

“And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, ‘Come’.” (6:1)

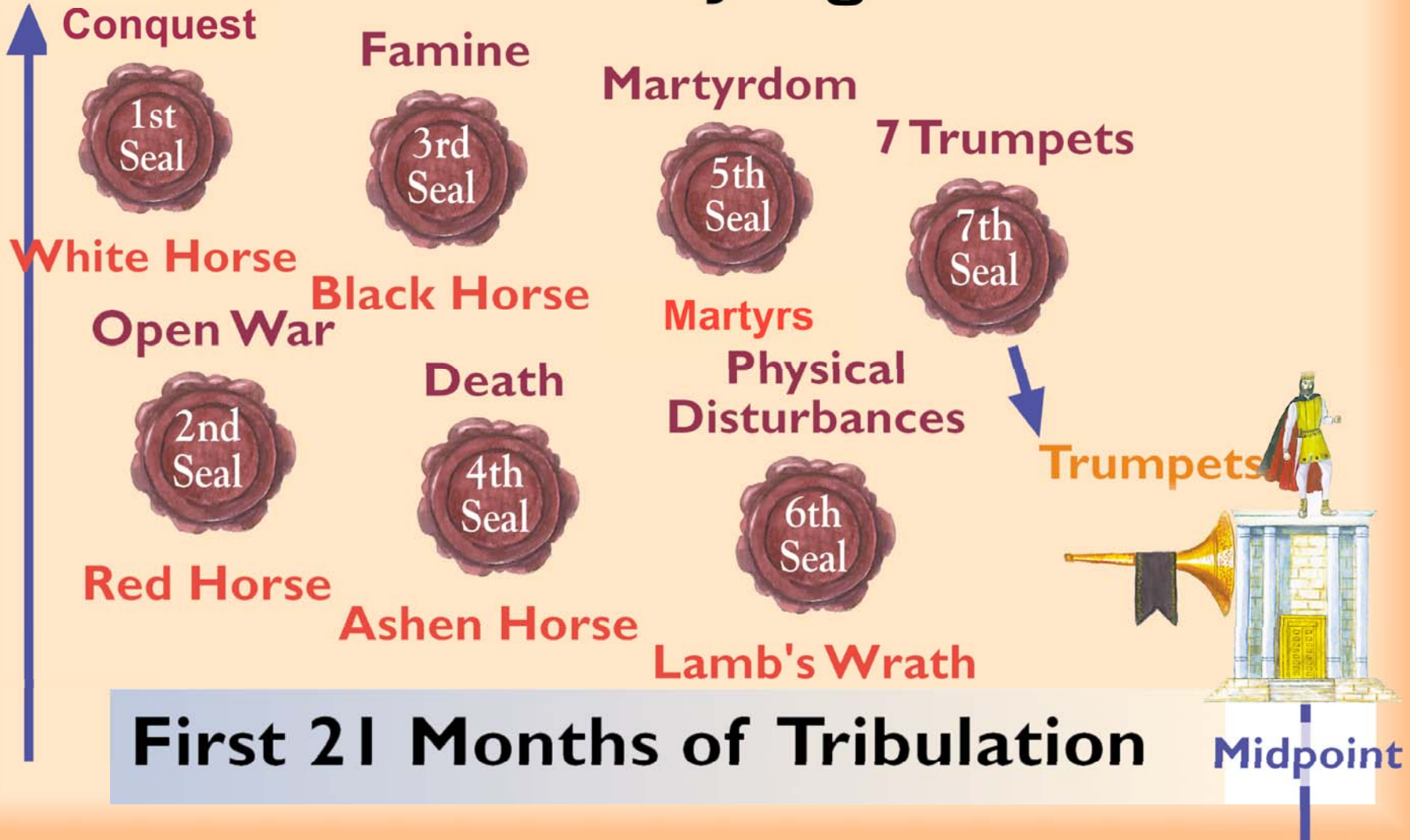


**Rapture
of the
Church**

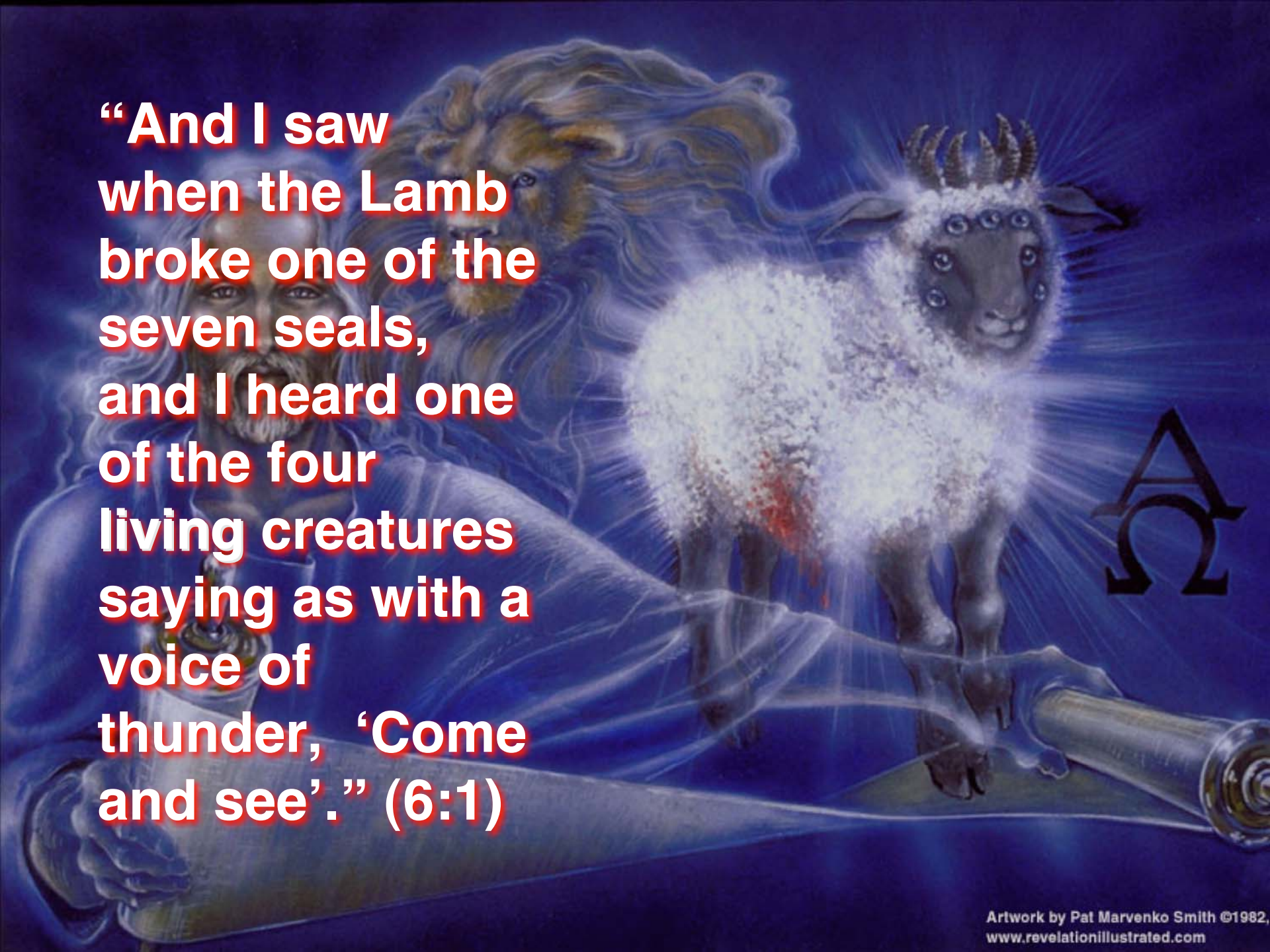


Heaven

Seal Judgments



**“And I saw
when the Lamb
broke one of the
seven seals,
and I heard one
of the four
living creatures
saying as with a
voice of
thunder, ‘Come
and see’.” (6:1)**





