

18 - THE BATTLE FOR THE THRONE.



1

World History Revealed.



2

Before you read a book you probably want to know something about the author.

Who wrote the book? What sort of person he was.

You may even check out the person's credentials!

Sometimes a friend or neighbor may recommend a book.



3

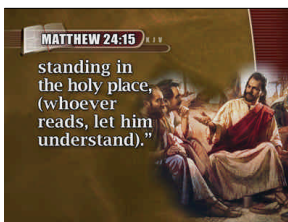
Don't you usually take into consideration just what sort of books appeal to that friend or neighbor before you buy it? It's really nice to have a dear friend recommend a good book for you to read!

Our dearest friend recommended a book for us to read. Let's find out about it!



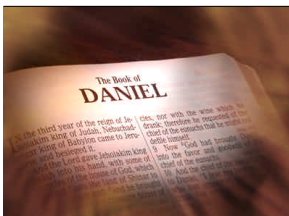
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(Video: 11 sec) One day as the disciples were talking to Jesus they asked Him to tell them about the future. When would He come again and when would the world end? Jesus proceeded to outline what would happen in the future. Jesus said: "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet,



5

(Text: Matthew 24:15) standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand). Matthew 24:15.



6

The Book of Daniel is the only specific Book of the Bible that Jesus recommended to help us understand what would happen in the future.

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It is comforting to know that God did not leave His people in the dark concerning what would come to pass that would affect their destiny.



One night as Daniel was sleeping, God gave him a vision that would outline in detail the coming events as they would impact the Jewish nation.



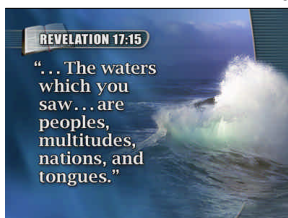
(Text: Daniel 7:2,3) Notice that Daniel wrote down what was shown in this dream: "...I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.



And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other." Daniel 7:2,3.



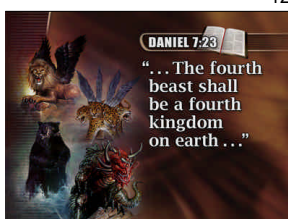
What could it all mean?
Beasts that usually live on dry ground, coming out of the sea?
Let's let the Bible give us the key to unlock this symbolic prophecy.



(Text: Revelation 17:15) First there is water.
Revelation 17:15 says: "...The waters which you saw... are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues."



(Text: Daniel 7:17,23) In the same chapter God tells Daniel what these beasts represent:
"Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth....



The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth." Daniel 7:17,23

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14

There you have it.

The beasts coming out of the populated area of the earth were to represent certain nations that would come into being.



15

(Text: Daniel 7:3) Notice how he describes them in Daniel 7:3: "And four beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other."



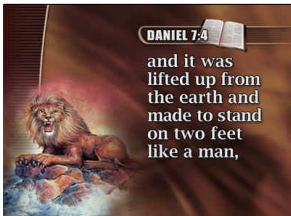
16

(Text: Daniel 7:4) "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings.



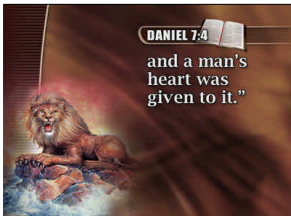
17

I watched till its wings were plucked off;



18

and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man,



19

and a man's heart was given it." Daniel 7:4



20

(Text: Daniel 7:5) "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear.

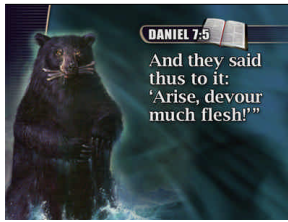
It was raised up on one side,



21

and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth.

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22

And they said thus to it: Arise, devour much flesh!" Daniel 7:5



23

(Text: Daniel 7:6) "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird.



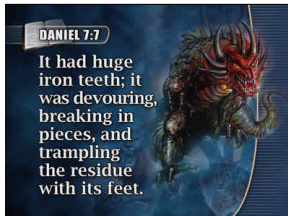
24

The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it." Daniel 7:6



25

(Text: Daniel 7:7) "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong.



26

It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet.



27

It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns." Daniel 7:7.



28

What a zoo!

You will notice that each of these beasts are not regular, "run of the mill" beasts.

They all have some special characteristics that help you to understand the vision.



29

As Daniel reflected on his vision of the four beasts, he couldn't help remembering the dream of the great King Nebuchadnezzar-the dream of the great metal man. It must be a parallel prophecy, he concluded.

