

## Revelation 13:1-10—The Antichrist—Part 2

### Introduction: Prophecy Confirms God's Existence

Would you call me crazy if I claimed that I knew the makeup of the final human government and the key decisions that it would make? Well, if you knew your bible you would say, "yes, I know, God wrote it all down in black and white thousands of years before it happened."

Why did God reveal so much of the future to us? So we can be sure of His existence. The fact that hundreds and hundreds of specific prophecies *all* came true, exactly as written, speaks to the reality of a God who is outside of time, who sees all, knows all, is all powerful, is everywhere at once, and who is in complete control.

Just to give you some understanding of how incredibly detailed the prophecies of the then future kingdoms are, here's a quote from David Guzik concerning just Daniel chapter 11:

"The chapter is so specific, that many critics who deny supernatural revelation, have insisted that it is *history*, written after the fact, fraudulently claiming to be prophecy."

That's what characterises bible prophecy—it's specific. Other so called prophets are generally very vague or very wrong or both. This means that bible prophecy can easily be shown to be wrong. But guess what? It never has been and it never will. Why? Because the bible was inspired by God. God used humans as instruments to write it down, but every word is from God. Consider what Jesus said about what David wrote down in Psalm 110:

Mark 12:36 NLT paraphrase

For David himself, **speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said,**  
'The Lord said to my Lord,  
Sit in the place of honour at my right hand  
until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.'

The Psalms are songs, but they are a part of the bible. Every word of them was God breathed (2 Timothy 3:16) or as Jesus said, written or spoken under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In fact, all Scripture, every word of every verse in the bible is given by inspiration of God. It is literally, "God breathed".

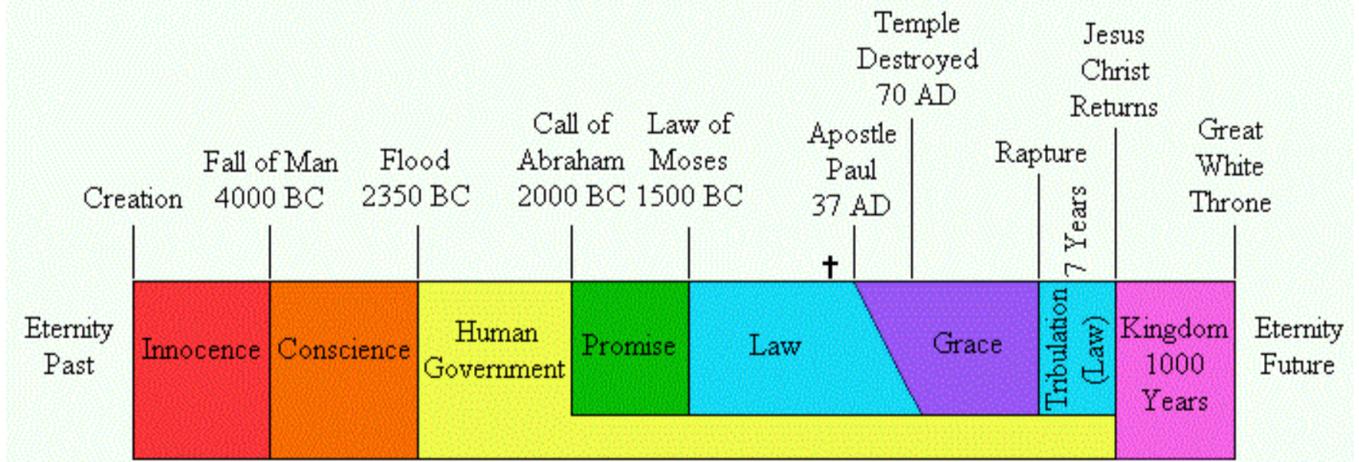
2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Let's quickly revise what we went over last week in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2:

Use the dispensation chart to find the 7 year tribulation period. Remember it is broken into two halves—Tribulation (first half) then Great Tribulation (last half).

# Dispensations of the Bible



Sequence of events for the 7 year Tribulation (Day of the Lord) *(do as a quiz)*

1. Rapture happens—church is caught up from the earth to be with Jesus
2. Short time of preparation before the 7 year tribulation begins as the antichrist begins his rise to power
3. The clock starts ticking when the antichrist confirms a peace agreement with Israel for 7 years. Daniel's seventh week, the final 7 years decreed for Israel has begun.
4. Half-way through the antichrist breaks his promises to Israel, and defiles the Jewish temple in Jerusalem, claiming to be God. No more pretence or ecumenical religion—it's worship Satan and his antichrist or die.
5. The second half of the 7 year tribulation is called the Great Tribulation by Jesus in Matthew 24:21. There will be intense persecution of believers, Jew and gentile.
6. The end of the 7 year tribulation is when Jesus comes back to claim the earth for Himself, as predicted many times in the scriptures.
7. Jesus then reigns on the earth for 1,000 years - the Millennial reign

## What do Daniel chapters 2 and 7 tell us about the antichrist?

Like 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, Daniel chapters 2 and 7 are scriptures that gives us great insight into the antichrist and his future, but very temporary, earthly kingdom. Daniel and Revelation fit together like a hand in a glove. Daniel gives the big picture and Revelation fills in the details. Daniel also establishes the timeline into which the events described in the book of Revelation fit into. Many of the signs and symbols that we will come across in Revelation will be explained in the book of Daniel. Daniel chapter 7 is particularly helpful as it explains many of the signs and symbols in Revelation 13, as they both contain information specific to the antichrist and the Roman empire.

What we are going to see today in Daniel chapters 2 and 7 is that God revealed the rise and fall of the last four main world empires. We won't get into all the details—just the basics. All we need is the big picture. Let's start with a diagram that shows the last four world empires or kingdoms:

### The final four world empires

Daniel 2 gives us the outline of the last four world empires that cover world history from the time when Daniel lived to when Jesus comes back at the second coming:

## Daniel 2



Babylon  
605-539 BC

Medo-  
Persia  
539-331 BC

Grecia  
331-168 BC

Rome  
168 BC-476 AD

## Daniel 7



1. The head of gold represents the Babylonian empire that was in power when Daniel was given this night vision or dream.
2. The chest and arms of silver represent the Medo-Persian empire that followed after the Babylonian empire.
3. The belly and thighs of bronze represent the Grecian empire that followed after the Medo-Persian empire.
4. The legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay represent the Roman empire that followed after the Grecian empire.

Daniel 7 depicts or represents the same four world empires, but looked at from another point of view—God's. Daniel chapter 2 looks at these same world empires as valuable metals—the human point of view. Humanly speaking we say, "wow, that is a huge, powerful and majestic empire". For example, think of the USA 30 years ago when they were an undisputed superpower (different to a world empire). They had by far the biggest and best armed forces, by far the world's largest economy, and were very influential. Just about everybody respected them.

However, When God describes these same four world empires, to him they are nothing but savage beasts—evil and destructive. So the same chart also lists the same four world empires, but described instead using various savage beasts in Daniel chapter 7:

1. The Babylonian empire is represented by the lion with eagle wings—The lion is considered the king of the animal kingdom. Likewise, the Babylonian empire was considered the most majestic of all the world empires as their kings had absolute

control. It was a true dictatorship. The other empires all had various forms of government where the kings had less power.

2. The Medo-Persian empire is represented by the bear—the Medes and Persians had very large but slow moving armies that crushed the opposition.
3. The Grecian empire is described as a leopard with birds wings. The fast moving leopard represented how Alexander the Great conquered the world in a very short period of time. He had a small but very mobile army that could move and strike very quickly and very effectively.
4. The Roman empire is simply described as a beast which is too dreadful, too evil and too destructive to imagine or describe. It simply destroyed everything it touched. The Roman empire was famous or infamous for the way they oppressed people.

Now, it's important to understand that the Roman empire is in two stages. The first stage is the **two legs of iron**, and the second stage is the **feet of iron and clay**. Why use two legs of iron to describe the first stage of the Roman empire? Because there were two capitals, one in the east and one in the west of the empire. The first stage of the Roman empire began in about 168BC and finally collapsed in 476AD, and there hasn't been an equivalent world empire since.

But there will be a world empire again. It will be what is commonly called the "revived Roman Empire". From the peoples and lands of the original Roman Empire will emerge a new Roman empire, the revived Roman empire. According to Revelation and Daniel, this revived Roman empire will rule the world for the last 7 years of world history. We'll learn more about it as we go. The European Union may or may not be precursor to the revived Roman empire, we'll have to wait and see.

