

- I) V1-8 INTRO: In the *first year* of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and
- II) John Walvoord: The seventh chapter of Daniel... provides the most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future events to be found anywhere in the Old Testament
- III) Ch 7 begins the prophetic section of the Book of Daniel
Chronologically, these events occur between the events recorded in Ch 4-5
Ch 4 closed with the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar and ch 5 with the fall of Babylon
- IV) This would make the date 553 BC, which is 14 years before the fall of Babylon
- V) In this chapter Daniel gives a prophetic picture of four great world empires
These are the empires of Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece and Rome
- VI) It ends with a picture of the return of Jesus and the establishing of His kingdom
This is pictured by a fifth and final kingdom, one that does not pass away (V14)
- VII) This prophetic picture specifically relates to events in the Latter Days
This was first revealed in chapter two
Dan 2:28 There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the *latter days*
- VIII) As we have seen, Nebuchadnezzar had two dreams that were interpreted by Daniel
In this chapter, it is Daniel who receives a communication in a dream
- IX) The bible records that God spoke in times past in various ways
He might speak directly, like He did to Job, Abraham, Moses, Samuel and Elijah
He could speak through angels, like He did with Joshua
He used a donkey to speak a warning to Balaam (Nu 22:27-30)
He used dreams, like when Jacob dreamed of a ladder to heaven (Gen 28:12; Jn 1:51)
He obviously directed people through the Book of the Law (His Word)
- X) He also spoke through His prophets
Heb 11:1 In the past God *spoke to our ancestors* through the prophets at many times and in various ways

XI) This is what is happening here: God is speaking to Daniel, a prophet, in a dream

This dream is prophetic in content

Nu 12:6 If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make Myself known to him in a vision and I speak to him in a dream

V1 The Lord is speaking to Daniel in a dream, and Daniel writes down the main facts

I) V2 Daniel spoke saying I saw in my vision by night and behold the four winds of heaven

These are the main facts of his dream

II) The four winds of heaven could speak of the four corners of the world

Rev 7:1 After these things I saw four angels standing at *the four corners of the earth*, holding *the four winds* of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

III) It can also refer to the whole of humanity

IV) Stirring up the *Great Sea* could speak of commotion among the nations of the world

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters

Rev 17:15 He said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

V) V3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other

VI) The stirring of Gentile history produces four great Gentile powers

This corresponds *numerically* to Nebuchadnezzar's dream

VII) INTERESTINGLY: Nebuchadnezzar's image had four metals, but Daniel saw four animals

This contrasts man's value of kingdoms with what God knows them to be

Man sees the glory and power of the kingdoms, but God sees the brutality, inhumanity and depravity of the kingdoms of man

VIII) V4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings and I watched till its wings were

IX) The Lion is Babylon: Winged lions guarded the royal palaces of Babylon (612-536 BC)

Both Lions and Eagles are symbolic of royalty, the king of beasts and the king of birds

Like a lion, Babylon was powerful and swift to conquer

X) The wings plucked would speak of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling and conversion (ch 4)

A man's heart was given to him speaks of where came to see that he was *only a man*

XI) V5 And suddenly another beast, a second like a bear. It was raised up on one side and

This is Medo-Persia (536-333 BC): They used great amounts of troops to conquer

This was like the lumbering of a bear: they were ferocious in attack, but not majestic

Is 13:18 (Medes) Their bows will strike down the young men; they will have no mercy on infants, nor will they look with compassion on children.

I) It was raised up on one side, as a picture of the unequal relationship of Media and Persia (Persia being superior)

II) Three ribs in its mouth could be a picture of people subdued by Medo-Persia
Others say this could be a picture of Media, Persia and Babylon
These are the major components of the Medo Persian empire

III) V6 After this I looked and there was another, like a leopard which had on its back four

Greece: The leopard is swift, and the wings emphasize its swiftness

IV) Under Alexander, the Greeks were like a leopard: quick to conquer
Greece conquered from Macedonia to Africa and India

V) V6 This beast had four heads and dominion was given to it

VI) The four heads represent the division of the kingdom after Alexander's died in 323 BC

Egypt, Israel and Arabia Petrea: Under Ptolemy

Thrace and Bithynia: Lysimachus

Macedonia and Greece: Cassander

Syria, Babylonia and territories as far east as India: Seleucus

VII) V7 After this I saw in the night visions and behold a fourth beast dreadful and terrible

VIII) This is the Roman Empire (241 BC-1453 AD)

Notice how Daniel described it: Dreadful, terrible and exceedingly strong

Rome enslaved and to killed its enemies with great violence: Crushed

them under foot

IX) This has a fulfillment not only during the time of its original appearance, but in the future

Dan 9:26 The people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the *city* and the *sanctuary*. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

X) 10 HORNS: Ten actual kingdoms will exist simultaneously in a revived Empire

XI) V8 I was considering the horns and there was another horn, *a little one*, coming up

This is the Antichrist and describes the consolidation of his rule: 3 nations subdued

XII) Among other things, this coming world ruler will be an arrogant military leader

Dan 11:37-38 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses

I) Rev 13:4 They worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

II) V9-10 I watched till thrones were put in place and the *Ancient of Days* was seated

Obviously, this is a future event: He has a vision of Heaven and final judgment

We see the final judgment on the nations, the last ruler of the times of the Gentiles destroyed with his empire, and we see a fifth kingdom revealed bringing in the rule of God

III) V10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him

IV) Judgment is pictured here: Books are opened

Rev 20:12-15 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

V) V11-12 I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was

The scene shifts back to earth, and he watches as the little horn continues speaking

VI) This is a revelation of the final fall of the Antichrist, which occurs at the 2nd coming

Rev 19:19-20 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

VII) V13-14 I was watching in the night visions and behold one like the Son of Man coming

This is a picture of the 2nd Coming

Mt 24:29-30 "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 'At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory

Rev 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

VIII) V15-17 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit within my body and the visions of my head

He speaks to someone nearby, generally believed to be an angel

I) At first he receives a general explanation

II) V18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom

The saints would include both OT saints, NT saints and Tribulation saints

III) The word receive is not passive but speaks of active faith

Lu 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

Phil 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Lu 13:24 Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

IV) V19-22 Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast which was different

Daniel's curiosity is about the fourth kingdom

He is especially wondering about the antichrist and his war against the saints

**V) V22 says judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High
This would speak of judgment being made in favor of these believers**

He wonders about the time that is coming when the saints possess the kingdom

**VI) V23-28 Thus he said the fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth
This fourth kingdom will hold worldwide sway: Tremendous power**

VII) The little horn has great power, and will be blasphemous and will persecute the saints

His time is limited: It will be *fully exercised* for *the final* 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation

Rev 13:5-7 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling-place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

VIII) ULTIMATELY: He will be destroyed and Jesus' Kingdom will be fully realized on earth

The final kingdom is everlasting, and saints no longer are persecuted but now blessed

Rev 21: 3-4 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

IX) V28 This is the end of the account As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me

After such a revelation, all he could do is be terribly troubled: