

GODLY LIVING IN A GODLESS WORLD

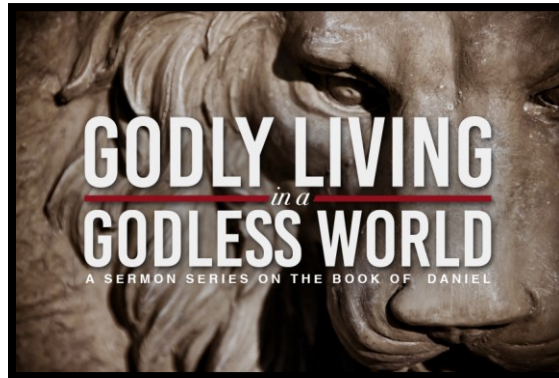
Expositional Study Of Daniel

Daniel 7:8

Written By

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Our current world is primed and prepared for the coming of the Anti-Christ, the one Satanically influence and inspired man who will stand against the living God and everything sacred and holy.

- Despotic leaders have paved the way for his arrival with their iron-fisted, unmerciful grip on power.
- Ideologically driven politicians who flaunt exiting laws which have protected societies for hundreds of years, while devising their own morally rudderless ones, have given us a small taste of the last world ruler.
- Leaders who lie, deceive, and live above the laws everyone else has to abide by, give us a glimpse of the Man of Sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3) who will ramp their activity up to unimaginable levels never seen before.
- The drive for all religions to live at peace with each other sounds nice at first blush but it is really a tool of the Devil to guide mankind to the worship of the Beast (Revelation 13:4).
- The worldwide growing hatred of Israel, God's first chosen people (Deuteronomy 7) and the people responsible for the birth of the true Christ (Matthew 1), is merely setting the stage for the ultimate politician who will solve the Muslim/Israeli problem.
- The rise and acceptance of outright Satanism, from its presence at the Air Force academy to city council meetings in the form of opening "prayers" softens people's aversion to this form of worship and thereby sets them up for the codification of Satanism worldwide.

- The chaos we see worldwide, from nations like Germany who are being attacked internally by Islamists who want to establish control of their host country to anarchists and troublemakers in our own country who work to disrupt societal order, the world, at large, is poised to embrace the quintessential demonically driven politician who will bring order to the unrest.
- Anti-God philosophical systems, from relativism to New Age thought serve to set people up to gladly and joyously embrace the humanist of all humanists, the Anti-Christ.

We who know the living God nod our heads in agreement because it all makes so much sense. The world isn't just going off a cliff at breakneck speed. No. It is satanically driven toward the pit of all pits from which will emerge an evil but exciting leader who will be the essence of Christ to them.

God told us how history would play out in Daniel chapter 7 by means of the high definition vision He gave the aged prophet. In these twenty-eight verses, God equips His saints for the road ahead by developing this overarching motif:

Political Degeneration Is Headed For Supernatural Elevation (Daniel 7:1-28)

Throughout this ominous passage, God tells us which kingdoms will rise and fall before the final appearance of the true Christ. Structurally, He vacillates between negative political realities and positive messianic promise in order to make sure we remain sober and balanced in our appraisal of the times in which we live. If the current times are making you a little edgy and emotionally worried, a cognitive grasp of this powerful prophecy is highly warranted. It's here to make you wise, to cause you to hold tightly to God's providence and sovereignty over the nations and our world, to move you to be His courageous witness, to challenge you to live as kingdom members while we walk in the Devil's empire (Matthew 5-7), and to motivate you to pray for His kingdom to come soon (Matthew 6:9). Please, remember these pragmatic concepts as we step into the first detailed description of the Anti-Christ starting in Daniel 7, verse 8.

Before we take this important theological journey, I must make a few foundational remarks.

- Structurally, the passage presents the intricate vision of the final world empires and their demise (Daniel 7:1-14), and then it circles back around and gives interpretive data concerning them (Daniel 7:15-28). Because of this, we will need to jump forward to tie the various concepts together.
- Ostensibly, please realize there is no way we can develop a full-blown analysis of the Anti-Christ because there is so much biblical data concerning him. If we did this we might add a few months to our study of Daniel.
- Finally, we cannot speculate *who* the Anti-Christ is, but we can detail *what* he is for Scripture is quite clear on this point.

