

Dan09 – The Future is HERE – Dan 7:1-14

The 1st 6 Ch's of Daniel are kinda Daniel's Biography

We've had Some Prophetic sections (like Ch 2)

But mostly we've had a great time living Daniel's life with him
& there've been some great lessons

But here at Ch 7 – Things change pretty drastically
Because the 2nd HALF of Daniel – is ALL Prophecy

& one of the great things the Holy Spirit does for us right here

Is He (again) gives us a Panorama – a Bird's Eye view –
of the History of the World - & God's Ultimate Plan

Which is so great – because it helps us understand the Big Picture
of what is REALLY Going On in the World

God's already done this once - in Dan Ch 2 –

With Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Statue of a Man

& Now– to begin the formal “Prophecy HALF” of Daniel –

God's going to give us that same Prophetic Overview - Again

But THIS TIME – It's from GOD'S PERSPECTIVE – NOT MAN'S

Most Prophecy Scholars agree – The 2nd Half of Daniel provides
the Most Comprehensive (& detailed) Prophecies - in the O.T.

So we're going to start with a Comprehensive OVERVIEW
of the End-Times Prophetic Events

& Then - once we understand that – we'll dig into some of the

Exciting (& a few Scary) DETAILS – of our Prophetic Future

Let's Pray

Do you remember Nebuchadnezzar's dream from Dan Ch 2?

It was a HUGE Stature of a Man – Made out of FOUR METALS –
From GOLD to Iron Mixed with CLAY

Then a Rock *not made by Human Hands* flew into the feet of clay
& smashed the stature to bits

& that Same Rock became a Great Mountain
that covered the entire earth

& Daniel Explained to Nebuchadnezzar that the different metals
represented the four major - "World-Ruling Empires"

From Babylon – to a Revived Roman Empire

Then the Rock (*Jesus Christ*) – smashes ALL the World Empires
and sets up of the Kingdom of Heaven - that will last forever

Remember??

Well – that was the *History of the World* From MAN'S Perspective

Now (in Ch 7) – we're going to see the SAME *History of the World* –
but from GOD'S Perspective

This is something that God does a LOT -
He teaches the same LESSON – from TWO Diff Perspectives

I believe He does it **primarily** because he **wants us** to **GET IT**

So He **tells us TWICE** – from **TWO** Different **Perspectives**
To **give us EVERY CHANCE** – to **GRASP** what's **happening**

So –**we're going** to go over (again) The **SUMMARY VIEW**
of the **History of the World** – But from **God's Perspective** – okay?

Daniel 7:1 (NLT)

1 Earlier, during the first year of King Belshazzar's reign in Babylon, Daniel had a dream and saw visions as he lay in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and this is what he saw.

The **NLT** says "**EARLIER**" – **Because** this dream **occurred "Earlier"** –
during the **1st Year** of **Belshazzar's** reign

Who we **saw DIE** at the **end** of **Ch 5**. (so between Ch's 4 & 5)

Daniel 7:2 (NLT)

2 In my vision that night, I, Daniel, saw a great storm churning the surface of a great sea, with strong winds blowing from every direction.

The SEA is used **thru-out** the Bible as the **Nations of the World**
- or the **Mass (Sea) of Humanity**

& **So** the **SEA of Humanity** is **in** a **GREAT STORM**
with **STRONG Winds blowing** from every **direction**

We think the **Sea of Humanity** is **getting it all together** – we just **have**
to fix that **Global Warming Problem** & we're **good to go**

But God sees the **World** – **in a Great Storm** –
with **STRONG WINDS blowing** from every **direction**

& then – OUT OF that great Storm of Humanity . . . V.3 says

Daniel 7:3 (NLT)

3 Then four huge beasts came up out of the water, each different from the others.

Remember – this time it's from God's Perspective

When Nebuchadnezzar saw the History of the World– He saw it as a Huge MAN – Like we always see ourselves & our world

But here's how God sees the History Of The World -

As BEASTS of Immorality, Depravity, & Brutality (just watch)

Daniel 7:4 (NLT)

4 The first beast was like a lion with eagles' wings. As I watched, its wings were pulled off, and it was left standing with its two hind feet on the ground, like a human being. And it was given a human mind.

