



SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

The Kingdom of God, Pt. 3: The Clash of Kingdoms

Pastor John Riggs

Scriptures Quoted or Referenced in the Sermon:

Old Testament:

- Numbers – Mentioned in announcements for the Bible study (“trusting God in the wilderness”).
- Daniel 2:36–45 – The main text for the sermon describing Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the statue (head of gold, chest of silver, etc.) and the stone that becomes a mountain, symbolizing God’s eternal kingdom.

New Testament:

- John 3:3 – Referenced when explaining Jesus’ words to Nicodemus: “You must be born again.”
- Colossians 1:13 – Paraphrased: believers are “transferred from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son.”
- John 14:6 – Quoted: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- Matthew 5:14–16 – Referenced when describing believers as “the light of the world,” “a city on a hill.”
- 1 Corinthians 6 – Mentioned as the current book being studied (“the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God”).
- Romans 8:28–30 (implied) – When talking about being “redeemed and rescued” and “transferred into the kingdom of God.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 – Referenced in connection with “the ministry of reconciliation.”
- 1 John 2:15–17 – Explicitly read near the end: “Do not love the world or the things of the world...”
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 – Quoted early in the service describing Scripture as “given by inspiration of God” and “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

- Revelation – Mentioned as connected to Daniel; to be studied in upcoming weeks to understand the fulfillment of God's kingdom.

Key Points:

Texoma Cowboy Church Live Stream

- Understanding the concept of the 'Kingdom of God' is crucial for believers, impacting their present life and future eternity.
- Salvation and entry into God's kingdom are exclusively through Jesus Christ, refuting universalist or multi-faith approaches.
- The book of Daniel provides essential context for understanding the prophecies in the book of Revelation, particularly concerning world kingdoms.
- Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel chapter 2 is interpreted as a prophecy of successive world empires and the ultimate establishment of God's eternal kingdom.
- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue represents a chronological sequence of world empires.
- The stone striking the statue signifies the establishment of God's eternal kingdom.
- Daniel's vision of four beasts parallels Nebuchadnezzar's statue, using different symbols for the same empires.
- The fourth beast in Daniel's vision, with ten horns, represents the final divided earthly kingdom and the rise of the Antichrist.
- Christians are called to live in the world but not be of the world, avoiding love for worldly systems and desires.
- The 'saints of the Most High' are all Christians, who will ultimately receive God's eternal kingdom.
- The saints of the most high will ultimately receive and possess the kingdom forever, a concept echoed in Daniel chapters 2 and 7.
- Daniel's prophecy of the fourth beast signifies a future, destructive kingdom on Earth that will eventually manifest ten kings, followed by a distinct, oppressive 'little horn' figure.
- The 'little horn' figure will actively oppose God, persecute believers ('wear out the saints'), and attempt to alter divine laws.
- The 'mark of the beast' system, where participation is required for basic transactions, is foreshadowed by societal pressures and compliance seen during events like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question and Answer: (answers provided on pages 21-24 of the study)

Q: What is the significance of the dream in Daniel chapter 2?

Q: What does it mean to be 'born again' in the context of the Kingdom of God?

Q: What are the four essential components of a kingdom?

Q: What do the different parts of Nebuchadnezzar's statue represent?

Q: What is the significance of the stone that struck the statue?

Q: How does Daniel's vision of four beasts relate to Nebuchadnezzar's statue?

Q: Who is the 'little horn' that emerges from the fourth beast?

Q: Why should Christians not love the world?

Q: What is the interpretation of the 'four beasts' in Daniel chapter 7?

Q: What does it mean for Christians to be the 'saints of the Most High'?

Q: Who is the 'little horn' mentioned in Daniel chapter 7?

Q: What is the significance of the 'time, times, and a half time' mentioned in prophecy?

Q: Who is the 'great red dragon' in Revelation?

Q: What does the 'beast' with seven heads and ten horns represent?

Q: What is the meaning of the 'mortal wound' that is healed on the beast's head?

Sermon Transcript:

We've been doing a study uh here recently through the book of Corinthians, 1 Corinthians. And we made it to chapter 6, but we've spent um a little we took a little uh pause here in chapter 6 because we were learning about those that will not inherit the kingdom of God. And that would be the unrighteous. That the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Which is the reason that we take serious our ministry given to us by Christ, which is the ministry of reconciliation. And that we are by Christ to share this gospel, our testimony about how men and women can be reconciled to God. And that's our ministry. We have the ministry of reconciliation. And so we know that people who die outside of Christ are unrighteous. And that they will receive what is coming in the future, which will be not only hell, but the resurrection, the great white throne judgment, and then the lake of fire. These are motives for us to drive us to propel us to tell people about the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And so we're going to learn though, we have now starting last week, we were stopping to spend a few weeks addressing the kingdom. What is the kingdom of God? A lot of people, maybe even Christians, you might be here this morning and you've heard that term a lot. You hear the terminology about the kingdom of God and or the kingdom of heaven. And you're like, "Yeah, that sounds great. That's where I want to go and that's where I plan to go. I've I'm a believer and follower of Christ." Well, here's the thing. Many of us don't really probably even truly understand what the kingdom is and how it has so great of implication for our life right now and also in the future. And so, we're going to look at this. You remember last week we addressed the reality that there are only two kingdoms in this world. That's all that there is. There's only two. There is the co the kingdom or the domain uh of darkness or the kingdoms of this world and there is the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus. And we learned last week that both all of us are born into the first kingdom. Every man, woman, boy, child, anyone who has ever been born is born naturally into the kingdom of this world. We are born there and we've inherited this state of fallenness from Adam. And we live in a fallen kingdom called the kingdom of darkness where Satan is ruling right now. The little god of this age and what he is doing behind the scenes in the spiritual realm and manifesting in the physical realm. And we've learned though that Jesus said that if you want to be a part of the kingdom of God, you got to be born again. And that is what he told Nicodemus and that's what the gospel is all about. That is taking someone who is dead spiritually who is born into the kingdom of darkness and we by faith through the gospel believing upon Jesus Christ we are born again of the spirit and we are what? We are we are rescued from the domain of darkness and we are transferred into the kingdom of God. And so if you're a Christian here today, you praise God, are no longer a part of the kingdoms of this world. But you have been rescued by your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Christ has redeemed you and rescued you. And he has transferred your citizenship from the kingdoms of this world to the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus. And that has huge implications for you, not only in this life today, but also for our future and all eternity. And these are some elements we're going to learn.

Now, last week we said a kingdom has four essential components. You remember that we have a little trouble maybe today understanding this because we live in a um, a republic. Um, I at least we think we are. And um, we don't have a king who is ruling over all the people. We have representative uh government that represents the people that people are elected to represent people in government to make decisions for the rest of us that we send them to do that. Um, but we have a hard time understanding this king and kingdom and all that stuff. And I want to share with you that a kingdom first of all has a king. We learned this last week. A kingdom has a king who reigns and a king who rules also. The a kingdom has territory or land over which the king has rule and reigning over the kingdom. A kingdom number three has citizens that is the people who are part of the kingdom who are ruled over by the king. And then lastly, fourth, a kingdom has a system of government to implement and enforce the will of the king over the people living in the kingdom. And so there are only two kingdoms. Everyone on the face of the

earth today is part of one of these two kingdoms. And everyone who is outside of saving faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation is still part of the kingdoms of this world. No matter what anyone tells you that there are many roads to God, scripture tells us there's only one way to the father and to enter the kingdom of God and that is through his son Jesus Christ, God the son. We are only going to enter through the kingdom through him. He's the only way. And so as we move into this new this this era of time here in these latter part of the last days, you're going to see a sweeping ecumenical movement where this embracing of all religions actually are all directing people to God and they're going to be all embracing one another in that everyone has their own way to God. We believe in God. You have your way as a Buddhist or a Hindu or a Muslim or a Jew or whatever. You have your way to get to God. So, let's all just come together. And we realize that we have our own avenues and our own ways to God. Um, and so, let's just all get along. But that is that is that is of Satan. That is satanic and that is a lie. But it's very prominent in our time and it's everywhere around us. No, there's one way to God through Jesus Christ alone. That's the only way. And that's what John 14:6 tells us. Jesus told his apostles, "I'm the way, the truth, and the life. And no one comes to the father except through me. He's the door. He's the gate. He's the way. He's the truth. He's living water. He's the bread of life. He's all of these things. Jesus Christ alone is the only way where men can be saved and can be rescued from the domain of darkness and delivered unto the kingdom of the son because it requires that one would come and redeem all that was fallen and lost by Adam. And so let's go ahead and open our Bibles together and we're going to be doing some back and forth from the Old Testament into the New Testament. And I what I what I'm hoping to accomplish this morning with God's help is to help you begin to understand the history of how the kingdoms of the world have been operating and how the kingdom of darkness is in complete total opposition to the kingdom of God. And and I want you to see now as you're looking at the world in our current time, you can see how the kingdoms of this world are being influenced by the kingdom of darkness. And you can also understand that we as believers, we are here to be the light of Christ shining forth in this dark kingdom of this world. That is our great purpose. That is why we're here. That is why we've been redeemed in order to share the gospel and to shine the light of Christ in this world. And that's what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 5. He said, "You are a city on a hill. You're the light of the world. Remember, Jesus Christ is the light of man. And you shine the light of Christ. And trust me, the kingdom of darkness can see your light. The light of Christ which shines forth from you. The kingdom of darkness sees that. You have the light of Christ in you. So, let's go ahead and we're going to unpack some very, very important truths in order that you can understand the history of this world, God's plan of redemption, and the whole concept of us being in the kingdom of God and what that means for you now and what that means for you in the future into the rest of eternity. It's huge, guys, and it's going to be a major blessing to you. Don't miss the next few weeks if you want to be blessed greatly um from these truths.

Go with me to um in Daniel chapter 2. I'm just going to briefly stop through here, but Daniel chapter 2 is where I want you to go. You're like, "Oh, no. We're going back in the Old Testament." Yes, we are. We're going to begin back in the Old Testament because we're going to spend a lot of time in the book of Revelation, also in the New Testament. But here is the thing. You cannot fully begin to grasp or even partly understand the book of Revelation unless you understand the book of Daniel. The book of Daniel is going to teach us many things to help us understand what John also is seeing in the book of Revelation. And so, we're going to learn these things together. We'll be in Daniel chapter 2 and uh, we're going to be looking first in verses 36 through 38. But let me just give you a little backdrop here. When Daniel is writing this, he has been taken from uh e he's in exile now. Taken uh from the uh being overtaken by the Babylonian Empire o over the nations of Israel. That would be the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. And we have now king Nebuchadnezzar is king, if you will, over the empire of Babylon. This would be the kingdom of Babylon. He is the current king of the kingdom of Babylon. And King Nebuchadnezzar, he has um some of these Jews that he has brought as basically prisoners to serve him in his kingdom. And Daniel is one of these wise

men that was taken from uh his people brought as exiled into the kingdom of Babylon. And King Nebuchadnezzar has this incredible dream that really troubles and terrifies him. And his dream is a dream of a image or a man, but it's an image. And there are very interesting uh parts to this image. And he's troubled by what he sees in this image because at the end of his dream, he sees a massive stone that is cut out, but it's not cut out by the hands of man. And this massive stone rolls down this mountain and hits this image in its feet and completely annihilates the image. And Nebuchadnezzar is very troubled by this. And so he brings together the wise men of his empire and he tells them, "Listen, I've had a horrible dream. I can't get it off my mind. I don't know what it means and I want you to tell me my dream and tell me the interpretation of the dream. No one could do it." So Daniel, because of the edict was given that all the wise men need to be killed because if they can't even tell the king his dream and interpret it, he says, "You all are fake and he's going to have them all killed." Daniel goes and he prays to God that God would help him to be able to know the dream and to interpret the dream. And God answers Daniel's prayer. Let me tell you something. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man and a righteous woman brings forth much. God answers our prayers, Christian. And so in in this in this in this interaction, Daniel comes to King Nebuchadnezzar and he says, "Okay, king, I'm going to give you the interpretation." He says, "First of all, no man can, but the God that I serve has told me your dream and he has given me the interpretation. Daniel's first going to give credit to the God of all creation because Daniel wasn't able to do this." And so Daniel now is going to interpret this dream for the king. Now, this is big business. He was actually going to be killed if this wasn't going to happen. And God intervenes here and we see this incredible image. Now, let me see it. I'm gonna paint it for you in your mind. This image stands erect. It's very tall. At the top of the image, the head of the image is made of pure gold. Pure gold. As you move down in the image in Daniel chapter 2, you'll notice that we have the chest and the arms of the image. There's a change now. And now we notice that that part of this image is actually made of silver. And then it drops a little bit lower into the middle area, the stomach and the waist area and the thighs. And we notice that it actually moves to bronze. So there's a changing of these elements moving down in this image. And then we notice the two legs as you go down through Daniel's interpretation of the dream and the actual sharing of the dream. The legs themselves are made of iron. And then it gets down into the two feet and the toes. And there's 10 toes on this image. Most of us have 10 toes probably. At least I hope you have 10 toes. If you don't, you got to have a special pair of shoes. But nonetheless, there's 10 toes. And Daniel notices that it moves from partly iron to amalgamation of iron and clay as it moves down into the feet and the toes of this image. And then next, Nebuchadnezzar saw, as I mentioned, this stone that was cut out, not by man. It's a massive stone that struck this mighty image of a man on his feet of iron and clay and broke into pieces the great image. And this stone that actually destroyed the image, became a huge mountain. And this mountain filled the entire earth. So you can imagine having this kind of dream. It troubled the king. I mean, is he speaking of me? Am I getting ready to be killed? He has all these questions. Paranoia was part of what it meant to be a king. People were always out to kill you. And this is what this image was. So Daniel tells him in Daniel 2:es 36-38, follow along with me. Now I need you to really think with me this morning. Even on one hour less sleep, I need you to really engage your brains today because this is going to help you understand our current time. Not only our current time history but also the future. You're going to understand some very important things and it matters greatly for the today's Christian that we are living in right now. It has huge implications for you and God has revealed this to us so that we can know. Aren't you thankful for that? Daniel says to King Nebuchadnezzar in verse 30 uh 6-38, this was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. You, oh king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power and the might and the glory and into whose hand he has given wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them. You, oh king, are the head of gold. You're the head of gold. So Daniel says, Nebuchadnezzar, you're the head part of the image. You're the head of gold. And then in Daniel 2:39, move on down. And I want you to know these very important words. In verse 39 of Daniel chapter 2. And then he says this, another kingdom or empire. He says,

moving in now to the chest and the shoulders and the two arms here, he says, "Another kingdom which will be inferior to the king of kingdom of Babylon. This kingdom um which is inferior to you shall arise after you." And yet a third kingdom, he's going to go down into the bronze section. Now he says, "And yet a third kingdom of bronze which shall rule over all the earth." What is Daniel telling the king his vision or his dream meant? Well, God has given him a dream about beginning with Nebuchadnezzar his empire, which is the Babylonian Empire. And then now he's going to give him the next empire that will rule after King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire. And then he's going to bring in the third empire that will rule next after that next empire. So God is now laying out a future of the kingdoms that are coming. No man can do this, by the way. Only God knows the future. And that's what God is doing. He's revealing not only for King Nebuchadnezzar, but for Daniel, which is important for his people, but also for you and I today to understand that God already knows how this whole thing is going to work out. God is sovereign and yet there is all these things happening in the world as we're going to see. And then he's going to move down and say this next. The chest and arms, he says, of silver are represented as a kingdom that would follow the Babylonian Empire. And the kingdom of silver would be followed by a third kingdom, which I said of bronze that would rule over the whole earth. And then in Daniel 2:40, now we're going to get into this final, not the final, but the next stage here of this image. Notice, and there shall be a fourth kingdom. These are kingdoms of the world. There shall be a fourth kingdom strong as iron because iron breaks into pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. All the previous things are going to be crushed. Next, a fourth kingdom, a powerful kingdom will rule over all the earth. Now go to verse 41 in Daniel chapter 2. Now he's going to move into the feet and toes here. As for you, the feet and toes that are partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, moving now into these kingdoms, he says, "It shall be a divided kingdom, a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with clay." As this kingdom extends down the legs, guys, uh, of this image of this man, we come to the feet and the tes. The kingdom that we're looking here that is amalgamation of a continuation of the legs moving down into the feet and toes. There is a change that happens in this kingdom where this kingdom now is going to be what? Made of partly iron but partly clay. And it's going to be a mixed kingdom in this final phase of this image as it moves down into the toes. And then in verse 44 through 45, I'm trying to go slow so you understand these things. And in the days of those kings, what kings? The kings of the 10 toes, the kings of them, of the partly iron and the partly clay, in the time or the king, the days of those kings of the God of heaven. Listen to this. This is so important for you Christian. Listen to this. In the days of those kings, as we're going to learn, it's still a future reality. But in the days of the kings of the 10 kings, in this future empire that moves all the way into the feet and toes, that is now a mixture in the in the days of these kings. Notice what God is going to do. It says, "The God of heaven will set up what?" A kingdom that shall never be destroyed. This is the kingdom of God. Dear Christian, God is going to set up a kingdom after all of these that have been mentioned. God's going to set up his kingdom. What has God given us? He's given us a a future picture of the world empires and then the time that will come for God to set up his kingdom. This is incredible that God would do this, but he did. And so as we move down through here, notice he says this in verse 44. This kingdom will never be destroyed, nor shall, listen, very important, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. In other words, this kingdom of God is going to be given to a specific group of people and it will never be destroyed. It never comes to an end and it will not be left to another people. Not like all the kingdoms of the world throughout history that are simply left to the next people that actually came and overtook them and absorb them into their kingdom. No, the kingdom of God is left for a very specific group of people who will inherit this kingdom. Now he moves on and he says it the kingdom of God shall break in pieces all of the key all these kingdoms and the kingdom of God will bring them to an end. An end. And it, the kingdom of God, shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone, Daniel said, was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, and the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to you, the king, what shall what be after this? The dream is certain. Its interpretation is sure. Notice here that after um the king of those

days, speaking of the ten toes, the image of God will set up and God is going to establish this kingdom that we're going to learn about. It's called the kingdom of God forever and ever and ever. So here God reveals to Daniel, Daniel reveals to King Nebuchadnezzar um all of the empires of the world as we're going to learn that are pertaining to those who had authority, power, and dominion over the people of God. This is important. There were other kingdoms that came and rose, but we're looking at the ones that God finds that are important for a reason. And we're going to learn about these here.

First John, if you want to turn there with me in your Bibles, yes, I know you're going to have to flip right in your Bible. Go almost to the very end of the New Testament to get to First John. First John chapter 2:15-17. And I want to help you um see this because we're we're challenged in our time not to be sucked into the kingdom of the world from which we've been rescued out of because everything appeals uh in advertising and everything that we see. It all appeals to the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. It's all drawing you back to the old man. Every aspect of it in the fallen kingdoms of this world. And so it's hard for us and challenging for us as Christians because we're to be in this world, but we are not to be of the world. And it's a challenge for every one of us. It's a reality. But these scriptures are written for you and for me. So we understand this because this world, these kingdoms, I know that the elites and the Illuminati and all of these these powers that actually hold the strings of all the puppets of the of the nations of the world, I know that they think they're going to usher in this utopian age that they've all been wanting to usher in. But I'm telling you, it's going to be destroyed. The kingdoms of this world are all going to be destroyed. No matter what we see happening in this world and we see all the strings and how the politicians aren't really driving the bus, they're just sitting in the driver's seat. Kind of like your child. You know, my my kids when they were super little and I'd go out and feed cows. Well, shoot. I just throw them on my lap and they were sitting up there just two years old or three thinking they were driving the rig, baby. They weren't driving anything. They looked like they were driving, but I was in control of everything on that vehicle. And that's what our politicians, many of them are, our presidents and the prime ministers of other countries. And they're nothing but attached to strings of the real people running the world. And there is a cabal of people who worship Satan who are involved in doing all this stuff. And if you can't see this stuff is all true, um, I I can spend some more time with you and teach you on those things. That's not what we're here to learn about this morning. But that's the reality. And so they keep you thinking and believing that we're a two system party. We're all of these things. It's all how they keep you controlled and keep you um I'm I'm thinking that this is all real. Uh, no, we're moving to the day of the Lord. Christian, hear me. And this is not the best. Although as a Christian, it's really good. But the best, dear Christian, is yet to come. It's still coming yet future. So here, yes, there there there's all kinds of stuff going on in the world, but don't get sucked into that and being troubled by it all. No, no, no, no. Because all these kingdoms are all going to be destroyed by the great king of the ages, the Lord Jesus Christ, the God the Father, is going to do all this. We have this here. Okay, let's move on.

Now, in 1 John chapter 2, look at this verse 15-17. We're told here, this is important, Christian. What I tell you, the word of God, it's it's important for us here because it's going to give us everything we need for faith and for practice. That means application. How do you live in this world as a Christian? Well, let me show you here. He says, John says, do not love the world. Do not love the world or the things of the world. Well, that goes against everything that we've ever been taught. Save the planet. Everything, you know, everything we ever been taught, you know, buy it, want it, get it, pursue it. It's all about this stuff, materialism. I mean, it's it's what we've been taught since we were born that we're to love the world and love the things of the world. And here, the Bible tells us, don't love the world and don't love the things of the world. Why? Let me show you why. John says, if anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world, listen, the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life is not from the father. But it is from the world. The world is from the world. And

the world is what? Passing away. It's passing away. So what's happening along with its desires? But whoever does the will of God abides forever. So now next we're going to go back to Daniel again. Okay? We're going to play a little back and forth here. Now go back to Daniel chapter 7. Daniel chapter 7. This time Daniel is going to have a dream vision. He's going to have a dream. Daniel himself is. Now, this is this is years later. But Daniel's going to have a dream. In the time of this dream, the next empire has already conquered the Babylonian Empire. And so, the Meo Persian Empire was actually reigning the king of Persia here, u Cyrus, and so on and so forth. So Daniel's now moved on from the king king in the kingdom of Babylon, which was part of this vision. He's now in uh exile, but he's in exile now in the kingdom of Persia because the Meo Persian Empire came in and they overthrew the Babylonian Empire. And so this is when Daniel's writing this now in chapter 7. Um, we're going to notice a few things here that's very, very important. So Daniel has a dream here. He's in exile in Babylon. As I mentioned to you, this vision is very, very important. And I want you to focus here in verses 2 through three. And this is what Daniel declared. I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. Now, I want you to underline that in your Bible. That's a very important thing along with this next sentence. Underline it because you're going to see something important in the book of Revelation. So Daniel now is is is having this vision at night or this dream and he sees the four winds of heaven stirring up, if you will, this this the great sea. And notice what he sees next. And four great beasts came up out of the sea. Four great beasts come up out of the sea. This is important. They were each different from one another. In Daniel 7:4, we're going to see Daniel's going to tell us what these different beasts now look like. The first was like a lion, and it had eagle's wings. Then, as I looked, its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man. And the mind of a man was given to it. And so here Daniel

says, "The first beast, this is what he saw coming up out of the sea. It was a lion, but the lion had two wings, the wings of an eagle."

Now, a year or so ago, I was in Germany. Maybe it was two years ago, Cheryl and I went to Germany and um we we went to uh the the Pergamum Museum there in in Berlin and they have there the Babylonian gate, the Ishtar gate is there and they have through archaeology uncovered all of these incredible tiles from the walls of the city of Babylon and even the Ishtar gate of Babylon they have there in this Pergamum Museum and these beautiful tiles that are all blue and And then they have these these different creatures that the whole walls of the city would have been covered with. I mean absolutely beautiful. Far more beautiful than anything we create today. These fresco of tiles. And these are the very tiles and gate that Daniel himself would have seen when he was there in Babylon. And when you go into this great big room where they have all these tiles put back together and the Ishtar gate, what you're going to notice is is that there and all of these other uh marble creatures that they have around the museum, you're going to notice the lion is everywhere you look. And do you know what else you find on the lion that is on the walls of the city of Babylon? Guess what you find? These aren't ordinary lions. Their body looks like a lion, but do you know what it has on its sides? the wings of an eagle. Absolutely. You can't make this stuff up. This is real. And so what Daniel sees here in this first vision, he sees a lion with eagle's wings. What we know before I take too much time in explaining is the kingdom of Babylon represents the first beast that came up out of the sea. And God is going to give to Daniel in this vision and dream. the same dream that he gave King Nebuchadnezzar using different symbols. And so Babylon was the king that was the kingdom of the lion with the wings of an eagle. And that's what we find here to be that.

Now notice here we move on to verse 5. And behold, the second beast is going to come up out of the sea. Now another beast, a second one like a bear. Now this one he sees a bear rising up out of the sea. and it was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And it was told, "Arise and devour flesh." Now, this represents the kingdom that took

over the Babylonian Empire or kingdom. And what is that? This is the Meo Persian Empire. This is the Meo Persian Empire with the Persian Empire being superior raised up on one side being superior to the Meo Empire where the Persian Empire basically became the ruling empire of the two. It became the ruling empire. Notice that there's a lot going on in modern-day Persia right now. Do you know who the Persians are and what modern-day Persia is today? Iran. Iran is modern-day Persia. Christian that is these people the the um the uh Persians here. And so the second kingdom that Daniel sees in this vision rising up out of the sea takes over the Babylonian Empire. We know it's the Meo Persian Empire.

Daniel 7:6 he says now he's going to give the next the next one. After this I looked and behold another notice he's going to give it a picture of what it looks like. These are important because you're going to see these again in the book of Revelation. It's important. Write down these, underline these uh attributes, if you will. It's it's it's something you can see in the book of Revelation here. Hopefully, we'll have time to get there this morning. He says, "And behold, I looked after this another like a leopard, a leopard with four wings of a bird on its back, and the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it." Now, Daniel's going to see the next empire that's going to come and take over the Persian Meo Empire. And we know who that was going to be just through history because history already records it. And who is this leopard representative of? Alexander the Great, who has been called the greatest military mind of all of history. In fact, in fact, he almost completely conquered the whole entire known world in 10 years. In 10 years, he is like a leopard. He came in so fast and took over and conquered all the empire that was there and just absorbed it all. Notice though, it has four heads and four wings. Well, something bad about Alexander the Great. He died very young. He didn't die in battle. That would have been a great way to go. You can read the history of how he died. But nonetheless, he had no prosperity. He has no children to leave his kingdom to. But he had four generals. And history records this. You can look it up in your history books. He had four generals. And he divided the kingdom among the four generals. And each of the four generals took a part of the kingdom, which represent the four heads and the four wings who would take over the kingdom. after Alexander the Great died. Guys, I'm telling you, the Bible, when I say it's incredible, there's not really a word in the English language that can describe it because we use the word incredible to talk about a lot of things. No, this far surpasses this. This is God's word. And history records this, which is so amazing in Daniel chapter 7 verses 7-8.

Now, now we're going to see the fourth part of this kingdom. Daniel says, "After this, I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast. He was terrifying, dreadful, and exceedingly strong." This this beast, he said, it had great iron teeth. It devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it. Why? This is very important. Underline this in your Bible. It was very different from all the other beasts representing empires. But also the next part of this sentence is important. You need to know this because this one here um had 10 horns. Well, what do you think this is symbolic of? Just reading Daniel chapter 2. It's symbolic of the 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the feet of the image. Now we come to this fourth beast moving through the kingdoms and we see this ferocious beast. But we also notice that this beast has 10 horns. 10 horns. He said, "I considered the horns." Now he's focused on the horns. He can't get over the horns, man. I considered the horns and behold, he notices something. As he's watching the horns in his dream, he notices that these 10 horns on this beast, something is happening with these horns. And this is what Daniel reveals to us through this dream that God has given us. So we understand, especially speaking of these last days. And he says, "Behold, there came up among them among what? The T horns." There there be there came up among the t horns a little horn and the little one before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. So Daniel is looking at this ferocious dreadful beast in this vision and he notices the t horns on its head and he's mesmerized by the t horns. He's looking at the t horns and he notices that three of the horns of the beast are actually uprooted and up from the ground comes up this little horn that uproots these three of the 10. This is very important by the way as we're going

to learn here in Dan in in Revelation because we already know if you know anything about esquetology and have studied scripture or been here in this church very many years, we already know who this little horn is. This little horn here is going to be none other than the final king that will serve in the empires of the kingdoms of this world. And what is his name? The Antichrist. I'm going to show that to you and and and spell it all out for you here through scripture so that you understand. These 10 kings that we're still looking at, we're still waiting for. Why do we know that? Because when we get to the book of Revelation, John sees a future event in the future, past John's days where these 10 kings will have a time where they will rule for a short time. And this little horn here, he's going to rise up from among those. And three of them are going to be uprooted and he's going to take a very prominent role. In fact, the most prominent role will be taken by this antichrist. Why? Because Revelation says that the rest of the seven give all of their power, their dominion, and their authority to who? The little horn, the antichrist, who is coming. This is very important. We could be alive when this happens. That's why it's so important. If you read second Thessalonians, you'll find out that the day of the Lord will not come until the great apostasy and the man of sin is revealed. Who's the man of sin? The man of lawlessness. He is this little horn, none other than the Antichrist. So, Christians will see the rise of Antichrist. It's why you need to know this stuff, Christian, because Jesus said, "These last days will be the most deceptive days in the history of all the world." And you're being deceived every day and don't even realize that. That's what I pray to God. God, don't let me be deceived. Why? because of all the stuff we take in all the time. We're being deceived by narratives and different agendas that are being promoted and and these platforms that these people pump all this money into to give them the high number platforms in order that your algorithm will pick it up so they can get their agendas across to you. Israel just purchased Tik Tok. Isn't that interesting? Why? So they can control the narrative on Tik Tok. There's so much going on. And I don't even boy, if you get me started on all this stuff, we'll be here forever. But that's not what we're here to learn today.

So now, as we move through here, we see this um that this the the first horns were plucked up, right? So the fourth terrifying and dreadful beast with the 10 horns is uh referring to what Nebuchadnezzar saw with the leg or the feet and the 10 toes here. Go with me now to the 16th verse through 18 in Daniel 7. I hope this is interesting to you all. I really do. I hope it's interesting to you all. Um, it sure is to me and it has great ramifications as we look at the kingdom. Listen, don't love the world, folks. This world is passing away. Don't love the things of the world because don't hold on to them too close. Why? And too tightly because there's no guarantee of these things being around any time in the future. You could hold if you have something that you hold dear, whatever it is, it could be gone. I mean, I'm not going to Okay, let's move on. Here we go. Daniel 7:16-18. Notice what Daniel does. He says, "I approached one of those who stood there in his vision." And he said, "I asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation." Here's the amazing thing about what God does. He interprets these things. So you go to the book of Revelation, you'll read something and there'll be an interpretation of what those things are. And this is what Daniel's saying. I don't understand the dream. So he asks someone he sees in the dream standing there. And now he's going to get the interpretation of the dream. Let's read the interpretation here. And this interpretation, this individual that is speaking to Daniel here. So he told me and made known the interpretation of the things, these four beasts are what? Four kings. And these four kings represent four kingdoms. And four kingdoms are four empires here is what we're learning at. So we already know we're looking at kingdoms again here. So you don't have to wonder, well, what does that mean? What is a leopard? What is a bear? What is a No, you don't have to wonder. You're getting the interpretation right now here from God in his word. This is looking at four kingdoms and four kings that are part of this kingdom. And this is what he's is the revelation is is telling him. Um, so these four great beasts are four kings who shall rise up out of the earth. But listen, oh, here's the good news, Christian. You got to underline this in your Bible, too. Remember, we're learning about the kingdom and why this has such great ramification for you Christian today and in the future. If your hope is in this world, you're

going to be so grossly disappointed. You probably already are. If you're older than 25, you're probably greatly disappointed in a lot of things in this world. Why? Because they're not what they what you thought they would be or what you told are told they would be. That's for a reason. Here we go. These four beasts are for I'm keep repeating myself. Listen. But the saints in this verse here, verse 18, but the saints of the most high. Who are the saints of the most high Christian? We are the saints of God. We are not some figure that is put up in a pillar that setits overlooking the Vatican in the obelisk in the center of the That's not what we're speaking of. That's not the saints. Every Christian is a saint of God. Did you know that? We are the saints. The people of God are the saints. And he says here the the being the interpretation he says listen don't let this trouble you too much about the four kingdoms. Let me show you why. Because he says that the the saints of the most high shall receive what? The kingdom and possess the kingdom forever forever. Forever and ever and ever. Doesn't this sound exactly like what we read in Daniel chapter 2? It is for a reason because it's saying the same thing using different symbology so we can see it or metaphorically so we can understand this. We're looking at kingdoms and then we're looking at this reality that the saints are going to possess the kingdom. We're going to possess the kingdom.

Now Daniel 7 23- 27. I know I'm having to go slow through this but I'm doing it because I don't want you to be confused. Okay. In Daniel 7:23, thus he said, "As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, but shall which shall be different from the king from all the other kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth and trample it down and break it into pieces." As for the t horns, now he's going to get some interpretation of the ten horns. He says, "Out of this kingdom, this ferocious kingdom, moving all the way down through the legs, into the feet, and into the ten toes." In other words, at the very, very end of this kingdom, there will be 10 kings that will arise out of this kingdom. 10 kings shall arise and another shall arise after them. First will be the 10 and then there's going to be one that Daniel saw the little horn who actually uprooted three of the 10 and he becomes the prominent one to rule over the earth as we're going to see here. Now notice um and another one shall arise after them. He shall be different from the former ones. Oh, he'll be different. All right. He'll be the very embodiment of Satan himself. He will be. and he'll be pointing everyone to worship the beast and worship the system and worship who? The dragon that we're going to meet here in just a few moments. You're going to get some understanding here. Now, notice this. Some very specific details are given to Daniel. Christian, I want you to underline some of these things. Notice this. And what this this king, he shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against God the most high. He will speak words against God. He shall wear out, we don't like this part. He shall wear out the saints. He shall wear out the saints of the most high who are going to possess the kingdom. this leader, he's going to have it out for the people of God because we're going to be a stumbling block in the way of progress. You understand that? Why? Because when the system finally is put implemented fully, scripture tells us in Revelation that you won't even be able to buy or sell. You won't be able to do any of those things, those details. If you aren't part of the system, you're part of the problem. You remember COVID? I feel like that's the world's biggest test since Babel. And what has happened at CO that has never happened previously to that from Babel all the way to what we experienced a few years ago is this. The whole entire world, all of humanity was impacted by this. But also all of them were on board to receive. and not only receive but to ask for something to deal with this horrific thing. They didn't force this upon people. Why? People were so desperately wanting to make sure that they weren't going to get sick that they lined up just to get the jab to ensure. In fact, some companies even said, "If you're going to continue to work here, you got to get the jab." My brother-in-law, a lieutenant colonel in the US military, was retiring at the time this all happened. And the government said, "We will not give you your retirement after 20 years unless you take the shot." Here's the thing, though. For most of humanity, it was like, "Give me, give me, give me." Why? Because the fear that came with this thing was so dreadful. Here's the thing about the mark of the beast. Christian, you got to understand, it's going to be a subtle thing, but people are going to not only want it, they're going to demand it. Keep your wits about you, Christian.

You got to keep your head screwed on in these days. You got to stay in the word of God. You got to know the truth so you don't get deceived. And that's where we're going here quickly. And Christian, you're going to be a problem because you're not going to go along with the rest of the world. You're going to be in the way of progress. We're going to learn about that, too. Anyway, I got to stop or we're going to get off track. Let's move back to where we were. I don't want to get off track for this reason, but I want to just put a few inflection points out there to get your wheels spinning here today, Christian. They have you so busy, so distracted, so just head down, tail up, working, trying to just keep everything together that you don't have time to see all the smoke, mirrors, and things pulling, things happening around the world, and all of a sudden you wake up one day and this has happened. It's all part of the kingdom of this world, and there's a reason this is happening in our time. So, let's move in here. I want to show you a few more things that's very important. Not only will he say things against the most high, not only will he wear out the saints of the most high, he shall think to change the times and the law. This guy's going to have some power, man. And they shall be given who? They, the saints, Christian. This is why scripture calls for endurance. This is where the great sifting is going to happen, I believe, in the church time with people who are just religious versus those people who love God and who love his word and who love Jesus Christ. Here's where the sifting is going to happen. Why? Because this individual, this world system, he's not only going to wear out the saints, but notice what it says. They shall be given into his hand for a time, times, a half time. The saints of the most high are going to be given over to this horn for three and one half years, as we're going to learn. A time times a half time to be consumed and destroyed to the end. Some of you are thinking, well, I didn't hear about this in Sunday school. No, because in the West, Christianity is all about me. It's all about a show. It's all about the lights, the dazzle, the great speaker, the energetic speaking, the great music, the lights, the show. You know what I mean? The religious thing. It's what it's all about. In the West, God's all about you, man. No. Everything we find in scripture is all about God and his glory. And this is a thing because scripture says because they did not love their life to the to the end. In other words, that's what it says in Revelation speaking to the churches. God's going to give them what? The kingdom. Why? Because listen, they love Jesus Christ more than they love their own life. You say, "Man, I don't want to live in that time." But you better hang on. You better hang on because things are moving there quickly. But I want to share this with you church now so you have yourself resolve in your mind to know and to understand what's been going on in this crazy world. Man, you're moving to the day of the Lord. But here we're told over and over in scripture, but the saints of God will possess the kingdom. Everybody wants to preserve their life now. What? For this of time. It's a vapor. It's a vapor of time, man. And we're told over and over and over again, listen, thank God this isn't all there is. If all there is is 70 years and you're gone and you cease to exist, THEN YOU BETTER PARTY HARDY, BABY, BECAUSE THIS IS ALL YOU GOT AND YOU GOT A SHORT WINDOW TO DO IT ALL, enjoy it all, take it all, have pleasure in IT ALL, AND DO EVERYTHING YOUR LITTLE PASSION wants to do. Because if this is all there is, man, we are of all people the most to be pined, but it's not all there is. We are waiting for our king to come again. We're waiting. That doesn't mean we're doing nothing. And so the this antichrist, this leader is going to have dominion over and consume uh these these believers alive at this time. And and notice it says here, "But the court will sit." [laughter] Judgment day is coming. The court is going to sit. Did you know that Paul told us in first Corinthians that we're going to judge the world and judge the angels? He said, "Come on, surely you can solve some little disputes within your church body. We are going to rule and reign with Christ." Now, the the the seat the court will be will will sit in judgment. And who his dominion, notice this little horn is now a his. It's not an it any longer. It's a his. It's a human being. It's a person. And it says, "And his dominion shall be taken away to be consumed." Oh, we're going to see this one happen, Christian. Even if we die before this happens, we're going to watch it happen one day in the future. We can read about it in Revelation. But anyway, let's move on. He will be consumed and destroyed to the end. And notice, and the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of his king of of the kingdoms under the whole of heaven shall be given to who? The people of the saints of the most high his Christ's kingdom shall be an aren't you thankful for this everlasting

kingdom. People are selling out for trinkets and they're leaving out the treasure. They would rather have the trinkets of this world for a vapor of time than the treasure of Christ forever. But that's what Satan does. He offers trinkets. That's all he can offer. He can't offer you a true treasure. Can't offer you what Christ who he is and what he has done and what he's going to do. So, it's going to be given over to the saints of the most high. And it says, "And all dominions shall serve and obey him."

Now, go with me to Revelation 12:3. I know I'm I'm getting late. I'm I want to finish this so bad, but we'll be here a while, so we'll come to it again next week. But this is just now going to start really helping you see and understand where we are, what's going on here. I'm going to just read you a few verses and we're going to have to close today. I apologize for time's sake, but we are going to have to close today. But I want to I want you to understand something here. So Daniel's dream or vision of the four beasts is speaking about the four kingdoms beginning with Babylon, Meo Persia, the Grecian Empire, and as we're going to see the Roman Empire. We're going to know it's the Roman Empire because John's going to reveal that this particular empire was alive was was on in in reign when he was on the aisle of Patmas and it's the Roman Empire, this fourth empire. But we're going to see this isn't the only time the Roman Empire is going to continue to rise up. We're going to see this in the future. It's the same thing that we see with the distinct different attributes of the image in Daniel's vision as well of I mean excuse me, Nebuchadnezzar's vision as well.

Now, Revelation 12. Oh, I do not want to stop, but we're going to have to, but I'm going to get you at least started for this week, okay? Revelation 12:3 says this, "And a sign appeared in heaven, and behold, a great dragon with, here we go, seven heads." Seven heads. and 10 horns. And on his heads were seven diadems or seven crowns. Revelation 12:9. Well, who is this great red dragon? It's important we get this. Who has the seven heads with the 10 horns with the seven crowns? Who is this? Well, we're going to learn in Revelation 12:9 who this dragon is. Well, here it is. And the great dragon, the red dragon, the scarlet dragon, the great dragon here was thrown down. And the ancient serpent who is called the devil and Satan. Who is the great red dragon? He is none other than who is called Satan and the devil. He's also known as Lucifer. You'll find him mentioned to you in the Old Testament in Isaiah. But anyway, what we have going on here is we have this John's now seeing this vision of this this sevenheaded beast or this dragon. And it's got 10 horns and seven crowns on its horns. And now we're told here who it is that it's actually the dragon. Don't forget this. The dragon is Satan. It is Lucifer. It is uh the the great deceiver. It is Satan, the devil. And notice it says here in 12:9, he is the deceiver of what? The whole what? World. The whole world. He was thrown down to earth and his angels were thrown down with him. Remember the rebellion he led in heaven saying, "I will ascend above the throne of God. I I I I." All the way back there in scripture. Yeah. the king of Ty is better known as him. Yeah, this is who it is. And so God cast him as a profane thing from the mountain of God, the throne of God. He was a great cherubam, one of the the mighty angels that actually served before the throne of God. That's who Satan was. We don't speak hottily about him or the kingdom of darkness. Why? Because Jude tells us not to do that. They do have power, but they don't have all power. They don't have all power. No, they don't have that.

Now, in Revelation uh 12:9, we learn that the red dragon is Satan. He has seven heads, 10 horns. Now, if you remember back in Daniel chapter 7, I told you to remember what came up out of the sea. What came up out of the sea were the four beasts. Well, now in Revelation chapter 13, and I'm struggling to stop. I want to go so bad. I'm gonna do this. I promise. This is it. I'm going to read this this verse right here. Say a couple words and I promise you I'm going to close. Okay. Lay pastors, the new lay pastors for this next year. Would you make your way up here, please? Here we go. Follow along with me. In Revelation 13, John says, "And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea with what? 10 horns and seven heads." with 10 diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And the beast that I saw was like a Here we go.

Answers to the Study Questions:

Q: What is the significance of the dream in Daniel chapter 2?

A: Daniel chapter 2 recounts King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a large image made of different metals, representing successive world empires. The dream culminates with a stone, not made by human hands, destroying the image and becoming a great mountain, symbolizing the establishment of God's eternal and indestructible kingdom that will supersede all earthly kingdoms.

Q: What does it mean to be 'born again' in the context of the Kingdom of God?

A: Being 'born again' refers to a spiritual transformation that occurs when a person, who is spiritually dead and born into the kingdom of darkness, places their faith in Jesus Christ. Through this faith, they are spiritually reborn by the Holy Spirit, rescued from the domain of darkness, and transferred into the kingdom of God.

Q: What are the four essential components of a kingdom?

A: According to the sermon, a kingdom has four essential components: 1. A King who reigns and rules. 2. Territory or land over which the king has dominion. 3. Citizens who are part of the kingdom and are ruled by the king. 4. A system of government to implement and enforce the king's will.

Q: What do the different parts of Nebuchadnezzar's statue represent?

A: The statue represents a succession of world empires. The head of gold is the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar. The chest and arms of silver represent the Medo-Persian Empire. The belly and thighs of bronze symbolize the Greco-Macedonian Empire. The legs of iron signify the Roman Empire. The feet and toes, a mixture of iron and clay, represent a later, divided kingdom that will exist just before the end.

Q: What is the significance of the stone that struck the statue?

A: The stone, cut without human hands, represents the Kingdom of God. It strikes the statue's feet, shattering the entire image and then grows into a mountain that fills the whole earth. This signifies that God's eternal kingdom will ultimately destroy all earthly empires and will stand forever.

Q: How does Daniel's vision of four beasts relate to Nebuchadnezzar's statue?

A: Daniel's vision in chapter 7 uses different imagery (four beasts) to describe the same sequence of empires seen in Nebuchadnezzar's statue. The lion with eagle's wings represents Babylon, the bear represents the Medo-Persian Empire, the leopard represents the Greco-Macedonian Empire, and the fourth terrifying beast represents the Roman Empire and its subsequent divisions.

Q: Who is the 'little horn' that emerges from the fourth beast?

A: The 'little horn' that emerges from the fourth beast (representing the final earthly kingdom) is identified as the Antichrist. This figure will rise to power among ten kings (represented by ten horns), uprooting three of them, and will play a central role in the end times as the 'man of sin' or 'man of lawlessness'.

Q: Why should Christians not love the world?

A: According to 1 John 2:15-17, loving the world or the things of the world (lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life) means the love of the Father is not present. The world and its desires are temporary and passing away, while those who do the will of God abide forever. Christians are called to be in the world but not of it.

Q: What is the interpretation of the 'four beasts' in Daniel chapter 7?

A: The interpretation provided in Daniel 7 states that the four great beasts are symbolic of four kings who shall rise up out of the earth, and these represent four kingdoms or empires. This confirms that the visions are about the succession of earthly powers.

Q: What does it mean for Christians to be the 'saints of the Most High'?

A: The 'saints of the Most High' refers to all Christians, the people of God. They are the ones who will ultimately receive and inherit God's eternal kingdom, which will never be destroyed and will not be left to another people, unlike the transient earthly kingdoms.

Q: Who is the 'little horn' mentioned in Daniel chapter 7?

A: The 'little horn' is interpreted as a future powerful ruler who will emerge from the fourth kingdom (often associated with the Roman Empire). This figure will be distinct from previous rulers, oppose God, persecute believers, and attempt to change divine laws.

Q: What is the significance of the 'time, times, and a half time' mentioned in prophecy?

A: This period is understood to be a specific duration of intense tribulation and persecution for believers, lasting approximately three and a half years, during which the oppressive power will have authority over the saints.

Q: Who is the 'great red dragon' in Revelation?

A: The 'great red dragon' is explicitly identified as Satan, the devil, also known as Lucifer. He is depicted as the ancient serpent and the deceiver of the entire world, who gives his power and authority to the final beastly empire.

Q: What does the 'beast' with seven heads and ten horns represent?

A: This beast symbolizes a final, powerful empire that consolidates the characteristics of previous empires (Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian) and is linked to the revived Roman Empire. It receives its authority from Satan and will dominate the earth.

Q: What is the meaning of the 'mortal wound' that is healed on the beast's head?

A: The healed mortal wound refers to the revival and continuation of the empire itself, which appeared to collapse but was resurrected and continues to exert influence. It signifies the enduring nature of this satanic, imperialistic system.