With these concepts in mind, I invite you to consider how God prophetically demonstrates how the world empires will deteriorate prior to the revelation of the Messiah and the long-awaited establishment of His kingdom.

By way of review, we discovered in the first seven verses that . . .

Kings Will Go From Bad To Worse (Daniel 7:1-7)

The point here is well-taken. God warns us that the final five world empires, including the revived Roman Empire of the end times, will be highly animalistic in their behavior. Like animals, the kingdoms of the world would become more predatory, ferocious, brutal, ruthless, murderous, turf-oriented, uncompassionate, and completely a-moral. Thus far, this prophetic emphasis has been fulfilled in the rise and fall of the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman kingdoms. They have gone from the predatory ways of a majestic lion of Babylon, to the bone crushing ways of the monster we know from history as Rome. Such, however, is not the end of the prophetic analysis. From the next verse, a second concept readily arises.

A King Will Go From Worse To Wicked (Daniel 7:8, 15-17, 19-25)

God gave Daniel more information about this last leader and kingdom in this context than all the other ones combined. As stated earlier, God lovingly and wisely gives His saints a detailed political road map so we are no caught off guard as cultures head off the proverbial rails. Armed with this information, we are equipped to push through the descending darkness as points of perpetual spiritual light, we are motivated to help non-believers see what is happening so they can switch from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, and we possess apologetic data which can be used to defend the faith in a faithless day and age.

As geo-political history unfolds, one day a man will emerge who will be a leader of all leaders, one skilled at bringing all the warring factions together under a banner of (tenuous) world-wise peace. He will, conversely, not be for peace all, but for war, the destruction of Israel, the persecution of saints, and the deification of himself as the true King and Lord of the earth. In the ensuing verses, God shows us clearly how this man will take politics and religion to a wicked pinnacle mankind has never imagined nor seen in any world leader, be it a Hitler or a Stalin. His outright, unabashed, unchecked wickedness is validated with two contextual sub-points.

He will launch a surprise conflict (Daniel 7:8a, 19-24). Watch closely how Daniel develops this concept:

⁸ “While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great *boasts*.”

The fourth kingdom is Rome; however, this description cannot be Rome because Rome never had a ten kingdom federation as presented here (Daniel 7:7). Rome never had one ruler who summarily defeated three of his allies in order to establish his power, and no Roman ruler ever did this and achieved *world-wide* control, as this ruler will do. Further, the same rise to power is developed by John in the book of Revelation which was written around 95 A.D (Revelation 13:1-

2; 17:3, 7, 12-18). This highlights the fact that the event concerns the future, well-beyond the ancient Roman Empire.

Put differently, the prophecy speaks of a revival of the Roman Empire in the last days. From this empire will come a little horn, or an unassuming leader who will rise up and suddenly and viciously decimate three allies in his bid to seize complete control of the powerful political



machine. Note, he comes from among these rulers, suggesting they are not successive, but contemporary. The phraseology, “pulled out by the roots” denotes a complete destruction of these allies, and the Hebrew for this verb, *aqar* (אָקַר), speaks of de-horning an animal while it is still young when the horn can be pulled out instead of sawed off.¹ This lexical information possibly alludes to the fact the supposedly insignificant leader will do his devilish work either at the beginning of the erection of this

confederacy, or he will waste no time launching his blitzkrieg battles once he is in power. Either way, he seizes control by open, brutal warfare.

In our day of nuclear and EMP weapons, we can easily see how this could be accomplished. A one megaton nuclear weapon would destroy 80 square miles, while eight bombs, with a yield of 125 kilotons would decimate an area of 160 square miles. Firing weapons like this at three separate, unsuspecting countries would accomplish militaristic goals of domination quite quickly. But we only speculate. The ability to accomplish this is, however, a rude and present harsh reality.

Daniel was so overcome by this part of the vision, he sought divine clarification and he received it.

