

And dominion was given unto it. And then he says, After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth . . . and it had ten horns. This is a picture of the Roman empire which lasted as long as the other three put together, an empire which conquered most of the territory that had been in any of them and a good bit of the territory that had been in addition.

So this fourth beast he does not compare with any actual beast that was known, any actual animal that was known. He simply says a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible and strong exceeding. Then he describes the end of this beast. "It had ten horns, and I considered the horns and behold there came up among them another little horn, before which there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots . . . Here we jump forward to the revival of the Roman empire at the end of this age, or the revival of Roman culture which characterizes our civilization to a very great extent today, in some particular form whether it represents something that is yet established or whether it means considerable difference before it reaches this actual point, we cannot say for certain. But here we see events that are going to happen -- a little horn coming up and plucking up three of the ten horns. That is probably the antichrist in the book of Revelation. I doubt if many here will see that happen because it is most likely that will happen after the church is taken out. We read in 2 Thess. that after the ch. is taken out then that wicked one will appear whom the Lord shall destroy with the breath of his mouth and with the brightness of His coming. It gives a glimpse here of the terrible events that will take place at the very end of this age.

Then he says, I beheld till the thrones were placed, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head as pure wool . . . a firey stream issued and came forth before him . . . the judgment was set and the books were opened . . . I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed . . . As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time." So we have the events at the end of this age that are barely glanced at in ch. 2, here looked at more extensively. Ch. 2 speaks of the Stone striking the image on the foot and growing till it fills the whole earth. Here we have the picture of it that it is done, we have more detail, and see that while what is said there is true it is a condensed picture, and here it is given in more detail. And the way that the beast is destroyed is by the coming of Christ to this earth described clearly in v. 13 (reading)

There are those who criticize premillennialism because they say premillennialism teaches Christ will reign for 1000 yrs. And they say, These passages say His kingdom will not be destroyed. Now there is no contradiction there in those two statements actually because it is nowhere said, nor has any premillennialist ever said that the kgdm. of Christ will be destroyed after ~~1000~~ 1000 yrs. There is a kgdm. set up at Christ's coming, and there is a period of 1000 yrs. before the wicked dead are raised. Before there comes that last great uprising described in Rev. 20 there is a period of 1000 yrs. and an attempt to destroy the kgdm. of Christ. But Rev. 20