

in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted” (Hebrews 2:11, 14-18).

Jesus is “the Son of Man” standing before God in Daniel’s judgment scene. He is identified as the *Son of Man* in the context of judgment for a good reason. It is by virtue of His humanity, and all He achieved in that humanity, that Christ is qualified to be both our advocate and our judge. Pay close attention to what Jesus said about His role in the judgment:

“For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; and hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man. I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me” (John 5:26-27, 30).

So we see, then, that God the Father is the One who possesses the ultimate power to judge us. But He has delegated the job to Jesus. All judgment has been given to the Savior. Why? “Because He is the Son of man.” Jesus is our judge because He is one of us—a brother who identifies and sympathizes with our weaknesses. Therefore He will judge with understanding and with compassion. In fact, He will acquit all who put their trust in Him:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 1:9; 2:1).

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1).

Our rightful condemnation as sinners has been absorbed by Christ. By taking our humanity as His own, He has taken all of humanity into Himself. By so doing He has chosen to take full responsibility for our sin. It is His sin, not by rightful blame, but by the choice He made to become one of the fallen race. Having taken upon Himself our human nature, He “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit” (Romans 8:3-4).

In other words, He lived a perfect, sinless life in our sinful human nature. Therefore, it can be said that *our humanity* lived a perfect, sinless life in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of man. As a real human being, He lived a truly sinless life. He wrought out a new humanity on behalf of the human race. All who choose to do so may, by faith, disassociate themselves from their old, sinful humanity and identify themselves with the victorious humanity achieved in Christ.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

After having lived a sinless life in our humanity, He took that humanity to the cross and crucified it. Because it was our humanity He possessed, it was our humanity that was crucified. The old, sinful humanity He bore was conquered once and for all. Because “One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those

who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15, NKJV).

“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:5-11, NKJV).

It is for this reason that Jesus, as the Son of man, is brought near before God in Daniel’s judgment scene. He presents His humanity, our humanity, to God. We can easily see, then, how absolutely vital it is that we put our full trust in Christ, not in any religious system that obscures Him. The whole purpose of the little horn power is to divert our hearts from the truth about Christ and draw our faith away from Him.

More Than Salvation

Certainly it would be enough for God to save us, don’t you think? The gift of eternal life is more than we could ever deserve. But when it comes to God’s grace, He is no economist, giving just enough to get us by. No! He is lavish and extravagant beyond measure. Not only will the judgment pass a verdict “in favor of the saints,” but they shall also “possess the kingdom” (Daniel 7:22, NKJV). “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” (Daniel 7:27).

To be given the kingdom, with all its dominion and its greatness under the whole heaven, means much more than merely citizenship in that glorious kingdom. We will be sharers together with Christ in governing His eternal empire. The Bible teaches that God the Father has appointed His Son “heir of all things” (Hebrews 1:2), and that we, as God’s “children” through Christ, are “joint heirs with Christ” to be “glorified together” (Romans 8:17). If Jesus has inherited all things, and if we are co-heirs with Him, then we are the inheritors with Him of all things. According to Daniel, that inheritance includes “dominion” over God’s vast kingdom “under the whole heaven.” Redeemed humanity will occupy the very highest position of trust in the universe—co-regents with Christ. Those who overcome will actually be exalted to throne status in the divine government: “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne” (Revelation 3:21).

How could we possibly imagine any more wonderful destiny for ourselves! How can we ever comprehend such amazing grace! Come what may, temptations fierce and trials sore, “fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

Amen!

The next study in this series will further explain how the power of Papal Rome will be healed in the last days and how God will overcome this power and vindicate His faithful people.

The Unsealing of Daniel

Study Number 9



In part one of this study, we discovered that the prophecy of Daniel 7 traces history from the kingdom of Babylon in Daniel’s day down through the *Dark Ages* of Papal Roman supremacy. But the story doesn’t end there. A parallel prophecy in the New Testament book of Revelation foretells the end of Papal rule in 1798, as does Daniel, and then goes on to warn of a fully recovered Papacy again to arise and exercise dominion over the world.

John’s Vision:

“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. 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” (Revelation 13:1-2).

You will immediately notice striking similarities between this prophecy and Daniel 7. Daniel saw four beasts rise out of the sea. But while Daniel saw four distinct creatures—a lion, a bear, a leopard and a terrible nondescript beast—John saw one animal which was a composition of the four animals Daniel saw. Back in Daniel 7 we find the answer to this mystery. Referring to the little horn, Daniel says:

“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. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time” (Daniel 7:11-12).

As Daniel describes the demise of the *little horn*, he says, “the *beast* was slain.” We must remember that the little horn did *not conquer* the Roman Empire as a new kingdom, but rather is an extension of it in a religious garb. So Daniel can refer to the destruction of the *little horn* as the destruction of the *beast*. They are one and the same power in two distinct phases of existence; first Pagan Rome, then Papal Rome.

The next thing Daniel says is of great interest. The other beasts had their dominion taken away, but “their lives were prolonged.” How could the lion, the bear and the leopard cease to reign and yet continue to live? The answer is evident: While the kingdoms were conquered, their pagan cultures and religions

The Kingdom Threatened and Triumphant, Part 2

continued to live on in the little horn. The Papal Roman Church, under the guise of Christianity, is in reality a continuation of ancient Babylonian, Persian and Greek paganism. It is understandable then that Revelation would describe the Papacy as an amalgamation of the leopard, the bear and the lion. That religious-political system is the embodiment of all the kingdoms from which it succeeded.