¹⁹ “Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, ²⁰ and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates . . . ²³ “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom

¹ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Aramaic (Old Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 10566. 10566 אָקַר (‘*qār*): v.; ≡ DBLHebr 6827 Str 6132; TWOT 2926—1. LN 44 (K itpeel impf. 3mp. Q 3fs.) **be de-horned**, i.e., to deprive an animal of horns by pulling out by the roots or tearing off at the base (Da 7:8+), note: this form of de-horning is possible when an animal is relatively young, before ossification requires the cutting off of the horn; 2. LN 20.31–20.60 **destroyed**, formally, be uprooted, a figurative extension of the prior entry (Da 7:8+)

on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.²⁴ 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

Here Daniel learns there was/is a near and far fulfillment to this fourth political beast. It will be Rome; however, unlike Rome it will have a ten nation federation which will be overpowered by an ambitious and ruthless contemporaneous and somewhat insignificant politician. Under his leadership, the entire earth would be subdued and incorporated into his beastly empire. Rome, as we have stated, never achieved this status, although they sought it.

Once again, we must emphasize how this final or fifth empire of the Anti-christ arises out of the revived Roman Empire (which formerly was the fourth empire). This future resurrection of the kingdom which killed THE CHRIST is readily validated in the close relationship between Daniel 7 and Revelation chapters 13 and 17, which I submit for your analysis. The beasts of Revelation 13 and 17 parallel those of Daniel 7 with the presence of the lion, bear, leopard, and the monster. The difference, however, is that John reveals how the Anti-christ and his kingdom will really be a combination of all past empires and rulers rolled up into one exceedingly evil person. Revelation 13 and 17 parallels Daniel 7 and its emphasis on a kingdom which openly hates God (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:1, 6; 17:3). There is also a parallel relationship between the three chapters insofar as the three beasts all have ten horns, both persecute believers (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7; 17:6), and both are limited to a kingdom period of only 3 ½ years (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5).

With the fracturing of the European Union this summer with the exit of England, coupled with the Islamic invasion and insurrection in Germany and France, and the menacing movement of the Russian military machine in Iran, Syria (just this week Russia, for the first time, used Iranian based for bomber strikes in Syria), and the Ukraine (40,000 troops and tanks are assembled on their border as we speak), not to mention the presence of some 1.6 million Muslims in Italy with only eight mosques and a radicalized faction calling for the overthrow of Rome, even the geo-political novice among us can easily see how we are marching toward a confederation and militaristic conflict which will shock the world while ushering in the leader of all leaders, the Anti-christ.² Up to this point, Daniel's prophecy has been fulfilled quite literally. This facet of it will not be any different.

As the Anti-christ will move world politics toward wickedness never seen before in human history, his carnal character motivates and drives him. God gave Daniel this insight in the following verses:

He will possess an evil character (Daniel 7:8b, 19-20, 25). In 2 Thessalonians 2, verse 8, Paul informs us that Satan will empower the Anti-christ, making him the most diabolical, ruthless, and intelligent ruler ever to walk the planet. That Satanic connection and its impact on his

² Jack Moore, "Isis Identifies London, Berlin, and Rome As Next Target in New Video," Newsweek, April 5, 2016, accessed August 18, 2016, <http://www.newsweek.com/isis-identifies-london-berlin-and-rome-next-targets-new-video-444220>. While you are reading, you might like to check out "The Coming Muslim Conquest Of Italy: Will We Have To Ransom The Treasures Of The Vatican From Isis-Type Vandals?" at <http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2015/06/27/the-coming-muslim-conquest-of-italy-will-we-have-to-ransom-the-treasures-of-the-vatican-from-isis-type-vandals/>.

character is readily revealed in Daniel 7. Four terrible traits form the core of the Anti-christ, traits which run completely counter to that of the true King, Jesus, the Christ.

One, the Anti-christ will be highly boastful (Revelation 8b, 19-20). Herod Agrippa, who happily received the chant of the people that he was a god, and not a man, certainly represents many leaders who have had the spirit of the Anti-christ about them (Acts 12:20-23).

. . . and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great *boasts* (Revelation 7:8b).

¹⁹ “Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, *and which* devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, ²⁰ *and the meaning* of the ten horns that *were* on its head and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three *of them* fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great *boasts* and which was larger in appearance than its associates . . .

