

DANIEL (DARE TO BE GOD'S MESSENGER)
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SERIES: Daniel (Dare To Be God's Messenger)

TITLE: Program 26 – Understanding The Times

MONDAY

OPEN

If life is difficult beloved; hold on, hold on. It's not always going to be this way. You're not always going to be like the tail instead of the head because someday the head of all the kingdoms is coming, the Lord Jesus Christ. And when He comes He will straighten out everything. Yes, it's going to be hard and difficult before He comes, but just remember this: we always triumph through Christ Jesus our Lord.

PART ONE

As we continue in this study in Daniel, it is so important that you understand exactly what it's going to be like just before Jesus Christ comes, because I want you to understand the times. You know God does not want us to be ignorant of the times. He wants us to be alert. He wants us to know what is coming. And so as we look at the end of Daniel, chapter 7, we're literally looking at the end of the rule of all the peoples on this earth. In other words,

man's kingdoms are going to be brought to a halt, an abrupt halt, a shocking halt and the Son of Man is going to come in the clouds of glory and He is going to reign on this earth. And all nations and languages and people will be subject to Him. And the saints of the Highest One will possess the kingdom. Isn't that exciting? There is a day of victory coming beloved. It is written in the book and as it is written, so it will come to pass. You need to remember that statement: as it is written, so it will come to pass. Why? Because God watches His Word to perform it. It says in the psalms that He has exalted or magnified His Word together with His name. In other words, His Word stands because His name stands. His name stands and because His name stands His Word stands. They go together, the character of God, the person of God, the power of God, and the Word of God are one in the same. One supports the other and they're never contradictory to one another. Now we're looking at some difficult stuff. We're looking at some stuff that I'm sure that you heard other people and they will teach you prophecy and they will tell you what's going to happen and they will quote you verses and everything. And it's wonderful and it's exciting and we listen to it. And we're awed and that. But what I want us to do is I want us to see it for ourselves. You know so many times I sit there and I think I wonder if they know where that is in the Bible. I wonder, not the person speaking, obviously, but the people listening. I wonder if they know how this person came to this conclusion or why they're saying this. And so the purpose of this program is so that you, as women and men might have discernment, the discernment that comes from discovering truth for yourself, so that you can know how you can live, so that you can understand the precepts for life; because the psalmist said through Thy precepts I get understanding and I hate every false way, because it's false, because it leads people astray. So be patient with me and I'm going to show you how you can discover who these people are for yourself if you will patiently go through the Word of God. You observe; you observe; you observe. You see what does it say? What does it say? What does it say? You mark key repeated words. Then make a

list of everything that you learn about the particular word that you have marked. For instance, in your study guide you see that there's a place for you to list everything that you find out about this fourth beast. So let's go back and let's just do a little review. Now review is always good and it's always good because it's a learning tool. And when you review, if I'm reading and you have the text with you and you're able to read, read it along with me. Because as you read it, and you say it and you're hearing it, then it's going deeper and deeper. All right, now, we're looking, remember Daniel wanted to know in this dream that he had of the four beasts that come out of the sea, Daniel was particularly curious about three things. He wanted to know about the fourth beast. This is very important. He wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast. Let me read it to you because you're going to see how important it is later. It says then I desired, verse 19 of Daniel 7, to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others. Now remember, we're underlining different from all the others. It appears three times in this chapter and God is very careful to give us this clue so that we can discover something about this fourth beast and what it is that makes him different than all the others, or so that we don't think of him in the same way as we think of the first three beasts. It was different from all the others; it was exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron. Now I want you to remember it's the teeth of iron. We're starting at the head of this beast. It has teeth of iron and its claws of bronze. We go down to its fingers and feet. Which devoured, and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet. So we know that this beast, when he comes to power, does something to the kingdom of Babylon, does something to the bear, that's the lion, does something to the bear and does something to the leopard. All right, now, and he wants to know the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger than its associates. So he wants to know three things. And this is very important. He wants to know about the beast. He wants to know

