

THE ANTICHRIST: OLD TESTAMENT STYLE

Studies in the Revelation

BIBLICAL TEACHING IN THE EARLY CHURCH:

The statement from John and Paul and Jesus:

Children, it is the last hour; and (what) just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.
1 John 2:18

Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?
2 Thessalonians 2:5

Question:

What was the source (or text) of these teachings?

Answer:

The book of Daniel.

"Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)...
Matthew 24: 15

A QUICK TRIP THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL:

First, the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar:

"You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. The (1) head of that statue was made of fine gold, its (2) breast and its arms of silver, its (3) belly and its thighs of bronze, its (4) legs of iron, its (5) feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You continued looking until (what) a stone was cut out without hands, and it (what) struck the statue (where) on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." Daniel 2:31-35

Then, the meaning of the dream:

Babylon (head of gold) - 2:36-38)

Medo-Persia (breast and arms of bronze) - 2:39

Greece (belly and thighs of silver) - 2:39

Rome (legs of iron) - 2:40

Rome revisited (feet of iron and clay) - 2:41-43

The Kingdom of God:

"In (when) the days of those kings (what) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."
Daniel 2:44-45

Second, the dream told another way:

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another."
Daniel 7:1-3

Beast One: A Lion (Babylon) - (7:4)

Beast Two: A Bear (Medo-Persia)- (7:5)

Beast Three: A Leopard (Greece) - (7:6)

Fourth Beast: Dreadful, terrifying with iron teeth (Rome)- (7:7-8)

a. Trampled down with its feet

b. Ten horns

The Anti-Christ: The Little Horn - (7:8)

Then, the meaning of the vision:

The Four Beasts:

"As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him (what) the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come."
Daniel 7:15-18

The Fourth Beast, the Ten Horns and the Little Horn:

Then I desired to know the exact meaning of (1) the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, and the meaning of (2) the ten horns that were on its head and (3) 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 in appearance than its associates. I kept looking, and (who) that horn was (what) waging war with the saints and overpowering them until (what) the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

Daniel 7:19-22

A PARTIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LITTLE HORN:

The Fourth Beast:

"Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour (what) the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

The Ten Horns:

As for the ten horns, out of (where) this kingdom (what) ten kings will arise;

The Little Horn:

And another will arise (when) after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

He will...

- (1) speak out against the Most High and
- (2) wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend
- (3) to make alterations in times and in law ; and they will be given into his hand for (how long) a time, times, and half a time.

His End:

But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be (1) taken away, (2) annihilated and (3) destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

Daniel 7:23-28

see also: Daniel 8:23-25