His eyes like that of a man point to his mannishness; however, behind this lies the power of the Great Dragon, Satan himself. And as Satan fell because of his great pride and boasting (Isaiah 14:12-15), his political protégé will prove no different. He will have a mouth he will not tame, a mouth which will continually boast of his greatness and prowess, and his highly skilled political exploits will back up his boasts. I would dare say the political environment we currently live in has a taste of the Anti-christ in it as politicians wax eloquent about why they, above all people, are the most qualified to lead. Whatever happened to statesmanship, respect, and humility? It's gone and is replaced by menacing mouths which are preparing the ground for THE mouth.

Two, the Anti-christ will be a mocker of God and everything which is holy and sacred.

²⁵He shall speak against the Most High . . .

There will not be one thing blasphemous he will not say against the living God, Jesus, and the Spirit. Nothing will be sacred to him regarding Christ and Christianity. Again, the rants people have now against Christ and Christianity are but a small taste of what he'll dish out. Further, the anti-Christian sentiment spouted by various politicians now will pale into insignificance when he is one the scene. You name it and he will say it, not fearing God one iota because he will think that he is god. Shocking. Prayer will not be sacred, but scorned. The Bible will not be believed but belittled. Believers who speak up for God will be mocked, ridiculed, and railed against. Believe me, our world is just now gearing up for the appearance of this Christian mocker of all mockers.

Three, the Anti-christ will be a murderer of saints. The growing attacks by ISIL on Christians around the world is certainly a harbinger of a larger more ominous persecutory storm on the world's horizon.³ The Man of Sin will make their “successes” in this area look childish:

³Eliza Girswold, “Is This the End of Christianity in the Middle East?” *The New York Times Magazine*, July 22, 2015, accessed August 22, 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/26/magazine/is-this-the-end-of-christianity-in>

²¹ For, as I watched, that horn made war against the holy ones and was victorious
...

²⁵ He shall speak against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High...

John says the same thing in the book of Revelation:

⁷ It [the Beast] was also allowed to wage war against the holy ones and conquer them, and it was granted authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation (Revelation 13).

God will, for reasons unknown to us, permit him to persecute believers during the Tribulation Age in ways never seen before. Those who do not have his number, 666, which is man's number from his creation, will be hunted down and terminated for not identifying with his kingdom and for not worshipping him as god. Right now, the persecution you read about weekly directed against the Church is but a small taste of what will occur when the whole world follows lock-step behind their leader inspired by Lucifer. His time is short, therefore, he continually increases his hatred of all who'd dare follow Jesus, the true Christ.

Four, the Anti-christ will be a deviser of new godless laws (Daniel 7:25).

²⁵He shall speak against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High, thinking to change the feast days and the law.

At this time in the Tribulation, we know Israel will have their own Temple again, probably located just north of the Dome of the Rock (Revelation 11:1-4). Jesus also speaks about how the Anti-christ will desecrate the rebuilt temple in the middle of the tribulation with what He calls the Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 24:15; Daniel 11:31; 12:11). What Daniel speaks of here in chapter seven probably denotes a purposeful changing of Israel's feast days as given to them by God, and an altering of the Mosaic code to suit his sinister fancy. The statement can also allude to the arrogant alteration of natural laws given to us by God, followed by human laws which are built off of them.

Unfortunately, we are watching the spirit of this unfold as politicians in our own land flaunt our laws and our Constitution, while opting to invent new laws designed to make us more progressive and palatable. Expunging Christmas from the season, along with Easter from its proper seasonal observance and wording is, again, another glimpse of what is to come when wickedness breaks through the dam of godly doctrine. And all of this, of course, is only a snapshot of a tidal wave of laws devised by Lucifer's man of the hour, the Anti-christ.

In addition to these godless character traits, God also tells Daniel something about him physically.

-the-middle-east.html. Stoyan Zaimov, "Unimaginable Horrors Detailed in US Report on ISIS' Persecution of Christians," *Christian Post*, November 4, 2015, accessed August 22, 2016, <http://www.christianpost.com/news/isis-christian-persecution-religious-freedom-report-us-state-department-149173/>.

He will be an imposing character (Daniel 7:19-20). People tend to think the taller, more muscular, better looking among men make the better, more qualified leaders. The Anti-christ will certainly not disappoint.

