



The Four Beasts of Daniel's Vision

Daniel Chapter Seven
Wednesday, February 28, 2018

First Assembly of God
Wednesday Night Bible Study

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THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL STATESMAN FOR THE AGES

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THE FOUR BEASTS

1 The first six chapters of Daniel were primarily historic narrative; however, the remainder
2 of the book contains visions Daniel had that were prophetic in nature. The first two of
3 these visions came during the Babylonian period and the other two, later in the Persian
4 period. In other words, chapter 7, for example, occurred back in the reign of Regent
5 King Belshazzar, probably ten years before the fall of Babylon.

6
7 Daniel 7:1-2

8 **In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of**
9 **his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. [2]**
10 **Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of**
11 **the heaven strove upon the great sea.**

12
13 “The four winds of Heaven” indicate that human history falls within the ultimate divine
14 will of God. “Stirring up the great sea” means the Mediterranean Sea. So these verses
15 tell us immediately that God had set the scene for a prophecy of the providence, and the
16 will, of God.

17
18 Daniel 7:3-4

19 **And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. [4] The**
20 **first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were**
21 **plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man,**
22 **and a man's heart was given to it.**

23
24 You will be reminded in this chapter of Daniel chapter 2, in which God showed
25 Nebuchadnezzar (then the King of Babylon) the Gentile nations that would predominate
26 the world through the next centuries. Remember the King's dream of a statue with:

- 27 • the head of gold - Babylon (which lasted less than one century)
- 28 • the shoulders of silver - the Medo Persian Empire (which lasted several centuries)
- 29 • the trunk of brass - the Greeks (another several centuries)
- 30 • the legs of iron - the Roman Empire (which lasted for a few hundred years)
- 31 • the feet of clay mixed with iron - our civilization today



The Babylonian Lion (Found in the Ishtar Gate of the wall of Babylon)

THE FIRST BEAST: THE LION WITH THE WINGS OF AN EAGLE

The first creature Daniel saw in his vision was a beast that came up from the sea. It was a lion with eagle's wings - Babylon. This relates to the image witnessed in his dream by Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 2. Found by archeologists were sculptures of this creature at the gate of the King's palace Babylon.

We often think of lions as the king among animals while the magnificent eagle is the monarch of flying birds. So this first creature symbolized the absolute power of the Babylonian rule over all the then-known world. The wings give note of the speed and power of Babylon in its conquests.

However, as Daniel watched the lion, the wings were "plucked off" and it was made to stand on the earth as a human being would do. *This certainly happened to Nebuchadnezzar in chapter four when, for seven years, he was reduced from the ruler of the world to an outcast in the woods. His arrogance and pride brought him to God's justice which was an insanity for seven years.*

This first beast, seen by Daniel in his vision, certainly was Babylon in its golden period, as ruler of the world.

THE SECOND BEAST: THE BEAR WITH THREE RIBS IN ITS MOUTH

1 Daniel 7:5

2 **And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one**
3 **side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said**
4 **thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.**

5
6 What a prophecy! A few decades after Daniel had this vision, the Medes and Persians
7 (the Medo-Persian Empire) struck down Babylon. We studied this in Daniel 5 (“in that
8 night was Belshazzar....slain).

9
10 The three ribs in its mouth are the three kingdoms that constituted the empire: Babylon,
11 Lydia (Turkey) and Greece.

12
13 We remember from biblical and historical story of Queen Esther of Persia, that this
14 empire did not move “on eagles’ wings” as did Babylon. In fact, like bear, it lumbered
15 from victory to victory. It was Persian King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) who led 300,000 men
16 and 300 ships against Greece at Thermopylae and was defeated. His fleet was destroyed
17 by a storm because God did not intend the East to control the West at that time.

18
19 Like a bear, however, the Medo Persians cruelly overcame their foes, trampling them
20 underfoot.

21
22 Remember, this empire was the prophesied silver arms and shoulders of
23 Nebuchadnezzar’s image in Daniel 2. The empire ended around 311 B.C.

24
25 **THE THIRD BEAST: THE LEOPARD WITH FOUR WINGS AND FOUR HEADS**

26
27 Daniel 7:6

28 **After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it**
29 **four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.**

30
31 There are few animals as beautiful and agile as the leopard! One night in South Africa,
32 Darlene and I were on a camera safari, sitting quite high above the ground in a specially-
33 prepared jeep. It was close to midnight. The vehicle was equipped with special lights
34 that penetrated into the jungle. All of a sudden, seemingly from nowhere, came a
35 gorgeous leopard which circled our jeep for about five minutes. I got some terrific video
36 of this glorious creature. Finally and sadly it tired of us and sauntered back off into the
37 bush, disappearing from our view for good. But what a magnificent animal!

38
39 So - the third beast in Daniel’s vision was a leopard, only this one had four wings and
40 four heads which symbolized something far more than one mere animal. God was now



THIS FIRST-CENTURY MOSAIC WAS FOUND IN POMPEII SHOWING ALEXANDER THE GREAT FIGHTING KING DARIUS III OF PERSIA IN THE BATTLE OF ISSUS.

showing Daniel the Greek empire which would become reality under a Macedonian named Alexander (the Great). He was born in 356 BC and succeeded his father Philip II to the throne at the age of 20. (You will recall the ministry of Paul and Silas in Philippi - named after Alexander's father Philip.)

Alexander spent most of his ruling years on military campaigns through Asia Minor and northeast Africa. He created one of the largest empires of the ancient world by age 30, stretching from Greece to northwestern India. THIS IS THE THIRD BEAST OF DANIEL'S VISION! Following his conquest of Turkey (Anatolia), he broke the power of Persia in a series of decisive battles. His empire stretched from the Adriatic Sea to the Indus River (which runs 2000 miles through India).

Alexander died at the age of 33 in Babylon. His four primary generals who followed him played a vital role in the development of the world Jesus knew. They are the four heads of the leopard as told us by Daniel (7:6). These men divided Alexander's realm among themselves: Lysimachus took much of Turkey; Cassander took Macedonia and Greece; Seleucus took Syria and Babylon; and Ptolemy took Palestine and Arabia. These four

1 entities were never at real peace.
2

REMEMBER....DANIEL RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM GOD IN THE MID 500'S B.C., CENTURIES BEFORE THE EMPIRES CAME TO PASS! THIS IS A PRIMARY REASON (AMONG MANY) WHY WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS A SUPERNATURAL BOOK, WRITTEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH 40 INDIVIDUALS OVER A 1500 YEAR PERIOD!

3 THE FOURTH BEAST - THE ONE WITH TEN HORNS

4
5 Daniel 7:7-8

6 **After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and**
7 **terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in**
8 **pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the**
9 **beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. [8] I considered the horns, and,**
10 **behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three**
11 **of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the**
12 **eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.**

13
14 This beast was the Roman Empire, which succeeded Greece (the iron legs of
15 Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2) and brought the whole known world to its power.

16
17 It began rather small, just a small village on the River Tiber in Italy, but it began to extend
18 its territory through wars with its neighbors in the fourth century BC. Spain and
19 Carthage (Greece) had fallen prey to Rome by the turn of the second century BC. One by
20 one, nations fell to Rome, including Israel and Jerusalem as well. Today all this territory
21 of the fourth beast is known as Great Britain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and
22 other adjacencies. Rome built the largest empire in human history - even reaching the
23 border of India. But no empire lasts forever and Rome fell to invading armies by 410
24 AD.

25
26 *In Daniel's vision, this terrifying fourth beast crushed and devoured its victims and*
27 *trampled underfoot what was left. This showed that Rome, driven by the lust for*
28 *conquest, would relentlessly pursue a policy of expansionism, crushing the subjugated*
29 *countries. In fact, the massacre of subjugated people took place frequently with*
30 *thousands killed at one time. Those who survived the massacres, hundreds of thousands*
31 *of them, were carried off as prisoners of war and sold as slaves.*

32 DANIEL / PAUL YONGGI CHO / CREATION HOUSE / PAGE 96

The Ten Horns And The Little Horn

The fourth beast was Rome, as already identified. Near the time of the end of the Gentile age (the ten toes of Daniel 2), from Rome (Europe) come ten horns - ten governmental units. It is my belief that we have seen some of this already fulfilled in Europe with its common market and the euro.

The little horn, which arises from the ten horns, is the advent (the coming) of Antichrist. His arrival on the world scene will have to do with shifting of powers in Europe ((verse 8), the “plucking up of three of those horns.” Much of the world will fall at Antichrist’s feet, worshipping him not only as a strong political and economic leader but also as their savior.

I have personal beliefs about this “little horn.” While this person’s identity has not been revealed, many through the past decades have attempted to name him: Mussolini, Roosevelt, Hitler, etc. None of these efforts proved correct. Nor would I attempt to emphatically declare his identity; however, I would say keep your attention on the world of Islam and their “predicted coming world leader,” the Mahdi. Everything about the ID of this coming figure, according to Islam, fits the Biblical description of Antichrist. But no one knows positively.

I am a strong “pre-tribber,” that is, I believe the Rapture of the Church occurs before the coming Tribulation - that seven-year period on Earth in which the “Little Horn,” Antichrist, will pollute the world and its peoples.

Although God’s people may endure severe trials before the Lord comes, the Church will be raptured before the period called the Great Tribulation. In 2 Thessalonians 2 Paul indicated certain things must take place before the Day of the Lord (of which the Great Tribulation is a part) can begin. The mystery of iniquity has been at work since Paul’s time but is being restrained by the power of the Holy Spirit through the true Church. Only when the Church is removed from Earth by the Rapture can this figure come forward publicly.