the meaning of the horns and he wants to know the meaning of the little big horn that becomes larger than its associates that has these eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. He wants to know three things. And it's important that you see this because there are two conjunctions. All right, the meaning of the beast and the meaning of the horns and the other horn which came up later. All right, he says I kept looking, verse 21, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them. I want you to remember that, because we are about to go to Revelation, chapter 13 where we left off in our last program. And he overpowered them until the Ancient of Days came. In other words, he has power until God sets up His kingdom. So you know immediately that before the Ancient of Days comes, before God sets up His kingdom, there is going to be a beast with ten horns and a little big horn that is overpowering the saints until the Ancient of Days comes. So when God comes He's bringing relief to those saints, whoever they are. We'll discover that later. He's bringing relief to those saints that are being overcome by this little big horn at that time. All right now, it says then he said: The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and it will devour, now I want you to watch this, the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom. All right, so here's going to be a beast that is going to tread down the whole earth and going to crush it. All right, when you look at this whole earth it's an area. The word for whole earth is kol, k-o-l and then ara, a-r-a. In the Old Testament it usually refers to the near and Middle East. It refers to the other part of the world from where we are in the United States of America or where you are in England and in Europe. It, go over to the East, go over to Israel, go over to Iran, go over to Iraq, go up to Syria, go over to Lebanon. Go down into Egypt. Go over into Jordan. It's that area of the world that it refers to many times in the Old Testament. Now the question is: Is this beast going to have authority over only that area, when it says the whole earth and tread it down and crush it? Is it only that area or is it literally the whole earth? Well we have to wait and see. We

know how it's used in the Old Testament and that's many times, the way you interpret scripture. Scripture interprets scripture, so you look up a word; you look it up in the Hebrew or you look it up in the Greek, if it's in the New Testament. In this case, it's in Aramaic, because from Daniel 2 all the way through Daniel 7 Daniel is writing in Aramaic. Okay. And then in Daniel 8 through Daniel 12 it returns to Hebrew. So you would look up the words in the Hebrew or in the Greek. Now I have a book called *How to Study Your Bible*. This is easy to understand and a number of Bible schools use this book as one of their text books in how to study the Bible. It's not overwhelming. It's not over your head. But anyway, that book would tell you how to do a Greek study or how to do a Hebrew study. All right, now, as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom, ten kings will arise and another will arise after them; so this little horn's going to arise after them. He will be different from the previous ones and subdue three kings. He will speak out against the Most High, wear down. I want you to see all this because we're going to go immediately to Revelation 13; so you've got to see the parallels. He will speak out against the Most High, wear down the saints of the Highest One. Remember he's going to overpower them. And he will intend to make alterations in times and in law and they, the saints will be given into his hand for a time, times and half a time. And as we saw in the last program, in Jewish reckoning that's three and one half years. But the court will set for judgment; here's the good news; and his dominion will be taken away annihilated and destroyed forever. And then comes God's kingdom. Now we're going to look at Revelation 13 after we come back.

PART TWO

Now here we go beloved, it's Revelation, chapter 13, John is saying and he stood on the sand of the seashore. Now who's the he standing on the sand of the seashore? Well if we read through Revelation and we remember that originally there were no chapter divisions, it is the dragon. In verse 17 of

chapter 2 it says the dragon was enraged with the woman. The woman is a picture of Israel, the nation that brings forth the male child who is to rule over all the face of this earth. You say I don't agree with that. I think that the woman is the church. Well, did the woman bring forth a male child who was to rule over all the nations of the earth? No. Did the male child who was Jesus, bring forth the woman? Yes. We are born of God's seed, so to speak, born again into God's family. But anyway, we'll cover all that when we do Revelation. But the dragon was enraged with the woman. He's standing on the sand of the seashore. All right, now, who is this dragon? Well I told you in our last lesson; but I want you to go back. So go to Revelation, chapter 12, verse 9. And the great dragon was thrown down. See, he is defeated. All right, the serpent of old, who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. Now when he's thrown down he's kicked out of heaven. And he only has three and a half years left. Okay, and then God is really going to deal with him. And it says, the serpent of old, who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Now what is interesting is this, the rest of the world that does not believe in Jesus Christ is deceived by Satan. As Corinthians says, the god of this world has blinded their minds that they might not believe the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a kingdom of darkness. The one that rules over it is a liar. He's been a liar from the beginning. He's been a murderer from the beginning. And that's when you see him coming into the Garden of Eden and seducing Eve. All right, so Revelation 13, verse 1: He's standing on the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. All right, now remember how Daniel, chapter 7 starts, when Nebuchadnezzar has this dream in the first year of the reign of Belteshazzar, he sees the four winds of heaven moving over the sea and four beasts coming up out of that sea. Well, he says I saw the beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns. You say oh, there's a beast in Daniel, chapter 7 that has ten horns. There's a statue in Daniel 2 that has ten toes. Oh, now we're connecting the dots. And when you connect the dots in