¹⁹ But I wished to make certain about the fourth beast, so very terrible and different from the others, devouring and crushing with its iron teeth and bronze claws, and trampling with its feet what was left; ²⁰ about the ten horns on its head, and the other one that sprang up, before which three horns fell; about the horn with the eyes and the mouth that spoke arrogantly, which appeared greater than its fellows.

The Hebrew of the last clause paints the picture of a leader who appears physically sturdier than his political counterparts. Based on the fact that over in Daniel 8:23 he is said to be “a king of fierce countenance,” some scholars, like Herman Hoyt, state this possibly denotes his physical prowess. He is, to use Hoyt’s words, “an exceptional physical specimen, possessing not only a large, well-proportioned body, but also an attractive countenance and an impressive appearance.”⁴ Don’t tell me our world does not rate leadership from this perspective. A recent Wall Street Journal article titled *The Appearance of Physical Strength May be the Look of Leadership*.

That is the implication of a recent paper that outlines several experiments exploring the relationship between perceptions of physical strength and leadership abilities. The research suggests that both men and women associate the appearance of physical strength with leadership qualities and higher status, at least in men.

The experiments—conducted by psychologists at the Berkeley and Santa Barbara campuses of the University of California, the University of Portland and Oklahoma State—showed a group of volunteers’ images of young men and women supposedly hired by a new consulting firm. In the pictures, the young people, who had previously been tested and scored for upper-body strength, wore tank tops that showed off their physiques.

When shown sets of men, the volunteers consistently rated the ones with higher strength scores as having more leadership ability, evidently inferring strength from buff physiques.⁵

As people are duped now by the outer appearance they will really be duped when this wicked politician shows up. His height, breath, muscles, and square jaw will cause people to wrongly conclude that if anyone knows how to really lead, it must be him. Like Israel choosing King

⁴Herman A. Hoyt, *The End Times* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1978), 122.

⁵Daniel Akst, “The Appearance of Physical Strength May be the Look of Leadership,” *Wall Street Journal*, March 10, 2016, accessed August 18, 2016, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-appearance-of-physical-strength-may-be-the-look-of-leadership-1457643709>.

Saul, they are going to be very disappointed. The inner man is far more important than the outer man.

As I said, the world is primed for the appearance of the Anti-Christ, who they will think is the Christ. When I was a teen, Christians thought he was Henry Kissinger. I don't think he fit the last description, do you? Some thought he was Jim Jones and paid dearly for their belief. Others were enraptured with David Koresh, only to discover he was a false teacher who claimed messianic status. Several years ago some Jews thought that Rabbi Menachem Schneerson was the anointed one, but then he died, never to rise again. In the 1960s and 70s, people caught up with the new guru movement, thought Satya Sai Baba was the Hindu "god-man," only to discover he was only a man with uncontrolled carnal carvings. *We need not, however, be worried about who it is but what he is. He will be the third member of the Satanic trinity (composed of the Beast, the False Prophet, and Satan) who will be empowered by the Devil to lead people to the worship of him as god (Revelation 13:1-8), all while he pushes lawlessness and a hatred of the true Christ. The lie first perpetuated in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve will be fulfilled in this final leader as he thinks he has attained godhood and will do everything in his power to get you to pay him homage. Scary.*

How should all of these stern coming political and religious realities impact us in the here and now? Good question. Let me give you a couple of practical ideas to think about:

- Continually study the Word of God so you can spot false doctrine and false teachers which will proliferate the closer we come to his arrival.
- Expose false doctrine and false teaching as the Old Testament and New Testament saints, like Jeremiah and Paul, did in their day. This is not the time to clam up but speak up!
- Emotionally, don't be worried about what you see unfolding before you as wickedness increases. The Lord has got this, so trust Him.
- Don't support politicians and leaders who are outright in their lawlessness.
- Do stand up for the precious nature of law, be it divine law or human law based on God's law. The Lawless One is coming and his spirit is now present, as John warned us (1 John 4:2-3), however, this does not mean we are to roll over with the push for greater lawlessness. It's time to push back in lawful, creative ways.
- Do decide this day to follow, by faith, the true Christ, not the false Christ. The latter died and rose again to forgive of your sin and to give you eternal life in His presence. The latter will destroy you and drag you down to the eternal pit with him.