

## DANIEL: Thriving in Babylon

Lesson Eight • Daniel 7

### The Antichrist, the Ancient of Days, and the Ultimate Avenger

#### Thriving in Babylon

Thriving in the last days has as much to do with knowing **WHO YOUR GOD IS** as it does with the decisions you make.

#### Decisions and Dreams in Daniel 1-7

Decisions [1] ► Dreams [2] ► Decisions [3] ► Dreams [4-5] ► Decisions [6] ► Dreams [7]

*"By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, **but the people who know their God** will display strength and take action. Daniel 11:32*

#### See as God Sees to Thrive in the Last Days

*"I was looking ...I kept looking until...After this I kept looking...After this I kept looking...  
I kept looking until...Then I kept looking...I kept looking until...I kept looking...  
I kept looking...UNTIL..."*

### 1. See the **ADVANCE** of world history for what it really is. (2-8, 15-18)

*Similarities and Differences to Nebuchadnezzar's Dream in Daniel 2*

*Four Brutal Beasts in Daniel 7 = Four Gentile Rulers and Their Global Empires*

- ❖ God's perspective on history's advance is much more **FRIGHTENING**.
- ❖ God's perspective on history's advance is much more **REVEALING**.

### 2. See the Antichrist for **WHAT** he really is. (8, 11, 20-22, 24-26)

*Everyone wants to know **WHO** the Antichrist is but the Bible never tells us!*

*But God wants us to know **WHAT** he is really like, so we can recognize his spirit now and his presence in the future if need be!*

- ❖ The **REIGN** of the Antichrist is future.
- ❖ The **SPIRIT** of the Antichrist is present.
- ❖ The **DEFEAT** of the Antichrist is certain.

### 3. See the Ancient of Days for **WHO** He really is. (9-10, 21-22, 26-27)

The Ancient of Days is the **ETERNAL** God whose heavenly court will forever judge in favor His people.

- ❖ He is the Eternal **KING** who is large and in charge of whatever does. (9-10)
- ❖ He is the Eternal **JUDGE** who will rule in favor of His people and against the Antichrist and all like him. (10-12, 18, 22, 26-27)

### 4. See the Avenger for **WHO** He really is. (13-14)

He is a Man like us but He comes down from **HEAVEN** to reign over a kingdom filled with people from every ethnic group, nation, and language!

#### So Who Is God's Ultimate Avenger?

*The Lord Jesus Christ who was RAISED, is REIGNING, and will one day RETURN with His Kingdom!*

#### So Who Receives the Kingdom of God in the End?

*The Son of Man and all those who are NOT ASHAMED to IDENTIFY with Him and His gospel!*

#### Lessons Learned by Those Who Keep Looking to the End

- ❖ When it **looks like** proud men rule the world like ravenous beasts without any restraint...  
*Keep looking up to the Eternal God who is still large and in charge!*
- ❖ When it **looks like** history is rushing toward a destructive destiny...  
*Keep looking forward because it will get worse before it gets better but it will get better!*
- ❖ When it **looks like** God's people are being wiped off the face of the earth...  
*Keep looking to the Eternal Judge who is about to hold court and will rule in our favor!*
- ❖ When it **looks like** the Ultimate Avenger will never return...  
*Keep looking for the Son of Man who has already come once to save, but He is coming again with His Kingdom to avenge His people!*