

When Will the Kingdom of Antichrist Be Destroyed?

Daniel 7:26-28; Revelation 17:9-11

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When studying such prophetic passages as we have been doing from Daniel 7 and particularly seeking to understand who in history has the characteristics listed concerning the Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn, let me suggest two extremes that should be avoided by us.

First, we must avoid the extreme of indifference and apathy—that we give no attention or care to this important prophetic character of the Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn in history—that we simply go about our life as if God has not given us a very real warning that we are to take seriously. That would in effect view what God has revealed in Daniel 7 as wasted space in the inspired pages of Scripture. That would be a tragic mistake to take for any true Christian.

Second, we must avoid the extreme of preoccupation and obsession—that we give too much attention to this important prophetic character of the Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn in history—that we become consumed with anxiety and worry, that panic overwhelm us. That extreme would view us as powerless, and more importantly, it would view Jesus, the King of kings, as powerless.

The biblical balance is to take seriously the warnings of Daniel 7 (concerning this Great Horn), but that we not panic in fear. And most importantly we must always keep an eye of faith and an eye of hope upon Jesus Christ, our conquering Savior and King. For through His death, resurrection, ascension, and enthronement at God's right hand, He reigns now as King of kings; and He shall destroy all His enemies and shall bring all nations into His Visible Church. In all trials and afflictions, our eyes must be upon the King rather than the enemy, lest we be overwhelmed, fall into despair, and find no peace or comfort.

That is why the most important character of Daniel's vision is not the Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn, but is rather the King. The main points today are: (1) The Kingdom of Antichrist Will Be Destroyed by Christ the King (Daniel 7:26-28); (2) When Will the Kingdom of Antichrist Be Destroyed (Revelation 17:9-11)?

I. The Kingdom of Antichrist Will Be Destroyed by Christ the King (Daniel 7:26-28).

A. Review

1. For the past two sermons, we have sought to identify in history who is the Little Horn that becomes the Great Horn by considering the several characteristics given in vision to Daniel. We have noted that all those characteristics have been realized in the papal kingdom of Rome.

2. We also noted in the previous sermon that the interpreting angel gives the length of time in which this Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn (the papal kingdom of Rome) will wage war against the saints (Daniel 7:25): a time (1 year), times (2 years), and a dividing of a time (1/2 year)=3 ½ prophetic years—or as Revelation 12 designates that same period of time: 1,260 days (Revelation 12:14,6). Daniel 9:24 gives us the interpretive key to calculating the 1,260 prophetic days=70 prophetic weeks are not 490 literal days (1 1/3 year), but 490 years—a year for every day.

3. Thus, the length of time that this Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn will wage war against the saints (deceiving, oppressing, and persecuting the faithful witnesses of Christ) is for 1,260 years.

B. The final page of history given by the interpreting angel does not have any ruler or pope of any

kingdom being victorious over King Jesus. To the contrary, God's judgment falls upon this Great Horn (the papal kingdom of Rome)—King Jesus is victorious (Daniel 7:26-27).

1. This is where our primary focus should always be—not upon the enemy, but upon the King who vanquishes and conquers all His enemies (likewise there is no help or hope in being preoccupied with our enemies, sins, or trials—we must repent of our sins, but our help is in the name of the Lord and in His victory over our enemies, sin, trials, afflictions, and even death).

2. Though the death and resurrection of Christ has already sealed the doom of all enemies of the Lord Jesus, the actual judgment will fall upon this Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn yet in the future, and then Jesus will reign from heaven over a world transformed by the gospel where wars will cease, riots will be subdued, leaders and nations will rule by God's righteous laws (all nations will be Christian nations—even Israel, Iran, China, and North Korea), and churches will covenant together to confess the same doctrine, worship, and government of the church (Isaiah 2:2-4). If the Lord can and will do this, is there anything the Lord cannot do in your life? Is there anything too difficult for Him?

3. Again, we pray for the destruction of this Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn (papal Rome—its hierarchy, its usurpation of Christ's headship, its false gospel, its idolatry in images, prayers, and the Mass, its claim of infallibility of oral tradition, etc.), but we pray for the salvation of those held captive in Rome (those whom we love) that they would come out of her (Revelation 18:4).

4. Daniel relates that all of this was of such great import to him that it greatly affected and moved him (Daniel 7:28). This prophecy should likewise greatly affect us and not leave us either indifferent or panicked at the confederation of a one world government with a one world religion that will seek to destroy biblical Christianity and destroy us. Jesus is King!

II. When Will the Kingdom of Antichrist Be Destroyed (Revelation 17:9-11)?

A. Why ask this question?

1. I ask not this question to sell books or to make money—to become rich or famous.

2. I ask not this question to satisfy your curiosity. That is not the purpose of prophecy.

Prophecy points to the greatness of God who decrees all, who knows all, and who controls all. Prophecy confirms that the Bible is God's inspired Word—it is trustworthy. Prophecy prepares us and calls us out of laziness and into diligence. Prophecy gives us hope that Jesus reigns now and will be victorious in the future.

3. I ask not this question because I know with absolute certainty the year when the papal kingdom of antichrist will be destroyed. However, I do believe that asking the question and seeking a biblical answer helps us in learning how to study and apply prophecy. If anyone has a better, more biblical method to locate when the papal kingdom of antichrist will be destroyed, I am ready to be taught.