This vision Parallels the Statue Dream in Ch 2 – So this First Beast Represents the World-Ruling Empire of BABYLON

The Lion often represents Royal Power - & in fact – Babylon had WINGED LIONS guarding the Gates of the Royal Palace

& JEREMIAH Used a LION - & EZEKIEL Used An EAGLE to describe the Kingdom of Babylon

Daniel saw this beast become "Man-Like"

which is generally connected to Nebuchadnezzar's experience in Ch 4 - when God Radically HUMBLED him

& So - The 1st Beast is the 1st World-Ruling Empire of BABYLON

Daniel 7:5 (NLT)

5 Then I saw a second beast, and it looked like a bear. It was rearing up on one side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And I heard a voice saying to it, "Get up! Devour the flesh of many people!"

The 2nd BEAST was the MEDO-PERSIAN Empire that CONQUERED Babylon on the Night that King Belshazzar saw the Writing on the Wall in Dan Ch 5

Represented by a BEAR it was a Huge & Lumbering Empire being made up of the two empires - the Medes & the Persians

But it was FEROCIOUS - & DEVOURED other empires in it's way

& it was Lopsided (*rearing up on one side*) – Referring to the unfair Balance Of Power the Persians had over the Medes (history doc's)

We're not sure exactly what the ribs in the bear's mouth means but we know this empire Regularly Devoured other nations

Now – there's a COOL THING here –I've been trying to get in for the past few Msg's

In ISA 45 – God makes it clear – THIS is the empire He would use to Conquer Babylon & send the Jews back to the Promised Land

Isaiah 45:13 even NAMES CYRUS as the leader – 150 years BEFORE CYRUS was BORN

Isaiah 45:13 (NLT)

13 I will raise up Cyrus (Ruler of the Medo-Persian Empire) to fulfill my righteous purpose, and I will guide his actions. He will restore my city and free my captive people— without seeking a reward! I, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, have spoken!”

& **Not only** did **ISAIAH Prophecy** the **NAME** of **the RULER** who **would do** this

But **JEREMIAH** Perfectly **Prophesied** exactly **HOW** it would HAPPEN

In **JER 51** – it says **God** would make **all the officials** of **Babylon** **DRUNK** (which was *Belshazzar’s Party*)

then he would **DRY UP** the **River** - & **Babylon** would **FALL** – which is **Exactly** how **Babylon FELL**

As the **Medo-Persian** Army came **UNDER** the **River Gates**

The Accuracy of **God’s Prophecy** is **MIND BOGGLING**

BUT - - **God’s Prophecy** is **NOT just** God “**KNOWING the Future**” – **Like a Fortune Teller** on **Hollywood Blvd** w/ a **Sandwich Board**

God **KNOWS the Future** –
Because God has **ORDAINED the Future**

God **KNOWS the Future** –
Because God has **SET THE FUTURE in PLACE**

One of the **Great Lessons** of **Prophecy** is **KNOWING** – **GOD** is **Not Only in Control** – But has **Ordained** & **Established** **EXACTLY HOW** - this is **all going to work out**

God **KNOWS**

God is **IN CONTROL**

God is **BRINGING HIS PLAN** to **PASS**

& **if God** can **do that** for the **Events** of **World History** – **Don't** you **think** there's a **good chance** He can **do it** in **YOUR LIFE**

Or, are you like, ***“God, I know you have 4,000 years of world history perfectly under control – but WHAT ABOUT MY LIFE, WHAT if you CAN'T HANDLE directing MY LIFE”***

If God can bring **His PLAN** to **PASS** for the **History of the World**
God can bring **His PLAN** to **PASS** for **YOUR LIFE**

Moving on – to **Beast Number Three**

Daniel 7:6 (nlt)

6 Then the third of these strange beasts appeared, and it looked like a leopard. It had four bird's wings on its back, and it had four heads. Great authority was given to this beast.

The **Medo-Persian** Empire **Ruled** the World for **over 200 years**
Until **ALEXANDER the GREAT** & the **Empire of GREECE**

Alexander the Great Conquered **the World**
like a **LEOPARD with WINGS**

In **EIGHT Yrs** – **Greece** conquered **11,000 MILES** of **Territory**

Alexander the Great had **conquered** the **known world**
at **32 yrs old** – then **he DIED** – Literally - **of exhaustion**

& when Alexander the Great Died

The Empire of GREECE was divided up
by his FOUR Generals – into FOUR Major Divisions
Represented by the FOUR HEADS on the Leopard Beast

Finally – The FOURTH BEAST – Which Ultimately takes us
to the end of the Rule of MAN on Earth

Daniel 7:7 (nlt)

*7 Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast—terrifying,
dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with
huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet . . .*

This is the PERFECT Description – of the EMPIRE of ROME

When Rome conquered Medo-Persian (*& Eventually Known World*) –
they did it with Systematic Destruction of everything in it's path

Terrifying, Dreadful, Strong – the Roman Military Machine
CRUSHED it's Victims & Trampled their Remains under it's feet –
JUST LIKE Dan 7:7 says they would

The TERROR of Rome was UNMATCHED - *& of course* –
they were the HANDS that Crucified the Lord Jesus

The ROMAN Empire GREW for 400 years . . .
AND Then . . . Rome was NEVER Conquered

Rome fell from WITHIN - & Really – it just slowly DISSIPATED
into the Nations around it

Rome went from ONE “World-Ruling” Empire
to MANY “Self-Ruling” Empires

ROME was Never “Conquered” – it just “Changed SHAPE” –
It Blended in - to the European Nations

Now – BACK in Ch 2 – we saw the Roman Empire REVIVED
in the FEET of the Statue - that were a MIXTURE of IRON & CLAY

But HERE – Daniel sees it in DIFFERENT WAY

We KNOW there’s a HUGE a passage of time
Between the FIRST Roman Empire & the SECOND (revived)

But the Prophets of God Saw the Future much more like
looking at MOUNTAIN TOPS from a great distance

If you LINE UP two Mountain Top Peaks – & look from a great
Distance – they look like one is right behind the other

But when you get right up on them –
you realize there is a great distance between them

THAT’S how Daniel – like many O.T. Prophets
is seeing this FINAL World Ruling Empire

In the last half of V.7– Daniel is seeing PAST the First Mountain Top
of Rome – to the SECOND – which is still in the future for us

Daniel 7:7(b) (nlt)

*7 . . . It (the 4th Beast) was different from any of the other beasts,
and it had ten horns.*

In the **Statue of the Man** in **Ch 2**

The **Revived Roman Empire** was the **IRON & CLAY Mixture**

Which **Had 10 Toes** - *that God specifically Pointed out*

Here – those **TEN TOES** **become** the **10 HORNS** on this **Beast**

& **this Beast** was **Different** from **all the others** –

So Different Daniel **couldn't say** what it was “**LIKE**”

But in **Rev Ch 13** - we get a '**Picture**' of this **4th Beast**

Rev 13 Describes this **4th Beast**

& **ties** the **4th Beast** Together – w/ the **3 Previous** World **Empires**

Revelation 13:1–2 (NLT)

1 Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. (same as in Daniel) It had seven heads and ten horns (there they are), with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God.

2 This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! . . .

Those are the **3 previous** World-Ruling **Empires**

Meaning this **4th Beast** is the **Final Conglomeration**

of the **FOUR** Main **World-Ruling Empires** of Mankind

But the **END of v.2** – is the **EYE-OPENING Part**

Rev 13:2 . . . And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority.

In the Final REVIVED Roman Empire (the *Final Empire of Man*)

The DEVIL (Dragon in Rev 13) will give that Empire

His Own POWER, His Own THRONE, & His Own AUTHORITY

& THAT is the Empire - the ANTI-CHRIST will come from

& THAT is WHO Daniel Sees NEXT in His Vision (turn back)

Daniel 7:8 (nlt)

8 As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.

THIS – Is The Anti-Christ –

We'll return to discuss this 'Little Horn' in Detail next week

Because Daniel ASKS for an interpretation of him

But for today – this is The AntiChrist – He 'Rises Up'

or Appears Among the original 10 Horns

& THREE of the first Horns are TORN OUT to make room for him

The Eyes & Mouth are to make it clear this "Little Horn" is HUMAN
& he has a MOUTH that is BOASTING Arrogantly

Remember – This is an OVERVIEW of the End-Times
and the RISE of the Anti-Christ

if you're saying – *That's not enough DETAIL*

(again) We'll fill in the details starting next week

So now - Daniel is looking at the LAST World-Ruling Empire - & the AntiChrist has Risen to Power thru the Revived Roman Empire

& SUDDENLY – the SCENE Switches to HEAVEN

It's like a Video Game with SPLIT-SCREEN

In the Bottom Half - Daniel sees the Beasts on the Earth

In the Top Half - Daniel sees something else – IN HEAVEN

Daniel 7:9-10 (nlt)

9 I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, 10 and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.

Now THAT – is AWESOME !!!

