

"Daniel's Vision"

Part 2

Daniel 7

Introduction: Last week in our study of Daniel we started into Daniel 7. We considered how this chapter as well as chapter 8 are not in chronological order. Daniel 7 fits in between Daniel 4 and Daniel 5. The events in this chapter happen at the beginning of Belshazzar's reign.

Notice Daniel 7:1

In this chapter Daniel records the vision which God gave to him while he was sleeping. It is a vision that shows the Times of the Gentiles just as the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar which we studied in Daniel 2. The image that Nebuchadnezzar saw and the vision that Daniel is given both cover the same subject and the same time period. But Nebuchadnezzar saw an impressive statue of gold, silver, bronze, iron and iron and clay, whereas Daniel's vision was of dreadful beasts that were seen as devouring. What is the difference? Nebuchadnezzar saw the image from the oppressor's point of view. Daniel sees the same time period in the form of dreadful beasts because he sees it as one who is being oppressed. The time period covered by the image of Nebuchadnezzar and the vision of Daniel starts when King Zedekiah was removed from the throne in Jerusalem during the Babylonian invasion and it takes us through time up until Jesus Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation to set up His Kingdom.

➤ **The Vision**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice Daniel 7:2

Last week we considered the 4 winds of heaven, and we determined that we cannot be dogmatic as to what they are. But it is safe to assume they are connected the power of God and the angelic forces. Whitcomb states that he believes they are the angelic forces that God uses to control and move the nations of the world. It is God who moves the nations and stirs the masses as He moves the pieces into place to set up the world for the fulfillment of prophecy.

The GREAT SEA here in verse 2 refers to the sea of humanity. Last week we considered how the sea in the Scriptures often refers to the Gentile nations while the land refers to Israel.

Revelation 13:1, 11

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.

The Anti-Christ rises from the sea, and the False Prophet rises from the land.

¹¹ *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

Notice Daniel 7:3-4

The first beast was like a lion, and it represented the Babylonians. This is the same as the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The wings speak of the swiftness that the Babylonians conquered. The wings plucked refer to what happened to Nebuchadnezzar when God humbled him.

Notice Daniel 7:5

The second beast was like a bear, and it represented the Medo Persian Empire. This beast was raised up on one side which shows that the Persians were the strong part of this empire. This is the same as the two arms of silver in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. What about the 3 ribs in the bear's mouth? Notice the words of another teacher.

"Ribs picture the remnants of a meal which has been devoured. This picture most probably speaks of the nations conquered by the Medes and Persians, which were historically Lydia (546BC), Babylon (539BC), and Egypt (525BC)."

Notice Daniel 7:5

I want you to notice that there is a command given to this beast and it is, "Arise and devour." This reinforces something that we looked at in our last study. Each of these empires were under the control of God. They would rise to power in God's time, and they would exist as long as God allowed and no longer. This is true of every nation that has ever existed or ever will exist. They come to power but only for their appointed time. There is

coming a day when the Kingdom of Jesus Christ will come to power, and all others will be destroyed.

Notice Daniel 7:14

This Kingdom will never end.

Notice Daniel 7:6

Here is the third beast and it is like a leopard, and it represents the Grecian Empire. This empire was led by Alexander the Great. This beast has four wings whereas the first had two. This tells us this empire made conquests twice as fast as the Babylonian Empire.

Notice the words of Walvoord.

"With the swiftness of a leopard, Alexander the Great conquered most of the civilized world all the way from Macedonia to Africa and eastward to India. The lightning character of his conquests is without precedent in the ancient world, and this is fully in keeping with the image of speed embodied in the leopard itself and the four wings on its back."

Alexander the Great was the man who wept after his conquests because there was no more land to conquer. His armies moved like lightning, and he was a military genius. He could conquer lands and peoples, but he could not conquer his own lust. The man died at sometime between the ages of 30-33. He died of sexually transmitted diseases. In verse 6 we are told that this leopard had 4 heads. What do the 4 heads reference? When he died, he had no heirs, so his kingdom was divided between 4 of his generals.

1. **Ptolemy** - south of Israel - Egypt.
2. **Seleucus** - north of Israel - Syria
3. **Lysimachus** - Thrace and much of Asia Minor
4. **Cassander** - Macedonia.

Notice the map.

Every one of these empires played a major part in God plan for the world but the Grecian Empire had a unique roll in God's plan. This empire lasted from 331 BC to 63 BC. Let us notice a verse from Galatians.

Galatians 4:4

⁴ But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

What does Paul mean by the "fulness of time?" God had arranged things so that the Gospel could be spread across the world. Notice the words of Boice.

"It was a time when the pax Romana (peace) extended over most of the civilized earth and when travel and commerce were therefore possible in a way that had formerly been impossible. Great roads linked the empire of the Caesars, and its diverse regions were linked far more significantly by the all-pervasive language of the Greeks. Add the fact that the world was sunk in a moral abyss so low that even the pagan cried out against it and that spiritual hunger was everywhere evident, and one has a perfect time for the coming of Christ and for the early expansion of the Christian gospel."

The Greek language was one important part of making a way for the Gospel to be shared. The language was adopted as the trade language and became widely known thus it was used to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Notice Daniel 7:7

The next beast is dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly. There is no animal to represent this beast because it is so dreadful. This beast is the same as the two legs of iron in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and it also includes the feet and toes in his dream. This is the Roman Empire.

Notice Daniel 7:7 again.

This beast had ten horns. These are ten kings that will exist in the kingdom of the Anti-Christ.

Revelation 17:12

¹² And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

So, here in verse 7 Daniel sees both first century Rome and also the revised Roman Empire of the Tribulation. That means that in the middle of this verse there is a 2000-year gap. This gap would be the church age, and Daniel was not able to see the age in which we live in. Let us notice where this happens again.

Matthew 24:1-8

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

² And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

✓ This would happen in AD 70.

³ And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

✓ Jesus then teaches about the Tribulation. Therefore, He stepped right over the church age when He was teaching His disciples. Notice what He says.

⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

⁷ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Why is this fourth kingdom seen as so dreadful and terrible? This would be the kingdom that would bring into practice the means of execution known as crucifixion. It would be under this kingdom that our Lord would be crucified. It would be this kingdom that would kill over 1 million Jews in AD 70. According to history they would rip open the wombs of Jewish women to kill the Jewish babies. This would be the kingdom that would destroy the temple and bring about the diaspora of the Jews across the world. It will be this kingdom in its revised state that will persecute the Jewish people and kill two thirds of them.

Zechariah 13:7-9

⁷ Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

⁸ And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Conclusion:

Next week we will come back and get more details of this fourth kingdom, and its horns. Our world is headed toward this fourth kingdom. The pieces are being moved as chess pieces on a playing board. In all of this let us know that God is in complete control of all that is happening.