says, "21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." And as we have already seen in our study of the 'millennium' in *Revelation 20*, the apostle John was given a vision revealing that the departed saints are already reigning with Christ over this world, and we who dwell on earth should be longing for the day when we join them! The present, unending reign of Christ on heaven's throne (with His saints) is an integral part of the gospel, which has been rejected by the majority of Christians today, because they have followed the false doctrines of the Jesuits and the "man of sin" in Rome – it is high time to revive this lost part of the gospel of CHRIST THE STONE, which is already destroying all the kingdoms of men. By God's grace, let us bring this gospel remedy to an ignorant and deceived generation, both for His glory and for the help of His people! Amen.

*Continued, The Lord's Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019*

**INTRODUCING THE ANTICHRIST "THE LITTLE HORN"**

***Reading: Daniel 7***

***IN OUR PREVIOUS SESSION, WE LOOKED AT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FIRST VISION OF DANIEL (Daniel 2),*** the kingdoms of men depicted by a great image, representing the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, and also Christ, "the stone" which was to come and destroy the kingdoms of men and set up His eternal kingdom in the days of the kings of the Roman Empire.

***IN THIS SESSION, WE LOOK AT DANIEL'S SECOND VISION OF THE KINGDOMS OF MEN, DEPICTED BY FOUR BEASTS,*** which represent the same four kingdoms pictured in the first vision by the image. And, instead of Christ coming as the stone, to establish His kingdom, we see another power, "a little horn" arising after the Roman Empire, or more precisely, *out of* the Roman Empire.

So, the first vision spoke of the great empires of this world and the kingdom of heaven, while the second speaks of the great empires of this world and a blasphemous kingdom to arise after them which would oppose Christ and persecute His Church.

**THE FIRST VISION WAS OF THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD AND THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST, WHEREAS THIS SECOND VISION IS OF THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD AND THE KINGDOM OF THE ANTICHRIST, although the second coming of Christ and the judgment are also mentioned, but the setting up of Christ's kingdom in His first coming is not depicted in this vision of the beasts** – the beasts represent worldly powers, just as in the first vision, (the image of the man and his parts), represented worldly powers, whereas Christ was depicted as "a stone cut out of the mountain without hands," so that He is altogether different and separate from the kingdoms of men. He is infinitely superior to them all, and He overthrows them all.

**THE KINGDOMS OF MEN DEPICTED IN THE IMAGE OF DANIEL 2 ARE CONFIRMED AND EXPLAINED IN A VISION OF BEASTS IN CHAPTER 7, WHERE THE "LITTLE HORN" (THE ANTICHRIST) IS ALSO INTRODUCED**

**"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. 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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. 7 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.** 8 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.** 9 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. 10 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.** 11 I beheld then **because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.** 12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. 13 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. 14 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.** 15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 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. 17 **THESE GREAT BEASTS, WHICH ARE FOUR, ARE FOUR KINGS, WHICH SHALL ARISE OUT OF THE EARTH.** 18 **BUT THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH SHALL TAKE THE KINGDOM, AND POSSESS THE KINGDOM FOR EVER, EVEN FOR EVER AND EVER.** 19 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; 20 And of 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, whose look *was* more stout than his fellows. **21 I BEHELD, AND THE SAME HORN MADE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, AND PREVAILED AGAINST THEM; 22 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. 23 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. 24 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.** 25 And he shall speak *great* words 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. 26 **But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end.** 27 **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. 28 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.”

***IN OUR PREVIOUS SESSION, LOOKING AT THE FIRST VISION OF DANIEL, THE IMAGE DEPICTING FOUR GREAT KINGDOMS, WE OBSERVED TWO REASONS WHY THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST (THE STONE WHICH SMOTE THE IMAGE ON ITS FEET) CANNOT BE A FUTURE KINGDOM WHICH IS TO BE SET UP ON EARTH AFTER CHRIST RETURNS: Firstly,*** because the fourth kingdom is spoken of as a single kingdom, not a kingdom followed by a gap of 2,000 years and then another kingdom arising afterwards – i.e. in the context of this prophecy, the legs, feet and toes were spoken of as a single kingdom, i.e. the whole bottom end of this image down to its toes was the Roman Empire, not another future empire which still hasn't yet appeared today! **TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, THE FUTURIST AND DISPENSATIONALIST THEORY OF A FUTURE KINGDOM OF CHRIST ON EARTH, BASED AT JERUSALEM, IS BASED ON A 2,000 YEAR GAP IN THE TEXT OF SCRIPTURE – I.E. IT IS BASED ON LESS THAN FRESH AIR! IT IS BASED ON A**

SCRIPTURAL VACUUM, ON ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! AND YOU CAN'T BUILD A DOCTRINE ON NOTHING! But the Dispensationalists have done just that, and the majority of the people believe them! **Secondly**, we observed that the stone (Christ's kingdom) smote the image on its feet, not on its toes. The Dispensationalists base their false doctrine on the idea that a future kingdom will emerge which is composed of ten nations or power groups (often referred to as a “*revived Roman Empire*”), and then Christ will come to destroy them, but if you want to be so pedantic about the detail, then note that the stone did not fall upon the toes, but on the feet – i.e. it fell on the Roman Empire, and even the toes were part of that same empire!

**SO, NOW TODAY, WE OBSERVE A THIRD PROOF THAT THE FUTURIST/DISPENSATIONALIST IDEA THAT THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST (REPRESENTED BY THE STONE) IS YET TO COME, IS FALSE:** In this second vision of the kingdoms of men, where, instead of ten toes, we see **ten horns representing the ten parts or separate powers within the Roman Empire, a “little horn” arises after these ten horns**, so that the first vision (in *chapter 2*) shows how *Christ* establishes His kingdom *in the days of* the Roman Empire, but the second vision (in *chapter 7*) shows how the kingdom of *Antichrist* arises *after* the Roman Empire. Therefore, if Christ (the stone which fell on the image of the Roman Empire) came to establish His kingdom while Rome was in power, but then another power arose after Rome (“**another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first**”), then by necessity, this “little horn,” this “Antichrist,” who “**shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High,**” must appear *after* Christ's first advent and after the fall of the Roman Empire also, so that he literally replaces the old Roman Empire, rising up out of it, which is exactly what happened in history (you could say that **THE PAGAN ROMAN EMPIRE WAS SUPERSEDED BY A PAPAL ROMAN EMPIRE (AND IT'S INTERESTING THAT IN PART OF ITS HISTORY, THIS PAPAL EMPIRE WAS CALLED “THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE”)**, which is a terrible misnomer of course, as it is anything but holy, but the emergence of this Papal Roman Empire out of the old Pagan Roman Empire also explains the many aspects of Paganism woven into the warp and woof of Roman Catholicism, e.g. some claim, concerning the statue of St Peter, “*The statues of the 'gods' from the Pantheon are now found in the Vatican Museum with the exception of the great statue of Jupiter, which has been modified, retitled, and seated on a throne in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome as St. Peter. THOUSANDS OF PILGRIMS KISS THE*