**“And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.”
(6:2)**



First Seal–Conquest

- Rider with a bow
- Crown (στέφανος, *stephanos*) “victor’s wreath”
- Went out conquering and to conquer
- Personification of the Antichrist’s conquests



2 Thess 2:1–9: Summary

- 1. We are not to be deceived: only TRUTH applied can protect from deception. (2 Thess. 2:10)**
- 2. The Tribulation will not come until the “departure,” i.e., the Rapture. (2 Thess. 2:3; cf., 1 Thess 4:15–17)**
- 3. The HS, “the One who restrains,” is removed before the lawless one is revealed. (2:8)**
- 3. The man of sin is revealed after the Rapture.**

2 Thess 2:1–9: Summary

- 5. The son of perdition opposes and exalts himself over God and replaces God. (2:4)**
- 6. “Lawless one” = rejects the law of God.**
- 7. “Antichrist” means a substitute or pseudo-Messiah.**

2 Th. 2:11, “And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe the lie,

2 Th. 2:12, “that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”



2 Th. 2:11, “And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

2 Th. 2:12, “that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”



“The choice of the anti-Christ is not to be the choice of the rulers only or of the popular leaders, the multitude being unwilling, silent and passive, it is the act of the peoples, the direct or indirect expression of popular will. It is the voluntary declaration of Christiandom, We will not have this man rule over us, not this man but Barabas, that’s who we want.”

Samuel J. Andrews, *Christianity and Anti-Christianity the Final Conflict* 1898.

“We may know here that a democracy looking upon its leader as its representative willingly gives him a power even greater than the largest measure of its political prerogatives. The sovereign multitude, the people, which sees in their leader not so much the ruler who commands them as the one who is the exponent and the executor of their will, that people yields to their ruler such a full and unreserved obedience as no despot could ever attain. Democracy headed- up in one who can sway its forces has such elements of aggression and strength as no form of government hitherto existing has ever had.

“The laws and institutions are no longer revered as having sanctions when having gone through continual change after change after change. When various institutions are continually changed, they have no root in the traditions or love of the people. When rulers by popular election prove themselves incapable, when no surety or stability of legislation exists and all are uncertain and anxious as to the future, then there arises a general cry for a man. In a general disintegration it is only about a man that men can rally, not about abstract principles or written constitutions, all cry for one with a brain, inflexible will and a strong arm who can serve as a center of unity and bring order out of confusion.”

**Who is the Antichrist
and
What will he do?**

1. Jesus warned of false Messiahs and false prophets as two distinct categories.

Matt. 24:24, “For false Christs [Messiahs] and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”



2. “Antichrist” is a term used 1x, but has become the most common title for the first “beast” of Revelation.

1 John 2:18, “Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.”

1 John 2:22,” Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the **antichrist**, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

ἀντίχριστος, *antichristos*: a substitute Christ, not one who is against Christ; someone who claims to do what only the Messiah can do: world peace, end hunger and poverty, universal healthcare

3. A wide variety of titles are given this individual:

The little horn (Dan. 7:8, 9, 19–26)

The insolent king (Dan. 8:23)

The prince who is to come (Dan. 9:26, 27)

**The one who makes desolate; (Dan. 9:27;
11:31; Matt 24:15)**

The man of lawlessness (2 Thess 2:3)

The son of destruction (2 Thess 2:3)

The lawless one (2 Thess 2:8)

**The beast (Rev 11:7; see also 13:1; 14:9; 15:2;
16:2; 17:3; 13; 19:20; 20:10)**

The despicable person (Dan. 11:21)

The strong willed king (Dan. 11:36)

The worthless shepherd (Zechariah 11:16, 17)

4. He rises to power during the transition between the Rapture and the beginning of Daniel's seventieth week. Dan. 9:27; Dan. 7:24, 25.

Dan. 9:27, “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

5. He is the head of a confederation of western powers related to the revived Roman Empire, during the tribulation years.

“...and behold,
there was a
single
great statue...”

Daniel 2:31



“You are
the head of
gold.” Daniel 2:38

“...then another
third kingdom
of bronze...”

