

Statues, Beasts, Visions & A Horn

Lesson #23 June 24, 2020

Isa. 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Truth: History is His Story

Eschatology = study of last days

You must have a proper understanding of	Daniel 2	Nebuchadnezzar's statue dream
	Daniel 7	Daniel's Dream
	Daniel 9	Daniel's 70 th week

Daniel 2 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who reigned from 605 to 562 BC, greatly expanded the Babylonian Empire, conquered Jerusalem and deported a large percentage of them to Babylon. Daniel was deported from Israel and granted an education in the king's palace.

Dan. 2:1-11 God used a dream to communicate with the pagan King of Babylon. One night, Nebuchadnezzar awoke due to a frightening dream. When he called for his magi to interpret the nightmare, he added an unprecedented requirement. "Tell me what the dream was and then interpret it. [Dan. 2:5] The penalty for failure was death.

Every magician, enchanter, sorcerer and astrologer in the kingdom would be executed.

- The magi replied, "What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, who do not live among men." [Dan. 2:11]
- Daniel was determined to prove God's power to the king. [Dan. 2:18]
- He prayed all night with his 3 fellow exiles. God revealed the dream to him causing Daniel and his friends to praise God. [Dan. 2:19-23]

The next morning, Daniel told the king about his dream.

The Dream: God provided an overview of world events in the millennia yet to come.

- Featured a huge, glorious statue of a man.
- Head was made of pure gold.
- Its chest and arms of silver; belly and thighs of bronze, and legs of iron.
- The feet and toes were partly of iron and partly of baked clay. [Dan. 2:32-33]
- Then a rock cut "not by human hands" [Dan. 2:34] hit the foot of the statue causing the whole image to "become like chaff on a threshing floor."
- The rock became "a huge mountain and filled the whole earth." [Dan. 2:35]

Daniel's Interpretation: Given to him by God [Dan. 2:34-45]

- The statue represents a series of kingdoms. Each one is less glorious than the one before, as indicated by the decreasing value of the metals.
- Daniel identifies Nebuchadnezzar as the head of gold. For the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. [Dan. 2:37-38]

- The next kingdom [silver], Medo/Perisan, to arise would be inferior to Babylon.
- The kingdom represented by the belly and thighs of bronze would be the Kingdom of Greece. [rule over the whole earth]
- A 4th kingdom, Roman, strong as iron, will crush and break all the others. [Dan. 2:40]
- The feet of mixed clay and iron "will be a divided kingdom." [Dan. 2:41]
- During the time of this final world empire, the "ROCK" will come and smash them to bits.
- It is predicted that "God will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed." [Dan. 2:44]
- ALL previous earthly kingdoms will be brought to an end.

Note: The Church Age is invisible or does not appear in Nebuch. Statue. We are in it now between the legs of iron and the 10 toes. There is a prophetic gap.

God's snapshot of history

Times of The Gentiles: time when Gentiles will have dominion over Israel

1. It begins with Nebuchadnezzar's rule of Israel
2. Ends when Jesus Christ will establish His kingdom and rule on earth on the throne of David in Jerusalem.

The Dream ~2500+ years later:

- The 1st 4 kingdoms have been identified as the Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman.
- Dan. 2:38 Daniel stated that Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, was the head of gold.
- Dan. 5:26-31 Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians.
- Dan. 8:20-21 Greece became the successor to the Medo-Persian Empire.
- The IRON empire can only be Rome.
- The clay/iron empire is still future. It is the kingdom of the Antichrist.

Daniel 7:1-14 Daniel records a night vision that God gave him concerning four world empires, symbolized as four beasts. Two new and important features-the little horn and the judgment. Daniel's vision of the four beasts begins with a windy night and a troubled sea:

Dan. 7:2-3 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea." As Daniel watches, "four great beasts," each different from the others, emerge from the dark waters.

- The 4 empires are the same as Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream in Daniel 2, although in that dream they are pictured as various metals in a statue.