This revived Roman empire will be different from the first though. It is described as having feet made up of iron and clay. Iron representing strength, but the powdery and brittle clay making it fragile. That is, **it will be a powerful kingdom, but there will not be much unity**. Therefore, it will be both weak and strong.

Look at what is going on in the world today. If there is one thing that is missing, it's unity. Almost every country is experiencing some form of disunity or disharmony. If the world was united by a central government right now, just imagine all the potential chaos and infighting between all the various people groups. *Iron mixed with clay is a very good description of today's world made subject to a central government. This is what the antichrist's kingdom, the revived roman empire, will be like. This is another indication that we are living in the last days.*

What I will do now is prove to you from the scriptures that these world empires continue on until the second coming of Jesus.

Daniel 2:28 NKJV

But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the **latter days**.

Latter days means the last days. The vision started with the then current Babylonian kingdom but continues on until the second coming and the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

This is especially clear when we read in:

Daniel 2:44 NKJV

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it [Christ's kingdom] shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

The “**kingdom which will never be destroyed**” must refer to the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ when He reigns over all the earth for 1,000 years. Why? Because every other kingdom will be destroyed. Christ's kingdom is the only one that will continue and not be replaced by another kingdom. This promise of Christ's enduring kingdom is repeated in Daniel chapter 7, the parallel passage to Daniel chapter 2.

Daniel 7:15-18 NLT paraphrase

I, Daniel, was troubled by all I had seen, and my visions terrified me. <sup>16</sup> So I approached one of those standing beside the throne and asked him what it all meant. He explained it to me like this: <sup>17</sup> **“These four huge beasts represent four kingdoms that will arise from the earth. <sup>18</sup> But in the end, the holy people of the Most High will be given the kingdom, and they will rule forever and ever.”**

Again, the four huge beasts, the lion, the bear, the leopard, and the indescribable, horrific beast, are four world empires that line up, or match up, with the statue of gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Then what does it say in verse 18? **“But in the end, the holy people of the Most High will be given the kingdom, and they will rule forever and ever.”** “**The kingdom**” is Christ's kingdom, the Millennial kingdom, the time when Jesus rules the world for 1,000 years, as it says in Revelation chapter 20.

So now, let's revise what we have learned so far from Daniel chapters 2 and 7:

Look at the diagram of world empires to answer the following questions:

1. From Daniel's time, How many world empires would rise and fall before Jesus' kingdom is established? *Four*
2. What are the four world empires called, in order? *Babylonian, Mede and Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires.*
3. Which kingdom or world empire is in two stages? *Roman empire.*
4. How is the first stage described? *Legs of iron.*
5. Is this first stage of the Roman empire, the “legs of iron”, past, present, or future? *Past.*
6. How is the second stage of the Roman empire described? *Feet and toes made of iron mixed with clay.*
7. What is this second stage of the Roman empire, the “feet and toes made up of iron mixed with clay”, commonly called? *The revived Roman empire.*
8. Is this second stage of the Roman empire past, present or future? *Future.*
9. Why does the second stage of the Roman empire end? *When Jesus comes back at the end of the 7 year Tribulation—the second coming of Christ.*
10. When does Jesus come back? *At the end of the 7 year tribulation, the second coming of Christ.*
11. When does this second stage of the Roman empire, the revived Roman empire, rule the world? *During the Tribulation.*
12. How long will the revived Roman empire rule the world? *7 years.*

13. Which kingdom follows the revived Roman empire? *Jesus Millennial kingdom.*
14. How long does this final kingdom last? *1,000 years*
15. What happens after Jesus Millennial kingdom? *New heavens and new earth—eternity with Jesus and no more sin and suffering forevermore.*

## **The final government to rule the world—the 10 kings who rule and support the antichrist**

Now we find out more about the structure of the government of this “revived Roman empire.” Who are “**these kings**” in Daniel 2:44? The ten toes on the statue represent 10 kings. Let’s look again at:

Daniel 2:44a

And in the days of **these kings** the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed;

Already there is an interpretation... the 10 toes are 10 kings.

According to verse 44, when will these 10 kings be ruling on the earth? *During the tribulation, right before Jesus comes back to set up His kingdom, when Jesus rules and reigns on earth for 1,000 years.*

Notice that the 10 kings all rule at the same time. They are not 10 successive kings, but rather 10 kings who rule at the same time. It says “**in the days of the 10 kings**”, not, “in the days of the tenth king.” This is made even more clear in Daniel chapter 7. Let’s have a look:

Daniel 7:7, 23-24a NKJV

Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast—terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, **and it had ten horns.**

<sup>23</sup> “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.