The Thrones Of Heaven were Put in Place

& The 'Ancient of Days' – Sat down to JUDGE

This is GOD the FATHER - & this is an AWESOME Scene in Heaven

Now – this is the ONLY place in the Bible that God the Father is Described like this – so we know it's SYMBOLIC

But still – it is AWESOME !!!

The Ancient of Days comes into the Throne Room

His Clothing is White as SNOW

His Hair is White like Pure WOOL

& I especially like the END of V.9

He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire – AWESOME!

**But that's not all – V.10 says - a RIVER of FIRE was Pouring Out,
Flowing from His Presence**

& MILLIONS of Angels Ministered to him

& MANY MILLIONS stood to attend to Him

THAT is as AWESOME as it GETS

& ALL that FIRE - Represents God's JUDGMENT

I Don't Care WHAT HAPPENS - on this Earth

THAT is MY Heavenly FATHER – THAT'S HIM

THAT'S My ABBA Father – I BELONG to HIM !!

THAT is what's REALLY HAPPENING

THAT is what's REALLY GOING ON

So all I have to do is keep THAT in Perfectly Clear Focus

- Keep THAT - on the TOP HALF of My Screen

& whatever's happening on the Bottom Half – I Can Deal With

& that is EXACTLY What Daniel is Doing !

He's keeping his eyes SET on the Heavenly SCENE

As we cont – Daniel 7:11 (nlt)

11 I continued to watch because I could hear the little horn's boastful speech . . .

So **he's HEARING** from the **Bottom Half**

But he's **keeping his FOCUS** on the **Top Half !!**

& **Here's what** he sees

Daniel 7:11(b) (nlt)

11 . . . I kept watching until the fourth beast (final World-Ruling Empire of the Anti-Christ) was killed and its body was destroyed by fire.

Do you **REALLY Understand Who **WINS this Game** in the **END?****

Are you **REALLY SURE you are **ON HIS SIDE?****

In **V.12** – **Daniel connects** all the **World Ruling empires**

- Just **like John does** in **Rev 13**

Daniel 7:12 (nlt)

12 The other three beasts had their authority taken from them, but they were allowed to live a while longer.

This seems to be referring to **Man's Rule of the **earth continuing**
until the final Rule of the Anti-Christ**

& **then** – **Lastly for today** – The **Grand Entrance** of the **Only One**
Who (Rev Ch 5) - **IS WORTHY** to **Take Title Deed** of **the Earth**

The One Who will ultimately **RULE** All the **Nations of The Earth**

The One Who's **RULE** is **ETERNAL**

The One Who's **Kingdom** will **NEVER BE DESTROYED**

Daniel 7:13-14 (nlt)

13 As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven (which is how Jesus describes His own return in Mark 14). **He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence.**

14 He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty (as in 'rule') **over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.**

Jesus Christ is Given – BY the Father

- ALL Authority, Honor, & Sovereign RULE
- Over ALL the Nations of the World
- So that ALL the World will OBEY Him as LORD
- & His Rule will be - ETERNAL

THAT - is The End of the History of EMPIRES of this World

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

15 . . . “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

THAT is how all this ENDS

It's NOT - Republican or Democrat

It's NOT - Democracy or ISIS

It's NOT - One Religion over Another . . .

In the END – the KINGDOMS of this World will become
the KINGDOM OF JESUS CHRIST !! - & He will REIGN forever

The only question is – will YOU REIGN With Him ?

The Bible Repeatedly Says - those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ – Will REIGN WITH HIM

Will YOU? – Really?

Have you put your Full Faith in Jesus Christ
Surrendering your life to Him completely ?

If So – You will be Reigning WITH Him - in His Eternal Kingdom
If NOT – You will NOT EVEN BE THERE

But God's Promise is SURE

Romans 10:13 (NLT)

13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Let me give you a chance to do that right now

Let's Pray