

DANIEL 7: FOUNDATIONAL SIGN OF THE TIMES

- I. We are living in a time when we need the Word to instruct us more than speculation. Social media has produced a firestorm of confusing ideology and a plethora of different beliefs from the Body of Christ about the times we are in. There is a general state of confusion about the timing of the rapture and ultimately what will happen in the years leading up to the Second Coming.
- II. Understanding God’s storyline— and understanding what God has already told us about the end of the Age: There are 150 + chapters that speaks to different “angles” of Gods narrative. You can start with Psalm 2 from God’s perspective (an overarching narrative theme chapter).
 - A. Eternal narrative: Psalm 2: The body of Christ maturing into the Bride!
 - B. We want to have a deep understanding of God’s storyline from His Word so that we don’t overreact or under react to the current times we are living.
 - C. We want to have a stability in His word so that we are watching and praying with wisdom instead of trying to fit current events into our own belief system.
- III. Jesus declares that we should watch and pray: Luke 21:36. What are the signs that we are looking for?
 - A. In Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 Jesus gives His teaching on the end of the age. ***Generic signs: earthquakes, pestilence, wars and rumours of wars etc.*** One specific sign Jesus mentioned to watch for was the abomination of desolation spoken of of Daniel the prophet. ***Matthew 22:15-21 — “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.***
 - B. Other chapters in the Bible explain that the abomination of desolation occurs exactly half-way through the last 7 years (Daniel’s 70th Week). Jesus is essentially saying to look out for this massive political event.

- C. The abomination of desolation is the antichrist going into the Temple in Jerusalem and stopping Jewish animal sacrifice. (Daniel 9). This is why most Bible Prophecy teachers look for the rebuilding of the Third Temple in Jerusalem.
- IV. One of the ultimate signs of the times is not talked about very often. God's storyline centres around God's dealings with the Jewish people and the state of Israel. God's ultimate narrative of the end of the age is Daniel's 70th week or the last 7 years. Where does this come from?
- A. Gods plan for the Jewish people starts in Daniel 9. In Daniel 9, Daniel recognises from the book of Jeremiah that the Jewish people would be in captivity to Babylon for 70 years. He was taken at about age 16. After spending the majority of His life in Babylon, he recognized that the 70 years were almost up. In Daniel 9 he begins to seek the Lord and pray and repent for the sins of Israel. He is essentially asking God, "What happens next for the Jewish people?" Gabriel shows up and explains the following to Daniel:
1. ***Daniel 9:24 – "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.***
 2. 70 weeks of 7 years = 490 years is determined for the Jewish people to accomplish 6 objectives. (see above). These are major categories of accomplishments that have not happened yet.
 3. ***Daniel 9:25-26 – "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined."***
 4. The command to restore Jerusalem until Messiah – there shall be a total of 69 weeks OR 483 years. Then Gabriel says that Jesus will be "cut off" but not for Himself. That is Him being crucified for the Gentiles to come in.

NOTE: There is a massive prophetic pause in the story line for nearly 2000 years now. There is 7 years left to go in Gabriel's plan. It has been called Daniel's 70th week.

- V. In 2024, what are we looking for as a sign of the times? From God's storyline? There is seven years left. How do the last 7 years start?
- A. There is almost universal agreement about how the last 7 years start. Gabriel continues with the following: ***Daniel 9:27 – “Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”***
 - B. The antichrist shall confirm a (peace) covenant with Israel and many for 1 week (7 years) and then break it in the middle of the week (3 1/2 years in). When breaks it, He commits the abomination of desolation and stops the Jewish sacrifices in the temple (3rd Temple).
 - C. If it is the antichrist that confirms the peace treaty, we want to understand how he comes to power. We also want to understand that to sign a peace covenant in the middle east the antichrist would have to receive lots of political power to be trusted PRIOR to the deal. It is Daniel 7 that explains this.
- VI. DANIEL 7: The first part of Daniel 7 is God is describing the kingdoms in the spirit from Daniel 2 and Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- A. A 10-nation empire is raised up which immediately precedes the rise of the antichrist. It is the same empire that is the legs of iron and clay that the “rock” of Jesus destroys at His second coming. ***Daniel 7:7 – “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”***
 - B. The little horn comes up out of it (speaking blasphemy). Plucks up 3 of the other horns or leaders (assassinations?). The timing of the antichrist coming to power is super clear. He was “coming up from among them.” He is in a small leadership role in the coalition of nations hence the “little” horn. It is this

Scripture that can tell us that we won't know the identity of the antichrist prior to the 10 nation coalition forming.

- C. We are looking for a 10-nation empire. ***Daniel 7:7 — “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.”***
1. This 10-nation empire will emerge and will “devour and crush” Over the last several decades, people have theorised that the European Union was the 10-nation empire but the EU has 27 nations currently. Also, The EU has a leftist/liberal spirit, not a crushing/devouring dreadful spirit. The 10-nation coalition will likely be muslim because they are the original nations surrounding Israel. The Islamic Caliphate of old also was an empire that crushed and devoured.
 2. Right after Daniel sees the 10-nation empire and hears the pompous words of the little horn (antichrist), He suddenly sees a throne room vision: ***Daniel 7:8-14 — “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”***
 3. This remarkable scene that Daniel sees is God sharing His big picture storyline again. God assures Daniel of 3 things. He is going to defeat the

antichrist and His kingdom. He is going to give His Kingdom to a human being (Jesus). That man will return to earth and God will give Him the entire nations of the earth for His Kingdom (from Psalm 2).

4. The vision continues with detailed explanation of what He just saw and further interpretation. ***Daniel 7:15-22 — “I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever. Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.”***
5. Finally there is one final explanation and overview shared: ***Daniel 7:23-27 — “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”***

VII. SUMMARY OF POINTS:

- A. The foundational reality of God's plan is the 490 years determined for the Israel and the Jewish people. There are 7 years left in that plan. It has been on "pause" for nearly 2000 years as the Gentiles are being grafted into God's family (Daniel 9).
- B. The final 7 years are instigated by the antichrist signing/confirming a peace treaty with Israel. To have enough political clout to do such a thing, he will have to likely be in power before he does this.
- C. Daniel 7 tells us how the antichrist comes to power: Out of an existing 10-nation coalition / empire in the middle east. (Daniel 7) The antichrist is a "little horn" that 3 horns from the 10-nation coalition fall before him (assassinated). So he is in small leadership in the coalition before he comes to prominence. He comes to prominence specifically blaspheming God directly with pompous words.
- D. Watching in this season must include watching any formation of a coalition in the middle east.
 - 1. BRICS? Muslims coming together in opposition to Israel.
 - 2. News site of 3 leaders assassinated.
 - 3. Turkey leader and Iran leader calling for a coalition in the last 2 weeks.

VIII. **WATCH AND PRAY!!**