4. Let me suggest that since the length of this war against the saints is to last 1,260 years with the end coming at the total destruction of the papal kingdom of Rome by the Lord Jesus, and since there must be an event that initiates this 1,260 year period in history, if we know what happens at the end of this period (the complete destruction of papal Rome), is it not reasonable that we might identify a likely date when this 1,260 year period began? If the Lord gave us the length of the period and tells us what the end will be, is it not likely that we can also locate when this period began?

5. Let me be clear that in asking this question, we are not seeking to know the date of Christ's Second Coming (which no man or angel knows—but God alone, Matthew 24:36), but rather we seek to know when the Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn (the papal kingdom of antichrist) will be finally destroyed by King Jesus and the glorious millennial reign of Christ from heaven over the nations will begin.

B. I believe a likely date in history to begin the 1,260 year period of oppression is when the papal kingdom of Rome united with the political kingdom of Rome to form an alliance of mutual benefit so that the papal kingdom of Rome sat upon the back of the civil beast of Rome (which is prophesied in Revelation 17:3).

1. This verse describes the harlot Church of Rome (the papal kingdom of Rome— Revelation 17:4-6) sitting upon the civil beast of Rome that has 10 horns—the civil beast of Rome and papal kingdom of Rome form an alliance to mutually benefit one another (very much the same prophecy that we see in Daniel 7 where the Little Horn (the papal kingdom) arises and grows great on the head of the 4th beast with 10 horns (the Roman civil beast).

2. I submit that this prophecy could not have been realized either by first century Judaism, or first century Roman emperors, or first century Emperor worship because the Apostle John clearly states that this Roman beast with the 10 horns had not yet received power to rule in the first century (Revelation 17:12—so neither had the woman that was sitting on the back of the beast received her power to sit on the beast and to direct the beast to do her bidding until after the first century).

3. What is prophesied here must, therefore, be realized sometime after the first century. I suggest this alliance between the civil kingdom of Rome and the papal kingdom of Rome was in a most notable and conspicuous way made public when Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne Emperor of the Revived Roman Empire on December 25, 800 in Rome. Charlemagne was officially crowned by Pope Leo III “most serene Augustus, crowned by God, great and pacific [peaceful—GLP] emperor, governing the Roman Empire.”

4. This is an extremely important date (800) for it was the restoration and reviving of the Western Roman Empire after the last emperor in Rome was deposed (Romulus Augustus in 476).

5. In addition, when the Apostle John sees one of the seven heads on this Roman civil beast slain to death but healed (Revelation 13:3), I suggest that head refers to the end of Roman emperors in 476, and the healing of that Roman head 324 years later (in 800) when Charlemagne was crowned emperor of the revived Roman Empire by Pope Leo III. This is likely how we are to understand Revelation 17:11—the Roman beast with emperors WAS until 476, WAS NOT after 476, IS AGAIN as an 8th head that is the revival of the slain 6th head of emperors. I submit that it is that symbiotic relationship of the papal kingdom of Rome sitting on the back of the political kingdom of a restored Roman Empire that initiated the 1,260 year period oppression against professing Christians.

6. Thus, if the mutual alliance of the political beast of Rome and the papal kingdom of Rome in 800 in joining forces to oppress God’s people is the starting point, then 1,260 years later brings us to the year 2060 as a possible date when the Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn (the papal kingdom of Rome) will be destroyed by King Jesus and when He will begin to draw all nations to Himself through the effectual preaching of the gospel.

7. Any date chosen to begin the 1,260 year period prior to 763 cannot be accurate (whether it be Emperor Justinian’s decree concerning the papacy in 538, or Emperor Phocas’s decree concerning the papacy in 606, or the Patrimony of Peter bestowed on the papacy in 756), for none of those dates bring us to the total destruction of the papal kingdom of Rome and the initiation of the millennial reign of Christ from heaven over the nations 1,260 years later. We are not living in the year 2023. If we subtract 1,260 years, that would take us back to the year 763 (and yet in this present year of 2023, the kingdom of papal Rome is still very much alive and still sitting on the back of the civil beast). Thus, I submit that a likely date to initiate the 1,260 year period when the Great Whore began to sit on the back of the civil beast of Rome was 800, which once again brings the final and complete destruction of the Little Horn that became a Great Horn (or the Great Whore of Mystery Babylon) to the date, 2060.

C. Application

1. Prophetic history follows the same order as the history of the Lord Jesus—first the cross and then the crown. First, tribulation and then reformation. First, tears and then joy. We are not greater or better than our Lord. We are now preparing for victory every day—not defeat.

2. Though this prophecy tells of a 1,260 year period of oppression and persecution by the Little Horn that becomes a Great Horn (papal kingdom of Rome), this prophecy also gives us hope that it will

come to an end. Dear ones, we always need Christ's resurrection hope in this world of suffering, trial, persecution, and affliction that it is temporary (even 1,260 years is temporary). Jesus reigns as King in demonstrating His power to uphold His faithful even in the midst of persecution and great trials. Perseverance and endurance is a greater miracle than if He miraculously took us out (John 17:15). No matter how dark the day appears, do not despair. There is a certain hope that what you are enduring is not wasted time. It is a growing and overcoming time. It is a humbling time. It is a learning time. It is a sanctifying time. It demonstrates you belong to Him, for He bore the cross before the crown. The King loves you and is with you and shall bring you, His beloved ones, into His glory. Nothing is wasted. Nothing is in vain because Jesus is King.

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