This time of tribulation is seven years of divine wrath on a Christ Jesus-rejecting population. But note: 1 Thes. 5:9 **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ...** Christians are told repeatedly in the New Testament to be watchful for the Lord’s appearing. Never are they taught to watch for the Great Tribulation nor the appearance of Antichrist. Believers are told to wait for “his Son from heaven,” not the seven years of wrath: 1 Thes. 1:10 **And to wait for his Son**

1 **from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the**
2 **wrath to come.**

3
4 It is also vital to note that it is consistent with God's dealings with His people in the Old
5 Testament to believe the Church will be removed before the tribulation. God did not sent
6 the great flood until Noah and his family were safely in the ark. He did not destroy
7 Sodom until Lot was taken out.

8
9 I could go on and on about this "little horn," but I would rather talk of the coming of
10 Christ!

11 THE ANCIENT OF DAYS

12
13
14 Daniel 7:9-12

15 **I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose**
16 **garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne**
17 **was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. [10] A fiery stream issued**
18 **and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten**
19 **thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books**
20 **were opened. [11] I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the**
21 **horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given**
22 **to the burning flame. [12] As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their**
23 **dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.**

24
25 Jesus will not put up with this upstart, counterfeit Christ for long. In his vision, Daniel
26 saw God (the Ancient of Days) seated on His throne in Glory. Did you note his
27 description of the Creator? *His vesture was white like snow....and the hair of His head*
28 *was like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels like a burning fire. A*
29 *river of life was flowing from before Him.* And yet I sometimes hear saints declare they
30 can hardly wait when they get to Heaven to leap into God lap, smothering Him with kisses.
31 (I think not.)

32
33 Note the angels around the throne! Ten thousand times ten thousand. That's 100-
34 MILLION! Plus all the redeemed by the blood of Christ! What a crowd. What are we
35 going to witness there? Following Armageddon and the end of earth's tribulation, Jesus
36 will take the Antichrist and bind him and pitch him into hell. All the counterfeit Christ's
37 followers will suffer the same fate. On Planet Earth, Jesus will rule for that thousand
38 years in a time we call the Millennium. Daniel saw that, too:

39
40 Daniel 7:13-14

1 **I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the**
2 **clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before**
3 **him. [14] And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all**
4 **people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting**
5 **dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be**
6 **destroyed.**

7
8 Who is this “Son of Man?” Jesus! In His earthly ministry, He often referred to Himself
9 in that way. In this vision, Daniel saw Jesus and His redeemed and glorified followers
10 returning to Earth. We know this event as THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST - not
11 to be confused with the earlier Rapture when the saints, living and dead, are risen to meet
12 Christ in the air. Oh the glory of this thought: Jesus will reign on earth - and we have
13 responsibilities with Him for the fantastic thousand years.

14
15 My friend, we will get rewards with Jesus beyond our wildest dreams! Romans 8:16-17
16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: [17]**
17 **And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we**
18 **suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.**

19
20 What a future (and that’s just the thousand-year Millennium!)

21 DANIEL TROUBLED BY THE VISIONS

22
23
24 Daniel 7:15-16

25 **I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my**
26 **head troubled me. [16] I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him**
27 **the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the**
28 **things.**

29
30 Daniel was bewildered and asked an angel for help:

31
32 Daniel 7:17-20

33 **These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the**
34 **earth. [18] But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the**
35 **kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. [19] Then I would know the truth of the**
36 **fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth**
37 **were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped**
38 **the residue with his feet; [20] And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the**
39 **other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes,**
40 **and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his**

1 fellows.

2 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;
3 [22] Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most
4 High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. [23] Thus he said,
5 The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from
6 all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it
7 in pieces. [24] And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise:
8 and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall
9 subdue three kings.

10
11 (Verse 18: The saints of the most high shall take the kingdom!) What kingdom? The
12 earth during the Millennium. Antichrist's efforts to defeat us will come to nothing.)

13
14 Jesus will rule!

15
16 Daniel 7:25-28

17 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the
18 saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given
19 into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. [26] But the judgment
20 shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the
21 end. [27] And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under
22 the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose
23 kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. [28]
24 Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled
25 me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

26
27 Antichrist will attempt everything in his limited power - even to the re-arranging of times
28 and seasons. But Jesus will take away his dominion.

29
30 NOW....why did this chapter start with a rehash - so to speak - of Daniel 2, that is,
31 Nebuchadnezzar's image and the four kingdoms? Once again God used secular history,
32 which he foretold long before the events occurred, to substantiate the supernatural essence
33 of His Word. All those events in Chapter 7 which had to do with kingdoms changing,
34 one right after another came true! God's Word is proven once again.

35
36 Several years later, Daniel had yet another astounding vision, as recounted in chapter 8.
37 That will be our study next week.