

The Judgement before the Second Coming

Daniel's vision of the "small horn" and the judgement – Daniel chapter 7

*Dear Andrew**,

You are being brought before court! What feelings do you have when you hear this? Actually, every person's case is being heard in court. We have to inform ourselves about this!

In Daniel 7 the main prophecy of the book of Daniel begins. A court hearing is mentioned in this chapter.

It is important for us to note that the book of **Daniel** was written mainly for the end times. This is indicated by expressions like "*time of the end*" (8:17,19; 11:35,40), "*latter time*" (8:19; 12:4,8) and "*latter days*" (10:14) – so in our time.

We also know that the book of **Revelation** was written for the end times. So, we have **two** books which specifically deal with the last days.

It is clear that these two books are interrelated. There are 81 verses in Revelation which refer back to Daniel.¹

¹ Greek Text Edition by Nestle-Alland (*Novum Testamentum Graece*) notes alone 81 verses in Revelation, which refer back to or quote Daniel (WS 65)

We have already studied the four world kingdoms in Daniel 2 (*Letter to Andrew No. 6: How can I know what the future holds?*). That is why I won't mention the first three world kingdoms here, even though they are repeated in Daniel 7 with other images. We will start in Daniel 7 where a new explanations begin.

Rome is represented in chapter 2 by the legs of iron and in chapter 7 by a dreadful and terrible monster. The 10 horns mean that Rome broke up into federate states through mass migrations – the Germanic or European countries.

The "Small Horn" and the Judgement

In Daniel 7 there is something **NEW**: **namely the "small horn" and a judgement scene.**

Verse 8 says: "*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.***" (NKJV)

* Andrew according to the biblical Andrew in John 1:41-42.

At this point, it isn't explained yet who the "small horn" is and who it symbolizes. The only thing we know is that this new power **arises from the federate states succeeding Rome – the ten horns** – and that **three other existing states will be removed** by its actions. The small horn is depicted with eyes and a mouth.

Before Daniel gets an explanation about the small horn, he is shown a judgement scene.

Judgement in Heaven

*"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. **The court was seated, and the books were opened.**"* (Daniel 7:9.10 NKJV)

Suddenly, Daniels sees thrones being set up in heaven. Millions of angels are ministering to God and billions of angels surround the divine throne where God Father takes His seat. **While the "small horn" is still "speaking" on earth**, Daniel sees how the books in heaven are opened for judgement.

We ask ourselves why does it immediately continue after this statement (*"The court was seated, and the books were opened."* Daniel 7:10b) with: *"I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking ..."* (verse 11 NKJV)

Simultaneous Events in Heaven and on Earth

We further ask: **Why does God interrupt this vision of the four animals and the small horn with a judgement scene in heaven?** The answer is very important for us.

The reason is that both events take place simultaneously!

At the same time the small horn is speaking great things on **earth** (verse 11 first part), a judgement is **simultaneously** being held **in heaven**.

We see that this isn't the final judgement, but rather an **earlier** judgement. Therefore, we call it "the judgement before the second coming", because it starts long before Jesus comes again. (The exact time it starts is covered in Daniel 8.) **During** this judgement in heaven, the "small horn" is very active on earth. Verse 10 says: *"... in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words."* (NKJV)

Why is there a judgement before the second coming?

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Why is there this judgement, a judgement before Jesus comes again?

The answer is:

Because it has to be decided before the second coming who Jesus' children are, who His followers are, who are those who belong to Him and receive eternal life – and those who don't. Jesus showed this clearly in John 5:27-29:

“And (the Father) has given Him (Jesus) authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” (NKJV)

Those who **aren't** His followers/saints await, according to Revelation 20, (the second) resurrection and final judgement after the 1000 years.

The Son of Man Comes to the Father

After the insertion of the small horn (verses 11-12), Daniel suddenly sees in verses 13 onward how someone “*like the son of man*” comes to the Father. Verses 13-14:

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” (NKJV)

Who is this “Son of man”?

Jesus called Himself the “Son of man” 81 times. We have another important point here: Jesus comes to the Father **in heaven** for judgement. In this vision He **doesn't** come to the earth. This **isn't** the second coming of Jesus to the earth!

Daniel 7 is extremely important!

