

BOOK OF REVELATION

Part 20 – Third Parenthesis: The Beast, The False Prophet, and the Mark of the Beast – Part 1: Chapter 13

I. INTRODUCTION

REVIEW: We are still at the middle of the Tribulation. So far in the Tribulation we have witnessed the Seal judgments in Chapter 6, the first parenthetical passage where the 144,000 witnesses are sealed in Chapter 7, and the trumpet judgments in Chapters 8 and 9. The second parenthetical passage began in Chapter 10 and goes through Chapter 11 verse 14. Chapter 10 shows us where the Lord Jesus Christ makes an appearance on earth with a message from God and with a little book for the Apostle John to consume and with that consumption teaches the Apostle John a lesson as well. Chapter 11 dealt with the death of the two witnesses and their subsequent resurrection and ascension back into heaven, the seventh and final trumpet sounding. Chapter 12 dealt with the woman, the nation of Israel, giving birth to the man child, the Lord Jesus Christ and his ascension into heaven, the war in heaven between God and Satan and Satan's defeat and being cast down to the earth. Then we saw lastly, Satan going after the nation of Israel and the Tribulation Saints helping to protect her from persecution and destruction.

REVIEW OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE TRIBULATION PERIOD: The middle of the tribulation time period commences with the following sequence of events most likely in the following sequence:

- (1) After trumpet judgment number six, the war in heaven (Chapter 12), and the subsequent loss of the war by Satan and demonic forces and expulsion out of heaven, which we will study in this lesson.
- (2) After Satan arrives back on earth, he resurrects the body of the Antichrist and indwells it which we will study in Chapter 13.
- (3) Then the resurrected Antichrist, animated by Satan, overcomes and kills the two witnesses and the seventh trumpet judgment following their ascension back into heaven. The end of their ministry is the middle of the tribulation.
- (4) Then the Antichrist will break the treaty with Israel and defiles the rebuilt Jewish temple by entering it and sets up an image of himself and demands worship. This is Abomination Of Desolation spoken of in Daniel 9 and Matthew 24.
- (5) The False Prophet comes on the scene, gives life unto the image of the Beast, and leads the world in worship of the Beast. We will study this in the latter half of Chapter 13.
- (6) Then the Antichrist will persecute and kill many of the Jewish people. We will study this in Chapter 12.
- (7) Institution of the Mark Of The Beast which without no one on earth can buy or sell. We will study this at the end of Chapter 13.

II. EXEGESIS - The Beast and False Prophet and the Mark of the Beast

A. VERSES 1-2: THE BEAST (ANTICHRIST) INTRODUCED

*VERSE 1: "And I stood upon the sand of the sea,
and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns,
and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."*

In Chapter 12, we witnessed the dragon, Satan, losing the war in heaven with God and being cast out of heaven, for the final time. Being very angry, the dragon pursues the woman, the nation of Israel, into the wilderness. However God protects her by bringing her in a place of prepared hiding and by sending her help to thwart the next attack of Satan. Satan then carries out a war of attrition against the nation of Israel, while they are in exile.

Now we see the vision changes direction. The sea here once again represents a large number or people. Verses 1 and 2 describe to us the first 3 ½ years of the rule of the Antichrist. The Antichrist at this time is a man, influenced by the dragon, Satan himself, conquers most of the known world, without violence. The reference "seven heads" could represent the seven hills that surround the city of Rome. The reference "ten horns" is a reference to the kingdom of the Antichrist that arose in Chapter 6 during the First Seal judgment. The horns represent ten distinct kingdoms or regions of the kingdom of the Antichrist. The crowns upon each of these horns is representative of each of these ten kingdoms or regions having their own ruler, under the authority of the Antichrist. As we study this chapter, we will pause and do several mini-studies of portions of the book of Daniel and see how those prophecies relate directly to this chapter.