**FOOT OF JUPITER WHILE THINKING IT IS THE STATUE OF PETER”** – [http://historical.benabraham.com/html/jupiter\\_or\\_st\\_peter\\_.html](http://historical.benabraham.com/html/jupiter_or_st_peter_.html). **We could go on and on about the Pagan aspects of the Church of Rome but perhaps the most important is the mother and child image, THE MADONNA, SUPPOSEDLY MARY AND JESUS, BUT IT IS MERELY THE ANCIENT IMAGE OF PAGANISM RE-BADGED FOR CATHOLICISM, REPRESENTING THE REBORN SUN GOD IN THE ARMS OF ITS MOTHER FERTILITY GODDESS, WHICH ARE THE SAME BAAL AND ASHTORETH WHICH THE ISRAELITES WORSHIPPED IN THEIR DAYS OF BACKSLIDING; and the so-called 'Christian' celebrations of Christmas and Easter come from the same Pagan source, being nothing more than the Pagan festivals of the birth of the Sun God at the northern winter solstice (Christmas), and the death and resurrection of the Sun God at the spring equinox (Easter), i.e, again, Baal and Ashtoreth; and the so-called 'lent', a period of fasting and self-denial practised by Catholics, is also from the same origins, whereby the death of the Sun God was mourned 40 days: you will notice a striking example of this in Israel, recorded in *Ezekiel 8*, “14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD’s house which *was* toward the north; and, behold, there sat women **weeping for Tammuz**. 15 Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? Turn thee yet again, *and* thou shalt see greater abominations than these. 16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD’s house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and **they worshipped the sun toward the east**. 17 Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here?” **TAMMUZ IS THE SAME AS BAAL THE SUN GOD WHICH GOES WITH THE PAGAN FERTILITY GODDESS (ASHTORETH) – so all this paraphernalia in Roman Catholicism is pure Paganism, pure Baal worship, and has no basis in Scripture, the only truly “holy day” under the New Covenant being the weekly Sabbath which the Lord ordained from the beginning of creation, and confirmed in the Ten Commandments, which was changed to the “Lord’s Day”, the first day of the week, under the New Covenant. *ALL THIS PAGANIZATION OF THE ROMAN CHURCH STEMS, OFFICIALLY, FROM 312 AD WHEN CONSTANTINE SUPPOSEDLY CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY AND DECLARED CHRISTIANITY TO BE THE STATE RELIGION OF THE EMPIRE.***), and not only does this Antichrist follow the old Roman Empire chronologically, but he also must continue till Christ comes again, because “**the same horn made war with the saints, and****

prevailed against them; **22 Until the Ancient of days came,**” which is the time when “judgment was given to the saints,” i.e. the end of the world.

***THE APOSTLE PAUL CONFIRMS THIS TRUTH OF DANIEL'S VISION IN PLAIN LANGUAGE (IN TERMS OF THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS): 2 Thessalonians 2,*** “NOW we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for ***that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him,*** whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. 16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”

***PAUL, IN HIS DAY, WAS LITERALLY SAYING THAT THE ANTICHRIST POWER WAS SOON TO ARISE (BECAUSE THE GROUND WORK WAS ALREADY HAPPENING), A POWER THAT WOULD FOLLOW ON THE HEELS OF THE DECLINING ROMAN EMPIRE, AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BACKSLIDING AND CORRUPTION OF CHRISTIANITY AS IT EMBRACED BAAL WORSHIP, AND WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL***

**THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD.** It is clearly the Roman Empire which Paul speaks of when he says, “he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way,” meaning that while the Roman Empire continued in its present form, this new power (the “little horn” or “man of sin”) could not arise – he was “let” or prevented, by the existing power of the Roman Empire. We know, with the benefit of hindsight, 2,000 years later, that the Roman Empire began to change under the emperor Constantine in 312AD, who decreed Christianity as the state religion, and that by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the bishop of Constantinople and the bishop of Rome were debating over who was the 'universal bishop,' with Gregory I of Rome saying that John IV of Constantinople was beginning to sound like the 'Antichrist' by taking such a title. Finally, in 606 AD, the Roman Emperor, Phocas, officially decreed that Boniface III was the “Head of all the Churches” and the “Universal Bishop.” This is when Roman Catholicism, headed by a Roman Pope, really began, when the visible Church merged with the Empire, a false Church which persecuted true believers. This was the full manifestation of the “Antichrist” or “man of sin” – it began with Constantine in 312 AD but was full-blown by 606 AD. And this historical fact and fulfilment of Bible prophecy was recognized by all Protestants until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, when the ecumenical movement began to seriously destroy the work of the Protestant Reformation, and draw all the Protestant churches back towards Rome, so that since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960's, this false Church has not persecuted Christians in such an obvious manner, but has used more subtle tactics, through political manoeuvring, through the Ecumenical Movement, bridging the gap and blending with the Protestants, pretending they are not much different, pretending to promote the Bible while subtly changing it with the introduction of modern versions, and despite all this pretence, continuing to reaffirm their age old policies and heresies and anathemas against true Protestants (true Christians) and against the Word of God – e.g. Why do they ridicule the King James Bible? It can only be that they hate the Word of God, that they have no reverence for it! Don't be fooled by all their false pretences!

**IN VIEW OF THESE PLAIN FACTS, IT IS JUST SO OBVIOUS THAT ALL THE TALK OF A SINGLE ANTICHRIST, AN INDIVIDUAL MAN, WHO IS SUPPOSED TO ARISE AND PLUNGE THE WHOLE WORLD INTO DARKNESS AND PERSECUTION, AT A TIME YET FUTURE TO US, IS JUST COMPLETE NONSENSE.** All the movies made about those “left behind,” all the best-selling books about the 'rapture' and the 'tribulation' and the 'Antichrist,' and all the speculation about whether the

Antichrist will be a Jew or a New Ager or something to do with Islam, and all the seminary courses on eschatology, whereby the majority of young evangelical pastors are now indoctrinated, are nothing more or less than lies and “doctrines of devils!” Why? How can we say this so confidently? **BECAUSE THE “ANTICHRIST” AND “MAN OF SIN” WHICH THE SCRIPTURES TALK ABOUT, CANNOT BE A SINGLE MAN, BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE TO BE A VERY OLD MAN AT CHRIST'S RETURN,** because, according to Scripture, he first appeared soon after the apostles, hence he would have to live from the fall of the Roman Empire through to the second coming of Christ! That would make him so far, over 1400 years old – or 400-odd years older than Methuselah! So it is very simple – just as the beasts were not individual men but kingdoms and nations, so, the “little horn”, the Antichrist, is not a single person but a regime, the final great evil empire of this world.