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30

(Video: 6 sec) In both dreams, the symbols used covered the four empires of the ancient world, starting with Babylon and



31

ending with the coming of Jesus and the establishment of His kingdom.



32

Let's go back and look at each of these beasts or nations as they arise out of the populated part of the earth:



33

(Text: Daniel 7:4) "The first beast was like a lion, and had eagle's wings.
I watched till its wings were plucked off;



34

and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man,



35

and a man's heart was given to it."



36

What could better symbolize Babylon, the first world empire (represented by the head of gold in the towering statue), than a lion-the king of beasts and one of the symbols used by the ancient Babylonians themselves to represent their vast empire?



37

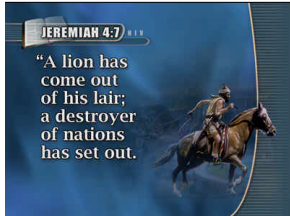
Visitors to the excavated ruins of Babylon today can see lion-shaped bas-reliefs on baked-brick walls and monuments, often with eagle wings!

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38

As the lion is noted for its strength and conquest, King Nebuchadnezzar's military conquests were unsurpassed. The rapidity with which Babylon gained power and spread its empire is appropriately symbolized by the eagle's wings.



39

(Text: Jeremiah 4:7) Notice that God uses the same symbol of a lion to represent Babylon: "A lion has come out of his lair; a destroyer of nations has set out."



40

He has left his place to lay waste your land..." Jeremiah 4:7.



41

The proud, pompous king of Babylon envisioned his kingdom lasting forever.

He apparently gave no thought to the idea that any other nation would ever rule the world.

He inscribed on the bricks of his buildings, "May it last forever."



42

(Video: 14 sec) However, God said the wings of the lion would be "plucked and a man's heart would be given it." In other words, Babylon would become so weak that it would no longer have the courage and boldness of one possessing a "lion's heart." And that's exactly what happened!

After King Nebuchadnezzar's death, Babylon decayed both morally and politically.

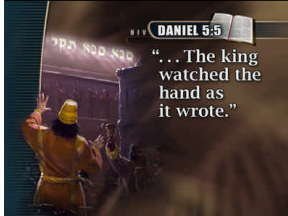


43

(Video: 12 sec) During the reign of Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's arrogant grandson, Cyrus the Mede laid siege to Babylon while Belshazzar foolishly feasted with his lords in the great banquet hall.

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As the bloodless hand etched those fiery letters of doom across the plastered wall, fear gripped every heart.



44

(Text: Daniel 5:5,6) The Bible says, "...The king watched the hand as it wrote.



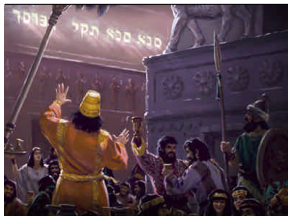
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His face turned pale and he was so frightened



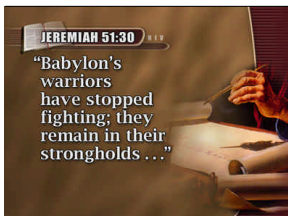
46

that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way." Daniel 5:5,6 NIV



47

Truly, the "heart of a lion" was replaced by that of a man.



48

"The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting, They have remained in their strongholds;..." Jeremiah 51:30



49

The triumphant shouts of Cyrus's army could be heard above the terrified cries of Belshazzar's revelers, and that night, October 13, 539 B.C.,



50

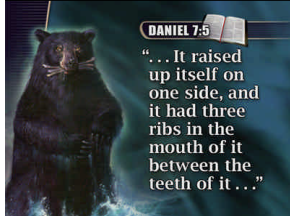
the Babylon kingdom (represented by the head of gold in the metal image and by the lion with eagle's wings in Daniel's dream) came to an inglorious end.

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51

The kingdom or empire represented by the second beast-the bear-can be none other than the conquering nation of Medo-Persia, the same kingdom represented by the arms and chest of silver in the giant metal man.



52

(Text: Daniel 7:5) As Daniel watched the bear in his dream, he said, "...It raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it..." Daniel 7:5.



53

(Video: 8 sec) What does this part of the prophecy mean? As we study history, we discover that the second empire was a dual dynasty, or a coalition government. The Medes and the Persians were united into one empire. However, before long the Persians became the dominant power in the dynasty.

