

In the Fire Part 8

Daniel 7

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

2 Daniel said: “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. **3** Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

4 “The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it.

5 “And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, ‘Get up and eat your fill of flesh!’

6 “After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

- In the book of Daniel, chapters 1 through 6 describe the life and times of Daniel.
- Chapters 7 through 12 describe the visions Daniel had.
- This is the first of four visions given to Daniel.
- This vision came during the first year of Belshazzar. Which means it took place between chapters 4 and 5. This would be after the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, but before the Babylonian Empire was conquered by the Medo-Persian Empire.

Vs. 2-4

Daniel said: “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. **3** Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

4 “The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it.

The First Beast

- The first beast was more majestic than any of the following beasts, the lion and the eagle are regarded as kings in the wild.
- But this majestic beast was humbled when its wings were torn off then it was given the mind of a human.
- The first kingdom is the Babylonian Empire. This fits well the majesty and authority of Nebuchadnezzar in his reign over the empire of Babylon, yet he was brought low and humbled to the place of a man.

Vs. 5

“And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, ‘Get up and eat your fill of flesh!’

The Second Beast

- The second beast didn’t have the majestic bearing of either the lion or the eagle. A bear is slower, stronger, and more crushing than a lion and this bear had a ferocious appetite for conquest.
- The bear represented the Medo-Persian Empire, succeeding the Babylonian Empire. In this partnership between the Medes and the Persians, the Persians dominated the relationship. Most think the

three ribs represent their three great military conquests over Babylon, Egypt and Lydia.

Vs. 6

“After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

The Third Beast

- The leopard was known for its sudden, unexpected attacks. This one was especially swift (with four wings), and clever (having four heads).

Keep in mind Daniel lived during the 6th Century before Christ. During this time:

- Construction began on the Acropolis in Athens.
- Mayan civilization flourished in Mexico.
- Confucius and Buddha lived.
- Greek art began to excel.
- The Greeks introduced the olive tree to Italy.
- The Phoenicians made the first known sea journey around Africa.

- With that in mind; The leopard here represents the Greek Empire.
- Alexander the Great quickly conquered the civilized world by age 28; and in twelve years subdued part of Europe, and all Asia.
- After his death his empire was divided into four parts representing the four heads spoken of in Vs. 6.

Vs. 7-8

7 “After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot

whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

8 “While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

- The fourth beast was terrifying and frightening and very powerful.
- it had ten horns: In the ancient world horns expressed the power and fearsomeness of an animal.
- In historical fulfillment, the fourth beast represents the Roman Empire, which was the largest, strongest and most feared of them all.
- Among the ten horns, three are replaced by one horn that is dominant.
- This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully. This speaks to the spiritual nature of the small horn.
- The small horn was unlike the rest, it is a manifestation of the demonic in the midst of political or governmental power...
- The small horn represents the both the destructive plot of satan in at the time of ancient Rome and in the end time, Rome to come...
- While Daniel is seeing all of these devastating things ,God turns Daniels eyes towards Heaven...

Vs. 9-14

9 “As I looked,

“thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.

10

A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,
and the books were opened.

11 “Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. **12** (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) *Babylon, Medo-Persians, Greeks*

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. **14** He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

- This great passage describes the transition from human dominion on earth to divine dominion.

God is showing Daniel these things; Notice what God chooses to show Daniel:

- 1. The reality of what is coming...**
- 2. The Spiritual reality behind it...**
- 3. The Throne of God...**

Like the servant of Elisha in 2 Kings 6; when surrounded by the enemy army, it is easy to fixate on the enemy, until God opened his eyes and showed him there are more for us than against us... God shows Daniel the Throne...

4. God showed Daniel the Victory God has over Spiritual Battles...

Vs. 11 “Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.”

- Does this sound like Revelation 19 to you?
- Revelation 19 takes place after the Tribulation at the Second Coming of Christ...

Revelation 19

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. **20** But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf... The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Vs. 15-28

The Interpretation of the Dream

15 “I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. **16** I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this.

“So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: **17** ‘The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. **18** But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.’”

(Revelation 5:10 - You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.)

19 “Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. **20** I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing

than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. **21** As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them,

Revelation 13:7 - (Reference to the Beast)

It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

23 “He gave me this explanation: ‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.

24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. **25** He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

Revelation 13:5-6,8 - (Reference to the Beast)

*The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. **6** It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.*

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***8** All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life*

26 ““But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. **27** Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the

holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.’

28 “This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”

- The Vision God gives Daniel spoke to his realtime upcoming events, but also to the end times that we are living in today...
- God allows Daniel an earthly perspective along with Heavens perspective...
- Daniel is troubled because he sees the demonic powers of hell manifest in the political affairs of man... But with the spiritual reality God also shows Daniel the Great Victory that will ensue at the coming of the Lord...

Vs. 22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

Vs. 26,27

“But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. **27** Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High.

Closing: