

The Destruction of the Nations, Part 2

Selected Scriptures

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Tonight, we continue in our study of prophecy. We have been studying various prophetic themes in dealing with the end time tracing the end time from the return of Jesus Christ for His church, and now find ourselves studying the period known as the Tribulation, which follows the catching away of the church. And in our study of the Tribulation, we have focused on several things. First, the terrors of the Tribulation, then the place of Israel in the Tribulation, and now we are studying the place of the nations in the Tribulation. And one of the important aspects of the nations in the Tribulation is the satanic world leader who is going to take over the rule of the nations during that seven-year period.

The apostle John, in writing to no particular church, but in his first general epistle to a wide circle of believers, made this remarkable statement. He said, "Little children, ye have heard that Antichrist shall come." How had they heard?...because it was distinctly recorded by the Old Testament prophets that there would come a final satanic world leader. It was clearly reiterated in the teachings of Jesus himself and it was recited by those that Jesus sent to preach and teach. And so, truly, could John say, "Little children, you *have* heard that Antichrist shall come," for they had.

Now, backing up, to understand what this means, we remember that God and Satan have been at war for a long time. Ever since Satan decided that he would be like God and he gave those five "I will's"...I will, I will, I will, I will and God said, no, you won't, the rebellion began and Satan has been after God. Now, Satan has used many devices in attempting to wrest the kingdom of this world from the power of God. He has done particularly strong work in the area of destroying, or attempting to destroy, God's people. Satan's particular attack has been on the promised Seed where back in Genesis, chapter 3 and verse 15, God promised that there would come a seed of a woman who would bruise the serpent's head. God said there's coming a man who will destroy Satan. Satan has known about that. Satan knows who that man is. It's Jesus Christ. And all along, throughout the history of the world and redemptive history, Satan has tried to stop the birth of Jesus Christ. He has tried to destroy the people of God and the plan of God and God's special person, the Messiah Christ. And it's interesting just to trace how Satan has attempted to do it.

If you go back, for example...and don't turn to these things, just mark them down...to chapter 6 of Genesis and verse 2, you find that first of all, Satan attempted to stop the line of Messiah and the line of the Savior and the line of the Redeemer by creating a corrupt kind of humanity. "The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all whom they chose." And here you have demons coming down and cohabiting with women to produce a kind of race that was beyond the redemption of a God-man. You remember that God brought the flood and destroyed that race and saved only Noah and his family.

Satan tried again to destroy the people of God. We find that in the first chapter of Exodus in the bondage of Egypt. The children of Israel were brought to a tremendous crisis when Pharaoh decided

to slaughter all of the baby boys. And again, Satan was trying to destroy the creation or the procreation line that would bring about the Messiah.

There's a fascinating account of one attempt that Satan made in II Chronicles. If you want to turn to that, I'll show you a couple of verses. There was a royal line that ran in God's plan and the final result of that royal line was going to be the Messiah. And so Satan wanted to cut that royal line off, therefore, making it impossible for God to fulfill His plan with the promised Seed. One...it was very interesting things...but in II Chronicles 21, verse 4, "...Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself and slew all his brethren with a sword and also some of the princes of Israel." In the kingly line, there was a slaughter of everybody but Jehoram. He killed all of his brothers, which reduced the kingly line to him. But he had sons and so the kingly line continued. But then Arabians came to the camp and killed all of his sons except one...except one. And that one was Ahaziah. And indicated in chapter 22, verse 1: "The inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his stead, for the band of men who came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest." So, he was the only one left. Ahaziah reigned one year, wickedly, and he was counseled by his vial mother whose name was Athaliah. Ahaziah was at one point wounded severely and his life hung by a thread. He was later killed in a war with Jehu. Jehu was sort of God's executioner. You remember he also took care of Ahab. But Ahaziah was not killed until he had had sons and the kingly line continued.

And in chapter 22, verse 10, we come to a most interesting indication. "When Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah." She slaughtered all the royal seed. And here again, Satan was using Athaliah to try to cut off the possibility of Messiah being born. Oh, but look at verse 11. "But"...don't you like that? Oh, that's great. "...Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash, the son of Ahaziah, stole him from among the king's sons who were to be slain, put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah so that she slew him not. And he was hidden with them in the house of God"...how long?...six years they hid that...you try to hide a baby for six years (laughter). They did it and the royal line was down to one little infant hidden six years from a murdering mother who was Satan's tool to destroy the messianic line. Satan does his best, but he's a loser.

In chapter 23, "And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, took the captains of hundreds, Azariah, the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael," and all those names, "went into Judah, gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the heads of the fathers of Israel came to Jerusalem. And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, 'Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the Lord hath said of the sons of'"...whom?..."of David.'" And it was reduced to that one and they said "he shall reign as the Lord said." Satan was thwarted again.

You remember in the book of Esther, the attempt that was made in the book of Esther to destroy, literally, the whole Jewish people in a wholesale slaughter. And you remember what happened? The people of Israel were saved because one king couldn't sleep one night. And in the midst of his inability to sleep, he got a guy to read him the Scripture and he read him the right Scripture, God turned his heart around and God spared Israel and that kept the messianic line. Then you remember there was Herod and Herod slew all the babies that he could get his hands on, but there was one that went to Egypt. Who was it?...Jesus. And Satan was foiled again. And then Satan attempted to destroy Christ by tempting Him and that failed. And then he attempted to get a bunch of people to

push Him off a cliff in Nazareth and that didn't work. And then he finally thought he had Him and he nailed Him to a cross and three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Beloved, Satan and God have been at it a long time. Satan hasn't won yet, but Satan always attacks...watch...always attacks God, God's people and God's program. And he was attempting in every one of those instances to do just that. And he isn't done. Believe me, he isn't done. He's attacking the church today with everything he's got, mostly by infiltration, which he has learned is the most effective.

In Revelation chapter 12, there's gonna be a war in the heavenlies and the demons and Satan are gonna fight Michael and the holy angels. And when the demons...and this is interesting...when the demons and the holy angels fight in Heaven, the holy angels win. And the demons get thrown to the earth. And when they hit the earth, that's the beginning of what the Bible calls the Great Tribulation - all those demons hitting the earth and all of the bound demons who are temporarily bound, coming out of the pit and you have a convergence of all the demons on the earth and that brings about the terrible time known as the Great Tribulation. It is at that point that Satan says, I'm gonna destroy Israel. But he tries and it isn't successful. That's in chapter 12. He raises up a man and this man that he raises up to attempt to destroy Israel is the man that he wants to give all the strength of every conqueror that ever lived. So that this man can get a grip on the world that Jesus can't unlock when He returns. Do you see? You see, Satan is trying to reverse the plan that he knows God has already outlined. And he wants to get a guy who is so strong, who has such tremendous power over the earth, that when Christ returns, He will not be able to wrest the kingdom of the earth from this strong man. Satan brings forth this man in the Tribulation.

Look at Revelation 13, verse 1...you don't need to look at it now. I'll read it to you. We'll get there later. It says this...it reads in the Authorized, "I stood upon the sand of the sea." That is not the right reading. The best reading is "He stood upon the sand of the sea." It is Satan. And Satan stands at the sand of the sea and he calls forth his man. And he said, "I saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads, ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy." Now, Satan calls forth this man and this man is going to be one of Satan's great efforts to destroy the people and the plan of God.

Now, he's a man that is absolutely a fantastic personality. Let me just give you a little bit of information about him. And for most of this information, you might turn to the book of Daniel. We're gonna be there for awhile and I'll show you some things. I'm gonna run by some thoughts to begin with and then we'll look at them later in more detail. So you may not want to follow verse by verse in your Bibles as we go, but rather listen.

First of all, this man...and remember this, folks, in every capacity, it seems as though he will be as equal to or superior to any man who ever lived. One, he will be an intellectual genius. In Daniel, chapter 7 and verse 8, it indicates something about him. His eyes were "like the eyes of a man." And the eyes are used in prophetic terms to speak of intelligence. In verse 20, again, this interesting fact that the "horn that had eyes." And here is a reference to intelligence. You remember back in Genesis 3:5 that Satan promised that when they ate the fruit, their "eyes" would be opened and they would know what God knows. So eyes are connected with intelligence. He is an intellectual genius.

Second, he is an outstanding orator. The same two verses, 7:8 and 7:20 say he has a mouth and what a mouth...speaking "great things." Verse 20: "A mouth that spoke very great things." And even

his looks in verse 20 "was more stout than his fellows." He will be a commanding personality and when he speaks, he will be an outstanding orator.

He will also be a master politician. In Daniel, chapter 11, verse 21, it gives you a little idea of the mastery of his political prowess. "And in his estate"...this is, of course, the reference to the man coming here..."shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom, and he shall come in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries"... "by flatteries." Now, this can have a dual reference and we'll see a little later about that. But, specifically, the long-range view is the picture of Antichrist. And you remember in Revelation 6:2 that it says he comes with a bow but has no arrows, which means that he conquers peacefully. And here it simply says, "he comes in peaceably and obtains the kingdom by flattery." He's a master politician.

Fourthly, he is a commercial wizard. In the area of the commercial, we find Daniel 8:25 reflecting upon the man. "Through his policy"...that's a very current word..."through his policy also he shall cause deceit to prosper in his hand." Commercially, he'll make a fortune. And, incidentally, you can read in Revelation 18 about the tremendous world materialistic empire that he builds...nothing like it in the history of man.

Fifthly, he is a military genius. He is a military genius. In Daniel 7:23 it says that he will "devour the whole earth, tread it down and break it in pieces." It even tells us that he going to worship the god of power. In Revelation 13:4 it tells us the same thing.

Lastly, of these little brief statements, he is a religious leader. He comes in and he turns the whole world's religion to focusing on him. He lets the false church exist for a little while according to Revelation 17 and then he gobbles it up and demands the whole world worship him, sets himself up in the temple as the only god to be worshipped. This is a superman. He is Satan's great, climactic effort to hold the world, to capture the world, so that Christ cannot return and take it. See?

Now, tonight, we're gonna look at this man. Now, let me remind you that we are dealing in the period known as the Tribulation. The church is taken out of the world and then comes the Tribulation. And we are now concentrating on the nations. We've looked at what Israel's gonna be doing during the Tribulation. They're gonna be being chastised and being saved. And here's what the nations are going to be doing. Now, we gave you several things that we're going to be discussing in future weeks: the times of the nations in the Tribulation, the ruler of the nations, the alignment of the nations, the religion of the nations, the war of the nations and the judgment of the nations.

Now, last week we talked about the times of the nations. And we mentioned to you that Jesus gave us the term "the times of the nations," a very specific term. And the times of the nations is the time that Jerusalem will be trodden down by outside powers. And we told you that that began in approximately 600 B.C. and keeps going till the second coming of Christ, all of those years in there, at least 2,600 years, nearly. That whole time is going to be committed over to the nations trodding down Jerusalem. The prophet, Ezekiel...we saw last time we studied this...saw Ichabod written on Israel. The glory departed from Israel and immediately Nebuchadnezzar came in and took them away to Babylon and that began the times of the nations.

Now, this period is the period when nations dominate Israel. The book of Daniel was written for this period. It describes in detail what went on when Israel was in Babylon. It was written right at the time.

It gives us the historical panorama, also, of the history of the times of the nations. Now go back to chapter 2 for just a brief review and let me use an illustration here to help you. In chapter 2 and verse...well, 31, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. He couldn't remember the dream and he couldn't remember what it was supposed to mean. So that set it up for Daniel to come and give him all the answers. "Thou, O king," verse 31, "sawest, and behold a great image." And this is the image that he saw. "This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee, and the form of it was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold"...indication there..."its breast and arms of silver"...indicated by the absence of color..."its belly and thighs of bronze and its legs of iron and its feet part of iron and part of clay." Then he said, "Thou sawest a stone"...and the stone, of course, represents Christ..."cut out without hands"...virgin born..."which smote the image upon its feet that were of iron and clay and broke them to pieces." And here the stone came. Now, notice that Christ is going to smash the last facet of the Gentile world empire in His return. He is the stone cut out without hands. "Then were the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, the gold broken to pieces together, became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors and the wind carried them away and no place was found for them." That's the end of Gentile rule. "And the stone that smote the earth became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." And there's the kingdom. Christ smashes this, it crumbles, blows away and Christ fills the earth in His glorious millennial kingdom.

Now, Daniel interpreted this very beautifully and he begins his interpretation in 36. "This is the dream and we will tell its interpretation..." "Thou, O king, art a king of kings, for the God of Heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, strength and glory. And wherever the children of men dwell and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heavens, hath He given into thine hand and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold." And that's the indication right here. Babylon is represented by the head of gold. It was the most strong kingdom because it was an absolute monarchy. And that's the first dominion of Gentile power. The second one, represented by silver, indicated in verse 39, "after thee shall arise a kingdom inferior to thee." It was the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians, Media and Persia coming together. And any time you have a union like that of two forces, you have a weakness. And the third kingdom was bronze and this was Greece and this was the rule of Alexander and it was even inferior _____ divided into the four generals, it deteriorated. The fourth kingdom is the kingdom that is iron and that represents Rome. And then there will be a last phase of it, verse 41, "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes"...ten of them..."part of potters' clay and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided." And Rome was, too, the eastern Roman and the western Roman empire. "The kingdom shall be divided, there shall be in it of the strength of the iron forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with the miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron and part of clay, so shall the kingdom be partly strong and partly brittle"..."partly brittle." Now, watch. The fourth kingdom is Rome. It's final phase is gonna be a ten-toed confederacy. This is reiterated clearly in the book of Revelation. Now, notice what follows it. Carefully notice it. Verse 44, "And in the days of these kings," beloved, there will be no more world kingdoms than those four. Do you hear? But in the days of the final form of the Roman kingdom...now, remember in the book of Revelation and what we told you in our last study two weeks ago very clearly. This will be a ten-king confederacy. Did we not say that? And how do we know that? Well, you're saying you're sure making a lot out of ten toes. Maybe that beast only had eight. No, no, it had ten. That's indicated in chapter 7, verse 7. It had an indication of a ten-fold kingdom. If you go over to chapter 7, verse 24, "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise." The final form of Roman rule is going to be a ten-nation confederacy. Now, what have we been telling you all along? That we are now seeing in Europe the revival of the Roman Empire in the European economic community or the Common Market, which is currently now, toying with a ten-nation confederacy. Just exactly what the Bible said would happen clearly. Now, whether this is the final phase, I don't know, but it's certainly a forerunner. Immediately following that, verse

44 of 2 says: "In the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." Then how many kingdoms are there gonna be?...four and four alone, right? And after that fourth one, then the kingdom is gonna be set up by whom?...by God. And how long is it gonna last?...forever. There will never be a fifth kingdom. The final phase of the Roman Empire...and you know there never has been a world power since Rome. Rome fell into dissolution and today the old territory of Rome is coming together in what we call the European Common Market. At least it's a forerunner.

Now, notice, friends. This is God's plan for the history of the nations. Now, what do you think Satan would like to do more than anything else?...mess up that plan. I believe that what Satan would want to do would be to add a fifth world kingdom. That's one way he could foul up God's plan, couldn't he? You say, did Satan ever try to do that?...of course. I think he tried to do it not too many years ago through Russia. Maybe we're gonna see that in the future he may try to do it through Red China. I don't know; that's just a guess. But I'll tell you, I am convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that at one time, he definitely tried to do it through Hitler's Germany. I don't have any question about that. And I want to show you why I say that. And I'm gonna digress for a moment to show you some things that I think shall be of interest to you.

Now, I was alive, but totally uninvolved at the age of four when Hitler was around. And so I hasten to add that this is a matter of research, rather than a personal experience. Some of you can talk from personal experience about those days. Hitler, without question, was demonic. Hitler and the efforts of the demons behind him were clearly laid out to establish a world government. Hitler wanted to rule the world. He said that over and over again. In fact, he kept talking about setting up a super race of men who would rule the world. He was totally controlled by demons. He is a prime example of what an antichrist would be. He is a prime example of a Judas, whom Satan entered and he carried out the work of Satan. You say, now, where do you get this? Well, the information I'm gonna give you in a moment comes from a book entitled The Morning of the Magicians. If you're interested in this, that's the book: The Morning of the Magicians. It is written by Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier. It is not a Christian book. It is a historical analysis of all of the documents left from Germany at that time, including the records of the Nuremburg trials and tremendous volumes of eyewitness events, etc., etc., etc. And in this book the authors present their case and their case, really, is that Hitler was totally controlled by outside influences other than this world. That's their case. And I'm quoting: "It is impossible to understand Hitler's political plans unless one is familiar with his basic beliefs and his conviction that there is a magic relationship between man and the universe." They say in the book that Hitler was fascinated by ideas of mysticism and became totally immersed in them. He saw the miracle of his own destiny as the action of unseen forces, the same forces responsible for his preaching a new gospel to humanity. _____ Satan want to do to get rid of the old one. Quote, "The Enneads of Plotinus were read during the war in the little mystical societies of pro-German intellectuals together with ancient Hindu texts, nishi and Tibetan magicians. The probable explanation for Hitler's deeds is the existence of a magical puzzle, a powerful and satanic mystical current." This is pretty observing from some worldly minds. And they write their book as a warning. They said this: "We shall never be safe from Nazism, or rather from certain manifestations of the satanic, which through the Nazis, cast its dark shadow over the world, until we have roused ourselves to full understanding of the most fantastic aspects of the Hitlerian adventure." Hitler was a man out to conquer the world, but he was more than that.

There is another book, a book written by Eric Norman titled The Hollow Earth. And, incidentally, the book I gave you first was published in 1969. This book, The Hollow Earth, was published in 1972.

And in the book The Hollow Earth, he says that there was a macabre, hollow earth mystery that was the Nazi-oriented secret occult society in Hitler's regime. Now, this is an old, old theory of the occult, that in the center of the earth, demons dwell. Advanced beings occupy the hollow earth. Have you ever heard of Rosicrucianism? There's one of them right down the street here. Have you heard of the Theosophy Society? That's all of this. It's all involved. But the hollow earth theory said that the hollow earth was occupied by advanced beings and they have powers far beyond human beings and they were going to emerge in time and conquer the earth. And these beings were the lords of the universe and when they surfaced, they would destroy everybody who wasn't already allied to them. And so Hitler was totally convinced, along with all of his co-workers, that they had to be alive to the forces in the hollow earth. Boy, you start believing that kind of stuff and Satan will move right on in and take over. Eric Norman records, page 17 and 18 of the book, "Nazi records seized after the fall of the Third Reich indicate that Hitler and his henchman launched several expeditions to the hollow earth," end quote. Hitler got his concept of using children, you know, children to report on their parents, children to kill people, he got that all from the occultists writings regarding the hollow earth. And from it he formed the core of adolescent werewolves with their black uniforms and the death's head insignias on the sleeves. You study Hitler's Third Reich and you'll find the whole thing was whetted to black occultism, that there was, for example, the Society of the Golden Dawn. And this society was founded for the practice of black magic. And they were in contact with super beings. This society believed that these super beings came from the hollow earth so the whole thing tied together. One of Hitler's most prominent generals whose name you may recall, Haushofer, was one of the earliest members of the German Golden Dawn Society and he advised Hitler to write Mein Kampf, which is Hitler's Struggle. Haushofer who was a medium himself...he was a black magician and we would call him a warlock...Haushofer himself had visited India, China, Tibet, he had adopted Buddhist belief, he was initiated into a secret Buddhist society. It was an amazing society. They dealt with a mission regarding death and if anybody failed to accomplish this mission of killing, he would have to sacrifice a human being on the Buddhist altar and then kill himself. It's interesting because when Haushofer was found dead...this same general...he had just slaughtered his wife on a Buddhist altar and then killed himself. And Hitler also, apparently killed himself. Why? Every one of the individuals on the inside of forming Nazism were members of the occult society plugged into the demons in the hollow earth. Now, Hitler also had psychic gifts, says Norman. Quote, "He successfully predicted when Nazi troops would conquer Paris. He predicted accurately the German occupation of the Rhineland and the death of Roosevelt." He was plugged into demonic forces. Norman also points out, incidentally, in his book...and there's ten other books that say the same thing...that Hitler's birthplace, Braunau am Inn, was a famous place where mediums were born. Hitler was a medium. He could contact demons. It appears that Haushofer was the black magician who controlled Hitler. And, incidentally, Rudolf Hess who was supposed to have told British Intelligence some interesting things, said that Haushofer was the power and the magician behind Hitler and the demonic legions. That's what Rudolf Hess said about his own Germany. You know the swastika, where that comes from? That's an ancient, magical sign from Asia. By 1925...interesting...a group of Tibetan monks had moved to Berlin. Members of the Black Order, they swore allegiance to the powers of hell. From that time on, funds were made available by the Nazis to finance expeditions to Mongolia and Tibet and for 20 years these expeditions continued gathering occult material. Here's a fascinating thought. When Germany fell, several hundred volunteers in the SS were found to be Himalayan Orientals with no I.D. They were priests, demon-possessed mediums, who were placed in the SS to carry out Satan's work. One author says they were the last of the Black Monks who had helped Hitler's dark menacing movement.

Pauwels and Beigier conclude, then, that Hitler was a self-taught madman surrounded by a handful of megalomaniacs, rejected Descartes, spurning the whole humanist culture, trampling on reason,

invoking Lucifer, conquering Europe and nearly conquering the world. You know who I believe was behind him?...obvious...Satan. You know what I believe Satan would have loved to have done?...fouled up God's plan by letting Hitler get another world empire and the whole Bible, you could have thrown it away if it had happened. Aren't you glad it didn't? I am. Just tells you who was on the throne, doesn't it?

Here's an interesting eyewitness account. I'll read it to you. "A person close to Hitler told me that he wakes up in the night screaming and in convulsions"...Hitler does. "He calls for help and appears to be half paralyzed. He is seized with a panic that makes him tremble until the bed shakes. He utters confused and unintelligible sounds, gasping as if on the point of suffocation. Hitler was standing in his room swaying and looking around as if he were lost. 'It's he; it's he; it's he. He's come for me,' he groaned. His lips were white. He was sweating profusely. Suddenly he uttered a string of meaningless figures then words in scraps of sentences. It was terrifying. Then suddenly he screamed, 'There, there in the corner. He's there,' and all the time stamping his feet and shouting" end quote. Now, who do you think was there? Here was Satan tremendously, tremendously involved in attempting to take over a world government.