*** DANIEL 2: IMAGE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR ***

Let us look at the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, interpreted by the prophet Daniel. It is very relevant to the events here in Chapter 13. The image is described in verses 31-35 and the interpretation is given in verses 36-45

Daniel 2:31-35: "(31) Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. (32) This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, (33) His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. (34) Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. (35) Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

(37) Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. (38) And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

"Head Was of Fine Gold" is representative of the Babylonian Empire. Babylon was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and the empire was glamorous to look upon. This is perfectly represented by the expression "strength and glory".

(39) And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee,..."

"His Breasts and His Arms of Silver" is representative of the Medo-Persian Empire of the Medes and the Persians, that overran the Babylonian Empire. We see in Daniel 6 where Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians as God's punishment for desecrating the Jewish temple vessels.

(39) "And another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth."

"His Belly and His Thighs of Brass" is representative of the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great. Alexander conquered much of the known world at that time with great speed. This is referred to in Daniel 7, which we will study shortly.

(40) "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise."

"His Legs of Iron" is representative of the Roman Empire was the longest lasting of the empires described here. It lasted for five centuries and has never completely died out. After their empire split upon the death of the Roman Emperor Theodosius I, in 395 A.D., the Western half was ruled from Rome and the Eastern half from Constantinople, which is today the city of Istanbul in modern Turkey. The Western Roman Empire was overrun by the barbarian tribes out of central Europe and Rome fell in 476 A.D., with the end of the Western half in 480 A.D. The Eastern half survived and was known as the Byzantine Empire and lasted until 1453 A.D., when it was overrun by the Ottoman Turk Empire.

(41) And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. (42) And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. (43) And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

“His Feet Part of Iron and Part of Clay” are the surviving vestiges of the Roman Empire that exist until the current day. Although the Western and Eastern Roman Empire no longer exist as they were once constituted, they still are present on earth today in a few surviving vestiges. The expression in verses :

- **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH:** The Western half of the Empire survives this day through the Roman Catholic Church. The word “Catholic” means “universal”. Why do they go by the name Roman? The Roman Catholic Church is ruled by a succession of Popes going all the way back to @480 A.D. The real start of the Roman Catholic Church was in @325 A.D., during the rule of the Roman Emperor Constantine, at the time of the Council of Nicea. The Roman Catholic Church claims the the Apostle Peter was the first Pope but this is not supported by the scripture and not verifiable by history. The Pope is considered to be “Vicar of Christ” or in the place of the Lord Jesus Christ, and speaks “ex cathedra” or in essence from the seat of the Apostle Peter, and therefore with the authority of an Apostle.
- **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (CONTINUED):** The succession of Popes began around the time of the fall of Rome in 476 A.D., and exercised a great amount of political power over the areas of the former Western Roman Empire and this continued throughout the middle ages and even into the era of the reformation. Although that political power is now diminished, the Roman Catholic Church is the only “church” on earth to be classified as a nation-state. They even send and receive ambassadors to the United States and the United Nations. They sway political influence still but it is not militarily strong. We see this pictured by the toes in the image of Daniel of iron and clay mixed. This is what is pictured in the toes of the images of iron and clay.
- **HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE:** The Holy Roman Empire existed from @800 – 1806 A.D., in central Europe. It's first ruler, Charlemagne was crowned by the Pope Leo II in 800 A.D. At times it was more an empire and at times a loose association of smaller empires whose leaders were coronated by the Pope until the 16th century. The Holy Roman Empire is well described as being partially strong but never had the strength of the old Roman Empire. but was not “officially” brought to an end until @1806 A.D. by Napoleon. This empire is perfectly described with the phrases in Daniel 2:43-44
- **GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH:** The Eastern half of the Roman Empire is still existent to an extent in the Greek Orthodox Church. The Eastern Roman Empire became known as the Byzantine empire as the original name of Constantinople was Byzantium and they followed more of the pattern of the Greek culture. Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, the Greek Orthodox Church does not have a head called the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, he does not rule over all 15 of the different regional hierarchical Greek Orthodox Churches.