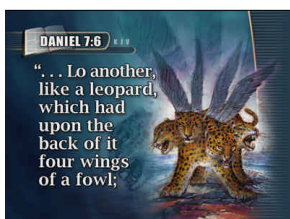
One side of this coalition was more powerful than the other. God had predicted this shift in power years before it took place.



54

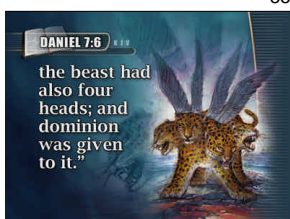
Daniel said that the bear had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth, but the Bible does not identify their meaning. However, most Bible scholars believe the three ribs represented Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt-the three principal territories devoured by the Medo-Persian armies.

The Persian Empire ruled for two centuries, but ferocious and strong as it may have been, God revealed to Daniel in the dream that another beast, or kingdom, would arise:



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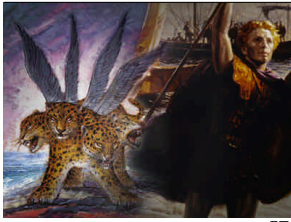
(Text: Daniel 7:6) "...Lo, another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl;



56

the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it." Daniel 7:6.

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57

Just as a slow-moving bear proves no match for the agile leopard, so the Persian armies were unable to defend themselves against the swift advances of Alexander the Great.



58

In Nebuchadnezzar's prophetic dream, the bronze belly and thighs of the image represented the third world empire of Greece, and so does the leopard in Daniel's dream.



59

The four wings describe the great speed of Alexander's conquests. He defeated Darius III of Persia in the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C., thus becoming in less than twelve years the ruler of the most extensive empire the world had ever known.



60

(Text: Daniel 8:22) The leopard's four heads represent the four divisions of Greece.
"...Four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation..."
Daniel 8:22.



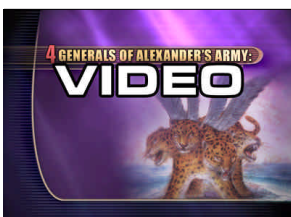
61

(Text: Daniel 8:22) The New International Version of the Bible states it this way: "...Four kingdoms will emerge from this nation but will not have the same power."



62

History tells us that the Grecian Empire did indeed divide into four parts. Alexander died of a raging fever at the age of thirty-two, just seven years after his great victory at Arbela. Even before he was buried, a bloody, 22-year power struggle began, first among his relatives and later among his military leaders. Finally, four of Alexander's generals gained control of the empire.



63

(Video: 9 sec) Now the leopard beast, or Greece, had four heads!
Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus.

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64

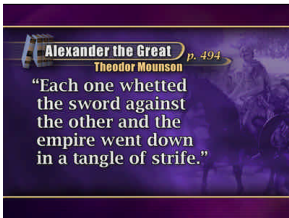
Most people have trouble keeping one head going in the right direction.

What do you suppose would happen if you had four?

Chaos!

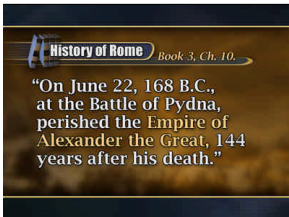
Each head trying to be number one!

That's exactly what happened to the Greek Empire, Alexander's four generals were greedy, ambitious men who wanted to obtain the throne.



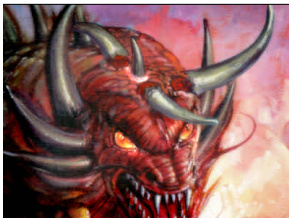
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"Each one whetted the sword against the other and the empire went down in a tangle of strife." Theodor Mounson, Alexander the Great, p. 494.



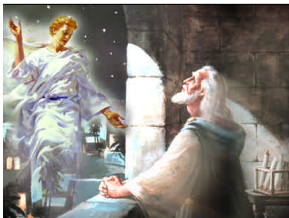
66

The unrest and strife continued among the four parts of the empire till finally, "on June 22, 168 B.C., at the Battle of Pydna, perished the Empire of Alexander the Great, 144 years after his death." History of Rome, book 3, chapter 10.



67

But what about the fourth nondescript beast that Daniel said would rise to power after the Greek Empire?



68

The angel told Daniel that this fourth kingdom would be different from the other kingdoms.

The beast representing it was extremely powerful, and it had enormous iron teeth that destroyed its prey.



69

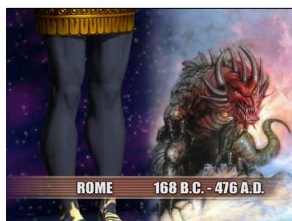
Here is pictured a cruel, vicious power.

A more fitting description of the rise of the Roman Empire could hardly be found.

It was more ruthless and brutal than all the previous empires, sometimes annihilating whole nations.

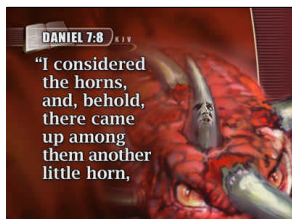
When it didn't destroy or subjugate a people, it used them as slaves or sold them into slavery.

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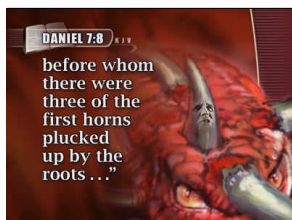
70

Daniel's monstrous beast had iron teeth, while the fourth kingdom in the metal image was represented by iron legs. Daniel was intrigued by this nondescript beast, and especially by its ten horns.



71

(Text: Daniel 7:8) He said, "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn,



72

before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots..." Daniel 7:8.



73

(Text: Daniel 7:24) The angel told Daniel that "...ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise..." Daniel 7:24.



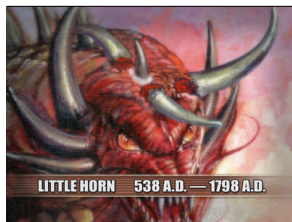
74

No doubt Daniel's mind flashed back to the great metal image with the toes, representing the divisions of the Roman Empire, accomplished in A.D. 476 by the barbaric tribes of northern Europe.



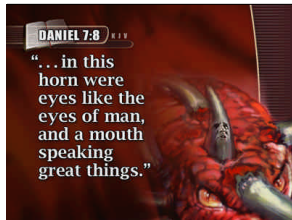
75

Seven of these kingdoms (nations) are still in Europe today.



76

But what interested Daniel most was the little horn that pushed itself up among the ten horns, uprooting three horns in its struggle for supremacy.



77

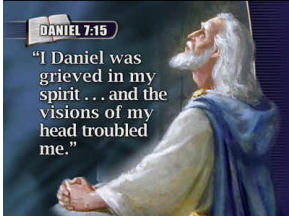
(Text: Daniel 7:8) Daniel noticed that "...in this [little] horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." Daniel 7:8.

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This little horn troubled Daniel.

78



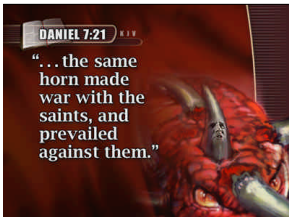
(Text: Daniel 7:15) He wrote, "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit... and the visions of my head troubled me." Daniel 7:15.

79



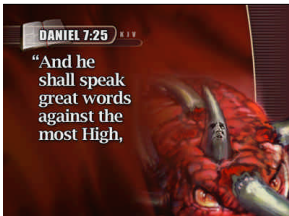
Why did this description of the little horn cause Daniel such concern?

80



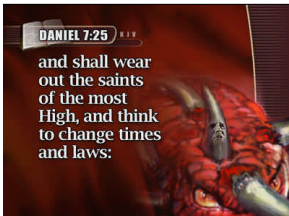
(Text: Daniel 7:21,25) Because "...the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them.

81



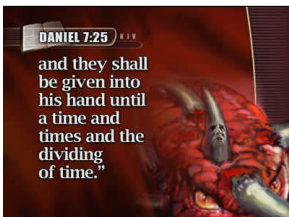
And he shall speak great words against the most High,

82



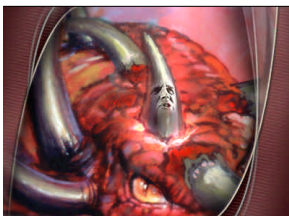
and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws:

83



and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Daniel 7:21, 25.

84

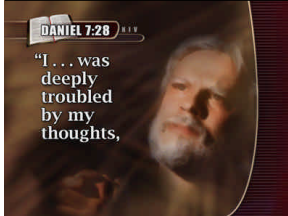


Daniel recognized that this prediction was no longer just about secular history, but that it had to do with God's people, for this little horn made war against the saints of God and actually prevailed against them for a period of time. Obviously, it was to be a hostile, persecuting power-a power

85

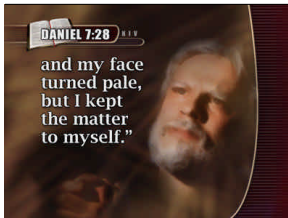
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or agency used by Satan to make war against God, His people, and His truth.



86

(Text: Daniel 7:28) Daniel said, "I ... was deeply troubled by my thoughts,



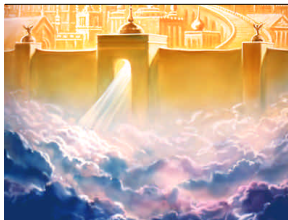
87

and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself." Daniel 7:28, NIV.



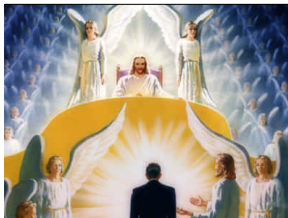
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All of this is but a background, or introduction, to the career of the little horn and the heavenly judgment. The identification of the little horn power and the part it was to play in the war against God and His people will be covered in another program.



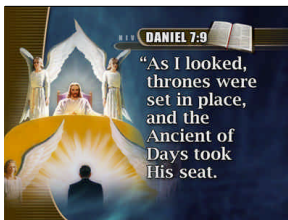
89

Here we will simply say that the fourth beast and its horns will exist until the end of time, when God will give the kingdom to His saints.



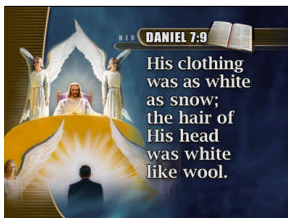
90

In vision, as Daniel watched the powers on earth struggle to grasp political and religious dominance, his attention was suddenly shifted from earth to heaven.



91

(Text: Daniel 7:9,10) "As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat.



92

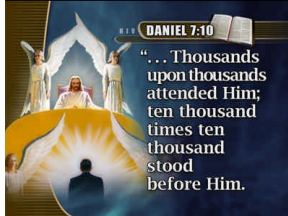
His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool.

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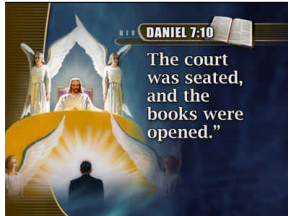
93

His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.



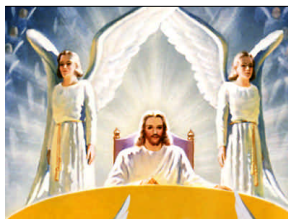
94

...Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.



95

**The court was seated, and the books were opened.”
Daniel 7:9, 10, NIV.**



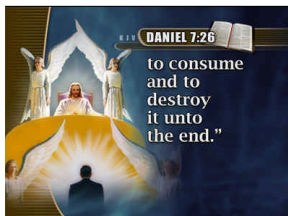
96

**Daniel saw God the Father, here called the Ancient of Days, come and sit upon a glorious throne.
Daniel was shown the judgment in heaven, with God judging the world, and the little horn power that made war against the saints.**



97

(Text: Daniel 7:26) Daniel also saw the outcome of this judgment: “But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion,



98

to consume and to destroy it unto the end.” Daniel 7:26.



99

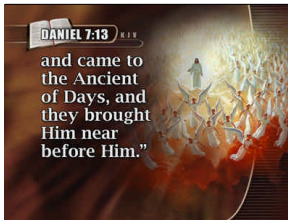
Then Daniel saw something very special, very beautiful, happen after the Father was seated and the judgment was ready to begin:



100

(Text: Daniel 7:13) “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven,

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101

and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him." Daniel 7:13.

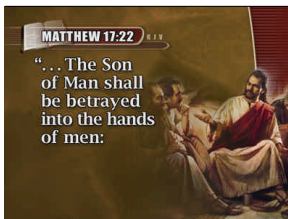


Who is this distinguished Person called "the Son of man" who was presented before the Eternal Judge?



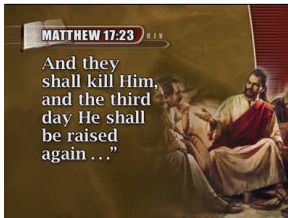
103

Jesus applied this term to Himself more than forty times in the New Testament.



104

(Text: Matthew 17:22,23) To His astonished disciples, He said, "...The Son of Man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:



105

and they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall be raised again..." Matthew 17:22,23.



106

(Text: Luke 22:48) To Judas, the traitor disciple, Jesus said, "...Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" Luke 22:48, NIV.



107

(Text: Matthew 26:64) But the most significant statement was directed to the high priest who sat in judgment at Christ's trial: "...Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power,



108

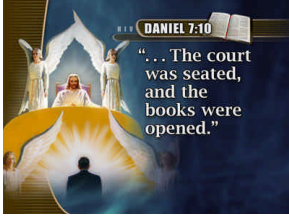
and coming in the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64. Here Jesus unmistakably identifies Himself as the Son of man whom Daniel saw in his vision-the one who "came with the clouds of heaven."

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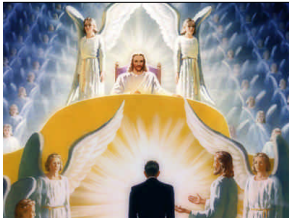
109

Christ comes to the judgment to represent all sinners who have accepted Him as their Advocate or Mediator. As our lawyer in that court, He has never lost a case!



110

(Text: Daniel 7:10) The text says that the books are opened. "...the court was seated, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:10



111

Those books will contain every act of our lives. Every idle word, every evil act or thought, and what we have done with our sin problem. If we have accepted Christ as our Saviour and Lord, then when our case comes up before God, Christ steps forth and declares that He is our Saviour and that His death has taken care of every sin that we have committed!



112

In that day in the records of heaven, His sinless life takes the place of the sinful life we have lived, and the only thing that the Father sees as He looks at our record is the sinless life of Christ that has been credited to our record.



113

We will have eternal life, not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done on the cross for us.



114

Perhaps Daniel became so interested in the little horn and what would finally become of it that he just leaped ahead and gave the complete story of its career, which actually takes place after the pre-advent judgment, when the affairs on earth are scrutinized and the decision made as to those

who will make up God's everlasting kingdom.

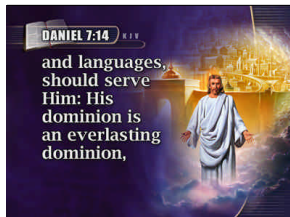
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115

(Text: Daniel 7:14) The kingdom was given to Christ as His dominion: We read: "There was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations,



116

and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion,



117

which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:14.



118

(Text: Daniel 7:27) Daniel goes on with more good news about this kingdom: "...The kingdom and dominion...shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High..." Daniel 7:27.

God's people, His saints, will be joint heirs with Christ in taking possession of that everlasting kingdom:



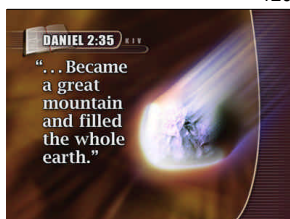
119

(Text: Daniel 7:18)
"...The saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever." Daniel 7:18.



120

This part of the prophecy parallels the rock in Nebuchadnezzar's dream that was cut out without hands and smote the image on the feet and became



121

(Text: Daniel 2:35) "...Became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Daniel 2:35.

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122

In these two parallel prophecies-Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great image and Daniel's dream of the beasts-God summarized earth's history from the time of ancient Babylon to the great day when Jesus comes in the clouds of glory to set up His everlasting kingdom of love and righteousness.



123

Here we see a complete outline of the two great prophecies and their climax as given in the two prophetic dreams.



124

We today are living down in the time of the feet of iron and clay.
Time is running out for the earth and its inhabitants!
This is the message that God is trying to share with each of us by His great prophecies.

What a remarkable way to predict centuries of world history in but two short chapters of the Bible!



125

And come to think about it, wasn't the dream given to Daniel that night so long ago in Babylon a tremendous expression of God's love and concern for His people on earth?
You see, Jerusalem was in ruins.



126

God's people, Israel, were in captivity in Babylon.
Things looked pretty grim.
But God, in this most unusual way, was telling Daniel, "I'm still in control.
Kings may come and kings may go.

Empires will rise and fall, but I have not forgotten My children on earth or My plan for them.
Someday everything will come out right."



127

And friend, kings and kingdoms have come and gone.
The dual prophecies of the image and the beasts have almost reached their complete fulfillment.

18 - THE BATTLE FOR THE THRONE.



(Video: 10 sec) Jesus is soon coming to execute judgment and to restore the dominion lost by Adam and Eve so long ago. He wants all of His children on Planet Earth to be a part of that kingdom, to be ready for that glorious moment when our Saviour returns!

For in that glorious day we shall behold Him-Our Saviour and Lord!