scripture, then you get the true picture of what God is telling us. All right, and it has seven heads. You say what are the seven heads? I haven't heard that before. We're not going to go into the seven heads until we go into Revelation because it's not our point right now. And on his horns were ten diadems. Now those diadems are the crowns for kings. So these ten horns represent ten kings. Remember in Daniel, chapter 2 the statue with the ten toes, in the days of those kings, those ten toes. So we see that the ten horns are ten kings. And on his heads, on those seven heads were blasphemous names. In other words, this is a government or a kingdom that is blasphemous. I mean that does not believe in God. And it says and the beast which I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like those of a bear, his mouth like the mouth of a lion. You say, oh, yes, it's composite of the other three beasts. Because the first beast that Daniel saw in Revelation, chapter 7 was a lion. The second beast that he saw was a bear. The third beast that he saw was like a leopard. Now catch this. And the dragon gave him his authority. Now I mark all of these references to this beast the same way that I mark my references to the beast in Daniel, chapter 7. All right, because I'm going to put together a composite picture of what Daniel, chapter 7 tells me about this beast and what Revelation 13 tells me about this beast. So I have just learned where the power of this beast comes from. It comes from the dragon. And what have we seen about the dragon? We have seen that the dragon is the serpent of old. It's the devil. So the devil is empowering this beast. Okay, and it says gave him his power, his throne and his authority. You said I thought that God was in charge. How can the dragon do that? Listen, God is sovereign. Remember God rules over the army of heaven, among the inhabitants of the earth. He does according to His will. No one can ward off God's hand and no one can say to God, what doest Thou? Do you know what I'm quoting? You should know. You should have memorized it. It's Daniel 4:34 and 35. So what we see is God has allowed the dragon, Satan to give power and authority and a kingdom to this beast. And it says and the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast. Now when it says

whole earth here, does it mean just the East and, the near East and the Middle East? Well just stop and, let's put that question mark there. Many times when I have a question of interpretation, I write it on a notepad, and I keep that question there until finally I see the answer in the scripture. And it says the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast. Now why, what is one of the things that just causes the whole earth to stand in awe of this beast? Well remember in our last program we saw that there were two witnesses that were able to kill anybody that came against them, that were able to shut up the heavens so there was no rain, that were able to cause all these plagues, and no one could put them to death, and for three and a half years they have this ministry of witnessing and they were witnesses of God because they stood before the God of all the earth, Revelation, chapter 11, and we looked at it. And now only one could put those two witnesses to death and that was the beast. And when the beast put the two witnesses to death, then their bodies lay in Jerusalem for three and a half days and then all of sudden they sat up, stood up and went up and the whole world was amazed. But they were awed because only one was able to deal with these two witnesses and it was the beast. And it says in verse 5 and there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies. Now, ding: that alarm, that bell, that recognition ought to go off and you ought to say oh, I read about that in Daniel, chapter 7. Yes you did. You read about it and you might want to write it down, in Daniel, chapter 7, in verse 8, in verse 11, in verse 20 and in verse 25. Got it? Okay. So God repeats Himself, too. It was given to him, to this beast a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies and authority to act for forty-two months was given him; authority to act for forty-two months; that's three and a half years. Do you see the parallel? So this beast with these ten horns who, and this beast with ten horns had authority for three and half years. It was the little horn. Oh beloved, we're on track and we're going to see the rest of it in our next program.