***THE FUTURISTS INSIST ON A SINGLE AND PERSONAL ANTICHRIST, AND THIS CONCEPT GOVERNS THE WAY THEY TWIST AND RE-INTERPRET ALL RELEVANT SCRIPTURES, BUT THE SCRIPTURES EXPOSE THEIR MASSIVE FRAUD, BY SHOWING THAT ALL THE “BEASTS” OF DANIEL'S VISION, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, WERE NOT INDIVIDUAL PERSONS, BUT EMPIRES AND POWER STRUCTURES!*** Even the individual “horns” of the Roman Empire were not individual persons, but these “kings” were positions of power (if one king died, he was replaced by another, so it would be ludicrous to add another horn to represent every king who died, making the image into something grotesque, with so many horns it would be sheer nonsense)!

***LET US ALSO REMEMBER, AS I HAVE MENTIONED MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE ORIGIN OF THESE FALSE DOCTRINES OF FUTURISM AND DISPENSATIONALISM – I.E. THE JESUIT RIBERA, A CHAMPION OF THE ROMAN ANTICHRIST HIMSELF!*** The greatest errors held by today’s churches can be traced to the Jesuits, a special order of Roman Catholic priests who have spearheaded the Counter-Reformation since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. And I particularly refer you to the Jesuit Francesco Ribera, who is really the father of Futurism, which was developed further by Edward Irving, JN Darby, the Plymouth Brethren, and others.

***IN SUMMARY, WE HAVE SEEN THAT THESE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL PLAINLY TEACH:***

- 1. THAT CHRIST WOULD COME AND SET UP HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM “IN THE DAYS OF THE KINGS” OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, and***

2. ***THE RISE OF ANTICHRIST OUT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE:*** not long after Christ's first advent, not long after the days of the apostles, (just 312 AD), the “little horn,” the “man of sin,” the “Antichrist,” would be the power to arise as the Roman Empire was declining, that this would be the result of a “falling away” from the pure, apostolic religion, and
3. ***THAT THE ANTICHRIST WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, UNTIL THE VERY END OF THE WORLD,*** and be destroyed by Christ at His second coming. ***NB:*** “**25 And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, .... and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. 26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end. 27 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”.**

Regardless of the many calculations made, the duration of Antichrist's power and persecution is to the end of the world. This is made clear also by *verses 8-14*, and is confirmed by Paul in **2 Thessalonians**, as we have also read. So this persecution is not 3 ½ years, as Futurists claim, but many centuries, of which the 3 ½ years is merely a symbol. (*Think about the symbolic nature of the visions! If a kingdom is depicted by a man, then the many centuries of his reign would need to be shown in much shorter time period, or the vision wouldn't make any sense!*)

4. ***WE HAVE SEEN THAT CHRIST, THE “STONE CUT OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS,” WOULD COME IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE*** and set up a kingdom which would destroy all the kingdoms of men and would continue for ever!
5. ***IN RESPECT OF THE “SAINTS TAKING THE KINGDOM,” THIS IS NOT BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD, BUT AT THE VERY END,*** as our text plainly shows – it occurs when Christ returns, and the saints actually take part in the judgment (*verses 26-27*).

***SOME IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS OF THESE DOCTRINES ARE:***

1. ***THERE IS NO 'RAPTURE' BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD,*** in which the Church can find an escape from the so-called 'tribulation,' but the Church will continue in the same world, with the Antichrist in power, until the Lord returns;

2. ***CHRIST'S KINGDOM IS THE ONLY ONE WHICH IS ETERNAL, AND IT IS ALREADY ESTABLISHED.*** It is spiritual and heavenly, not of this world, therefore it is superior to temporal kingdoms (their days are numbered – Christ will destroy them all);
3. ***THERE IS TO BE NO MILLENNIUM ON EARTH AFTER CHRIST RETURNS,*** because He returns to judge all men, as well as to destroy this final, blasphemous kingdom of the “man of sin”;
4. ***THERE WILL BE NO SALVATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT READY TO MEET THE LORD WHEN HE RETURNS,*** so everyone must be ready now, just as the gospel teaches that we must repent and turn to God, that we must believe on the Lord Jesus if we are to be pardoned and have eternal life; and finally, that as believers, we are “more than conquerors” through Jesus, that He is “with us always, even to the end of the world”, and that He is preparing mansions for those who love Him.

### ***DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?***

Do you believe that God's King (Christ) has already come and inaugurated His eternal kingdom, that He is already reigning?

Do you believe the Word of Scripture, even Jesus' Words, when He said to His apostles, “28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom” (*Matthew 16*)?

Do you believe Jesus' words, when He said that from the days of John the Baptist men have been entering the kingdom of God? (*Matthew 11:12*).

Do you believe that His kingdom is an unseen and spiritual kingdom, and that it is a present reality, and that you must pray daily, “Thy kingdom come!” in order to enjoy the blessings of that kingdom?

Do you sing “Hosanna to the Son of David,” even as those children did 2,000 years ago as Christ entered Jerusalem riding on an ass? Or are you foolishly waiting for something else?

Do you believe the “gospel of the kingdom”? Do you believe you must repent now, for the kingdom of God has come?

I pray that you do so believe the Scriptures, because there is no other remedy for sinners, or for this fallen world. May God give you grace to receive Him, Who is now both Lord and Christ, and Whose kingdom is everlasting! Amen.



***Continued, The Lord's Day, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019***

***THE ANTICHRIST "THE LITTLE HORN" IN THE REVELATION***

***Reading: Revelation 12 & 13***

***FIRSTLY, THE VISION OF DANIEL'S FOURTH BEAST IDENTIFIES THE BEASTS OF REVELATION 12, 13, 17 AS THE ROMAN EMPIRE & THE PAPACY***

Since the vision of *Daniel 7* is practically identical to those of John in *Revelation 12, 13, and 17*, of the beast with seven heads and ten horns, we must not look to change the interpretation of the same beast which is already given by Daniel and confirmed by Paul in *2 Thessalonians 2* and by John in *1 John 2:18*.

There are many today, who accept that the beast of Daniel reveals the Papacy as the "little horn", but instead of saying the Papacy is *the Antichrist*, they say it is *an antichrist*, and that there is a future Antichrist to come (e.g. some Seventh Day Adventists in recent years have been saying that the USA is the final beast, and there are many other ideas like this based on nothing but speculation) – all this is a contradiction of Scripture. And we have no liberty to employ "private interpretation" of Scripture, as Peter warns in *2 Peter 1:20* – Scripture can only be interpreted by Scripture ("All scripture... is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction..... – *2 Timothy 3:16*).

***WE HAVE SEEN THAT DANIEL IDENTIFIES THE "FOURTH BEAST" AS THE ROMAN EMPIRE, AND THAT A "LITTLE HORN" ARISES OUT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, WHICH WILL CONTINUE IN POWER UNTIL JESUS RETURNS, WHICH AGAIN, WE HAVE SEEN, PAUL CONFIRMS IN 2 THESSALONIANS, SO THERE IS SIMPLY NO ROOM FOR ANOTHER BEAST OR ANTICHRIST TO ARISE – THE PAPACY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE IDENTITY OF THIS FINAL BEAST.*** Even if the visions of *Revelation* do add some detail to the prophecy of this final beast, then it is merely detail, it does not change the identity of the beast itself; it does not contradict the facts already established by Daniel and confirmed by Paul and John, that there is only one "little horn," only one final beast, and that can only be the Roman Papacy, because remember, that Paul said "the mystery of iniquity doth already work," and that the same "man of sin" he referred to, who was soon to appear, would be destroyed by Christ at His return, and John said the "last time" when the Antichrist was about to appear – in other words this final Antichrist was to continue through almost the entire Christian era. To say otherwise, is to contradict Scripture.