The author says...Pauwels and Beigier..."One cannot help but think of him as a medium, for most of the time mediums are ordinary, insignificant people, but suddenly they are endowed with what seems to be supernatural powers, something outside their own personality. It was, in this way, beyond any doubt, that Hitler was possessed by forces outside himself, demoniacal forces of which the individual named Hitler was only a temporary vehicle." That's exactly right. Those who knew him said his eyes were the eyes of a medium in a trance. His face was bizarre and disfigured. You say, but what about Hitler? What did he say about all this? I'll read you some quotes from Hitler. "What will the social order of the future be? Comrades, I will tell you. Over all will reign a new and exalted nobility of whom I cannot speak,"...demon rule. Satan had convinced Hitler that he was the leader of a new race of beings, man-god beings. He was gonna do Genesis 6 all over again. He became obsessed with a super race. Remember that? A super race! You remember Himmler? Hitler asked Himmler to exterminate the Jews, six million of them. He had become convinced that every Jew on earth must die. Who's been trying to kill off God's people since they first began?...Satan. Why did he pick the Jews? Because I believe this was Satan's effort. Hitler said this, "There is another species of humanity which does not deserve the name. Left as a relic of some baser form of life, created along with hideous crawling creatures, gypsies, Negroes and Jews, they are as far removed from us as animals are from humans. I do not mean I look on Jews as animals. They are much further removed from animals than we are. They are creatures outside nature." The scary thing isn't that he believed it; the scary thing is that everybody else in that country believed it. "Our revolution," he said, "is a new stage." Watch this! "It is the final stage in an evolution which will end by abolishing history." He was gonna add the final stage to God's plan and God didn't let him do it. Oh, I believe that was a colossal effort, but God had other plans and Hitler came and Hitler went. You say, "Why didn't it come off?" Because God said the final phase of Gentile world government is gonna be a revived Roman Empire in Europe with a ten-nation confederacy and that's exactly what is going to happen. Do you believe that? But you know something, if you think Hitler was bad, you ain't seen nothing yet. Because the one who comes is gonna be everything Hitler was magnified to the extreme. He's gonna be demonic. Let's look at him.

Daniel, chapter 7...and I'm gonna just go through some of the Scriptures that describe him to you, just simply. In Daniel 7 he is called the "little horn,"...the "little horn." Verse 7: "And this I saw in the night visions, behold a fourth beast," ...this, of course, reference to Rome again, the fourth

kingdom..."dreadful, terrible, strong exceedingly, it had great iron teeth." And, of course, here is the tremendous power of Rome. "It devoured and broke in pieces and stamped the residue with its feet, and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it and it had"...how many horns?... "ten horns." The final form is a ten-nation confederacy. Now, Daniel here begins immediately to talk about Rome. And he says it's different. The first three were like a lion and a bear and a leopard. He uses two images, the image of the large man that I showed you and then the images of different animals to speak of these four kingdoms. But, here, Rome is diverse. It's a combination of all the other three. It's tremendously powerful and then they close it out with ten horns. Now, horns symbolized power. And verse 24 also says the very same thing. Now this, beloved, is the final form of the revived Roman Empire. In its final confederacy, the territory that once was occupied by Rome will rise again in the united cause made up of these ten parts. In Rev[elation]...you say that's the Old Testament. Well, if you like New Testament better, I'll read you Revelation 17. It says the same thing. Verse 12: "And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." So with this beast, this coming Antichrist, there's gonna be a ten-nation confederacy. Now, watch what comes from this confederacy. Verse 8: He says, I was looking at those horns in my vision and what'll you know...that's modern for "behold" (laughter)... "there came up among them another little horn before which there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots, and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things." Who is that horn?...Antichrist. Now, what? You say, where's Antichrist gonna come from? He's gonna rise out of the ten-nation confederacy of Europe. That's exactly what it says. "A little horn..." Little at first, but it grows greater than all the others. And notice what happens. It says that it plucks up the three by the roots. The first thing this guy does is conquer three of those nations by force and apparently the other seven succumb willingly because he doesn't have to conquer them. So during the Tribulation, this ten-nation confederacy, out of it rises one, he conquers three, the rest sort of are subdued willingly and he takes over the rule.

Now, you know, Daniel doesn't only tell us about this person, but he gave us a tremendous illustration about him. Turn over to chapter 8, verse 8. He even gave us another little horn as a symbol. You need to understand this distinction. Now, here, he's...we have to go to verse 8..."the he goat is very great...and...he was strong, the great horn was broken and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of Heaven." Now, the he goat is Greece. That's very clear in the passage before. He lays that all out. The he goat is Greece, Alexander's kingdom. And when Greece finally was established, it says there were four notable horns that grew up. Now, you remember that the kingdom of Greece was divided into four kingdoms, wasn't it...the four generals. One of those generals was named Seleucus. Notice what happens out of that fourth. "Out of one of them came forth a little horn." Now this isn't the Antichrist, beloved. He's not rising out of a ten-nation confederacy; he's rising out of what?...one of the four. But he is a perfect picture of the Antichrist. There was a king who came, the eighth king in the Seleucus dynasty who rose out of that, one of the four of Greece. His name was Antiochus Epiphanes. He is the little horn of chapter 8, different than the little horn of chapter 7. He, in chapter 8, is just a figure of what that final little horn's gonna be like. He was something. He's history. He identified himself with Jupiter and finally decided that everybody'd have to worship him, so he went in and desecrated the temple and set himself up as the god to be worshipped. And, incidentally, God allowed him to do what he did because of Israel's sin. And he lasted awhile. Look at verse 14. "He said unto me, Unto two thousand, three hundred days..." so he hung around for 2,300 evenings and mornings. In 24-hour days, that's six years and 110 days. So old Antiochus Epiphanes hung around...listen, friends, the final little horn's not gonna be, really, in power that long. The Bible says he only gets rule for a time, times and half-a-time...three and a half years. This guy was around six years and 110 days. Well, he's a picture of the final Antichrist, a similar little horn. He desecrated the temple, Antiochus did, he persecuted Israel, and he exalted

himself. That's exactly what the final one's gonna do.

Now, go back to chapter 7. Let's see some more about the final one. You didn't know you were gonna learn so much, did you? (Laughter) Jumping around...this is good! Okay, so verse 8 indicates, again, his eyes, intelligence, and his mouth, he speaks great things. Now, please notice that he comes out of a ten...of a ten horn situation, not a four horn situation such as the former that I mentioned to you who was a picture of him. But he comes and he speaks great things, etc., etc. Verse 9...this is just tremendous..."I beheld till the thrones were placed..." Oh, boy, what kind of thrones?...thrones for tribunal judgment. "And the Ancient of days did sit..." Who's that? That's God. "...whose garment was white as snow and the hair of his head like pure wool. His throne was like the fiery flame and his wheels as burning fire." Here's God in judgment. "A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him, a thousand thousands ministered unto Him and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him,"...the angels..."but the judgment was set and the books were opened. And I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spoke." You know who God's getting ready to judge?...the horn, the little horn who's now a big horn. You notice they dropped the "little." He's grown. "I beheld even till the beast"...that's the same as the horn..."was slain, its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. And for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time." Isn't that an interesting contrast? Ha! The horn was smashed and burned, but the rest of the beasts, the Babylonian beast, the Medo-Persian beast, the Grecian beast...now watch this; this is something...their kingdom was destroyed but they kind of trickled on. After Babylon was conquered, it still sort of existed for awhile. Right? After Medo-Persia was conquered, it still sort of hung on for awhile and there were remnants. After Rome fell in dissipation, it still has lingered. When the horn gets it...wham! Nothing lingers. Why? Because what follows immediately upon the destruction of the Antichrist?...the kingdom of Jesus Christ and nothing lingers into that. Isn't that a fantastically accurate prophecy? And so the beast was slain and destroyed and given to the flame. You remember how it says in the book of Revelation that he will be taken and cast into the fire and then comes the kingdom of Christ. But the rest of the beasts, when they had their dominion taken away, they still hung around for a little while.

Oh, you know what happens right after the smashing of the little horn? Are you ready for this? Look at verse 13. By this time, Daniel must have been having such a great time, he would never want to wake up. He said, "I saw in the night vision, and behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of Heaven..." Man, that sounds like Matthew 24. That sounds like Revelation 19 and who is that coming?...Jesus Christ. You see, you have the immediate destruction of Antichrist, the arrival of Jesus Christ. Oh, beloved, verse 14, "there was given to Him dominion and glory and a"...what?..."kingdom, that all people, nations, languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that shall not be"...what?..."destroyed." You see, there's only gonna be four, then the little horn's gonna come in that final phase, rising out of the ten confederacy and then God's gonna smash him and cast him into Hell and Christ is gonna come and set up His kingdom. Pretty clear, isn't it? Pretty clear. That's the plan.

Now, by this time Daniel had a spiritual headache according to verse 15 (laughter). We won't go into that. Oooh, what's goin' on? And then the Lord explains things to him. A messenger came. Verse 17: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings who shall arise out of the earth." Isn't that...four great kingdoms! Oh, I love 18. "But..." you say, oh, terrific, only four _____..."the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom"...what?..."forever, even forever and ever." That's a long time (laughter).

Daniel says, Then I'd like to know "the truth of the fourth beast which was diverse from the others, exceedingly dreadful, his teeth of iron, his nails of bronze, devoured, broke in pieces, stamped the residue... And the ten horns that were in his head and the other which came up and before whom three fell, even the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows." He says, What is all this? Oh, look at this. Can you believe this accuracy connected to revelation? Verse 21: "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints." Who fights against Israel in the Tribulation?...the Antichrist. And what does he do?...he prevails against them. How long? Oh, oh, oh, verse 22: "Until the Ancient of days came..." When God arrives, "judgment was given to the saints of the most High and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom." You see now what Satan was trying to do with Hitler? Do you know that if he'd have pulled off a world kingdom, he'd have destroyed the entire plan of God and made all of prophecy wrong? Be careful how you interpret history. If you interpret it carefully enough and compare it with Scripture, you'll wind up being a Christian (laughter).

Well, and then verse 24 says the ten horns are ten kings and the one's gonna rise and he's gonna subdue three kings. That's the same thing again that we saw earlier indicated in verse 8. So he's gonna conquer three and the others are gonna acquiesce to his rule. And now it describes him in verse 25: "He shall speak great words against the most High..." He blasphemes God freely. "And he wears out the saints..." He just slaughters saints all over everywhere. And he thinks "to change the times and the laws." I mean, this guy doesn't tackle little projects. He wants to change history. Now, do you get a little insight there? What would Satan love to do to God's plan of history?...change it. "And they shall be given into his hand a time, times and dividing of a time." What's that?...three and half years. A time is one, times would be two, half a time would be a half. "But the judgment shall sit..." Oh, I like that. Do what he will, "judgment shall sit and they shall take away his dominion to consume, to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole Heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." Heh, heh. "Here is the end of the matter," says Daniel. "As for me"...whoo..."my cogitations troubled me." (Laughter) "And my countenance changed"...my face changed..."and I kept the matter in my heart." This is too much, Lord, ha, ha, can't handle it.

So, he's the little horn. Let me give you a second title. Turn to chapter 8, verse 23. He's first called "little horn;" he's secondly called "a king of fierce countenance." Verse 23: "In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full"...oh, isn't that interesting. Did you know that sin is gonna come to a total fullness in the end? That's called the mystery of what?...of inequity...the full-blown evil. Read it in II Timothy 3 and also in II Thessalonians. "In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to a full, a king of fierce countenance"...now, there's his second name in Daniel, the "king of fierce countenance." That means the "king of angry face." He's gonna have some kind of face on him. He's gonna...ooh, look at this. He will understand "dark sentences." He's gonna be getting his information from the kingdom of darkness. "And his power shall be mighty"...oh..."but not by his own power." Who's behind him? Satan is behind him. "And he shall destroy wonderfully and shall prosper and continue and destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also shall cause deceit to prosper in his hand. He shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many. He shall stand up against the Prince of princes..." Some say that's Michael; some say that's Jesus Christ himself. I kind of lean toward the fact that it's Jesus Christ because I think that's exactly what Satan is trying to get this guy to do, is to be able to stand against Christ and keep Christ from taking back the earth. Oh, oh, but look at the end of verse 25.