There is additional evidence that clearly proves that the little horn of Daniel 7 and the composite beast of Revelation 13 are one and the same power. Daniel 7 says, as we have seen, that the little horn would (1) “speak great words against the Most High,” (2) “wear out the saints of the Most High,” and (3) reign for a period of 1260 years. In comparison, John says that the composite beast will (1) have “a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies . . . against God” (Revelation 13:5-6), (2) “make war with the saints” (13:7), and (3) reign for a period of “forty and two months” (13:5), equivalent to 1260 prophetic days or 1260 literal years.

The Healing of the Deadly Wound

Having established that the little horn of Daniel 7 and the composite beast of Revelation 13 are the same power, we are now prepared to understand the next part of this prophetic story.

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” (Revelation 13:3-4).

This is the haunting prophetic prediction that has hung over the world ever since the Papacy was declared by Napoleon in 1798. According to the unerring word of Bible prophecy, the “deadly wound” inflicted on the Papal Church is to be “healed.” Again, that church-state power that dominated the consciences of mankind for more than a millenium is to arise and enslave the world. As we watch the Papal Church regain its popularity and power, we are beholding the healing of the “deadly wound.”

Universal Reception

“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:7-8).

John here describes a universal deception that will encompass “all that dwell upon the earth.” Universal, that is, with one exception. Those who have their names “written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” will remain free from the overwhelming delusion of the end-time. They will remain loyal to the Lamb, for they know Him as their personal Savior and Lord. This is the most crucial matter of life. The colossal false religious system brought to view in Scripture and the arch-deceiver behind it have one diabolical goal—to keep men and women and children from looking to Christ and trusting Him *alone* for eternal salvation. If the heart’s dependence can be diverted from Christ and fastened upon human beings masquerading as God’s representatives, the purpose of Satan is achieved. He well knows that there is salvation only in Christ. A religious system claiming the power to forgive sins while teaching its followers to break God’s law will *never* lead to eternal life. A church that offers salvation in exchange for penance and works, prayers to priests and to deceased saints, the worship of Mary and of man-made images can never truly give the salvation it claims to offer.

God does not warn us of this false system in an effort to offend or hurt us. He

does so because He loves us and desires our eternal good. He knows that there are many honest and faithful people who are part of this system. It is not the individuals He condemns, but rather the institution. And He only condemns the system because He loves the people who are deceived by its erroneous teachings.

The Book of Life

Only those whose names are in the book of life will escape the deception of this power. And there is only one way to have your name recorded in that precious book. Turn your heart to Jesus, directly to Him with no human mediator between. Confess that you are a sinner in need of His salvation. Tell Him you understand that eternal life is a free gift of grace and cannot be purchased with any religious activity or goodness you can offer.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

When you see God’s love in this light, it will change your heart and make you a new person. The same faith you have exercised to believe in His grace to save you without works will itself produce works of the right character and quality:

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).



The love of God that flows into the heart, when we believe that His grace alone is sufficient to save us without works, creates in us both the desire and the ability to live lives of obedience to His holy law. There is no salvation in the obedience. But there is obedience in the salvation.

When your life is one of faith in Christ alone for salvation that produces willing obedience to His Word, then you may

know that Christ is your personal Savior and your name is written in the book of life.

The Judgment

Having clearly unveiled the identity of the little horn as the church of Rome, we must now turn our attention to the good news section of Daniel 7.

As Daniel was considering the little horn, astonished at its apparently successful campaign against “the Most High” God and His people, the vision shifted to another scene?

“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.

“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.

“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” (Daniel 7:9-11).

The message is direct and unmistakable. While the false religious system of the little horn may appear to prosper, its eventual demise is certain. Ultimately, the hour of God’s judgment will come. The little horn will be overcome. The angel told Dan-

iel, “But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end” (Daniel 7:26).

But while the judgment is horribly bad news for the little horn, it is incredibly good news for God’s faithful people. Notice what Daniel saw as his vision continued: “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.

“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.

“I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them: “Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to [made in favor of] the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom” (Daniel 7:13-14, 21-22).

As God sits in judgment against the little horn, He also passes judgment “in favor” of His saints. (see Daniel 7:22, NKJV.) This is because the little horn has been warring against the saints and prevailing. The purpose of the judgment is to silence the accusations against God’s people once and for all. These accusations originate with Satan who accuses us “before our God day and night” (Revelation 12:10). The enemy of souls stands at our right hand to resist our salvation (see Zechariah 3:1-5). And though God’s people have nothing of themselves with which to resist his accusations (their lives are filthy garments), they have put their trust in Jesus. Satan has sought to turn their minds’ and hearts’ allegiance away from Christ. It is through a counterfeit gospel, a false mediation, and man-made doctrine and laws that war has been made against all who would put their faith solely in Jesus. Yet the day is soon coming when judgment will be made in favor of the saints of the Most High (Daniel 7:22, NKJV). For them the judgment is an extremely positive event. But how could it be? The Bible says, “Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

I don’t know about you (actually I do), but according to that Scripture, I don’t have a chance. If the judgment is going to evaluate my law-keeping and peer into every secret thing, I’m doomed. And yet the angel told Daniel that the judgment will be in favor of the saints. How can we possibly stand vindicated in the judgment?

There is a way, only one Way, with a capital W.

As Daniel was watching the judgment proceed, he saw One like “the Son of Man” come before God. Who is this and why does He stand before the Ancient of Days? Undoubtedly, the Son of Man is Jesus Christ. Repeatedly in the New Testament the Savior is called “the Son of Man.” This is the special title He took upon Himself due to His incarnation into the human family.

“Without controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifest in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16).

“For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren. . . . Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy Him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For