

## The sermon

### Intro

I've argued the purpose of eschatology is to encourage weary saints not to give up. Saints worn out by gospel rejection and pressure to conform to the "morals" of our day. Eschatology says it's worth it to follow Jesus. When we follow Jesus, we attach ourselves to the winner, not a loser.

We live in a world of Satanic deception. A world where God delegates authority to ungodly rulers. A world where Jesus, his gospel, and his church are opposed. This wears us out. We need encouragement to endure.

Eschatology teaches us that gospel opposition and beastly rule are coming to an end.

### READ PASSAGE

### Body

#### Passage Focus

To recap...

1<sup>st</sup> beast = Babylon.

2<sup>nd</sup> beast = Medo-Persia.

3<sup>rd</sup> beast = Greece.

4<sup>th</sup> beast = Rome.

Son of Man = Jesus Christ.

Little horn = end time Antichrist who's destroyed when Jesus returns.

Antichrists are empowered by Satan, they deceive, and they make war on the saints. I hinted that there's more than one manifestation of the Antichrist.

Let's continue to explore Daniel 7 with a tour of Revelation 17-22. We'll close with some applications.

### BIG IDEA: God will act for his people!

#### Revelation 17:1-14, 18

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, <sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." <sup>3</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. <sup>5</sup> And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." <sup>6</sup> And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly. <sup>7</sup> But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. <sup>8</sup> The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. <sup>9</sup> This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; <sup>10</sup> they are also seven kings, five of whom*

*have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.* <sup>11</sup> *As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.* <sup>12</sup> *And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.* <sup>13</sup> *These are of one mind and hand over their power and authority to the beast.* <sup>14</sup> *They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." – 17:1-14*

*And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth." – 17:18*

The great prostitute = the woman = Babylon = killer of saints = a great city that is presently seated on seven mountains (17:9) = 1st century Rome, the city of seven hills.

[“is seated” – 17:2; “has dominion” – 17:18 = 1<sup>st</sup> century realities]

(In 1 Peter 5:13, Babylon is a codename for Rome)

In Daniel, the little horn springs from Rome (7:24). In Revelation, the beast empowers Rome (17:3). Like the little horn is destroyed (Dan 7:26), so is the beast (Rev 17:8, 11).

The beast receives authority (from God) for one hour (Rev 17:12). In Daniel, the times and the law “*shall be given into his [little horn] hand for a time, times, and half a time*” (7:25).

The 4<sup>th</sup> beast in Daniel had 10 horns (Dan 7:7, 24). So did 1<sup>st</sup> century Rome (Rev 17:3, 7).

#### **Summary:**

- 1) The 4<sup>th</sup> beast in Daniel 7 is Rome.
- 2) Babylon in Revelation 17 is Rome.
- 3) In Daniel 7, an end time Antichrist arises from Rome.
- 4) In Revelation 17:3, Rome was empowered by the Antichrist (sits on the beast = supported by the Antichrist).

**1 John 2:18** says:

*Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.*

There’s an Antichrist to come. There’s Antichrists that have already come.

#### **Revelation 18:1-3, 9-10, 18:19-21, 18:24-19:3**

*After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory.* <sup>2</sup> *And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.* <sup>3</sup> *For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living." – 18:1-3*

*And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. <sup>10</sup> They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come." – 18:9-10*

*And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste. <sup>20</sup> Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!" <sup>21</sup> Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more; – 18:19-21*

*And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth." <sup>1</sup> After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, <sup>2</sup> for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants." <sup>3</sup> Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." – 18:24-19:3*

Here Babylon = Rome = 4<sup>th</sup> beast is judged at the end of time. It's the end of time because "Babylon...will be found no more" (18:21). Babylon's judgment coincides with "the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev 19:9) and the return of Christ as judge (Rev 19:11-21).

Note God's judgment of Babylon is a judgment for the church ("for God has given judgment for you against her!" – 18:20). Because Babylon spilled the blood of the saints (18:24; 19:2). **God will act for his people!** [Hallelujah = celebration language = call to rejoice]

#### **Summary:**

- 1) The 4<sup>th</sup> beast, Rome, is both the kingdom that conquered Greece in 63 BC and a kingdom at the end of time.
- 2) Rome can be called Babylon because the beastly nature of Babylon is repeated in the Roman Empire. [See Daniel 7:12. Babylon lost dominion but lived on in Rome.]
- 3) History repeats itself. There's multiple manifestations of beastly rule and war on the saints.
- 4) End of time Rome isn't necessarily a revived Roman empire.
- 5) End of time Rome could be a repetition of the beastly nature of the Roman Empire, like Babylon's ungodliness was repeated in 1<sup>st</sup> century Rome.

#### **Revelation 19:20**

*And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. – 19:20*

The beast of Revelation, the Antichrist, is present in the 1st century (Rev 13:1-10) and the end of time (19:20) when he's thrown into the lake of fire. This is the killing, burning, consumption, destruction of the little horn described in Daniel 7:11, 26.

The Roman Empire was satanically empowered. The final manifestation of the Antichrist experiences destruction when Jesus returns.

### Revelation 20:10

*and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

The killing, burning, consumption, destruction of the little horn (= end time Antichrist) described in Daniel 7:11, 26 is eternal conscious torment in the lake of fire.

### Revelation 20:11-15

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. – 20:11-15*

Daniel 7:10 spoke of a court sitting in judgment as “*the books were opened*.” The one seated on the great white throne is God the Father = “*the Ancient of Days*” in Daniel 7:9. The dead are released from the graves for the opening of the books meaning all the dead are resurrected for judgment, both believing and unbelieving (see Matt 25:31-46). Some are found in the book of life. Others are not. Those not found in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire where they will join Satan and the beast in unending torment (Rev 14:9-11).

### Revelation 21:1-4

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." – 21:1-4*

Coinciding with Jesus coming on the clouds of heaven, the little horn in the lake of fire, and books opened, we have the arrival of the eternal kingdom of God. War on the saints and beastly rule are no more.

In their place we have God dwelling with his people in a world where death and suffering are no more. The end of death coincides with Jesus coming on the clouds of heaven to end beastly rule.

### Revelation 22:1-5

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit,*

*yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. 22:1-5*

When Jesus puts an end to beastly rule, “*No longer will there be anything accursed*” (22:3). Meaning the curse has been lifted. No more sin and death. No more suffering abuse from others. No more grief over our own sinful desires. No more decay of the body like cancer and back pain.

When Jesus puts an end to beastly rule, “*they will reign forever and ever*” (22:5) = the saints will receive the kingdom (Dan 7:27) and enjoy everlasting dominion (Dan 7:14).

## APPLICATION

Daniel 7 tells us that beasts will exercise rule until the very end of this age. Coupled with 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation, beastly rule is satanically empowered, it opposes God, it deceives, it promotes sexual immorality, it makes people wealthy, it makes war on the saints.

This means life will be hard for God’s people.

- 1) When others oppose God and we affirm his word, we’ll stand out.
- 2) When others are deceived and we affirm God’s word, we’ll stand out.
- 3) When others promote sexual immorality and we affirm God’s word, we’ll stand out.
- 4) When others grow wealthy off of beastly rule and we challenge materialism or immoral paths to wealth, we’ll stand out.
- 5) When war is made on the saints, God’s people will suffer.

On the other hand,

- 1) The coming of Jesus on the clouds tells us it’s worth it.
- 2) The destruction of the little horn tells us it’s worth it.
- 3) The books being opened tells us it’s worth it.
- 4) The everlasting kingdom tells us it’s worth it.

**God will act for his people!**

**The Christian faith is a patient, enduring faith.**

## YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people, what all this tells us is our world is broken. We live in a world for the most part where judges and politicians and celebrities and social influencers reject God’s word in favor of doing life their own way. Everyone does what is right in their own eyes. The Creator’s rejected and people would rather believe lies than the truth.

People live for sexual sin or wealth or whatever else and they don’t even know why. People live as if God doesn’t exist while blind to the consequences.

But why? Because there’s a real deceiver out there: Satan. There’s also something wrong with us. We’d rather believe lies than the truth. How can this be? There’s a rebellious nature in us. That’s why we don’t like traffic rules or a parent’s

orders. We'd rather believe lies than truth because we want to be in charge and do things our own way. We don't want a God who gives orders and holds us accountable.

And we don't want to stand out like a sore thumb and follow Jesus when everyone else is going after Satan's lies.

Here's why following Jesus is worth it. That way of life will come to an end! **God will act for his people!**

## **Gospel**

The gospel is both warning and promise. Warning against rebellion. One day the books will be opened. All rebels will be cast into the lake of fire.

On the other hand, there's promise of rescue. One day the books will be opened. Some will be found to have their names in the book of life. There is mercy for sinners. But only through Jesus.

Jesus died on the cross as a substitute for sinners such that whoever believes will be forgiven and welcomed into his everlasting kingdom. We come to our senses when we admit our brokenness and guilt, turning from our sins by trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection. In doing so, we escape the lake of fire and become heirs of the kingdom. Having sided with the winner we won't suffer the fate of the rebels.

Whose side are you on? Where's your allegiance? Babylon? The beast? Yourself? Or the Son of Man who's coming on the clouds?

At the end of time there will be much mourning and much rejoicing. Will you be mourning or rejoicing?