Vital issues are repeated in the Bible. We have seen the following sequence for the first time:

1. The phase of the small horn
2. The judgement in heaven and
3. God's eternal kingdom

This succession is shown three times in Daniel 7. This means that it is an **extremely important matter** for us in the end times.

What does Jesus do in this judgement?

He comes as an advocate for His followers, for the saints. When Jesus is my intercessor during the judgement, then I don't need to worry. This judgement – according to verse 22 – “**was made in favor of the saints of the Most High**”. The followers of Jesus, the small herd, was little regarded, oppressed and persecuted. Even today, 360 million Christians are persecuted according to Open Doors.

But now the tide turns. The small horn, which had until now dominated, is judged according to verses 11 and 26. And the small herd, the saints, receive the kingdom according to verses 18 and 27.

Furthermore, the judgement before the second coming decides which graves will open when Jesus comes again and which of the living will be changed when He comes.

This has to be decided beforehand. All others, who have renounced God and don't want anything to do with Him, will first be raised from the dead at the second resurrection and receive their final sentence according to what is written in the books about their lives. Then they will receive their sentence and be permanently blotted out. (John 5:29; Revelation 20:5)

When does the judgement in heaven start?

Verse 26 says: “**But** the court shall be seated.... **But what?** Verse 25 second part says that immediately before this **but**: “*Then the saints shall be given into his hand (the small horn) for a time and times and half a time.*” (NKJV)

Because of time limits, I can't give an in-depth explanation here. This time period is mentioned in Daniel and Revelation 7 times. The numbers are worded differently, but it remains 1,260 prophetic days. That is 1,260 actual years.

The biblical descriptions show us that the reign of the papal system went from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. “**But!**” sometime after 1798 this judgement starts. The precise beginning is shown in Daniel 8 with the 2,300 evenings and mornings. This is a prophetic time period of 2,300 years, which ends in 1844. Thus, the judgement before the second coming and the time of the end started in 1844.

Maybe you would like to study this more in depth at another time in order to completely understand it.

180 Years of Time of the End and Judgement

This means that we have already had 180 years of the time of the end and the judgement. If the time since 1844 is referred to as the time of the end, then it is obvious that we can soon expect the end of this time of the end and the judgement before Jesus' comes again.

We have been given prophetic messages primarily to call us to surrender our lives and begin an intimate life with Christ and not to satisfy our curiosity.

2 Peter 1:19 says: *“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.**”* (NKJV)

The main purpose of prophecy is to trust Jesus Christ even more and to follow Him in all areas of our lives.

Who is the small horn?

Back to Daniel. He doesn't know yet who the small horn symbolizes. In chapter 7:19-20 the angel tells him:

*“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 (the **Roman Empire**) with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head (these are the federate states stemming from the Roman Empire, the Germanic kingdoms, which are now Europe), and the other horn which came up, before which three fell ... ”* (NKJV)

The power of the small horn causes three other kingdoms to be removed.

In the 6th century there were a series of religious and politically motivated wars. The Roman emperor Justinian I went to war against the Germanic Ostrogoths, Vandals and Visigoths with the approval and blessing of the Roman bishop. These nations were a thorn in the Roman bishop's flesh, because they followed the teaching of Arius. They believed Jesus Christ was a created being. The bishop of Rome denounced this teaching as heresy and biblically speaking he was right. But he wasn't afraid to use political force against his theological opponents. These three nations were eliminated or “three horns fell”.

Thus, in the year 538 there was now place amongst the 10 horns for a “small horn” – the bishop of Rome. He received great power from the emperor and also on account of the emperor moving his headquarters from Rome to Constantinople. It happened just like it was prophesied in Daniel 7. The papacy had political power over the European countries for 1260 years. ²

Verses 20-22: *“... that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.”*

² William H. Shea, Daniel part 2, p. 126-127

The small horn will make war against the saints.

According to verse 21, *the small horn will make war against the saints and prevail against them.*

It is historically well-known that approximately 50 million people lost their lives as martyrs in the middle ages, because they had a biblical faith contrary to the church. Keyword: inquisition. An example:

In the crusade against the Waldenses and the Albigenses, which **Pope Innocent III** instigated, about 1 million people lost their lives. (W. Schulz, *Der Prophet Daniel*, p. 93)

The small horn “shall speak pompous words against the Most High”. (verse 25)

This verse is speaking about blasphemy. A greater accusation can't be made against believers. We have to ask ourselves, what would God see as blasphemy? Does it maybe have to do with the sacrifice of Jesus or with the claims of the popes or the priesthood?

