

## **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!*