

# 17 - HOW TO SPOT A FAKE



1

## The World's Greatest Deception



2

(Video: 19 secs) One of the greatest swindles ever recorded took place in the late 1960's. David Stein, a brilliant young Frenchman, painted more than 400 imitations of the Old Masters:

counterfeit Picassos, Chagalls, Renoir's, and Van Goghs, among others.

He signed the real names of the renowned artists on the masterpieces and passed them off as originals.

They were masterpieces of deception.

So much so, they were declared to be authentic!



3

(Video: 9 secs) To date only 110 of these forgeries have been detected and recovered. Stein was apprehended in 1972 and served prison terms in Sing Sing Prison and in Paris, France. He was released in 1980. During his stay in prison Stein had a change of heart and decided to paint under his own signature.



4

(Video: 12 secs) Today he is a noted artist and lecturer around the world. And, what does he lecture about? What he knows best- "How to Spot a Fake."

You'll have to agree, Stein certainly demonstrated that it isn't always easy to spot a fake—even for experts!

But, clever as he may have been as a "con-man" He was just a "Babe in the woods" so to speak, when compared with



5

(Video: 7 secs) the granddaddy of them all—Satan! The Devil stands without peer when it comes to swindling, cheating, and counterfeiting. Of course, Satan doesn't work openly.

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He works through other people, other powers and agencies. If he were an open enemy of God and truth there would be little danger that any Christian would be deceived. So he works under cover, sometimes masquerading in the very garb of religion—



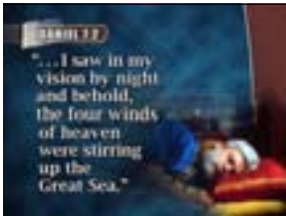
ingeniously mixing truth and error to draw men away from the true worship of God. This has been his all-consuming passion for thousands of years.



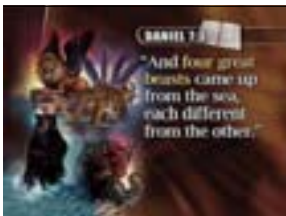
God does not leave us at the mercy of this great deceiver, but has warned us through the Bible of the greatest of all deceptions at the end of time.



The Bible says, Daniel himself had a dream of beasts rising up out of the sea.



(Text: Daniel 7:2,3)  
“...I saw in my vision by night,” Daniel wrote, “and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.



And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.” Daniel 7:2, 3.



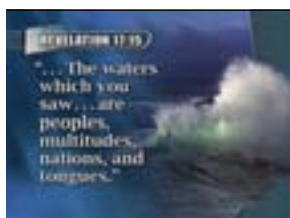
Beasts coming up out of the sea?  
What could it all mean?



Let's let the Bible give us the key to unlock this symbolic prophecy.  
First, in this dream, there is water.

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13

(Text: Revelation 17:15)

Revelation 17:15 says: "...The waters which you saw ... are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues."

In the same chapter, God tells Daniel what these beasts represent:



14

(Text: Daniel 7:17, 23)

"Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth."



15

... The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth."

Daniel 7:17, 23

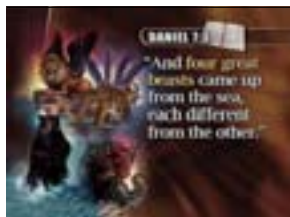
God's word clearly states that a beast represents a king or a kingdom.



16

The beasts coming out of the populated area of the earth were to represent certain nations that would come into being.

Notice how he describes them in Daniel 7:3:



17

(Text: Daniel 7:3)

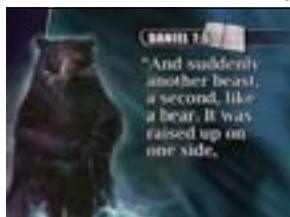
"And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other."



18

(Text: Daniel 7:4)

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings ..." Daniel 7:4



19

(Text: Daniel 7:5)

"And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side,



20

and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth..."

Daniel 7:5

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(Text: Daniel 7:6)

**"After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird..." Daniel 7:6**

21



(Text: Daniel 7:7)

**"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong."**

22



**It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet.**

23



**It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns."  
Daniel 7:7.**

24



**What a zoo! You will notice that each of these beasts are not ordinary beasts. They all have some special characteristics that help us to understand the vision.**

25



**As Daniel reflected on his vision of the four beasts, he must have remembered the dream of the great King Nebuchadnezzar—the dream of the great metal man. In both dreams, the symbols used covered the four empires of the ancient world,**

26



**(Video 6 secs) starting with Babylon, the Median and Persian empire, the kingdom of Greece, the Roman empire,**

27



**and ending with the coming of Jesus and the establishment of His eternal kingdom.**

28



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29

Let's go back and look at each of these beasts or nations as they arise out of the populated part of the earth:



30

(Text: Daniel 7:4)

"The first beast was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off;



31

and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it." Daniel 7:4



32

What could better symbolize Babylon, the first world empire (represented by the head of gold in the towering statue), than a lion-the king of beasts?



33

The ancient Babylonians themselves used the lion to represent their empire.

Archeologists discovered in the ruins of Babylon this symbol of the lion with eagle wings.



34

As the lion is noted for its strength and conquest, King Nebuchadnezzar's military conquests were unsurpassed.

The rapidity with which Babylon gained power and spread its empire is appropriately symbolized by the eagle's wings. Notice that God uses the same symbol of a lion to represent Babylon:



35

(Text: Jeremiah 4:7)

"A lion has come out of his lair; a destroyer of nations has set out.

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He has left his place to lay waste your land..." Jeremiah 4:7.

36



The proud, pompous king of Babylon envisioned his kingdom lasting forever. He apparently gave no thought to the idea that any other nation would ever rule the world. He inscribed on the bricks of his buildings, "May it last forever."

37



(Video: 4 sec) On October 13, 539 B.C., the Babylon kingdom (represented by the head of gold in the metal image and by the lion with eagle's wings in Daniel's dream) came to an inglorious end.

38



(Video: 3 sec) The kingdom or empire represented by the second beast-the bear-can be none other than the conquering nation of Medo-Persia, the same kingdom represented by the arms and chest of silver in the giant metal man. As Daniel watched the bear in his dream, he said,

39



(Text: Daniel 7:5)

"...It raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it." Daniel 7:5.

40



Daniel said that the bear had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth, but the Bible does not identify their meaning.

41



However, most Bible scholars believe the three ribs represented

42



Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt-the three principal territories devoured by the Medo-Persian armies.

43

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44

The Persian Empire ruled for two centuries, but ferocious and strong as it may have been, God revealed to Daniel in the dream that another beast, or kingdom, would arise:



45

(Text: Daniel 7:6)

“Lo, another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl;



46

the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.” Daniel 7:6.



47

Just as a slow-moving bear proves no match for the swift running leopard, so the Persian armies were unable to defend themselves against the rapid advances of Alexander the Great.



48

(Video: 4 sec) In Nebuchadnezzar’s prophetic dream, the bronze belly and thighs of the image represented the third world empire of Greece, and so does the leopard in Daniel’s dream.



49

The four wings describe the great speed of Alexander’s conquests.

He defeated Darius III of Persia in the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C., thus becoming in less than twelve years the ruler of the most extensive empire the world had ever known. The leopard’s four heads represent the four divisions of Greece.



50

(Text: Daniel 8:22)

“Four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation.” Daniel 8:22.

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51

History tells us the Grecian Empire did indeed divide into four parts.

Alexander died at the age of thirty-two, just seven years after his great victory at Arbela.

Even before he was buried, a power struggle began, first among his relatives and later among his military leaders. Finally, four of Alexander's generals gained control of the empire.



52

(Video: 9 sec) Now the leopard beast, or Greece, had four heads!

Cassander, Lysimachus Ptolemy, and Seleucus.



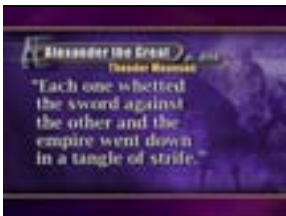
53

Most people have trouble keeping one head going in the right direction.

What do you suppose would happen if you had four? Chaos!

