

## Antichrist

**purpose:** To show that the Antichrist will persecute God's people, attempt to change God's Law, and cast truth to the ground; He will be judged and the persecuted saints will be vindicated.

Daniel 7:1-3

- What is the great sea? Mediterranean Sea (Numbers 34:6,7, Joshua 1:3,4)
- Water also represents people, multitudes, nations, and languages.

Daniel 7:3

- Four great beasts came up out of the sea
- What are beast? see vs. 17,23

Daniel 7:4

- First beast was Babylon
- Lion with eagles wings
- Reigned from 605-539 BC

Daniel 7:5

- Second beast was Medo-Persia
- Like a bear, humped on one side- an alliance of two kingdoms, one of which was stronger than the other. Persian's were the stronger b/c history forgets losers. (Persian Gulf, Persian rugs etc.)
- Reigned from 539-331 BC

Daniel 7:6

- Third beast was Greece
- Leopard- rapid conquest by Alexander the Great
- Kingdom divided to four generals: Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, Ptolemy

Daniel 7:7

- Fourth beast was Rome 168 BC- 476 AD
- Iron teeth and iron legs
- Different than all before
- Had ten horns- represent kings/kingdoms (vs 24)

Daniel 7:8

- 4 identifying marks
  - Among nations of the divided Roman empire (which was not *just* Europe)
  - Little kingdom
  - Plucks up three kingdoms when it comes to power
  - Human influence at its head
  - **Transition:** Scholars universally agree that this little horn power is the Antichrist.

Daniel 7:25 Three more identifying marks

- 1. Speaks great words against the Most High
  - See Revelation 13:5,6
  - How does the Bible define blasphemy?
    - John 10:33
    - Mark 2:1-7
    - Blasphemy is claiming to be God or be able to forgive sins.
- 2. Thinks to change times and laws
- 3. Persecute the saints for a time and times and the dividing of times
  - Time= 1 year
  - Times= 2 years
  - Dividing of times= ½ year
  - Rev. 12:6,14- woman nourished for 1260 days (years!)
  - Time and times and dividing of times= 3 ½ years= 42 months
  - Jewish year had 360 days (12 30-day months, added an extra month every 5<sup>th</sup> year)
  - Prophetic day = year
    - Luke 13:31-35- Jesus says He will do his work today, tomorrow, and the next day, then finish His course (perish). Jesus knew His ministry would last for 3 ½ years before He would have to die. He knew that from the prophecy in Daniel 9.
    - See also Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6.

**What power fits all seven of the identifying marks?**

- Roman Catholic power began to wage war against the three kingdoms. Three kingdoms were finally booted in 538 AD. In 1798 the Pope was taken captive by Napoleon's general (Berthier) and he lost his power. 538-1798 is 1,260 years.
- Sought to change the law about idolatry and the 10 commandments.
- Pope claims to forgive sins.

**appeal:** (Major function of this study is to prepare them for the next study on the Sabbath. Pope sought to change times and laws)