**SECONDLY, ANTICHRIST IS ONE POWER, WHICH PRESIDES OVER MANY SUBORDINATE POWERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,** even “all that dwell upon the earth” (*Revelation 13:8*). Some will say, “But what about Communism? What about Islam? What about the New Age? etc.” Don’t be confused! Don’t miss the wood for looking at the individual trees! None of these evil entities change the reality of what Scripture teaches us about the final beast. It is clearly identified. Just as there is one person called “the Devil and Satan,” and many other devils, there is also one “beast,” one “Antichrist,” one “man of sin,” even though there are many other evil power structures as well. The other evils are instruments of the one main Antichrist – they all co-operate with him, they all kowtow to him and do his bidding. Notice how *Revelation 13:8* says of this beast, “**All that dwell upon the earth** shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” So, Antichrist is one entity, one power, but he presides over a wide and complex system of subordinate powers throughout the world, even “all that dwell upon the earth.”, and this is all in God’s plan.

*Revelation* gives much more detailed evidence of the identity of this beast than *Daniel*, hence we must study them together, but as we proceed, let us bear in mind that we are not comparing the prophecies of *Daniel* and *Revelation* only, but in all things we are comparing Scripture with Scripture - “all scripture is profitable” (*2 Timothy 3:16*), not just some – the false teachers can only fool us if we grab onto their catchy lines about the interpretation of a Scripture here or there, or the interpretations by an expert here or there, but if we consult and compare all Scripture, their lies are soon exposed:

## **CHAPTER 12**

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:  
2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

**THIRDLY, THIS VISION IS VERY SIMILAR TO JOSEPH’S DREAM IN GENESIS 37 AND REMEMBER, SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE:** *He said*, “Behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?” **JACOB IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTOOD THE SYMBOLS.** I don't say this woman in

**Revelation 12** is Rachel, but it is clear enough, from God's use of the heavenly signs of father, mother, and children in Joseph's dream, that this woman in Revelation is the Church (the true Israel if you like). It is the Church, the chosen people of God, which brought forth Christ in due time. It may be that the sun is God, the moon is the Church, and the twelve stars are the twelve apostles of the Lamb (or more likely, as per the original vision of Joseph, these symbols represent Israel, and therefore Israel the nation gave birth to Christ, the man child, but remember that Israel is a type of the whole Church of God as well.) So, Christ was born into the Church, into the elect family of God on earth, and He is called **“the firstborn among many brethren”** (*Romans 8:29*). See *verse 5*. Whether you take the vision to be Israel or the whole Church of God, the meaning is the same.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to his throne*.

**FOURTHLY, BEWARE OF SOME WHO TAKE A COMPLETELY SYMBOLIC AND HISTORICAL APPROACH TO INTERPRETATION**, so that everything that is an obvious reference to some Scriptural truth is merely a symbol to be re-interpreted as some historical happening, e.g. they say the “man child who was to rule the nations” represents Emperor Constantine. While the symbols fit this theory perfectly, let us bear in mind that, although the purpose of Revelation is to speak of historical events which must shortly come to pass, its higher purpose is to reveal the Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, so this purely historical idea of interpretation is a departure from the most basic rule of 'Scripture interpreting Scripture' (*i.e. the historical approach says history interprets Scripture (in this case), but Reformed doctrine says “Scripture alone” interprets Scripture, and this does away with speculation*), but also, *a purely historical interpretation tends to forget that Christ is the grand Subject of all Scripture, and here is a clear presentation of Christ, the “man child”, and this theme of a “man child”, a “son”, a “king”, and an “heir” to be born is throughout Scripture as well – NB: Isaiah 66, Jeremiah 31:22, and the classical statement of Isaiah 9:6-7, which says it all: “For unto us a child*

is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this”.

***IT IS QUITE CLEAR FROM SCRIPTURE THAT THIS “MAN CHILD” IS NONE OTHER THAN CHRIST.***

***FIFTHLY, LET US OBSERVE THE “GREAT TRIBULATION” UNDER THE RULE OF ANTICHRIST:***

***WHO WAS IT WHO WANTED TO DESTROY CHRIST? THE ANSWER IS TWOFOLD:***

***FIRSTLY***, the devil; and

***SECONDLY***, the political and ecclesiastical powers of the day. Remember how Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness just before His ministry began (*Matthew 4*). But even earlier on, when He was just an infant, Herod sent forth a decree to destroy all the male children up to two years of age, and so Joseph and Mary escaped into Egypt until the danger was past (*Matthew 2*). Herod was the Roman Empire's ruler of that part of the world. And later on, it was both the Jews and the Romans that had Jesus crucified, and the same Jews and ***ROMAN POWERS (I.E. THE SAME “BEAST”)*** ***PERSECUTED THE CHURCH, EVEN AFTER CHRIST ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN: John the Baptist*** was beheaded by Herod; ***Stephen*** was stoned to death (*Acts 7*); ***Herod killed James*** the brother of John with the sword (*Acts 12*), and on it went, as Christians were thrown to the lions, lit up as torches on stakes etc. etc. for centuries to follow, and ***ALL THIS CONTINUED TO OCCUR UNDER BOTH THE PAGAN ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE PAPAL ROMAN EMPIRE, so the tribulation for the Christian Church began with Christ Himself and will continue until Christ returns – THIS IS THE GREAT TRIBULATION!*** Don't even give any airplay to the nonsense that has been taught about the so-called 7 year, or 3 ½ year, tribulation, whether the Church must go through it or not, or when it will begin – it is all wild speculation and false doctrine. The entire Church must go through great tribulation until she meets Christ! (***See Acts 14:22***, when Paul was stoned at Lystra, and they took him to Derbe and continued to preach, they exhorted the brethren, “that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God”, and in ***Revelation 7:14***, as the whole Church stands before the throne of God, it is said of the entire Church,

“These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”)

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

**SIXTHLY, THE LORD IS ALWAYS WITH HIS FLOCK, EVEN IN PERSECUTION, AND THIS PERIOD OF TIME MENTIONED (3 ½ YEARS) IS THE SAME AS THE PERIOD OF TIME GIVEN TO THE LITTLE HORN OF DANIEL TO MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS (Daniel 7:25). We don't need to calculate it and track it in history – it is simply the whole time of the Antichrist's persecution of the Church, until Jesus returns to destroy that power or beast. We know the Lord will destroy him when He returns – this identifies the time period: the 3 ½ years is not a literal time, but a figure representing the whole time of the Antichrist's reign.**

