

"Daniel's Vision"**Part 5****Daniel 7**

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to our study of Daniel, we are going to consider something that is NOT in Daniel's vision. In this vision he saw 4 great beasts that raised up out of the sea of humanity which references the Gentile nations. The first beast was like a lion with two wings. This was the Babylonian Empire. The second beast was like a bear raised up on one side and this was the Medo- Persian Empire. Next Daniel was shown a third beast like unto a leopard with four wings. This was the Grecian Empire. The fourth beast was so dreadful and terrible there was no animal to portray it. It had iron teeth and it had ten horns and then out of the ten horns there arose another little horn with a mouth that spoke great things. This was the Roman Empire in two parts. There was the 1st century Roman Empire that followed the Grecian Empire and there is seen here the revised Roman Empire that will exist in the Tribulation. The ten horns are ten kings, and it will be from this ten-king confederacy that the little horn/Anti-Christ will rise. Daniel then was shown a judgment set up in heaven where God the Father was seen on His throne. Judgment fell upon the fourth kingdom and its king. Daniel watched as Jesus was then given the Kingdom and the Kingdom was set up. This all brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

➤ **The Missing Event in the Vision**

Notice Daniel 7:15

Daniel was greatly troubled by the vision. We discussed earlier how the prophets were often frustrated with their prophecies because their prophecies were fragmented. They did not have the entire picture.

1 Peter 1:10-12

¹⁰ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

¹² *Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*

Notice Daniel 7:16

Daniel did exactly what we should do when we desire to know more of the Word of God. He asked if more would be given to him. God will answer this request of Daniel and God will also answer our requests to know more. God desires to give us the knowledge of His Word, but we must be willing to search the Scriptures.

Proverbs 2:3-5

³ *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

⁴ *If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

⁵ *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

Notice Daniel 7:17-18

Here we see that the 4 beasts are 4 kings that shall rise out of the earth. This means they are kings of this world. In verse 3 Daniel said they came from the sea but here we are told they came from the earth. There is no contradiction here. This simply means they are kings and kingdoms of this world. Then in verse 18 Daniel was told that the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom and possess it forever and ever. There is a great deal of information missing from these verses. There is no mention of the Church Age or the Tribulation. These verses as well as what is taught in this chapter has confused many people. There are many who believe that the next event on God's calendar is the rise of the Anti-Christ in the Tribulation.

You see, in this chapter there is no teaching of the Church Age or the Rapture. Therefore, there are those who teach that the church will go through the Tribulation. Some say the church will go through the entire 7 years and others say that the church will go through 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. But what does the Bible say? Let us consider some verses.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-11

² *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

³ *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

⁴ But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

⁷ For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

⁸ But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

⁹ For God hath not appointed **US** to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁰ Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

¹¹ Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Revelation 3:10-11

¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.**

¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 3:10 tells us that God will keep us from the hour of temptation. It does not say that He will keep us as we go **THROUGH** the Tribulation. It is very clear that the church is not appointed to wrath. But how do we know that the Tribulation is God's wrath?

Revelation 6:12-17

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

There is no mention of the church in Revelation 6-18 which covers the Tribulation period. The Tribulation period will be a time when God goes back to work with the nation of Israel. It will be the time when Israel will be greatly persecuted and eventually, they will come to faith in Jesus Christ. The Rapture is the next event on God's calendar. Right now, God is building His church and when it is complete it will be removed from this world and God will again work with Israel. The hope of the Rapture is to be a comfort for us.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The first mention of the Rapture is in John 14 and Jesus used it to comfort His disciples.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

In the New Testament the church is NEVER warned about the coming Tribulation or the wrath of God. Instead, we are warned about false teachers, we are warned about falling into sin and ungodly living, we are warned about the world, we are warned about persecution for living Godly lives, and we are warned about the chastening of God. But we are never warned about the coming Tribulation. We are NEVER told to look for the Anti-Christ, but we are told to look for our BLESSED HOPE.

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

²¹ *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

Titus 2:11-13

¹¹ *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

¹² *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

¹³ *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

In verse 13 there are two different events listed here. The Blessed Hope is the Rapture, and the Glorious Appearing is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation. There are at least 7 years between the two events. The first one takes us out of this world and the second brings us back to rule and reign with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom.

Conclusion:

I want to leave you with the meaning of "CAUGHT UP" in 1 Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

*¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

The two words "**caught up**" there in verse 17 are the English translation of the Greek word "harpazo." A Greek lexicon says this word harpazo "**caught up**" can be correctly translated as:

- to seize, carry off by force
- to seize on, claim for oneself eagerly
- to snatch out or away

This word "**harpazo**" is used 13 times in the New Testament. It's used of Philip in Acts 8:39 when Luke writes that "the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip" and brought him to another place. It's also used of Christ's ascension into Heaven in Revelation 12:5. Considering the way the word harpazo is used in the New Testament, there can be no doubt that it describes a removal of people from the earth when used here in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

So, that is what is going to happen to believers who have put their faith in Jesus Christ and who are "alive" on the earth at the time this Rapture occurs. They and maybe us, are going to escape death and be "seized," "carried off," and "caught up" "to meet the Lord in the air". How wonderful will this be to see Jesus in-person for the first time? The One who created us? The One who saved us? To finally see our Maker with our own eyes! That's going to be so amazing!