<sup>24</sup> **The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom.**

Revelation 17:12 also confirms this. The same picture or symbol is repeated in Revelation 17, and the same interpretation is given:

Revelation 17:12-14 NKJV

**“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.** <sup>13</sup> These are of one mind, and **they will give their power and authority to the beast.** <sup>14</sup> These will make **war** with **the Lamb**, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and **those who are with Him** are called, **chosen, and faithful.**”

Q Why does the bible represent these rulers as horns? *Because in the bible, a horn signifies power. These men will have powerful positions in the last days world empire.*

Q According to Daniel 7:24 and Revelation 17:12, who are the “**ten horns**”? **“Ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom.”**

Q According to Daniel 7:23, which kingdom do these 10 kings arise or come from? ***The fourth beast or the fourth kingdom on earth.***

Q What is the **fourth kingdom on earth** called? *The Roman empire.*

Q How are the 10 kings represented in Daniel chapter 2? *The 10 toes.*

Q How are the 10 kings represented in Daniel chapter 7 and Revelation chapter 17? *The 10 horns.*

Q At what stage of the Roman empire will these 10 kings be reigning? The “**legs of iron**” (first or past stage), or, “**the feet of iron and clay**” (second or future stage)? “***The feet of iron and clay***” (*second or future stage*).

Q According to Revelation 17:13, what will the **ten kings** do when the antichrist comes on the scene? ***They will give their power and authority to the beast (antichrist).***

Q According to Revelation 17:12, how long will these **10 kings** have authority for? ***One hour, meaning a short time (see Revelation 3:10—the tribulation is referred to as the hour of trial), only during the 7 year Tribulation (at least the last half of it).***

Revelation 3:10 NKJV

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from **the hour of trial** which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Q According to Revelation 17:12-14, how do we know for sure that all 10 of these kings will be reigning at the same time during the tribulation?

- (v 12) *Because they all receive authority for one hour as kings **with** the beast (antichrist)*
- (v 13) *Because they all give their power and authority to the beast (antichrist).*
- (v 14) *Because they will make war with the Lamb (Jesus), but the Lamb defeats them—The battle of Armageddon (See Revelation 19)*

What I’m doing here is showing you a bit of inductive bible study—how to break things down so you can learn to observe, interpret and apply what is written in the bible.

So, what we need to understand from Daniel’s visions in chapters 2 and 7 is that all of these kings will be ruling at the same time, and their reigns will all be cut short or terminated when Jesus comes back and sets up His kingdom. A quick revision:

Q When does Jesus come back to earth? *At the end of the tribulation.*

Q What is this event called? *The second coming of Christ.*

Q Now, given that Jesus comes back at the end of the tribulation, and these ten kings are still reigning when Jesus comes back, when will these 10 kings be ruling on the earth? *During the 7 year tribulation.*

## The antichrist during the Tribulation

So far we have learned that from the time of Daniel there would be four world empires (Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman) that will come and go and finally be replaced by Jesus' kingdom, the 1,000 year Millennial reign where we rule and reign with Jesus.

We have also learnt that in the last days there will be a kingdom, a world empire, that will last for only 7 years, and will be governed by 10 kings. So how does the antichrist fit into this last days, revived Roman empire, kingdom? The answer is in Daniel 7:19-25:

Daniel 7:19-25 NKJV

<sup>19</sup> "Then I wished to know the truth about **the fourth beast**, ... <sup>20</sup> **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.**

<sup>21</sup> "I was watching; and **the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,** <sup>22</sup> **until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.**

<sup>23</sup> "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.

<sup>24</sup> **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.**

<sup>25</sup> **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.**

So now we have discussed it, let's go through it again and see how much you can remember about the antichrist:

Q Who is the fourth beast in verse 19? *The Roman empire.*

Q What do the 10 horns represent in verse 20? *The 10 kings (See v 24).*

Daniel 7:20, 24 NKJV

<sup>20</sup> **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.

<sup>24</sup> **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.**

Q From which kingdom or empire do the 10 kings come from (v 20)? *The Roman empire (on its head).*

Q It says in verse 20 “**the other horn which came up, before which three fell**” . Who does the “**other horn**” represent? *The antichrist.*

Q (v 20 and 24) Who are the “**three which fell**”? *Three of the 10 kings who rule the revived Roman empire. (This means that as the antichrist rises to power, he will usurp or displace 3 of the 10 kings. The other 7 will willingly choose to give their authority to the beast or antichrist (See Revelation 17:12-14)*

Q (v 20) Who is “**that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.**” *The antichrist.*

Q (v 20) How do we know that the other horn signifies a real person?

- **Had eyes**—he could see
- **Had a mouth**—he could speak
- He “**spoke pompous words**”, meaning blasphemous words—he can think.

Q Verse 21 says, “**the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them**”. Verse 25 says “Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand **For a time and times and half a time**”.

Daniel 7:21, 25 NKJV

<sup>21</sup> “I was watching; and **the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,**

<sup>25</sup> **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.**

Q How long is “**a time and times and half a time**”? 3 1/2 years.

- **time** = one year,
- **times** = double one year which makes two years,
- **half a time** = half of one year.
- 1 + 2 + 1/2 = 3 1/2 years
- 3 1/2 years is half of the seven year tribulation.

Q When does this happen, in the first half or the second half of the tribulation (see Revelation 12:6, 14). Those who were here when we went through chapter 12 will know the answer to this question.

To finish off I’m going to connect what we covered a few weeks ago with what we are learning now.

Remember from chapter 12 that, at the half way point of the 7 year tribulation, there is war in heaven between Michael and his good angels and Satan and his fallen angels. Satan loses and as a result no longer has any access to heaven. He is cast to earth and knows that he only has 3 1/2 years until Jesus comes back. As a result, he is really, really angry and so breaks his covenant with Israel at the half way point and for the last 3 1/2 years, 42 months or 1260 days (last half of the tribulation) his mission is to hunt down and kill every believer, Jew or gentile. The main point is that the last half

of the tribulation would be much more violent and terrible than the first half. It is called Jacob's trouble and the "Great Tribulation".

Remember that during the tribulation, the antichrist will be possessed or controlled by Satan. Therefore if Satan is in a rage, then so will the antichrist, who will simply be doing the will of Satan. The antichrist is basically like Satan's puppet. But, in addition to Satan's anger and violence against the saints, God's judgements will also be horrific. The level of suffering will be almost unbearable.

So again, when does Satan and the antichrist ramp up their persecution of the saints and Israel, in the first half or the second half of the tribulation?

Revelation 12:6, 13-17

6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there **one thousand two hundred and sixty days** (3 1/2 years).

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for **a time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent. ... 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to **make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ** (the tribulation saints or believers).

So when does Satan and the antichrist ramp up their persecution of the saints and Israel, in the first half or the second half of the tribulation? *The last half.*

To summarise, let's ask some questions about what we learnt today:

1. Who are the final four world empires from the time of Daniel?

The last four world empires:

1. Babylonian empire
2. Medo-Persian empire
3. Grecian Empire
4. Roman Empire

2. What is the correct order of the following four events:

Tribulation, rapture, Millennial reign, second coming of Christ,

1. rapture
2. tribulation
3. second coming of Christ
4. Millennial reign

3. What do the 10 toes or 10 horns represent?

*The 10 kings that rule over the revived Roman empire and give their power and authority to the antichrist during the tribulation.*

4. How is the antichrist represented in Daniel 7

*The little horn*

5. What does Daniel 7 and Revelation 12 say that the antichrist will do to the tribulation saints?

*He will make war with them and overcome them.*

6. How long will the antichrist make war with and overcome the saints?

*3 1/2 years*

7. During which half of the tribulation will the antichrist be persecuting the saints most severely, the first half of the tribulation (the first 3 1/2 years, 42 months or 1260 days), or, the last half of the tribulation (the last 3 1/2 years, 42 months or 1260 days).

*Last half of the 7 year tribulation.*

**Application:**

I just want to remind you that as we are living in the last days, we should not fear, but rather be encouraged as we see God's plans unfolding before our very eyes. Keep your ears open for that trumpet and keep a very light touch on the things of this world. Remember that Jesus could come at any time now, and we don't want to be ashamed when He snatches us up from the earth to be with Him. Time is short. Use every day wisely.

Ephesians 5:15-18 NLT paraphrase

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. 18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.