

What Is, and Was, and Is to Come... A Biblical End Times and Prophecy Study

VI. The Antichrist and World Kingdoms

The Antichrist is probably the most talked about, written about, and even "joked" about (unfortunately) end-times personality. He is represented by many names in the Bible including the "beast", the little horn, the prince who is to come and the man of lawlessness. Before studying the Antichrist in detail, let's take a look at some background Scripture concerning five (5) world kingdoms.

A. Four (4) World Kingdoms and The 5th and Final World Kingdom

The Book of Daniel gives us a dramatic look at the four, and only 4, world kingdoms that will ever exist on the earth from Daniel's time until the coming of Christ (and His Kingdom). This prophecy was given through an interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream – ~606 B.C. (Daniel 2) and Daniel's own vision – ~553 B.C. (Daniel 7).

Summary of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (606 B.C.) - Daniel 2:31-35

Summary of Daniel's vision (553 B.C.) - Daniel 7:1-18

Two interpretations

Daniel 2 and 7 represent the same kingdoms

1. The **Babylon Kingdom** - represented as the golden head of the image/statue and a lion.
Daniel 2:36-38, Daniel 7:4
2. The **Persian Kingdom** - represented as the silver chest and arms of the statue and a bear.
Daniel 2:39a, Daniel 7:5
3. The **Greek Kingdom** - represented as the bronze belly and thighs of the statue and a leopard.
Daniel 2:39b, Daniel 7:6
4. The **Roman Empire** - represented by the iron/clay legs and feet of the statue and the 10-horned beast.
Daniel 2:40-43, Daniel 7:7, 19-23
5. The **Kingdom of Christ** - represented by the stone.
Daniel 2:44-45, Daniel 7:26-27

Daniel 2 and 7 represent different kingdoms at different times

1. The **Babylon Kingdom** - represented as the golden head of the image/statue and the **British Empire** represented by the lion.
Daniel 2:36-38, Daniel 7:4
2. The **Persian Kingdom** - represented as the silver chest and arms of the statue and **Russia** represented by the bear.
Daniel 2:39a, Daniel 7:5
3. The **Greek Kingdom** - represented as the bronze belly and thighs of the statue and **Germany** represented by the leopard.
Daniel 2:39b, Daniel 7:6
4. The **Roman Empire** - represented by the iron/clay legs and feet of the statue and the revived Roman Empire as the United Nations represented by the 10-horned beast.
Daniel 2:40-43, Daniel 7:7, 19-23
5. The **Kingdom of Christ** - represented by the stone.
Daniel 2:44-45, Daniel 7:26-27

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B. Horns and Toes – The Ten-Nation Alliance

1. Daniel 2:42 - the (ten) toes of the image. Daniel 7:7 - the 10 horns of the beast.
2. Daniel 7:23-24 - interprets these as a 10 "king" [or 10-nation, 10 political regions] alliance that will come out of the 4th kingdom (or the geographical/political boundaries or descendants of) - the Old Roman Empire.

C. The Beast/Antichrist

Now we will look at the verses that refer specifically and uniquely to the Antichrist.

1. The Little Horn - Daniel 7:8-12, 19-25

- a) Here the Antichrist is seen as coming from this 10-nation alliance (or 10 political regions) and will rise to power by over-throwing three of them. (*Daniel 7:8, 7:19-20*)
- b) He will speak out against God and oppress the saints for 3-1/2 years.
- c) His power and authority (kingdom) will be [temporary and] will ultimately be taken away and given to Christ and the saints (*Daniel 7:26-27*).

2. The 70th Week - Daniel 9:26-27

- a) He will sign some sort of an agreement/peace treaty [covenant] concerning Israel for seven years.
- b) After 3-1/2 years, the Antichrist will go back on his word and break the covenant.
- c) He will desecrate the temple in Jerusalem by proclaiming himself as God and offering a blasphemous sacrifice ("abomination").

3. The Antichrist's ancient predecessor, Antiochus Epiphanes – Daniel 11:1-35, Daniel 8:9-14

- a) A ruler would arise after Alexander the Great (11:3-4), rule Syria, make war with Egypt and invade Israel.
- b) He will enter the temple [in the same manner as the Antichrist will] and desecrate it (11:31) – 171 BC.
- c) About 6 years later (165/164BC), Antiochus' troops were driven out by a revolt led by Judas Maccabeus.
- d) Antiochus is also referred to as a "little horn" in Daniel's vision of the ram and goat (Greece) in Daniel 8.

4. The "Beast" (John's vision) - Revelation 13:1-10

- a) He is represented as a beast with 10 horns, 7 heads and wearing 10 crowns. He is the culmination of all the other beasts in Daniel 7. He will receive his authority (power) from the dragon (Satan).
- b) He will recover from a fatal wound. Because of him, men will worship the dragon (Satan).
- c) His authority will last for 42 months (3-1/2 years).
- d) He will blaspheme God and oppress the saints.

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5. The "Beast" (The interpretation of John's vision) - Revelation 17:8-14

- a) The beast (or his spirit) had lived once before – or – he was [apparently] dead and resurrected.
- b) He will either - arise out of the Old Roman Empire ("7 hills") and be a *resurrected 8th Roman emperor*, or - he will be the king of an 8th kingdom resurrected from seven previous "kings"/kingdoms whose evil intent was the destruction of the Jews – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Nazi Germany.
- c) The ten-nation alliance will give their allegiance to the beast in order to rule with him.
- d) He (and they) will ultimately be destroyed.

D. The False Prophet – The Second Beast - Revelation 13:11-15

The Beast (Antichrist) will have a right-hand man, the False Prophet (Anti-spirit, the second beast) *See Revelation 19:20*. In other words, the global political leader will have a global religious leader. This individual will be instrumental in setting up the world to receive and worship the Antichrist.

- 1. The False Prophet will perform mighty 'miracles' [signs, tricks] and deceive the people on the earth.
- 2. He will commission an image (idol) of the beast to be built and will apparently give it the ability to live and speak. This could be accomplished by satanic power or technology/special effects.
- 3. The False Prophet will develop an identification system to insure that the people of world will follow and obey the beast (Antichrist).

E. The Mark of the Beast - Revelation 13:16-18, Revelation 14:9-13

- 1. No one will be able to buy or sell without the identification number/code set up by the False Prophet.
- 2. This identification number will be permanently stamped [implanted] on the right hand or forehead.
- 3. It will be some sort of derivative of the beast's name and the number of his name, 666. Probably no set of numbers is more recognizable, and yet equally mysterious, than the number 666. In a very general sense, the number 6 is inferior to 7, which is God's number. 666 may indicate the ultimate expression of falling short of God's perfection.
- 4. Anyone who takes this mark of identification will perish eternally, period.

Note: The taking of the mark of the beast will be a “voluntary” act with a pledge of allegiance to the Antichrist. It will not be forcibly “branded” nor will it be applied by trickery (i.e. an amusement park stamp). However, refusal to take the mark will most certainly bring about punishment or death (martyrdom for the believers).