

Series: A Purposeful Heart

A KING OF FIERCE COUNTENANCE

DANIEL 8

Text: Daniel 8:23

Daniel 8:23

²³ *And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, **a king of fierce countenance**, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.*

Introduction:

This passage is dealing with the future. The coming of one who will be known as the Antichrist.

He will be powerful, deceitful, intelligent, brutal, ruthless and efficient. He will represent the pinnacle of all that man can achieve apart from God. He will literally be Satan's Superman or Satan's Pawn.

Let's see what the Bible says about him.

1. THE APPEARANCE OF THE KING (VS. 23)

Daniel 8:23

²³ *And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.*

The text tells is that in the latter time a fierce king will appear.

What are the signs of his appearing?

A. The Condition of the World

When this man makes his entrance, the world will be in a terrible moral condition.

Note two passages that make reference to the end times.

Luke 17:26-27

²⁶ *And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.* ²⁷ *They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*

2 Timothy 3:1-5

¹ *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.* ² *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,* ³ *Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,* ⁴ *Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;* ⁵ *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

It is easy to see that our world already bears the marks that suggest a fulfillment of these conditions.

The world is ready for this man's appearance.

Note not only the condition of the world but also:

B. The Corruption of Religion

2 Thessalonians 2:3

³ *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come **a falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

This refers to a time when organized, visible religion will depart from the doctrines of the Word of God.

Just because a church or denomination calls itself a Christian work, that doesn't make it so!

We are living in the midst of a "great falling away!" Cults are growing by leaps and bounds while genuine Christianity consistently finds itself under the gun from society, government and organized religion.

When denominations have to take votes on whether to marry homosexuals, or to allow homosexuals to be ordained, something is wrong!

Notice not only the Appearance of this King but also:

2. THE ABILITIES OF THE KING

Note:

A. He Will Be a Man of Popularity

Revelation 6:2

*² And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and **a crown was given unto him:** and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

The people of the world will embrace him as a godsend.

This man will have a formula for peace.

- It is said that the Antichrist will possess:
- The Leadership of a Washington or a Lincoln
- The Eloquence of a Franklin Roosevelt
- The Charm of a Theodore Roosevelt
- The Charisma of a John F. Kennedy
- The Popularity of a Dwight Eisenhower
- The Political Savvy of a Lyndon Johnson
- The Intellect of a Thomas Jefferson

Not only will he be a man of Popularity but also:

B. He Will Be a Man of Peace

Revelation 6:2

² And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

He will be like one riding on a white horse.

This gives him the appearance of good. It also states that he will have a bow, but not arrows.

This indicates that he will not come making war, but will come making peace.

Not only will he be a man of Popularity, and Peace but also:

C. He Will Be a Man of Prosperity

Daniel 11:43

⁴³ But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

Revelation 13:16-17

¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

The Antichrist will eventually control the wealth of the world.

He will bring prosperity to those who have lived in poverty.

I am convinced that the Antichrist will bring an end to world hunger.

That he will do away with much of the class distinction that exists in our world.

That most people under his reign will be better off financially than they were before he rose to power.

A world leader who can promise and produce prosperity will be a very popular man!

Not only will he be a man of Popularity, Peace and Prosperity but also:

D. He Will Be a Man of Power

Revelation 13:7-8

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.

These verses tell us that Antichrist will eventually rule the entire world. Conquerors down through the ages have sought this lofty goal without success. He will achieve it! What men won't recognize, or won't care about is the fact that he receives his power from Satan himself.

Daniel 8:24

²⁴ And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

Note lastly not only The Appearance and the Abilities of this King but also:

3. THE ABOMINATIONS OF THIS KING (VS. 24-25)

Daniel 8:24-25

²⁴ And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. ²⁵ And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Note:

A. He Will Attack the People of God

Daniel 7:25

²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be

given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

The Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and will attack the people of the Lord. He will try to do what Hitler, Stalin and others failed to do: exterminate the Jew. More than anything, this man will hate everything having to do with God and Jesus Christ. He will lash out at the Jews and try to completely destroy them.

We are seeing in our day that this spirit is already at work! It is becoming increasingly unpopular to be a Bible believer. In fact, we are often labeled as being intolerant.

Not only will he Attack the People of God but also:

B. He Will Attack the Prince of God

Daniel 8:25

²⁵ *And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: **he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes**; but he shall be broken without hand.*

It appears that anything having to do with godliness, holiness or Christ will be the focus of the attacks of this

madman. He will make every effort to stamp out the name of Jesus from the face of the earth!

Not only will he Attack the People of God and the Prince of God but also:

C. He Will Attack the Place of God

Daniel 8:25

²⁵ And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Daniel 11:36-37

³⁶ And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

³⁷ Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

Daniel 9:27

²⁷ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

2 Thessalonians 2:4

⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Matthew 24:15

¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Close:

The Lord is coming and the world is poised to enter a time of trouble like nothing she has ever experienced before. What happens to you all depends on what you do with Jesus Christ.

When Daniel looked into these things, he fainted and became ill. He was a godly man! What effect do these words have on your heart this morning?