When we think about these questions, then we should free ourselves of our own opinions and also differentiate between the papal system and the Catholic believers.

In the process I don't want to say **anything from us or from me**. When I mention something, then it will be based on a Catholic source.

Now, I will read a Bible verse about the singleness of Jesus' sacrifice and then quote a statement from a Catholic book, which was licensed by them to print. It deals with the Catholic faith solely using official statements from the church.

What the Bible says about the singleness of Jesus' sacrifice:

Hebräer 9,12: *“Er [Christus] ist ... durch sein eigenes Blut **ein für alle Mal** in das Heiligum gegangen und hat eine ewige Erlösung erworben.“*

Hebrews 9:12: *“... but with His (Christ) own blood He entered the Most Holy Place **once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption.”* (NKJV)

Hebrews 9:24-28: *“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; **not that He should offer Himself often**, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, **once** at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was **offered once** to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”*

Now a few sentences from the book “*Der Glaube der Kirche in den Urkunden der Lehrverkündigung*” (*The Belief of the Church in the Documents of Doctrinal Teaching*) by Josef Neuner SJ and Heinrich Roos SJ, published by Karl Rahner SJ. The preface says: **“This book contains the most important documents about Catholic beliefs in the German language. ...Everyone has a right to know what the church says about its own beliefs.”** In the introduction on p. 24 it says: “In this compilation the infallible decisions are designated with bold printed numbers in the margin.”

Here we are encouraged to get to know the Catholic beliefs. I am quoting from the 7th edition 1965, p. 311 from the chapter: Eucharist. It is printed in bold letters (p. 311, number 514).

“Because this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in mass, is the same Christ and is sacrificed without bloodshed, who once offered himself as a bloody sacrifice on the cross, thus the holy church assembly teaches: this sacrifice is a real sin offering.”

And p. 316, number **521**:

“1. Whoever says that God isn’t brought as a real and actual sacrifice at mass, ...should be excommunicated.”

Was Jesus sacrificed once or is He being continually sacrificed? We ask ourselves how God really assesses this occurrence, which is supposedly performed to His honor.

Another sentence, p. 220, number **342**:

“To subject themselves to the Roman pope is necessary for the salvation of all people: We declare, assert, ordain and proclaim this.”

However, the Bible says in Acts 4:12: “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”

In Daniel 7:25 it says: “*... And shall intend to change times and law ...*”

This states that this power will unlawfully change “**times and law**”.

We want to hear a Catholic voice on the subject. On May 22, 1954 an American, Mr. J. L. Day, wrote to Pope Pius XII (1939-1958) the following:

“Is the accusation true, that Protestant's accuse you of? They say you changed the seventh' day Sabbath to the, so called, Christian Sunday; identical with the first day of the week. If so, when did you make the change and by what authority?”

The answer appeared in the largest Catholic magazine at that time in the USA: *The Catholic Extension Magazine*. It read:

“Dear Sir,

Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

1 That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man.

2 We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say this Church, instituted by Christ, to teach and guide men through life, has the right to change the Ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to the Sunday. **We frankly say, "Yes, the Church made this change, made this law,** as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday Abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages, and a thousand other laws."

3 We also say that of all Protestants, the Seventh-day Adventist are the only group that reason correctly and are consistent with their teachings. It is always somewhat laughable to see the Protestant Churches, in pulpit and legislature, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in the Bible.

With best wishes,

Peter R. Tramer, Editor"

The verdict has already been determined for the small horn

We have discussed several aspects of the small horn's conduct, which are mentioned in verse 25. There is a total of 10 attributes. Verse 26 says:

"But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever." (NKJV)

The verdict for the small horn is a verdict from the Father and the Lord Jesus. The small horn will be *consumed and destroyed forever*.

But God differentiates between the system and the people. So that people, who want to be loyal to God and often don't know anything about these facts, won't be destroyed along with the others, God calls them in Revelation 18:4-5:

"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.'" (NKJV)

God wants to save the loyal people, who might not even know how far the church has departed from the Bible.