"But he shall be"...what?... "broken without"...what?... "hand." You know what that means?...supernatural. Supernaturally, he shall be destroyed. And you can read the whole record. I'll give you just a little insight into it. Christ comes back in Revelation 19 and says "I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and the armies gathered to make war against him that sat on the horse..." Here's Satan's great army, led by his greatest man, gonna fight Christ, "and the beast was taken and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles..." and they were "cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." God finished with him and God sent him to hell.

In Daniel, chapter 9 we meet the same man again. Now do you know why John said, "My little children, you have heard that Antichrist shall come"? It was in the book of Daniel, if nowhere else. Daniel 9:26 he's called another name. Now, here, they have 70 weeks of Daniel, which we've covered in the past. But let's just read through it. "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah cut off"...this is the death of Christ..."but not for himself"...and this, of course, would add the seven weeks, so 69 weeks, Messiah will be dead..."the people of the prince that shall come"...there's his third name in Daniel..."the prince that shall come"... "shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." What nation destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and the temple?...the Romans. So who, then, will this prince be? It says "the people of the prince that shall come." So the people who destroyed Jerusalem were Romans. If they are the people of the prince that shall come, what does he have to be? He has to come out of the revived Roman Empire, doesn't he? If they are the people of the prince that shall come and they were Romans, he's gonna have to come out of the revived...people say, where's he gonna come from? Is he gonna be a Jew? Is he gonna be from America? Is he gonna be John F. Kennedy resurrected? What's he gonna be? I believe he has to come from the revived Roman Empire, from Europe, as the people of the prince that shall come connect the two together.

Notice verse 27. "He will confirm the covenant with many for one week..." He comes and makes a pact with Israel. "...but in the middle of the week, he causes the sacrifice and oblation to cease, for the overspreading of abominations he makes it desolate..." But watch! "...even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." He makes a covenant with Israel. In the middle of the week, he violates it and sets up himself to be worshipped until God comes in and destroys it. This is quite a man.

Let's see the fourth name in Daniel 11. Verse 16 we'll look at for a minute. Daniel 11:16, he's called the willful king. "But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him, and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed." So, he's gonna conquer Israel. He is the willful king because it says he will do according to his own will. Verse 36: "And the king shall do according to his will"...there is the willful king again..."and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods"...and that's an interesting designation as to its significance..."and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished for that which is determined shall be done." Isn't it interesting? God says I'm just running history and he'll have his time and then it'll be over. Verse 37: "Neither shall he regard the gods"...plural..."of his fathers..." Some say the "God of his fathers" and they think that a reference to the God of Israel, therefore, they assume he would be a Jew. But the proper rendering would be "Neither shall he regard the gods of his fathers"...more proper.

You say, well, why don't you believe he could be a Jew? Well, I don't believe it for several reasons. One, because the one biblical example we have of Antichrist is Antiochus Epiphanes and he was a Gentile. Two, in chapter 9:26, he is identified with the people who destroyed Jerusalem. He is with the people of the prince that shall come. So, therefore, I think he must be a Gentile. Also, in

Revelation 13, he rises out of the sea and the sea is symbolic of the nations. So, I see him as a Gentile.

Verse 38: "In his estate shall he honor the god of fortresses"...I mean, he's a military man. "He honors the god of fortresses, and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, silver, precious stones and pleasant things."

Well, there you have some introduction to him. Let me just close and I just wanted to show you the Scriptures by giving you a little look at him in the New Testament just in a couple of passages. And the first one to notice is II Thessalonians 2 and then we'll just look at one other and be done. II Thessalonians 2, verse 1, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him, that you be not soon shaken in mind or be troubled, neither by spirit or by word or by letter as from us, that the day of the Lord is present." Some of the Christians at Thessalonica were afraid that Christ had already come and this was the terrible time, you know, that they were waiting for and they were wondering what was going on. Is the Day of the Lord already here? And so the answer comes from Paul. "Let no man deceive you by any means. For that day shall not come except there come the falling away first and that"...and here comes another name..."man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he as God, sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." Now, here he is called the "man of sin." And the term is actually lawlessness, the man of lawlessness. Remember what we saw in Daniel? He wants not only to change the times, but to change what?...the laws. So he is lawless. He is the absolute embodiment of rebellion against God. He is called also the son of perdition. A son of hell, perhaps a more accurate term. Now, some say because he's called the son of perdition and Judas is also called the son of perdition, that the Antichrist will be a resurrected Judas. That is not so. There is no way to indicate that the Antichrist will be a resurrected anybody. There is no precedence for anybody ever going to hell and getting resurrected. I did my thesis in seminary on a character analysis of Judas Iscariot. And in all my study, I never read anything that was in the slightest measure responsible, academically or biblically, that could defend the fact that Judas was gonna be the resurrected Antichrist. Believe me; Judas is done with. There's no way to defend that. And certainly, because he's called the son of hell in terms of designating his destiny, does not have to mean that they're both the same individual. And so said John, little children, you heard it. Antichrist is gonna come.