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

**SEVENTHLY, HERE IS THE IDENTITY OF THE DRAGON MADE CLEAR (SPIRITUALLY, THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS (“that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan”, and the stars he drew with him are the fallen angels or devils that are with him in the kingdom of darkness); BUT TEMPORALLY, THE POPE AND THE PAPAL ROMAN EMPIRE)** – as the symbolic nature of the vision (its seven heads and ten horns) also reveals that it is the devil and Satan who is behind the great political powers of the world, in this case, Rome, because the fourth beast Daniel saw (*Daniel 7*) is not named (although it is identified as the Roman Empire), but here in Revelation, the same beast as Daniel described, is named as the dragon, and also identified as Satan. It is interesting that the Islamic nations call the USA “the great Satan.” They are not far from the mark, as the USA does the work of the Papal Roman Antichrist in the world, it is certainly part of the same system or beast, as are all the great nations (look at our own government), and the Devil himself is behind it all – nevertheless, there are many of God’s people in such nations.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

**EIGHTHLY, WE HAVE SEEN IN A PREVIOUS STUDY SESSION, THAT SATAN WAS BOUND BY CHRIST'S REDEEMING WORK AT CALVARY (Matthew 12, Revelation 20).** He is not totally incapacitated, but is active in the earth, harassing and persecuting the Church, and one of his greatest tools of trade is the political powers, especially the Roman Papacy, which has always been violently opposed to the true Bible and true Christianity. Don't be overwhelmed by the prevailing forces of evil in the political world – they are part of Satan's kingdom, and their days are all numbered. They belong to Antichrist, not Christ, yet under God's Law, they are required to obey Him, and they are required to do the right thing by His Church. People talk about a separation of powers, a separation of State and Church, as if the state is above God's Law, but the “powers that be” are as much obliged to obey God as the Church is – the Law of God is universal! See what David the king said about the Law of God binding rulers: **2 Samuel 23:3**, “He that ruleth over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God,” and the powers that be are not only “ordained of God,” but they are “the minister of God to thee for **good**,” (**Romans 13:4**), ***not for evil. But do they do good to the Church? Not always, and they will be judged for this – remember Jesus' words, (Matthew 25:40-41)*** “Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” So those who have served the devil will be condemned with the devil. I believe this is a solemn warning to those who work for governments and try to excuse themselves when they do the wrong thing under orders. Those Christians who play “big brother” through the week, oppressing their poor neighbours by carrying out the state's draconian laws, and then worship the Lord on Sunday, may well be in trouble with an infinitely Bigger Brother at the judgment.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child*.

**NINTHLY, THOSE WHO PERSECUTED CHRIST IN PERSON, ALSO PERSECUTE HIS FOLLOWERS, AND MOSTLY THEY ARE POLITICAL POWERS!**

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

***THE SAME TIME PERIOD OF WHAT AMOUNTS TO 3 ½ YEARS IS MENTIONED YET AGAIN, SPEAKING OF THE SUFFERING OF THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE COURSE IN HISTORY. This 3 ½ years was foreshadowed by Elijah's escape into the wilderness in the days of the evil king and queen, Ahab and Jezebel, where the Lord fed him by ravens at the brook Cherith for 3 ½ years (1 Kings 17, James 5:17).*** Since the rise of the “little horn”, the Papacy, the Church has been fiercely persecuted. Some have calculated specific periods of 1260 years (a year for a day) of Roman Catholic persecution, as the fulfilment of this prophecy, but although this has been an encouragement to many believers throughout history, I'm convinced by Scripture that the correct understanding of the prophecy is the more general application of it to the whole of Church history. NB: Scripture is given to the whole Church for its edification, not just to a small group in a far distant time. ***THE REVELATION IS NOT A POLITICAL COMMENTARY ON THE STRUGGLES OF THE NATIONS OF THIS WORLD – IT IS A COMMENTARY ON THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND THE KINGDOM OF ANTICHRIST – BOTH PAGAN ROME AND PAPAL ROME HAVE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS SINCE THE VERY TIME OF CHRIST, AND CONTINUE TO DO SO.*** This is something every Christian can see and be blessed by, whether they know the details of European history or not. Remember that ***The Revelation*** begins with a promise of blessing to every one who reads it, not just to the learned historians who read it – there is sufficient information in Scripture alone, to be blessed with understanding, with the Spirit's help. This is why, for example, that the persecuted Chinese Christians have been able to see the dragon as the Communist Chinese regime, because it is of Satan, and it is a part of that whole beast which rules the world, even though it is headed by the Papacy which the individual Chinese believers may not know much about – in other words the tentacles of the Roman beast reach every corner of the earth, and Satan is behind it all. The 3 ½ years is mentioned a number of times, and as I have said, a whole futuristic false doctrine has been built upon mere speculation that there is a

future tribulation of 3 ½ years yet to come, but as we have seen, time and time again, ***the Revelation is symbolic, even many of its numbers, such as THE 1,000 YEARS ALSO, AND THIS 3 ½ YEARS OF THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS WAS FORESHADOWED BY ELIJAH'S EXPERIENCE, BUT PERHAPS EVEN MORE MARKEDLY BY CHRIST'S OWN SUFFERING IN HIS MINISTRY ON EARTH, WHICH ALSO LASTED JUST 3 ½ YEARS – so, as Christ suffered at the hands of the Roman beast in His earthly ministry, likewise His Church suffers a much longer symbolic 3 ½ years during its earthly ministry under the “little horn,” Popery, which came out of the same Roman beast.***

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

**TENTHLY, THE EARTH HELPED THE WOMAN DURING THE TRIBULATION:** It is interesting that, although the political powers of this world are generally opposed to Christ and His Church, the ordinary people of the world are usually not so antagonistic, so, very often, this Scripture is fulfilled as the Church is helped by the common people, and the common people show some sympathy towards the Church. I experienced a striking personal example of this some years ago: *I had published a gospel message in the local newspaper and I was working for Nanango Shire Council at the time. I was suddenly called in by the CEO and told if this sort of thing was to happen again he couldn't guarantee I would keep my job – which of course was blatant religious discrimination, which was obviously instigated by Roman Catholic elements in the community, but the amazing thing was that within minutes of that conversation, and completely unbeknownst to me, the whole office staff of the Council called the CEO to a meeting and completely overthrew the threat against me. “The earth helped the woman!” Praise the Lord! This was a relatively small thing, but it shows a glimpse of the greatness of God's grace towards His people, and His power over all the powers of the enemy! The whole Church throughout the ages has been thankful for the same Scripture, when persecuted by the Roman beast or one of its tentacles.*

17 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. *The Lord oversees and overrules all things for*



*the good of His Church. We must remember to look up to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, and rejoice as He does so. Amen.*

*Continued, the Lord's Day, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019.*

**SUMMARISING OUR PREVIOUS SESSION:**

**THE VISION OF DANIEL'S FOURTH BEAST IDENTIFIES THE BEASTS OF REVELATION 12, 13, 17 AS THE ROMAN EMPIRE & THE PAPACY**

**WE HAVE SEEN THAT DANIEL IDENTIFIES THE "FOURTH BEAST" AS THE ROMAN EMPIRE, AND THAT A "LITTLE HORN" ARISES OUT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, which will continue in power until Jesus returns, and Paul confirms this in 2 Thessalonians, so there is simply no room for another beast or antichrist to arise – the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church is the only possible identity of this final beast.**