Daniel 2:39

“And after you
there will arise
another
kingdom...”

Daniel 2:39

“Then there will be
a fourth kingdom as
strong as iron...”

Daniel 2:40



Persia

Rome

Greece

Babylon

The Image of Daniel 2

Gold

605–539 B.C.—Babylon

Silver

539 B.C.—331 B.C.—Medo-Persia

Brass

331 B.C.—146 B.C.—Greece

Iron

146 B.C.—A.D. 1453—Rome

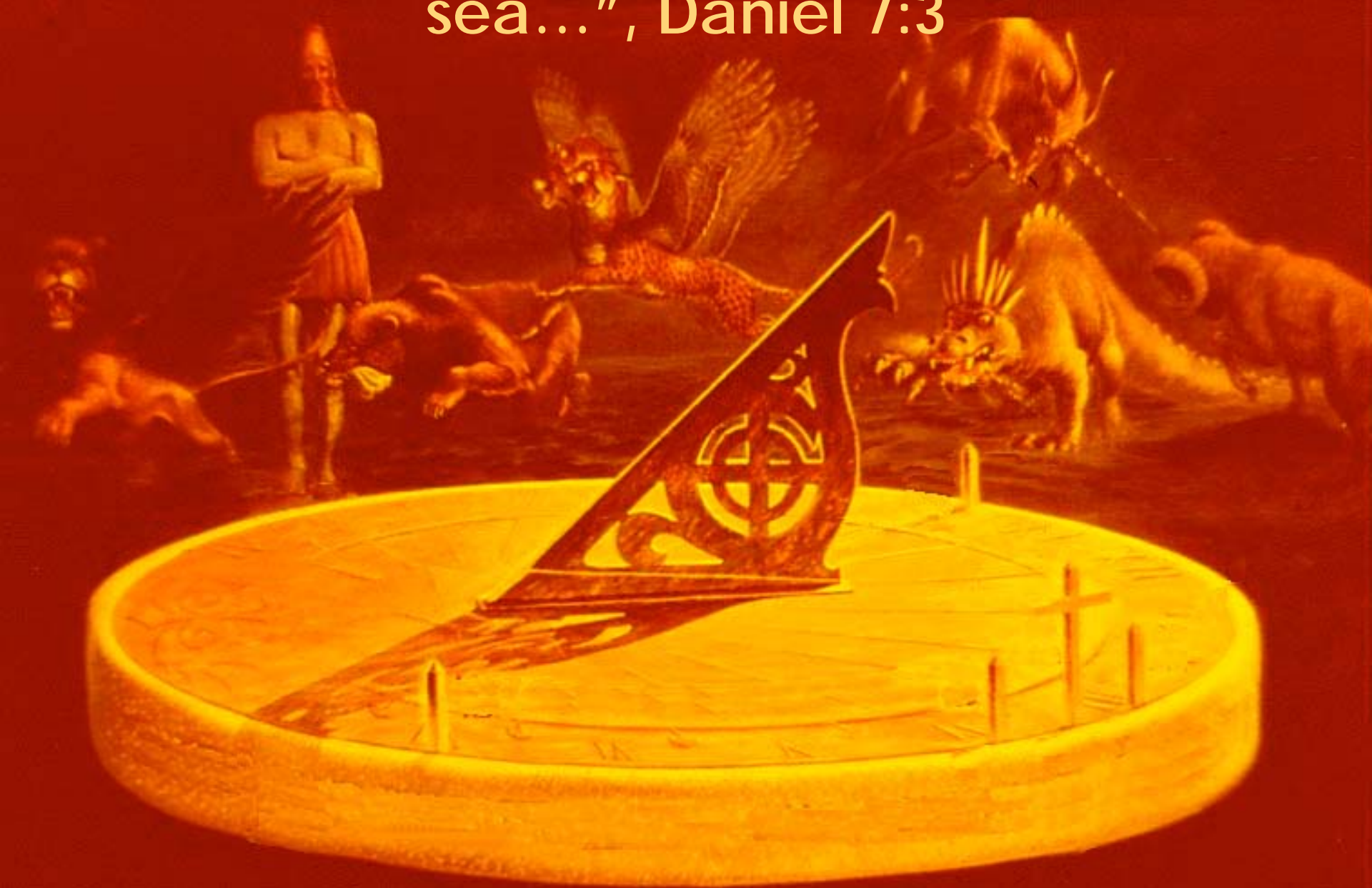
Iron/Clay

Revived Roman Empire



6. The Antichrist rises to power following the confederation of ten nations. He assumes control by force and subdues three of the ten members (Dan. 7:24).

“And four great beasts came up from the sea...”, Daniel 7:3



The 4 Beasts of Daniel 7



Dan 7:7, “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

Dan 7:8, “I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”

Dan 7:19, “Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its **teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;**

Dan 7:20, “and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.”

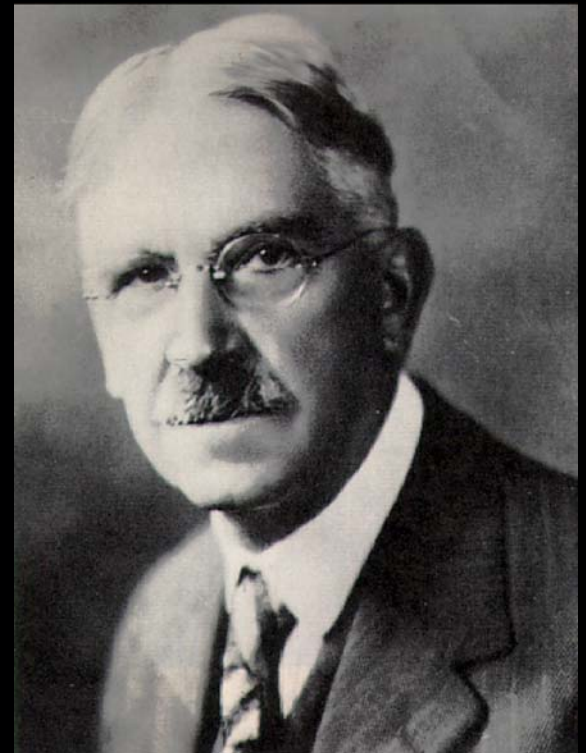
Dan 7:23, “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.’”

Dan. 7:24, “As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

Dan. 7:25, “And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”

“I cannot understand how any realization of the democratic ideal as a vital, moral, and spiritual ideal in human affairs is possible without surrender of the conception of the basic human division to which Christianity is committed.”

John Dewey, *A Common Faith*



THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

god



is not

Great

How Religion Poisons Everything

Christopher
Hitchens

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The **GOD** Delusion

Richard
Dawkins

OVER 50,000 COPIES SOLD

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

THE DAWKINS DELUSION



Atheist fundamentalism
and the denial of the divine

ALISTER MCGRATH &
JOANNA COLLICUTT MCGRATH

*'The God Delusion makes me embarrassed to be an atheist,
and the McGraths show why.'*

MICHAEL RUSE, Professor of Philosophy, Florida State University

Dan. 7:24, “As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

Dan. 7:25, “And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**
 1. **He rises to power from within the fourth empire, in an empire made up of 10 nations.**
 - a revival of the Roman Empire

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**
- 2. When He arises the 10 Kings are already in place.**

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**
- 3. There is some unique quality about him (7:28).**

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**
 4. **He is arrogant and challenges the most High with “great” or boastful words (7:8, 11, 20).**

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**
 - 5. He persecutes Tribulation saints.**

Daniel 7

- What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:
 6. Rev. 13:7, 8, “He was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast. . . .”
= Truly global government

Daniel 7

- What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:

7. Rev. 13:16–18, “He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark. . . If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.”

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**
8. **He gains control of the world for only 3 1/2 years.**

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**
9. **He precipitates a war so ferocious that “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive” (Matt. 24:22).**

Daniel 7

- **What we learn about the Beast, or Little Horn:**
 - 10. He seeks to change the Jewish ceremonial calendar.**