Later, the angel who interprets the dream tells Daniel, "The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth" [Dan. 7:17].

Beast #1 is "like a lion, and had the wings of an eagle" [Daniel 7:4].

- As Daniel watches, the wings are torn off the beast, and the creature stands erect like a man and a human mind is given to it.

- 1st beast is representative of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Its rise to human-like status reflects Nebuchadnezzar's deliverance from a beastly existence and his insight into the true nature of God [Dan. 4:34-35].

Jer. 4:7, 13 The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant. Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles.

Beast #2 is "like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth" [Dan. 7:5]. A voice tells the second beast to devour flesh until it is satisfied. This beast represents the Medo-Persian Empire; the raising up of one side of the creature indicates that one of the kingdom's parts (Persia) would be dominant.

The three ribs in the creature's mouth symbolize nations that were "devoured" by the Medes and the Persians. These three conquered nations are known to be Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt.

Beast #3 is "like a leopard," except it has 4 bird-like wings on its back and 4 heads [Dan. 7:6].

This beast, given authority to rule, represents Greece, an empire known for the swiftness of its conquests.

The extra wings indicated the almost unparalleled rapidity of Alexander's conquests. He conquered Medo-Persia in five years. In 8 years, he marched his soldiers more than 5,100 miles.

- The 4 heads are predictive of the four-way division of the empire among his 4 leading generals following Alexander the Great's death.

Note: Daniel 8: vision of the ram and the goat gives further details of the 2nd and 3rd kingdoms

Beast #4: The final beast that Daniel sees rising from the sea is the most dreadful — "terrifying and frightening and very powerful" [Dan. 7:7].

- 4th beast has "bronze claws" [v. 19] and "large iron teeth." It crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left totally annihilating its prey [v. 7]
- The 4th beast has ten horns.
- Represents the Roman Empire, a mighty kingdom that indeed crushed all its foes.

Dan. 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

Compare Dan. 2's statue with Dan. 7's beasts

Dan. 2	Dan. 7	Power
Head of Gold	Lion with eagle's wings	Babylon
Chest/arms of Silver	Bear with 3 ribs	Medo-Persia
Belly/thigh of bronze	Leopard with 4 heads	Greece
Legs of Iron	Beast with iron teeth	Rome
Feet of Iron & Clay	10 Horns of the Beast	10 Kings
	Little Horn	Identity to Come
Stone breaking Statue Becomes a Mountain	Destruction of Nations Regin of God's Saints	Kingdom of God Established Forever

Both visions symbolize the same kingdoms of the world.

- The pagan king dreams of the earthly kingdoms as "an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance." [Daniel 2:31]
- However, Daniel sees the same kingdoms as bizarre, unnatural hideous beasts and terrifying in aspect and behavior. [Daniel 7].
- The rulers of the world see their kingdoms as imposing, artistic monuments fashioned of valuable metals. However, God's prophets view the same kingdoms as unnatural monsters.

Interpretation: Dan. 7:19-27 > Daniel asks about the 4th beast and its horns

- V. 19 Daniel asks about the 4th beast and its horns
- V. 20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.
- v. 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;
- v. 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.
- V. 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.
- V. 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another [little horn with eyes & mouth of a human] shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.
- V. 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. [3 ½ yrs.; 42 months; 1260 days]

Compare beast #4 with the first beast of Revelation 13.

Rev. 13:1-2a 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:

- The beast of Revelation contains elements of all of Daniel's beasts.
 - Compare Little Horn Of Dan. 7 With John's Beast in Revelation 13
- Little Horn - Dan. 7

Little Horn - Dan. 7		Beast - Rev. 13	
8, 20	Speaks Great Things	5	Speaks Great Things
25	Blasphemes Against God	5-6	Blasphemes Against God
25	Reigns For 3 ½ yrs; 1260 days	5	Reigns For 3 ½ yrs; 1260 Days
21, 25	Make War Against The Saints	7	Makes War Against The Saints
25	Wear Out The Saints	7	Overcomes The Saints

Focus on Little Horn: Daniel's attention is drawn to the destructive fourth beast, and he ponders the meaning of its ten horns.

- Then, a smaller horn begins to grow from the midst of the ten. As the little horn emerges from the beast, three of the original horns are plucked out by the roots.
- Daniel sees the little horn has "eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully," pompous words. [Dan. 7:8].

Many in the nations will worship the Antichrist because they will be awestruck and terrified by him. He will intimidate and terrify the nations with his great power, bold claims and threats.

Rev. 13:2b-5 ...the Dragon [Satan] Gave Him His Power, And His Seat, And Great Authority;

- All the world marveled and followed the Beast.
- They worshiped the Beast, Antichrist, saying "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

The Little Horn that emerged from the 4th beast [Rome] of Daniel's vision is John's Beast in Revelation 13. What we know about the Little Horn who is the Antichrist:

- Emerges from the 4th Beast [Rome > legs of iron] of Daniel's vision
- Dan. 7:8 He is among the 10 horns. He uprooted 3 Kingdoms.
- Dan. 7:20 A more stout look than his fellow horns
- Dan. 7:24 He arose after the 10 horns. He is different from the other horns.
- Dan. 7:25 Spoke great words against God; wore out the saints; change times/laws

Daniel 8 gives us more information regarding the Little Horn or the Antichrist.

- Dan. 8:8-9 Identity is closely linked with the name of Rome
- Dan. 8:10-12, 25 Exalts himself as high as Jesus; opposes the daily sacrifices
- Dan. 8:12 Successfully casts truth down to the ground
- Dan. 8:23,25 Has fierce features and acts through cunning
- Dan. 8:24 Power comes from an outer source
- Dan. 8:24 Destroys the holy people
- Dan. 8:25 Magnifies Himself in his heart
- Dan. 8:24-25 Destroys fearfully, destroys the might and many in their prosperity
- Dan. 8:25 His reign will end abruptly, without hand

Question: Where was Daniel when he experienced these prophetic dreams and visions?

- He was in Babylonian captivity.
- God revealed to Jeremiah in 605 BC that Israel would be in bondage for 70 years.

Jer. 29:10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

- God assured them after this time, they would be back in their land as one nation.

Reason for this judgment: Israel's insistence upon worshipping the false gods of their pagan neighbors. Its duration of 70 years came from the fact that for 490 years they had neglected to let their farmland lie fallow one year out of every seven as God had commanded in

Leviticus 25:1-7. The Lord had been patient all that time but finally had sent them to Babylon to give the land the 70 years of rest that were due it. [II Chron. 36:21]

Fast forward ~68 years to Daniel 9. Daniel is much older

Dan. 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Consider: With this image and the revelation, Daniel is still considering 70 years until the kingdom. He concludes these Gentile powers [of the image] will come/go over a 70 year period with the restoration of Israel and the Messiah as King.

Consider: Daniel is now ~68 years into the 70 yet they are only in the 2nd empire of the Medo/Persian. Daniel is perplexed.

Daniel 9:1-23: While praying one day, confessing Israel's sins and reminding God of His promise to restore them, Daniel was visited once again by the Angel Gabriel.

Dan. 9:21-23 Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore, understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Gabriel interrupted his prayer to reveal more of Israel's future, once again expanding the visions of chapters 7 and 8 with a 4 verse overview of things to come.

Daniel's Vision Of The End Times

Prophecy of Dan. 9:24-27 No prophecy in all of Scripture is more critical to our understanding of the end times than these four verses.

Basic Info For Clarification:

- The Hebrew word translated weeks [or sevens] refers to a period of 7 years, like our word decade refers to a period of 10 years. It literally means "a week of years."
So 70 weeks is 70 X 7 years or 490 years. This period is divided into three parts, 7 weeks or 49 years, 62 weeks or 434 years, and 1 week or 7 years.

- 7 weeks = 49 Years
- 62 weeks = 434 Years
- 1 Week = 7 Years

Purpose of 70 Weeks or 490 Years: God gave Daniel a Timeline

Dan. 9:24 Seventy weeks [490 Years] are determined upon your people and your Holy City to:

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| 1. Finish the transgression | } | Deal with Sin |
| 2. Put an end to sin | | |
| 3. Atone for wickedness | | |
| 4. Bring in everlasting righteousness | } | Kingdom |
| 5. Seal up vision and prophecy | | |
| 6. Anoint the most Holy [Jesus Christ as King; some say (place). Temple] | | |

Dan. 9:25 Know therefore and understand: From the going forth of the commandment to RESTORE and REBUILD JERUSALEM unto the MESSIAH THE PRINCE: [Anointed One]

- 7 Weeks = 49 years
- Threescore and two weeks = 62 weeks = 434 Years
- The street shall be built again and the wall, even in troublous times.

Clarification: The first 49 years (7 weeks) are the time during which the city was being rebuilt. The remaining 434 years (62 weeks) began when the city and its walls were complete and ran to the time of the first Palm Sunday when Jesus presented Himself to Israel as their Messiah.

Clear prophecy of the timing of Christ's First Coming.

□ When this message was given to Daniel by the Angel Gabriel, Jerusalem had lain in ruin for nearly 70 years and the Jews were captive in Babylon.

□ Counting forward for 62 + 7 periods of 7 years each from a future decree giving the Jews permission to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, they should expect the Messiah.

That's a total of 483 Years After The Decree Is Issued.

□ These 483 years would include 49 years to rebuild and stabilize Jerusalem, and then a period of 423 years before the Anointed One (the Messiah) comes.

Crucial: It's important to distinguish the decree that freed the Jews from their captivity from the one that gave them permission to rebuild Jerusalem.

1. Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon in 539 BC. He issued a decree in 538 BC that freed the Jews to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. It had been prophesied 150 years earlier in Isaiah 44:24-45:6 and was fulfilled in Ezra 1:1-4.

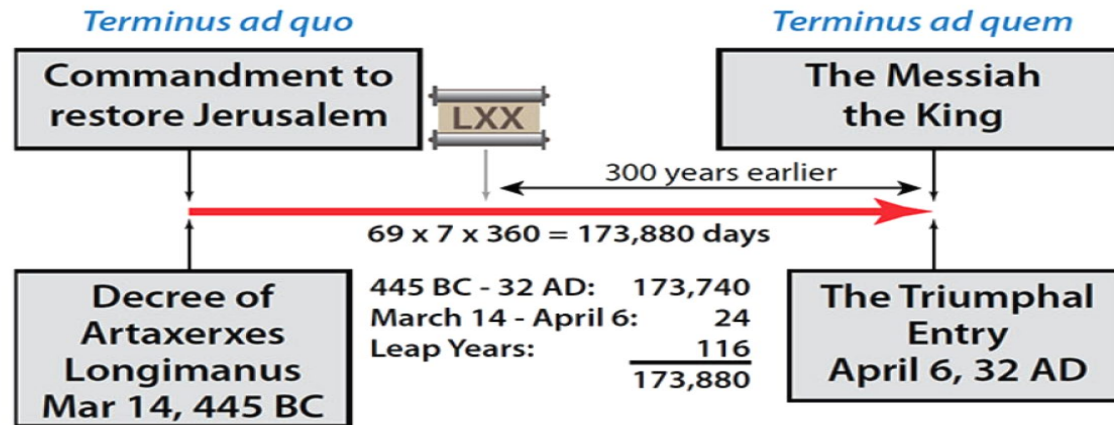
2. 457 BC - Artaxerxes of Persia issued a decree to Ezra to reinstitute the Temple services, appoint judges and magistrates and teach the Law. [Ezra 7:11-26]

3. According to Nehemiah 2:1 the Decree To Rebuild the Walls of Jerusalem was given by King Artaxerxes of Persia. [March of 445 BC on our calendar, about 90 years later].

Prophecy Fulfilled: Exactly 483 Years After The Decree To Rebuild Jerusalem

The Lord Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to shouts of "Hosanna", on the only day in His life He permitted His followers to proclaim Him as Israel's Messiah, fulfilling Daniel's prophecy to the day!

The 69 Weeks



Remarkable Prophecy: A period of 483 years would pass. The Messiah would enter the city and He would be put to death.

Dan. 9:26a And after threescore and two weeks [62 weeks] shall Messiah be cut off [crucified], but not for himself:

[Remember: Jesus made a bona fide offer of the kingdom to Israel on the day they should have been expecting him, exactly 173,880 days. They rejected their king and crucified him.

Their problem was unbelief. They were judged for their unbelief.]

Dan. 9:26b and the people of the prince [antichrist] that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

PAUSE: The Church Age [There is a prophetic GAP between Dan. 9:26 & 9:27]

Acts 15:14-18 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

We are still living in the PAUSE or GAP between the 69th and 70th week.

The events of Dan. 9:27 are in the future.

²⁷ And he [antichrist] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [7 years]: 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.

- 70th week = 7 Year Tribulation Period
- Jesus predicted this event in Matt. 24:15.
- After the Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel, a time of Jacob's Trouble begins.

Given the fact that the Antichrist emerges from the fourth beast of Daniel's vision [Rome] leads us to surmise that, in the end times, there will be a "revival" of the Roman Empire, featuring a coalition of ten world leaders. [Rev. 17:12-13]

The Antichrist will take his position of leadership at the expense of three of those leaders, and he will eventually wield global authority.

A true tyrant, the Antichrist will demand worship and seek to control all aspects of life [Revelation 13:16-17].

Rev. 17:14 We know that Christ will defeat the forces of the Antichrist.

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

This world leader that Daniel saw is the Antichrist, the "ruler who will come" who sets up the abomination of desolation in Daniel 9:27a,

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, [1 week = 7 years]

Good News: the reign of the Antichrist is limited: 42 months [$3\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. 1260 days], and no more. Then, God promises to judge the little horn. "The court will sit, and [the little horn's] power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever" [Daniel 7:26].

God's Judgment: Like Daniel's fourth beast, John's beast speaks proudly and oppresses God's people for three and a half years [Rev. 13:5-7]. The proud, boastful words of the little horn continue until the Ancient of Days sets up a day of judgment [9-10]

Dan. 7:9 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. [Rev. 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Rev. 19:12a His eyes were as a flame of fire,]

Dan. 7:10 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.

Destruction of the Antichrist:

Dan. 7:11 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.

- This is in contrast to the fate of the other three beasts, who lost their authority but were not immediately destroyed [v. 12].

Rev. 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone

II Thess. 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Daniel's vision of the four beasts provided a prophetic look at future world events. Looking back from our perspective, we see these events as world history and can easily see the correlation between each beast and a world empire.

However, there was more to Daniel's vision, and some of it is yet future, even for us.

- Daniel's vision assures us that the world's empires have a certain amount of authority for a certain length of time, but they will all pass away, and "the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever" [Daniel 7:18].

Consider: The throne of David has been vacant for ~2500 years. The Times of the Gentiles will come to an end at the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ. He is the "stone kingdom" that will destroy all other kingdoms.

Amos 9:11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

The Crowning Glory Of The Son of Man

Dan. 7:13 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.

- This man is given "authority, glory and sovereign power" [v. 14], and all the nations of earth worship him. The kingdom He rules is everlasting and indestructible.

Matt. 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Rev. 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. He is the ROCK that smashes the image and the kingdoms of this world will "become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever

Ps. 72:11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him

Phil. 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Full & Final Victory of the Saints

Dan. 9:27 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.

See Matt. 16:24-27

Rev. 3:21 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.