Now, the final passage in Revelation 13, I want you to just look at it for a moment. You've been so patient. I pray that God will use this that I've taught you tonight...that the Spirit has taught you...not only to solidify your confidence in the Word of God...it does that, doesn't it?...but to excite you about the fact that God is running history and to motivate you to preach the gospel to those who are gonna be trapped in this system if they're not ready when Jesus comes. In Revelation 13, he comes by another name and the name here is "beast." "I stood"...and here Satan stands on the sand of the sea and again, as I told you, it should say "and he stood" rather than "I stood." And "he," that is Satan who is referred to in the immediate verse before, verse 17 of chapter 12..."He stood upon the sand of the sea and saw a beast rise out of the sea having seven heads and ten horns and upon his horns, ten crowns, and upon his heads, the name of blasphemy." Notice the sea. The sea has a reference to Gentiles and to the nations. And it is very possible that what it's saying is, he could well be a Gentile from the Mediterranean area. It could not only be a designation of the sea in terms of Gentiles, but perhaps the Mediterranean Sea. Maybe he'll be a Gentile out of that Mediterranean area. That's a very good possibility. And you might cross-reference Isaiah 17:12...Isaiah 17:12, which may give you some further insight. I'll give you an interesting verse. In Revelation 17:15, in seeing a

sea in that vision, the word comes to John, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues." And there, the waters are called "the nations." So it seems, as he comes out of the sea, that he comes from Gentile nations. And he has horns and horns always mean power. Animals always defend themselves with the use of their horn, and the horn became a symbol of power. He has crowns, which mean he has a regal dominion. You say, well, what's all the ten horn, seven heads, all that stuff? Well, you have to go to chapter 17 to get a designation of that. You see him again, the old beast pops up again in 17. He's got the same description in verse 3, these names of blasphemy, seven heads and ten horns. Then in verse 9, it describes what that is. "The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits." What city in the world is the city of seven hills?...Rome. And that's where his throne is gonna be. I told you a few weeks back that it's interesting that the Catholic Bible has a footnote here that says this verse refers to Rome. Verse 10: "And there are seven kings. Five are fallen, one is, the other has not yet come. And when he cometh, he continues a short space. And the beast that was and is not, even he is the eighth and is of the seven and goes into perdition." Now that that's clear, we'll go onto the next verse (laughter). No...I don't want to get all bogged down in explaining all of this to you, but what it really refers to here are seven successive forms of Gentile government. It really traces the Gentile government in its total forms. There have been five different forms. I'm not talking about world kingdoms, but forms of government: Greece, Persia, Assyria, Babylon and Egypt. That's the five. Notice it there. There are seven...five are fallen. Those are past. Greece, Persia, Assyria, Babylon and Egypt-type government is past. One is...that was Rome. And then, "the beast that was and is not is the eighth." That's the revived Roman Empire, the final form of world government. And that one goes into perdition. That's the final form that's gonna be destroyed. "And the ten horns, which you saw, are the ten kings..." who make up the revived Roman Empire confederacy.

Well, this is quite an individual. There's no question about that. Go back for just a moment to 13 and let's just pick up a last couple of thoughts about him. Verse 2: "The beast that I saw was like a leopard,...like a bear and...like...a lion." And there you have all the indications of the other kingdoms brought together. He was everything that everything's ever been, everything Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome was combined in one big mass. Tremendous power! Tremendous authority! Worldwide! In fact, the whole world is gonna wonder at this. Just unbelievable. Verse 3 indicates that he was wounded to death and the deadly wound was healed. I believe this is the simple fact that the Roman Empire died and is gonna be revived again and the world will wonder that this ever happened and they're shocked that it's happening today. Verse 4: "They worshipped the dragon who gave power unto the beast." Who's the dragon? Satan is that old dragon. Read it, chapter 12. And so they're gonna worship Satan and worship the Antichrist. And they're gonna say, "Who is like the beast?" Who could fight him? See, here's Satan's attempt to get him so that he conquers Christ. And the whole place worships this beast. In fact, everybody does. Verse 8, the whole of the world worships him except for those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Well, he's gonna fight, verse 5, where he's gonna speak blasphemy. He's gonna work for 42 months, three and a half years. He's gonna open his mouth and blaspheme God, blaspheme His name, His tabernacle and them that dwell in Heaven. He's gonna fight the saints, gonna overcome them, he's gonna kill them, he's gonna have power over the whole world. But notice verse 9: "If you have an ear..." get this..."He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity. He that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." Say, what's that? That's a proverb. Remember those? You know what the proverb is saying? Listen to it. Inherent in every system of tyranny is its own destruction. Did you get that? You live by the sword, you...what?...you die by the sword. Inherent in every system of tyranny is its own destruction. And so what do the saints do? We patiently wait and it'll happen. When Peter pulled out his sword, the Lord

said, Peter, put it back. "They that take the sword will die by the sword." I have at my command, 12 legions of angels. You know how many that is?...72,000. In the Old Testament, one angel slew 185,000 soldiers. You think He needed Peter's sword? (Laughter) Vengeance is mine; you be patient. Beloved, this is gonna happen. Satan's gonna get ahold of this world, but believe me, be patient, Jesus is gonna come back and take this earth. Satan's gonna give his best shot and the best man that he can possibly infiltrate it and it isn't gonna work. I'll tell you something, I am excited to know that my God and your God, our God, is running history. Let's pray.

Father, we're thankful tonight for just this tremendous time that we've had. Oh, the singing, Father, and the joy in our hearts, just the sweet fellowship with these dear ones. And, Father, then to spend time in the Word. And, Lord, we've talked, perhaps, too long and our minds are weary and our bodies and yet, Father, we just are so thrilled. What better thing could we do than to spend hours in Your Word and in fellowship with those who love You? Thank you, Father, for just the sweet time that we've had. But, Father, as we're thinking of Revelation, we think of John and how, as he thought about these things, it was sweet in his mouth, but it was bitter in his stomach. And, God, we feel the same because there are many, Father, who are going to be under the power of this individual and are already under the power of Satan because they know not our blessed Christ. Father, may people realize that You're in control of history and that the Bible, when it speaks, it speaks accurately. And may they pick up this Word and know that is from Thee and it is the message of salvation. We'll give You the glory, Father, for what You're going to accomplish through what we've done tonight. In Jesus' blessed Name. Amen.

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