

Learning to do the hard things well

Daniel 7:1-14

- In the first six chapters the book of Daniel covered primarily a historical narrative of the times of his day except of course in chapter two concerning Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Now in these last six chapters instead of speaking on the autobiographical of his day, he will speak of prophetic events that up to this point had yet to occur.

V1-14

- **V1** interesting that chapter seven takes us back in time in order to speed us up and show us what is going to take place in the future. So this actually happens between chapters four and five, remember in chapter four Nebuchadnezzar was humbled for seven years, and then in chapter five Belshazzar has the Kingdom taken from him by the Medes and Persians, which makes this event happen right after Belshazzar comes into power and Daniel has fallen out of the public eye.
- Although Daniel is not longer in the public spotlight God is still speaking to him behind the scenes. He is roughly between sixty eight and seventy, an old man especially during his day, and God gives him a vision that parallels the dream God gave to Nebuchadnezzar fifty or more years earlier, and incredibly Daniel will speak on six different kingdoms > 4 pertain to man, 1 of Satan, and the last of the Messiah.
- **V2-4** the great sea is used often as a biblical metaphor to the nations of the world > **Rev 17:15**- referring to the nations of the world as being in a state of war, chaos, and unrest, like the Sea and its waves becoming violent and unpredictable in the midst of a storm. Out of the nations of the world four beasts arise from the sea each different from the other, and then Daniel gives a description of each beast he saw.
- **1st** is a lion with the wings of an eagle, this represents the kingdom of Babylon, where in Nebuchadnezzar's vision was the head of gold. In **Jer 4:7, 13, 48, 49, 50:17, Ezek 17:3, 12, Hab 1:6-8** describe Babylon as a lion devouring all that is around, and with eagle's wings because of the swiftness in which they will pounce upon a kingdom.
- What's interesting is Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream a great image made up of valuable metals, while Daniel sees in his vision dangerous beasts that ruthlessly devour people and nations, and yet it is the one and the same future of man.

- Notice the lion is lifted up and made to stand like a man, and then given a man's heart, this no doubt speaks of chapter four when God humbled Nebuchadnezzar, and made him live like a beast for seven years before its empire would fall, having its wings plucked as mentioned earlier in the verse.
- **2nd V5** a bear with three ribs in its mouth- symbolizes the empire of the Medes and Persians who defeated the Babylonians in chapter five. This parallels the arms and chest of silver of the great image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. In his description Daniel says the bear was raised up on one side like having a giant hump in its back, that's because the Persians were stronger than the Medes. The ribs represent Lydia, Egypt, and Babylon, nations it conquered, it devoured much flesh.
- **3rd V6** the leopard with four wings - represents Greece and Alexander the Great, as a leopard it was fast but with three wings on its back shows the swiftness upon which his armies would invade and conquer other nations, such as the Medes and Persians, this resulted in a vast expansion of Greece. Also the four heads represent Alexander's untimely death which left them without a successor and caused the kingdom to be divided into four parts with four different leaders.
- **4th V7** the dreadful and terrible beast- represented the Roman Empire in Nebuchadnezzar dream it had legs to be as strong and enduring as iron. The Roman armies swept across the known world like an uncompromising beast defeating one nation after another until its empire extended from the Atlantic Sea to the Caspian Sea, from North Africa through Palestine, unto Syria. In Israel much property is still owned by The Roman Church, sites like the area surrounding the Mt of Olives.
- The ten horns correspond with the ten toes in Nebuchadnezzar vision and it represents ten kings or nations coming out from it, which is later mentioned in **V24**, but Daniel focuses on the little horn that emerges from among the ten horns.
- **5TH V8,11**, the little horn – it has an insignificant beginning but in its growth it was able to uproot three of the existing horns, and was noted for its intelligence (it has the eyes of a man) and its blasphemous claims (it had a mouth that spoke boastfully). Because of its boasting he sees the fifth beast slain and consigned to the fire, this is the Kingdom of Satan and it will be explained in the coming verses.

- **6th V9-14**, The Kingdom of Christ- The Ancient of Days is a description of The Sovereign God, His clothing of white and Hair of wool speaks of His Holiness and His wisdom, and a thousand thousands ministered to Him while ten thousands times ten thousands stood before Him while the books were opened wow!
- God has put this in order well before the kingdom of Satan ever appears, and tis shows that no matter how bad it seemingly gets He is still in control. The books being opened means God is The One Who judges, remember Daniel's name means "God is my Judge, or God has judged", and he sees this in his vision God will Judge.
- **V12-14** in judging the world and Satan although these kingdoms are dismantled remnants of their rebellion will still remain as they are prolonged for a season and a time. Until One like The Son of Man appears coming like the clouds of heaven, He comes to The Ancient of Days, showing once again that Jesus and The Father Co-exist, and Jesus is given the dominion, glory and Kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him, as His dominion, and Kingdom is Everlasting.