**ANTICHRIST IS ONE POWER, WHICH PRESIDES OVER MANY SUBORDINATE POWERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, even over "all that dwell upon the earth" (13:8). Don't be fooled by those who would distract your focus onto Islam or Communism or even the Jews – notwithstanding all these other great evil entities, the Vatican and its "man of sin" are at the top of the evil tree.**

**GOD'S CHURCH GAVE BIRTH TO A SAVIOUR AND KING: THIS VISION IS VERY SIMILAR TO JOSEPH'S DREAM IN GENESIS 37 – i.e. the vision is of Israel and his family. Israel gave birth to this "man child", Christ. CHAPTER 12: 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: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.**

**BEWARE OF A MERELY SYMBOLIC AND HISTORICAL APPROACH TO THE INTERPRETATION OF PROPHECY, so that everything that is an obvious reference to some Scriptural truth is seen as merely a symbol to be re-interpreted as some historical happening among the nations, e.g. they say the "man child who was to rule the nations" is not Christ, but the vision uses an image of Christ to represent Emperor Constantine, whose "throne" was the Roman Empire. *But, IT IS QUITE CLEAR AND OBVIOUS FROM SCRIPTURE, THAT THIS "MAN CHILD" IS NONE OTHER THAN CHRIST.***

**THE "TRIBULATION" UNDER THE RULE OF ANTICHRIST: WHO WAS IT WHO WANTED TO DESTROY CHRIST? THE ANSWER IS TWOFOLD: *Firstly*, the devil; and *Secondly*, the political/ecclesiastical powers of the day – the Roman Empire, followed by the Papacy, the "little horn", the "man of sin".**

**THE LORD IS ALWAYS WITH HIS FLOCK, EVEN IN PERSECUTION, AND THIS PERIOD OF TIME MENTIONED (3 ½ YEARS) IS THE SAME AS THE PERIOD OF**

***TIME GIVEN TO THE LITTLE HORN OF DANIEL TO MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS (Daniel 7:25).*** We are told the Lord will destroy the beast when He returns – this identifies the time period: it is not a literal time of 3 ½ years, but a figure representing the whole time of the Antichrist's reign, from the days just after the apostles through to the end of the world.

***THE SAME TIME PERIOD OF 3 ½ YEARS IS MENTIONED MORE THAN ONCE, SPEAKING OF THE SUFFERING OF THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE COURSE IN HISTORY:***

***Revelation 11, 3*** And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy **a thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sack-cloth.

***Revelation 12, 6*** And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there **a thousand two hundred and threescore days**.

***Revelation 12, 14*** And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent.

***Revelation 13, 5*** 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**. ***6*** And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. ***7*** And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

***THIS 3 ½ YEARS IS REPEATED OVER AND OVER, AS IF TO GET OUR ATTENTION. WHAT IS THE LORD STIRRING OUR MINDS TO THINK OF IN THE SCRIPTURES?***

It was foreshadowed by Elijah's escape into the wilderness in the days of Ahab and Jezebel, for 3 ½ years, when the Lord fed him by ravens at the brook Cherith (***1 Kings 17, James 5:17***), but perhaps even more markedly by Christ's own suffering in His ministry on earth, also 3 ½ years – so, as Christ suffered at the hands of the Roman beast 3 ½ years, likewise His Church suffers a much longer symbolic 3 ½ years during its earthly ministry under the “little horn,” which came out of the same Roman beast. The Scriptures here are merely saying that, as Christ suffered in this world 3 ½ years, His Church will suffer in this world in a similar fashion, but the time of the Church's suffering will not be a literal 3 ½ years, or even a literal 1260 years – hence all calculations of times and the return of the Lord are off the table, they are forbidden, as Jesus also said plainly of His return – “no man knoweth the day

or the hour...”! ***And as Paul plainly said, (Acts 14:22):*** “we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God”.

***This brings us to CHAPTER 13:***

AND I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

***Let us continue to observe:***

***ELEVENTHLY, THE FINAL BEAST (POPERY) IS LIKE ALL THE BEASTS (GREAT EMPIRES) BEFORE IT, powerful, Pagan, a persecutor of the Church, is inspired by the Devil, and is in fact, the Devil's main seat of power in the world.***

The Devil has always had a stronghold in the world. In ***Genesis 11***, we read how he first stirred up ***Nimrod*** (the man upon whom the Sun God cult was built) who established a Pagan kingdom at Babel. Later, in Daniel's time, it was the same Babylon under ***Nebuchadnezzar*** which was the greatest kingdom, the head of gold (Satan's stronghold); then in the very last days now, we see a new “Mystery Babylon” has arisen under the Roman Papacy. ***Alexander Hyslop has written an excellent book call “The Two Babylons,” in which he shows how the Church of Rome is a perfect replica of the Pagan ancient Babylon. IF YOU STUDY THE MANY ASPECTS OF ROMAN CATHOLIC DOCTRINE, YOU WILL FIND THEY ARE ALL OF PAGAN ORIGIN.*** The Antichrist keeps telling the world that his system is Christianity, but nothing could be further from the truth. The world at large thinks the Roman Church is the original Christian Church, and that all other Churches are just breakaways, again, nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible calls this Church “the great whore” (***Revelation 17 & 19***), and tells us that God has judged her: ***Revelation 19***, “1 AND after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.” ***SHE IS NOT A TRUE CHURCH BUT A FAKE. SHE IS JUST PAGANISM WITH A THIN VENEER OF CHRISTIANITY OVER THE TOP.*** She is just a Christmass and Easter

cult, an updated version of the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth, the Sun God and the Fertility Goddess. If you submit to the rituals of this “whore” church (baptism, the mass, bowing down to her images, etc.), especially the rituals of Christmas and Easter, then you are considered a great supporter, and the world thinks you are a Christian. This fully explains why the great majority of so-called Christians today can speak of God and speak blasphemies and filthy language in the same breath, incapable of moral judgment; it explains, for the same reason, why many leading politicians are morally bankrupt yet claim to be Christian; it explains why the majority of Christians can be satisfied with the Pope’s bible versions and not so much as question their gross inaccuracy; it explains why the majority of professing Christians vote evil men and women into positions of power – ***THEY ALL WORSHIP THE BEAST INSTEAD OF CHRIST ALONE; THEY ALL TAKE THEIR WISDOM FROM THE BEAST INSTEAD OF FROM SCRIPTURE ALONE.***