Come out of her, my people. God has people everywhere and He does everything He can to call them and save them.

On the other hand, this also means that no one should let themselves be called into this system.

We have now taken a closer look at part of the judgement in heaven.

What else will be investigated?

Daniel 7:21-22: *“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.”* (NKJV)

The judgement also investigates the subsequent fate of the **saints of the Most High**. The outcome of the judgement is very positive for them. God makes a judgment in their favor and they possess the kingdom. That is why the saints don't need to fear this judgement.

But unfortunately, I have to tell you from my experience as a businessman: I was never glad to go to court, although I was only a representative of my company there and wasn't personally affected by the hearing. As a rule, a person has a sort of queasy feeling in court.

We are all affected by this judgement in heaven. According to my knowledge, everyone who has ever made a decision for Jesus will be investigated, if they have completely surrendered themselves to Him and have remained faithful until the end.

2 Corinthians 5:10: *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”* (NKJV)

For those who are found faithful “in Christ”, Jesus takes on their guilt and gives them His righteousness.

It is God's will that we should know that we are saved. 1 John 5:13 says:

*“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”* (NKJV)

God wants us to have assurance of salvation, certainty that we are saved by His grace and through our faith. Am I sure that if I died today that I would be saved? We can have this assurance when we have completely surrendered ourselves to Jesus and live a life in close connection with Him.

In closing, I would like to share what helped me in this matter. The Word of God says: *“My son, give me your heart ... ”* (Proverbs 23:26 NKJV) **Have you given your heart to Jesus?** Are you willing to follow Him in everything? This is the best way of life - it affords us a new start over and over again and then leads us to eternal life.

Jesus then said in John 15:4 to everyone, who comes to Him: *“Abide in Me, and I in you ... ”* (NKJV) It is my decision. When I stay with Jesus, He promises to stay with me.

How can a person abide in Jesus?

We could study Bible texts on how to do that. But a short and precise quote about this statement made by Jesus is found in *The Desire of Ages* and has helped me immensely and given me clarity. It says:

“Abiding in Christ means

- › a constant receiving of His Spirit,
- › a life of unreserved surrender to His service.”
(p. 676.2)

That is why I pray every morning in the following sense:

Father, please give me the Holy Spirit today, because Jesus promised: ask and you will receive. And how much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. I claim this promise and thank You that You have given me the Holy Spirit now. Lord Jesus, I surrender myself to You with everything I am and have. Please help me to be willing to do everything You want.

Dear Andrew,

May you have this wonderful relationship with Jesus and thus know that you are saved and thus be a joyful Christian filled with God's power.

With warm greetings,

Helmut

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BOOK 1: STEPS TO PERSONAL REVIVAL

Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Our lord himself has given the command:¹ Let yourselves be consistently and repeatedly filled anew with the spirit!²

- 1 Ellen G. White, *Mount of Blessing*, MB 20.3 (egwwritings.org)
- 2 Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes* (Lüneburg, 1999), p. 101

www.steps-to-personal-revival.info

FOREWORD FOR LEADERS AND FUTURE LEADERS MULTIPLYING THE RESULTS

CHAPTER 1: JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

Are you acquainted with Jesus' most powerful message?

CHAPTER 2: WHAT IS THE CENTER OF OUR PROBLEMS?

Is there a spiritual cause to our problems? Is the cause a lack of the Holy Spirit?

What is the main problem with being a carnal Christian?

CHAPTER 3: OUR PROBLEMS ARE SOLVABLE

What is God's solution for our problems? How can we grow to be happy and strong Christians? What is the relationship between baptism and the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 4: WHAT DIFFERENCES CAN WE EXPECT?

What advantage do we have with a life filled with the Holy Spirit?

What do we lose when we don't pray for the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 5: THE KEY TO PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

How can I implement and experience God's solution for me?

How should I pray so that I am sure of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 6: WHAT EXPERIENCES LIE AHEAD OF US?

Personal experiences, as well as experiences from churches, a conference and a union

CHAPTER 7: INTEREST AND SHARING

The Joy that we give returns to our own hearts. (German Proverb)

How can I help others to experience "Life in Abundance"?

How do we pass on the message? Which ways are there?