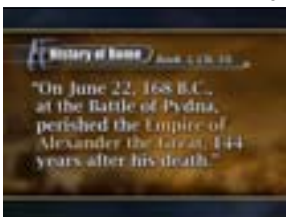
Each head trying to be number one!

That's exactly what happened to the Greek Empire, Alexander's four generals were greedy, ambitious men who wanted to rule the empire.



54

"Each one whetted the sword against the other and the empire went down in a tangle of strife."- Alexander the Great, p. 494.



55

The unrest and strife continued among the four parts of the empire till finally, "on June 22, 168 B.C., at the Battle of Pydna, perished the Empire of Alexander the Great, 144 years after his death." -History of Rome, book 3, chapter 10.



56

But what about the fourth ferocious beast that Daniel said would rise to power after the Greek Empire?



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57

The angel told Daniel that this fourth kingdom would be different from the other kingdoms.  
The beast representing it was extremely powerful, and it had enormous iron teeth that destroyed its prey.  
Here is pictured a cruel, vicious power.



58

A more fitting description of the rise of the Roman Empire could hardly be found.



59

Rome was more ruthless and brutal than all the previous empires.  
They even destroyed whole nations or sold their people into slavery.



60

(Video: 4 sec) This terrifying beast had iron teeth, while the fourth kingdom in the metal image was represented by iron legs.  
Daniel was intrigued by this terrible beast, and especially by its ten horns.



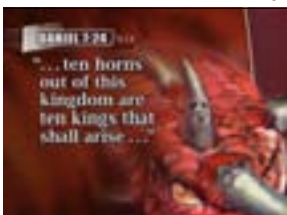
61

(Text: Daniel 7:8)  
He said, "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn,



62

before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots..." Daniel 7:8 KJV.



63

(Text: Daniel 7:24)  
The angel told Daniel that "ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise." Daniel 7:24.



64

(Video: 4 sec) No doubt Daniel's mind flashed back to the great metal image with feet of iron and clay, representing the divisions of the Roman Empire.

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(Video 4 Secs) By 476 A.D. the barbaric tribes of northern Europe had largely destroyed the Roman empire. Seven of these kingdoms (nations) are still in Europe today.

65



But what interested Daniel most was the little horn that pushed itself up among the ten horns, uprooting three horns in its struggle for supremacy.

66



(Text: Daniel 7:8)  
Daniel noticed that  
"in this [little] horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." Daniel 7:8.

67



This little horn troubled Daniel.

68



(Text: Daniel 7:15)  
He wrote, "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit, . . . and the visions of my head troubled me." Daniel 7:15.

69



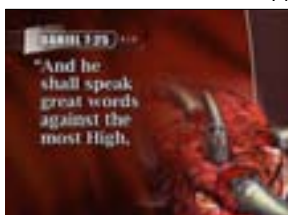
Why did this description of the little horn cause Daniel such concern?

70



(Text: Daniel 7:21, 25)  
Because "the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them."

71



"And he shall speak great words against the most High,

72

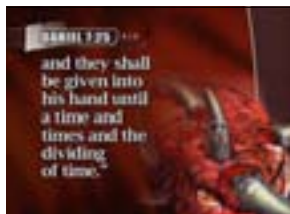
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73

and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws:



74

and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”  
Daniel 7:21, 25.



75

Daniel recognized that this prediction was no longer just about secular history, but that it had to do with God’s people.



76

This little horn made war against the saints of God and actually prevailed against them for a period of time. Obviously, it was to be a hostile, persecuting power—a power or agency used by Satan to make war against God, His people, and His truth.



77

(Text: Daniel 7:28)  
Daniel said,  
“I . . . was deeply troubled by my thoughts,



78

and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”  
Daniel 7:28, NIV.



79

Who is this “little horn”?



80

Let’s examine the Bible’s description of this little horn and see what history records concerning its fulfillment.  
Daniel described the fourth beast, or the fourth world empire of Rome, as

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81

(Text: Daniel 7:7)

**"...dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; . . . and it had ten horns." Daniel 7:7.**



82

(Text: Daniel 7:24)

**Daniel 7:24 tells us that the ten horns represented "ten kings that shall arise."**



83

**Instead of another world empire appearing on the scene of history at the fall of the fourth one, prophecy predicted that there would be a division of the Roman Empire, resulting in ten lesser kingdoms.**

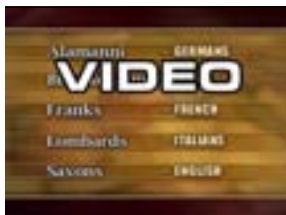
**History confirms that portion of Daniel's prophecy.**



84

**Historians tell us that the division of Rome was completed by A.D. 476.**

**According to the English historian, Edward Elliott, in his book Horae Apocalypticae, the following barbaric tribes over-ran the Roman Empire from A.D. 351-476.**



85

**(Video: 20 sec) The following list gives the names of the Germanic tribes and their modern counterpart today:**

**Alamanni — Germans**

**Burgundians — Swiss**

**Franks — French**

**Lombards — Italians**

**Saxons — English**

**Suevi — Portuguese**

**Visigoths — Spanish**

**Heruli — Extinct**

**Ostrogoths — Extinct**

**Vandals — Extinct**



86

**These are the ten horns of the fourth beast that Daniel saw. And according to the prophecy, the little horn was to rise to great power after the ten horns, or divisions of the Roman Empire.**



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87

(Text: Daniel 7:24)

**"The ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise:**



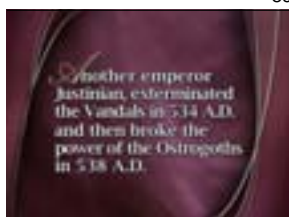
88

**and another shall rise after them...and he shall subdue three kings."**  
**Daniel 7:24.**



89

**In A.D. 493, the Heruli met their fate with the help of the Emperor Zeno.**



90

**Another emperor, Justinian, exterminated the Vandals in 534 and then broke the power of the Ostrogoths in 538.**



91

**Thus, the three horns of Daniel's prophecy were "plucked up by the roots," making the rise of the church at Rome a reality.**



92

**It was at this time that Justinian made a decree establishing the bishop, or pope, of Rome as the religious leader of Western Rome.**

**Daniel also predicted that the little horn would be different from the other kingdoms:**



93

(Text: Daniel 7:24)

**"...He shall be diverse from the first"**

**Daniel 7:24. Was this beast different? Indeed it was!**



94

**The other kingdoms were political powers, but the little horn was a church that wielded political power.**

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95

The prophetic finger would seem to point unerringly toward the Roman Church of the Middle Ages as the little horn of Daniel 7, just as the Protestant Reformers claimed. Daniel gave another identifying characteristic of this little horn power:



96

(Text: Daniel 7:21)

“I beheld and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them.”  
Daniel 7:21.



97

(Text: Daniel 7:25)

He also said that this power would “...wear out the saints...”  
Verse 25.



98

Did the church of the Middle Ages engage in persecution?  
Unfortunately, yes!

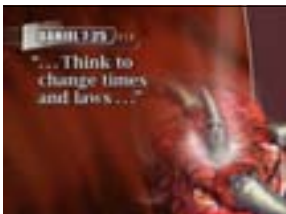
The Inquisition, the holy crusades, the Huguenots, Waldenses, and the Albigenses, the Thirty Year's War, the rack, the dungeon,



99

the flames from martyrs burned at the stake-all are historically linked to the church during the dark centuries of its supremacy.

But we find that there is yet another very important distinguishing characteristic of this little horn power.



100

(Text: Daniel 7:25)

The prophecy predicted that it would “...think to change times and laws...” Daniel 7:25.

Did the papal power in the Middle Ages attempt to change God's divine law?



101

Yes it claims it changed the Sabbath, appealing primarily to tradition, from Saturday to Sunday.



102

The last characteristic that we will study pinpoints when this power would be supreme and the length of time it would persecute the saints of God:

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103

(Text: Daniel 7:25)

**“And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.” Daniel 7:25.**

**Here we find more Bible symbols.**



104

**(Video: 10 sec) The term time signifies one year-and the term times signifies two years, or 720 prophetic days.**

**A “dividing of time” would be half a year, or 180 days.**

**When we add a time (360 days), times (720 days), and the dividing of time (180 days), we arrive at a total of 1,260 prophetic days, or years.**



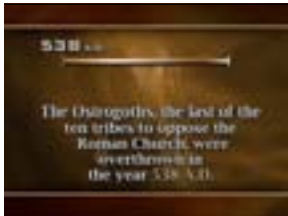
105

(Text: Ezekiel 4:6)

**According to Ezekiel, a prophetic day signifies one year. “I have appointed thee each day for a year.” Ezekiel 4:6, KJV.**

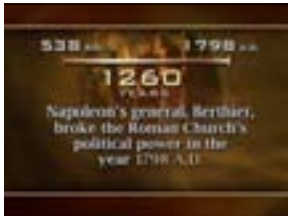
**The little horn power was to be supreme for 1,260 years!**

**History confirms the accuracy of this time period.**



106

**The Ostrogoths, the last of the ten tribes to oppose the Roman Church, were overthrown in the year A.D. 538, leaving the Roman church free to develop her political and ecclesiastical power.**



107

**Exactly 1,260 years later, in 1798, the Roman Church’s political power was broken by Napoleon’s general, Berthier.**



108

**As we have studied the prophecy of Daniel 7 and the little horn that came up out of the head of the fourth beast, we have discovered the following identity points that prove what this power is. Lets take a look at these points.**



109

**1. This little horn would come up in Western Europe among the ten kingdoms which had come out of the breakup of Rome. Daniel 7:8.**



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110

2. In its rise to power the Little Horn uprooted three of the former kingdoms. These three kingdoms were the Heruli, Ostrogoths, and the Vandals. These three nations were Arian in their belief and refused to accept the pope as the head of the church. Daniel 7:8



111

3. The prophecy says that this Little Horn would come up among the other horns after they were established. Daniel 7:20. This means that this kingdom would be established after 476 A.D.



112

4. This power would be different from the other kingdoms. It was both a political and religious kingdom. Daniel 7:24.



113

(Text: Daniel 7:21,25)

5. The Little Horn would persecute or “wear out” the saints. “I beheld in the same horn made war with the saints and prevailed against them”. Daniel 7:21,25.



114

(Text: Daniel 7:25)

6. This power would “think to change times and laws.” In other words this church would suppose itself able to change God’s times and His commandments. Daniel 7:25.



115

(Text: Daniel 7:25)

7. The prophecy points out that this power would rule supreme for a period of 1260 years. For the Bible says: “And they shall be given into his hands until time and times and the dividing of time.” Daniel 7:25.



116

You can see by this prophecy that there is only one power in the world that arose at the right time in the right place to fulfill all of these points. This is the Roman Church.



117

Now, let’s leap ahead to the climax of Daniel’s great prophecy, for it has a very happy ending for the people of God.



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118

In vision, as Daniel watched the powers on earth struggle to grasp political and religious dominance,



119

his attention was suddenly shifted from earth to heaven.



120

(Text: Daniel 7:9, 10)

“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated;



121

His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool.



122

His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire;



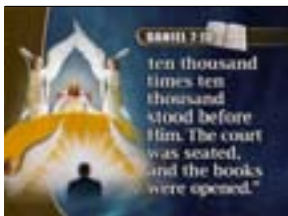
123

a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him.



124

A thousand thousands ministered to Him;



125

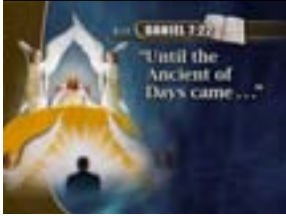
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:9, 10.

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126

Daniel saw God the Father, here called the Ancient of Days, come and sit upon a glorious throne.



127

(Text: Daniel 7:22)

Notice how Daniel describes this event: "Until the Ancient of Days came..." Daniel 7:22.

Now the court is ready for the judgment to begin.



128

(Text: Daniel 7:10)

"...the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:10.

Daniel was shown the judgment in heaven, with God judging the little horn power that made war against the saints.

Daniel also saw the outcome of this judgment:



129

(Text: Daniel 7:26)

"But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion,



130

to consume and to destroy it unto the end." Daniel 7:26.



131

Then Daniel saw something very special, very beautiful, happen after the Father was seated and the judgment was ready to begin:



132

(Text: Daniel 7:13)

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven,

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133

and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him.” Daniel 7:13.



134

Who is this distinguished Person called “the Son of man” who was presented before the Eternal Judge?



135

Jesus applied this term to Himself more than forty times in the New Testament.  
To His astonished disciples,



136

(Text: Matthew 17:22, 23)

He said, “...The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:



137

and they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again.”

Matthew 17:22, 23.

Of Judas, the traitor disciple, Jesus asked,



138

(Text: Luke 22:48)

“...Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” Luke 22:48, NIV.

But the most significant statement was directed to the high priest who sat in judgment at Christ’s trial:



139

(Text: Matthew 26:64)

“Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power,



140

and coming in the clouds of heaven.”  
Matthew 26:64.

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Here Jesus unmistakably identifies Himself as the Son of Man whom Daniel saw in his vision—the One who “came with the clouds of heaven.”



141

Christ comes to the judgment to represent all sinners who have accepted Him as their Advocate or Mediator. As our lawyer in that court, He has never lost a case! The text says that the books are opened.



142

(Text: Daniel 7:10)  
“The court was seated, and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:10, last part.



143

The books will contain every act in our lives whether they’re evil or good. They also record the opportunities that God has given us and the way we’ve responded to those opportunities.



144

If we have accepted Christ as our Savior and Lord, then when our case comes up before God, Christ steps forth and declares that He is our Savior and that His death has taken care of every sin that we have committed!



145

In that day in the records of heaven, His sinless life takes the place of the sinful life we have lived, and the only thing that the Father sees as He looks at our record is the sinless life of Christ that has been credited to our record.



146

We will have eternal life, not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done on the cross for us.

Perhaps Daniel became so interested in the Little Horn and what would finally become of it that he just leaped ahead and gave the complete story of its career, which actually takes place after the pre-advent judgement,



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147

when the affairs on earth are scrutinized and the decision made as to those who will make up God's everlasting kingdom. The kingdom was given to Christ and His dominion:



148

(Text: Daniel 7:14)

"There was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom,



149

that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him:



150

His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away,



151

and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."  
Daniel 7:14.

Daniel goes on with more good news about this kingdom:



152

(Text: Daniel 7:27)

"...The kingdom and dominion... shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High."

Daniel 7:27.

God's people, His saints, will be joint heirs with Christ in taking possession of that everlasting kingdom:



153

(Text: Daniel 7:18)

"...The saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever." Daniel 7:18.

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154

**This part of the prophecy parallels the rock in Nebuchadnezzar's dream that was cut out without hands and smote the image on the feet and became**



155

**(Text: Daniel 2:35)**

**"...the stone...became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Daniel 2:35.**

**In these two parallel prophecies—  
Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great image and**



156

**Daniel's dream of the beasts—God summarized earth's history from the time of ancient Babylon to the great day when Jesus comes in the clouds of glory to set up His everlasting kingdom of love and righteousness.**



157

**We today are living down in the time of the feet of iron and clay.  
Time is running out for the earth and its inhabitants!  
This is the message that God is trying to share with each of us by His great prophecies.**



158

**What a remarkable way to predict centuries of world history in but two short chapters of the Bible!**

**And come to think about it, wasn't the dream given to Daniel that night so long ago in Babylon a tremendous expression of God's love and concern for His people on earth?**



159

**You see, Jerusalem was in ruins.  
God's people, Israel, were in captivity in Babylon.  
Things looked pretty grim.  
But God, in this most unusual way, was telling Daniel, "I'm still in control."**



160

**Kings may come and kings may go.  
Empires will rise and fall, but I have not forgotten My children on earth or My plan for them.  
Someday everything will come out right."**

# 17 - HOW TO SPOT A FAKE

**And friend, kings and kingdoms have come and gone.  
The dual prophecies of the image and the beasts have almost  
reached their complete fulfillment.**

**Jesus is soon coming to execute judgment and to restore the  
dominion lost by Adam and Eve so long ago.**



161

**He wants all of His children on Planet Earth to be a part of  
that kingdom, to be ready for that glorious moment when our  
Savior returns!  
For in that glorious day we shall behold Him-Our Savior and  
Lord!**