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? (***THE PAPACY IS QUITE AN AWE-INSPIRING PHENOMENON. The great power of the Roman Empire seemed to die, but suddenly, it is alive again under Popery, and is even greater than before, and world-wide in its dominion! “Who is like unto the beast?” Who dares to challenge it? What politician in the world would dare to expose it all as an evil fraud and a Satanic sham? Hence all the world wonders after it! Even the great majority of Protestant preachers are no longer exposing this whore church for what she is, or teaching the people in the pews about her, and the awful result is that many aspects of her false gospel are being openly promoted by respectable Evangelical and Reformed preachers – a classic case appeared on Facebook just recently: Paul Washer, apparently a renowned reformed preacher, is quoted saying, that a person is saved “by repenting of their sins and believing in Christ”. The false gospel of salvation by works comes from the Roman Antichrist! Every false cult, every heathen form of religion is based on human works – ‘what I must do to be saved’! But the Bible says we are saved “by grace, through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God”! I repeat, “Who is like unto the beast?” Who will stand alone with Christ and not follow this monster? Not many!***)

**TWELFTHLY, HERE AGAIN IS THE 3 ½ YEAR PERIOD MENTIONED, CONFIRMING THE TRUTH OF THE PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE HISTORY, UNTIL THE LORD RETURNS.** 5 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.**

In Daniel, the details of the story of this beast are sketchy, but with The Revelation and the comments of Paul and John, we have a crystal-clear picture, and words which tell us plainly that this beast shall be destroyed by Christ at His second coming. It's reign of 42 months is the time from when it arose (whether we take it as the time of Constantine or 200-300 years later as the Papacy was fully developed) until the return of Christ, it is far more than 3 ½ years! Hence it is clear that the 3 ½ years (42 months), like many other numbers in this book of prophecy, is symbolic, not literal. Those who have converted the 1260 days to 1260 years, and tried to fit history into that theory, have already failed, because the period is also longer than 1260 years, which again, proves that it is symbolic. But that is why the cults continue to try vainly to predict the time of Christ's return based on this theory – they keep changing their story as time after time, their predicted date passes, but they will not give up their flawed, false method of interpretation. The Scripture says, (*1 Thessalonians 5*), "21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." *Therefore, those who genuinely hold that Scripture alone is our foundation and authority, have exposed the lies of the cults and false prophets, and the false doctrines which they rely on – they have exposed this beast which speaks great things! And we must do so, or be called traitors. You cannot be with Christ and with His arch-enemy at the same time!*

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And **all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him**, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**THIRTEENTHLY, EVERYONE ON EARTH IS UNDER SATAN'S POWER OF DECEPTION, AND WORSHIPS HIM IN SOME FORM, EITHER ACTIVELY OR BY DEFAULT.** *This beast is Satan's final power structure in the earth, after Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and the Roman Empire; it represents his*

***final fling and final vicious assault upon all that is of God and Christ. AND ONE OF THE DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF THIS BEAST IS THAT EVERYONE FOLLOWS IT, KOWTOWS TO IT, WORSHIPS IT IN SOME WAY – THIS IS NOT TRUE OF ANY OTHER ENTITY ON EARTH SINCE THE ROMAN EMPIRE – IT CAN ONLY BE THE PAPACY!*** Chinese Pagans worship the dragon; Aboriginal Pagans worship the Rainbow Serpent; all Pagans worship creation in some way, through the zodiac, the sun and moon and stars, the sun god, the fertility goddess, the Madonna (mother and child image); some worship the Devil indirectly, as they worship money and power and every form of lust – they all worship something they can see with their eyes and refuse to worship the unseen Almighty God – they do not know Him. Unlike the Athenians, who had a place for the “unknown god” (*Acts 17:23*), some of them do not even now there is an unknown God! Some know about Him but are unaware they do not know Him! All these are drawn together under Popery, and it seems rather uncanny that, despite the gross evils and errors of the Roman Catholic Church, including its protection of paedophilia, the whole world seems to have undue reverence for this “whore” – all religions are happy to gather to this harlot church, all religions are happy to celebrate its so-called 'holy days,' especially its seasonal worship of the sun at Christmas and Easter, whether they believe in Jesus or not. All the nations give reverence to the Pope and trade with the Vatican in some way, as he holds some sort of stupefying, mesmerising power over the whole earth (except of course, those whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.)

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

**FOURTEENTHLY, THIS SHOWS THE ANTICHRIST TO BE NOT ONLY AN EVIL PERSECUTOR OF THE CHURCH, BUT TO ACTUALLY HEAD UP A FALSE CHURCH AND BE A FALSE CHRIST HIMSELF – he appears to be a lamb but speaks as a dragon, this is his false doctrine and blasphemies. NB: The Popes of Rome literally claim to occupy the place of Christ!**

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

***MANY ARE THE FALSE MIRACLES OF THE CHURCH OF ROME, AND MANY ARE DECEIVED BY THEM.*** Many so-called Christians are merely busybodies, inflamed with enthusiasm and fascination over anything that seems to be miraculous. The great error of the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement is that its adherents have more faith in miracles than they do in the Words of Scripture, they worship miracles, not Jesus Christ! That is the very reason many who see the errors of these churches but will not leave them, they hunger for the false comfort provided in an endless chase after the miraculous, which by the way, never delivers, but keeps them running like the donkey following a carrot on a stick. It may not be only miracles they seek, but also a fascination in every new teaching, so they run about, with the endless energy of the Devil himself, from meeting to meeting, from book to book, from video to video, from speaker to speaker, vainly seeking satisfaction in fleeting miracles and false doctrines and false teachers, ***because they have not found Christ to be all they need.*** In the days of Jesus, the people said John the Baptist had a devil (***Matthew 11:18***), and that Jesus was “beside himself” (***Mark 3:21***)! What has changed? You can teach God’s Word to people year after year, and even decade after decade (I speak from experience), and some still they haven’t heard what you have taught them! Why? Because, unlike the Bereans, when they hear the Word of God taught, they do not go to the Scriptures and see if these things are so! And so, they are quickly turned aside to the first false teacher who runs across their paths! They pride themselves on being ‘led by the Spirit’, but they are merely “tossed to and fro, and carried about by every wind of doctrine” (***Ephesians 4:14***)! Facebook is a great place to observe these things. Sometimes it is downright depressing to see just how much error people run after, but at least it is an opportunity to attempt to teach them something of God’s Truth. But let me underline the fact that, all this just proves the very Scriptures we are



studying – they all wonder after the beast! They are eating out of the hand of the Roman Antichrist, and don't even know it, in fact, they are offended when you accuse them of doing so, and this includes leading men in the reformed churches.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. (*Alexander Hyslop, in "The Two Babylons", points out that this "image of the beast" is the Madonna, the mother and child image, and I don't doubt that that is exactly what it refers to. You can't claim to be a Roman Catholic unless you have the worship of Mary as central to your faith.*)

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had **the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* **Six hundred threescore and six.**

**FIFTEENTHLY, IF WE BEAR IN MIND THAT THE REVELATION IS SYMBOLIC, THESE STRANGE STATEMENTS ARE NOT SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND:** the wounding and healing of the beast are not about a person being raised from the dead, this is a political power, not a person! Even the miracles are not real miracles: the Roman Catholic Church is famous for its fake miracles, statues crying tears of blood and all sorts of nonsense, which deceives many – there are devout Catholics in our own country who have made pilgrimages overseas to famous miracle sites such as Lourdes, but it is all delusion. The Pentecostal movement, with its focus on miracles, walks hand in hand with Rome, as they have fellowship with Catholic priests, thinking belief in miracles is more important than God's Truth! (A Pentecostal brother once was extolling to me the virtues of two former Catholic priests in Nanango – I didn't bother to comment; What could I say? I have nothing good to say about these men, certainly not in the context of Christianity. I know what they were, and I know how they both opposed the gospel of Christ! And this brother knows very well the errors of Rome, so what was he trying to prove, or to convince me of, as he referred to these priests as 'brothers'? Beware of false Christs, false teachers, and misguided false witnesses! Hold fast to Scripture and Scripture

alone! And beware that you are not displaying the mark of the beast yourself, in your right hand and forehead, by doing his works and thinking his thoughts!)