(44) And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. (45) Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

The "Stone Made Without Hands" is a reference to the eternal existence of the Lord Jesus Christ. He even refers to himself as a large rock in Matthew 16:18. He distinguishes himself from Peter by referring to Peter, which in the original language means "a small rock" but refers to Himself as a large boulder. This "stone" will smash the entire image into pieces and then the wind will carry them away like chaff. Chaff is the left overs after wheat is processed and is worthless after the wheat is sifted.

Matthew 16:18: And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The "Great Mountain And Filled The Whole Earth", is a reference to the Millennial Kingdom as described in Revelation 20 and will not end there but continue with the New Heaven and the New Earth in Revelation 21 and 22. This is the "kingdom that will never be destroyed.

VERSE 2: "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Notice that this beast is what appears to be an amalgamation of several different creatures. However if you are aware of the vision that Daniel was given in Daniel 7-9, it makes a lot of sense to the Bible student once the visions of Daniel are studied.

***** DANIEL 7: DREAM AND VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS *****

Let us now do a study of the vision that the prophet Daniel had of the four beasts. We will study some of the details now and then we will make reference back to these passages as we study the remainder of Revelation 13.

Daniel 7:1-8: "(1) In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. (2) Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. (3) And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. (4) The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. (5) And behold another beast, a second,

like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. (6) After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. (7) After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. (8) I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. (9) I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. (10) A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. (11) I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. (12) As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. (13) I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. (14) And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

Now let us break down and describe the beasts one at a time:

“(4) The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.”

This first beast is representative once again of the Babylonian empire and is comparable to the head of Gold in Nebuchadnezzar's image of Daniel 2: Notice that the first beast had its “wings plucked”. This is most likely a reference to the humbling by God of King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:30-34, when he bragged and did not acknowledge the supremacy of God, that God allowed him to go insane and be as a wild beast of the field for seven years. Then when God restored his sanity, he gave glory to God for his restoration. This restoration is seen in the expression, “and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.”

Daniel 4:30 -34 “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? (31) While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. (32) And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

(33) The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. (34) And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:"

Now let us examine in detail the first part of the dream and vision of the four beast:

"(5) And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh."

The second beast, like unto a bear, is representative of the Medo-Persian empire that overran the Babylonian Empire and is comparable to the breasts and arms of silver in Nebuchadnezzar's image of Daniel 2. The Medo-Persian empire consisted of the Medes and the Persians, two distinct ethnic groups of people. The expression "it raised itself up on one side", is a reference to the empire, at first being more dominated by the Medes but as time went on was to become dominated by the Persians. In history it is referred to as the Persian empire due to his later dominance, particularly under Cyrus the Great. It was the largest empire in the world that had existed up to that time. The expression "three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it" refers to the three empires that Medo-Persia overran: (1) Babylon – to the north and the largest, (2) Egypt – to the south, and (3) Lydia – to the west. The expression "devour much flesh" is a reference to the massive amount of territory conquered by the Medes and the Persians.

(6) After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

The third beast, like unto a leopard, is representative of the Greek empire of Alexander the Great and is comparable to the belly and thighs of brass in Nebuchadnezzar's image of Daniel 2. The expression "upon the back of it four wings of a fowl" is a reference to the speed at which it overran the Medo-Persian empire, and it was even larger than the Medo-Persian empire. It went further to the east. The number of the wings, four, is representative of the four parts of Alexander's empire: (1) Macedonia, (2), (3), and (4). When Alexander died, the empire was split into its four regions led by one of Alexander's generals.

(7) After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

The fourth beast, which was diverse or different from all the beast before, is representative of the Roman Empire. Notice the expression, "it had great iron teeth" a reference to its strength and durability. The expression, "it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it:" is a reference to how it conquered the Greek empire of Alexander the Great's four successors.

It not only overran these empires but broke them completely and made them all Roman and did not leave any vestiges of the previous empires before it. Notice that you see a reference to "ten horns". This is comparable to the ten toes of iron and clay mixed in Nebuchadnezzar's image of Daniel 2. The kingdom of the Antichrist will be composed on ten kingdoms, regions, or province if you please. Daniel 7:17 gives the interpretation of this passage, the four beasts each representing a separate kingdom.

Daniel 7:17-18 "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. (18) But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. "

But then we see that this kingdom will be destroyed and will be replaced by a kingdom rules by the saints. This is fulfilled in Revelation 19 and 20, when the Lord Jesus Christ will come again destroy the kingdom of the Antichrist and will establish the Millennial Kingdom and the saints will rule with the Lord Jesus Christ for 1000 years. This rule will continue in the New Heaven and the New Earth in Revelation 21 and 22.

Revelation 20:4 "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 22:3-5: "(3) And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: (4) And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. (5) And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

(8) I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This is referring to arising of the Antichrist at the beginning of the Tribulation. The latter part of this verse is repeated in verse 5, which we will discuss in detail shortly.

(9) I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

We see here a beautiful description of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is paralleled in Revelation 1: 13-15

Revelation 1:13-15: "(13) And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. (14) His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; (15) And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

(10) A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

The “Ancient of Days” will rule the earth for 1000 years and or all eternity. The saints will serve him forever. Then He will judge at the Great White Throne of Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15. The phrase “10,000 times 10,000” is an expression meaning a large group of people almost too large to be numbered.

Revelation 20:11-13: “(11) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works

(11) I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

The Antichrist, the little horn that spake, will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ in the Battle of Armageddon in Revelation 19:20:

Revelation 19:20 “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

(12) As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

This verse moves back in time from verse 11 and refers to the fact that when the Roman Empire overcame all the other empires that the peoples of the territories conquered by the Roman Empire were allowed to continue to live and even keep some of their culture and traditions but their political authority was completely dominated by Rome.

(13) I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. (14) And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

We see here that the prophet Daniel tells another of another dream or separate vision. We now see where the Lord Jesus Christ receives the dominion of the earth through the seven sealed scroll, which contains the judgments of the Tribulation. He is worshiped upon receiving the scroll. His kingdom will begin in the Millennial Kingdom and continue with the New Heaven and the New Earth as described in Revelation 20-22.

Revelation 5:7-10 “(7) And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. (8) And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. (9) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (10) And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 21:1-2: (1) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. (2) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 22:3-5: (3) And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: (4) And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. (5) And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

In verse 15, Daniel was confused by the vision he had seen and what these things meant. Then one of God's messengers, probably an angel, made known to him the interpretation.

(17) These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. (18) But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Daniel, no doubt curious to know more details, asked for a more detailed explanation in verse 19. The messenger accepts his requests and proceeds to give him details of the interpretation. First he gives the summary and then the details. First let us read the summary:

Daniel 7:20-24 “(20) And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. (21) I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; (22) Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.”

Then the messenger describes the same events again but even gives more detail.

(23) Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. (24) And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. (25) And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. (26) But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. (27) 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.

We will handle these verses chronologically, being they do not happen in chronological order. Some prophecies in the scripture, are given but not necessarily in chronological order:

- Verse 23 describes for us again the Roman Empire. It overcame all kingdoms that preceded it and was larger than any empire that preceded it and lasted for approximately five centuries.
 - Verses 20 and 24 describe for us what we saw in verse 1. Notice three of the ten horns, are plucked up. This is a reference to the fallen kingdoms that preceded the Roman Empire: Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. This description would lead one to the conclusion that three of the ten kingdoms are composed of territory from these three empires. These events no doubt occur in the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation, as the kingdom of the Antichrist and the ten kingdoms, regions, or provinces it is composed up come into power.
 - Verses 25 describe the rule of the Antichrist, after his body is resurrected from the dead and indwelt by Satan. We will connect this further in the upcoming verses. The Antichrist, now Satan indwelt will change holiday and seasons that have been accepted around the world for a long time. It will be a kind of perversion that we cannot even imagine.
 - Verses 18, 22, and 26 through 28. gives in expanding detail the Millennial Kingdom and the New Heaven and New Earth described in great detail in Revelation 20-22.
-

***** DANIEL 11:36-45: THE KING OF THE NORTH *****

Let us now do a study of the vision that the prophet Daniel had of the King Of The North in Daniel 11 verses 36-45. We will study some of the details now and then we will make reference back to these passages as we study the remainder of Revelation 13. This is the last passage in the book of Daniel that discusses the Antichrist. Chapter 11 is divided into the following sections:

- Daniel 11:2 Medo-Persian Empire
- Daniel 11:3-4 Greek Empire of Alexander's the Great
- Daniel 11:5-20 Wars between two of the divisions of Alexander's Empire Egypt and Syria.
- Daniel 11:21-35 Rise and rule of Antiochus Epiphanies. The prophecy here does not refer to Antichrist but the picture of Antichrist.
- Daniel 11:36-45 Rise and rule of the Antichrist in the Tribulation.

Verses 21 through 35 deal with the forerunner or picture of the Antichrist. This was fulfilled by the vicious rule of Antiochus (IV) Epiphanies, king of Syria, one of our four divisions of the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great, in 168-167 B.C. This is also discussed in parts of Daniel 8 as well. We see the rule of Antiochus's Epiphanies described in the following verses:

- Verses 21-24: Obtained the kingdom by flatteries. He did not kill his successor but simply overthrew him with the assistance of others whom he "flattered".
- Verses 25-28: First attack and invasion of Egypt – successful but short in duration.
- Verses 29-30: Second attack upon Egypt – not as successful but turned back.
- Verses 31-35: Persecution of the Jews and abomination that made desolate – Antiochus Epiphanies had many of the Jews killed. He defiles the Jewish temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar, which was an unclean animal according to the Old Testament law. He also placed an image of the Greek god Zeus in the temple as well. This was an abomination and caused worship in the Jewish temple to cease. A certain sect of the Jews even sided with Antiochus Epiphanies. But the Maccabees overthrew the rule of Antiochus Epiphanies. This is remembered today by the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah.

However the "abomination that maketh desolate" in verse 31 should not be confused with the Abomination of Desolation in Daniel 9. The Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24 referred to the Abomination of Desolation as a person and standing in the Holy Place. That is not pictured in this passage. So this passage does not refer to the Antichrist, but his forerunner, Antiochus Epiphanies. The passage here completely matches the rule of Antiochus Epiphanies. The prophecy does not completely match the prophecies of the Antichrist in Daniel 7 or Revelation 13, nor does this king commit the abominations that the real Antichrist will commit. This King Of The North is not the Antichrist but a picture of the Antichrist and fulfilled in 167 B.C. By Antiochus (IV) Epiphanies

Now that we understand the context of Daniel 11, let us now get into a brief study of the King Of The North in the latter verses in Daniel 11:

***Daniel 11:36-45: “(36) And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. (37) Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. (38) But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. (39) Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain. (40) And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. (41) He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. (42) He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. (43) But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. (44) But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. (45) And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.*”**

Let us now study the details of the passage of this King Of The North:

***(36) And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. (37) Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.*”**

This is a different King than the one described in verses 21-35. How do we know this? This King will demand worship of himself and the King in verses 21-35 did not demand worship of himself. The passage is talking about the Antichrist in the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, after he is killed and his dead body is resurrected by Satan. The Antichrist will exalt himself above all other god's including the one true God of heaven, the Godhead. The Antichrist will speak marvelous things which the whole world will marvel afterward. This parallels the passages of Daniel 9 and Revelation 13. The Antichrist will prosper until God ends his rule with the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in Revelation 19. The Antichrist will not regard the God of his ancestors, leading one to believe that the ancestry of the Antichrist, being born originally as a man, may have had a fear of God or were indeed true believers in God. The Antichrist, being he is Satan animated only, will not have the natural desire for a woman. Angels, including fallen angels, have no desire for a mate. The Lord Jesus Christ stated in Matthew 22 that the believe in heaven will not be in a marriage but as the angels of God.

***Matthew 22:30 “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”*”**

The Antichrist, after he is killed and his dead body is resurrected by Satan will not have a natural desire for a woman. This verse is more evidence of the Antichrist being Satan animated in the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

(38) But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. (39) Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

The Antichrist, unknowingly, through his actions on earth will give the glory to God anyhow. His iniquity is all being allowed by the perfect plan of God just as God received glory by the iniquity of Pharaoh. In the book of Exodus, we see where God declared that He would receive honor from the iniquity of Pharaoh: pursuit of the children of Israel after they departed Egypt.

Exodus 14:17 “And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.”

The Antichrist will honor and exalt himself as a god. This was a “god” whom his ancestors did not know. This god is Satan himself. He will cause the world to worship Satan, who is animating the Antichrist.

The strongholds mentioned in verse 39 could be a reference to the Ten Kingdoms mentioned in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. These Ten Kingdoms, under the rule of the Antichrist will rule most of the known world.

(40) And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. (41) He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. (42) He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. (43) But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. (44) But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

This is describing a possible uprising against the Antichrist in the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation led by two strong leaders. However this uprising will not be successful and he will put it down as God has given. We are not certain as to the exact timing of this uprising but it will come and the Antichrist will defeat it, all according to God's plan. He will control the riches of the known world including these kingdoms as well. He will even go after the north and east afterwards over rumors of insurrection against his rule and destroy many more.

(45) And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

The Antichrist will have his capital somewhere in the middle east. Most likely it will be Jerusalem. Jerusalem sits on Mount Moriah. Jerusalem is between the the Mediterranean Sea and the Arabian Sea.

However, the rule of the Antichrist will only be for 7 years total and will come to an end in Revelation 19 with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will destroy him and his vast army with the sword that comes out of His mouth. He will destroy him with the words He speaks. No one will be able to help the Antichrist avoid his fate: eternity in the lake of fire.

**NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S IMAGE AND ITS INTERPRETATION
DANIEL 2:31-25, 36-45**

PART OF DREAM Verses 31-35	WHAT IT REPRESENTS Verses 36-45
Head of Gold	Babylonian Empire: @626 - 539 B.C. Conquered by the Medes and the Persians, the Medo-Persian Empire
Chest and Arms of Silver	Medo-Persian Empire: @550 – 330 B.C. Conquered by Alexander the Great.
Belly and Thighs of Brass	Greek Empire of Alexander the Great: @336 – 27 B.C. Ruled the known world at that time. When Alexander died his kingdom was divided into four kingdoms: Macedonia, Asia, Egypt, and Persia.
Legs of Iron	Roman Empire. - @ 27 B.C. - 480 A.D. The strongest and longest sting empire since time began. Began as the Roman Republic in 509 B.C., transitioned in the Roman Empire in 27 B.C. The legs representing the division of the Roman Empire in 395 A.D. The Roman Empire never completely died out and survives in vestiges.
Feet of Iron and Clay	Revived Roman Empire led by the Antichrist. It will be somewhat weak in the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation. Even in the last 3 1/2 years its power will be limited by God's will, judgments and to an extent the resistance of the Tribulation saints.
Stone made without hands	The Lord Jesus Christ. He has always existed and was never created. He is the "rock of the ages".
Great Mountain that filled the whole earth	Millenial Kingdom ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ. It will transision into the New Heaven and the New Earth. It will last forever.