**SIXTEENTHLY, THE MARK OF THE BEAST: AS THE “MAN OF SIN” IS NOT ACTUALLY A MAN BUT A POSITION OF POWER, SO THE “MARK” OF THIS POLITICAL/RELIGIOUS “BEAST” IS NOT A LITERAL MARK, AS WE HAVE SEEN IN EARLIER SESSIONS, BUT A SPIRITUAL ALLEGIANCE TO THE BEAST, FOLLOWING THE BEAST IN BOTH MIND AND DEED, LIKEWISE FOR THE CHRISTIAN, THE SEAL OF GOD ON OUR FOREHEADS IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN US** – we are “sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise” (*Ephesians 1:13*) – *which causes us as believers, to think as God thinks and do as He does.* Although the mark of the beast is obviously a spiritual mark (of the mind and works of the beast), it is interesting, to observe a slightly more literal point, that Roman Catholics 'cross themselves' with their right hand, and are all marked with a cross on the forehead in baptism, and the really devout ones are marked with the ashes of a burnt cross on Ash Wednesday as part of the Pagan Easter rituals. These things are largely symbolic, but the number of the name of the beast is very literal – to give just one example (there are many others), *the Popes' official title, 'Vicar of the Son of God,' spelt in Latin (vicarivs filii dei), has a Roman numerical value of exactly 666.* Count it up for yourself. Why isn't the whole world buzzing about this? It has been well-known for centuries! But the average Christian thinks you are weird if you even mention it, and the average pastor doesn't dare speak about it, that is, if he even knows about it at all. Well does the Scripture say, “all the world wondered after the beast”, and well did Jesus say, (*Matthew 24*), “24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before.” You see, these studies we are engaged in at present are the most relevant, most up-to-date, most vital studies the Church can be engaged in, and the implications are so practical that it beggars description, yet many will say these things lack practical instruction for the believer – well, their comment just proves their need of this very instruction!

### **SUMMARISING THE MAIN POINTS OF DOCTRINE TAUGHT BY THE VISIONS**

The purpose of this study is mainly to show the link between Daniel's vision of the fourth beast and the little horn with John's visions in *Revelation*, and Paul's explanation of it in *2 Thessalonians 2*, which proves the identity of the final “beast” or “little horn” or “Antichrist”.

God willing, we will look at further details of the prophecies of *Revelation* another time, but I trust this has sufficed to show what the Scriptures clearly teach on the beasts.

***What are some of the main implications for us?***

***THE LESSONS ARE MANY, BUT BRIEFLY, LET US BE REMINDED OF THESE:***

- i. THE PROTESTANT REFORMERS' DOCTRINE OF "SCRIPTURE ALONE" –***  
Don't be fooled by what so many are believing just because some false teacher is teaching it, no matter how many follow them! You do not have to be a scholar or a prophet to understand God's Word!
- ii. THE POWER STRUCTURE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, (I.E. POPY), UNDOUBTEDLY IS THE FINAL BEAST.*** Many are not disturbed by all the contradictions of Scripture practiced and taught by Popery, but to those who have the Spirit of Christ it is obvious. ***The world follows the beast; let the Church not go with them!*** Don't go soft on blatant false doctrine, just because so many seemingly good people follow it! Hear the Word of God and obey it! This is the only safe way.
- iii. DON'T FEAR THE EVIL.*** The Devil and his followers, even the great empires and kingdoms of this world, are all weighed in the balances of God's Word and found wanting. Their days are numbered, and the writing is on the wall for them, just as it was for the king of Babylon in Daniel's day. They cannot hurt your immortal soul if it is safe in the cleft of the Rock which is Christ! A tattoo on your forehead or hand cannot destroy your soul. If you have the mind of Christ, you are His and you are eternally safe. May God give you this assurance. Remember Jesus' words, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (***John 16:33***)
- iv. REMEMBER CHRIST'S KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD; IT IS SPIRITUAL AND ETERNAL, AND HIS THRONE IS IN HEAVEN,*** and as a believer and fellow-heir of God in Christ, you have access to that throne of grace always. In 1517, Martin Luther took on this Roman Antichrist with the Word of God and defeated him, struck a death blow to his satanic kingdom. You can do the same by God's grace. We sing Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God," "His kingdom is for ever!" Luther and all the Reformed Churches knew that Christ was not on earth, ruling the nations from Rome, but that He was already "caught up unto God, and to his throne" in heaven! May God bless His Church again with ***The***

***Revelation of Jesus Christ***, Who is, on behalf of His elect, crucified, dead, buried, risen the third day, ascended into heaven, and seated at the right hand of God, upon His eternal throne, and welcoming all His elect home, one by one, to rule with Him! Amen!

**Thoughts for the Lord's Supper from CH Spurgeon:**

***Evening, December 24, "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together." Isaiah 40:5***

We anticipate the happy day when the whole world shall be converted to Christ; when the gods of the heathen shall be cast to the moles and the bats; when Romanism shall be exploded, and the crescent of Mohammed shall wane, never again to cast its baleful rays upon the nations; when kings shall bow down before the Prince of Peace, and all nations shall call their Redeemer blessed. Some despair of this. They look upon the world as a vessel breaking up and going to pieces, never to float again. We know that the world and all that is therein is one day to be burnt up, and afterwards we look for new heavens and for a new earth; but we cannot read our Bibles without the conviction that--

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

Does his successive journeys run."

We are not discouraged by the length of his delays; we are not disheartened by the long period which he allots to the church in which to struggle with little success and much defeat. We believe that God will never suffer this world, which has once seen Christ's blood shed upon it, to be always the devil's stronghold. Christ came hither to deliver this world from the detested sway of the powers of darkness.

What a shout shall that be when men and angels shall unite to cry "Hallelujah, hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!" What a satisfaction will it be in that day to have had a share in the fight, to have helped to break the arrows of the bow, and to have aided in winning the victory for our Lord! Happy are they who trust themselves with this conquering Lord, and who fight side by side with him, doing their little in his name and by his strength! How unhappy are those on the side of evil! It is a losing side, and it is a matter wherein to lose is to lose and to be lost forever. On whose side are you?

***If you are on the Lord's side, you are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper with us, to remember Him with emblems of His body and blood given for us, to "shew His death until He comes."***

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