

Daniel 7 – The Four Beasts Out of the Sea

By Holly Effiom

VV1-7 (Please see Rev 13)

When did Daniel have this particular vision?

Was it when the Persians came to power? How do you know?

1. What do the following images within the vision mean?
2. 4 winds of heaven and the sea; where else have we seen this imagery?
3. 4 beasts rising out of the sea; where else have we seen this imagery?
4. What do the beasts represent, according to Daniel?

Beast, Dan 7:1-8	The Image, Dan 2:37-40
a) Lion w/eagles wings	Gold
b) Bear w/uneven shoulders	Silver
c) Leopard w/4 wings & 4 heads	Brass
d) Beast w/ <u>iron</u> teeth & <u>10 horns</u>	Iron

V8

Where did the little (11th) horn come from? How will the horn be recognized?

1. He will pluck up 3 prior horns from their root;
2. He will have eyes like a man;
3. He will have a mouth speaking “great” things.

What are the similarities between Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 and Daniel's vision in Daniel 7?

Daniel 2 – 4 Metals+Clay	Daniel 7 – 4 Beasts+Horns	4 Kingdoms+10 Kings
Gold – head	Lion w/eagles wings	Babylonian
Silver – shoulders	Bear w/uneven shoulders	Kingdom 2
Brass – belly, hips	Leopard w/4-wings, heads	Kingdom 3
Iron – thighs, legs	Beast w/iron teeth,	Kingdom 4
Iron & Clay–feet (10 toes)	10 horns	10 Kings

How do we know that the name of the first kingdom is Babylon?

Do we know the names of the second, third, or fourth kingdoms? How do we know?

When the term “kingdom” is used here, what does it mean?

Do we know the names of the 10 kings, or even the 11th?

In this context, is the term “king” synonymous with “kingdoms”? what was the first example of this concept? Gen 10.

How do kings related to their people; and how do people relate to their kings? Are they always from the same family?

If you view the image of chapter 2 as a timeline:

- a) During what period did Nebuchadnezzar live?
- b) During what period do you suppose Jesus was born in the earth?
- c) What time period are we in now? Why do you believe this?

What is meant by “little horn”? Is it an individual or an empire? How do you know?

What is meant by “great” things? What great things was the little horn saying?

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Dan 7:9-12

What thrones were cast down?

Who is the Ancient of Days?

How is the Ancient of Days described? What were His garments like? What was His hair like?

Where else have you read this description? Who was being described there?

Who else has described God's throne? Isa 6; Eze 1-2 (See Study Rev 4-5 notes)

Which prophet described wheels on the throne, Or fiery flames as associated with the throne of God? Eze 1-2.

What other prophet described thousands ministering to the Ancient of Days or even tens of thousands standing before Him? Rev 7

Where must Daniel have been standing in order to see this great crowd? Was he near the throne or at a distance?

Where must Isaiah or Ezekiel have been standing to see what they saw?

What does it mean the judgment is set and the books were opened?

What was Daniel witnessing, if the books were being opened and the judgment was set? What is the order of future events that Daniel was seeing?

When will the beast be slain and his body given to the burning flame? Rev 19:20.

What will happen to other nations?

How far out into the future did Daniel see?

Daniel's Throne Vision	Description of God	Purpose of God's visit
Like a fiery flame; Has wheels that resemble burning fire; A fiery stream issued and came forth before the throne; A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten-thousand times ten-thousand stood before Him.	Ancient of Days, seated on the throne. His garments were as white as snow. His hair was like pure wool.	Allow Daniel to see the future – on the earth and in the heavens

V13-14

Was this a different vision or is it an event during the same vision?

Does this event take place chronologically, after the beast is slain and his body given to the burning flame? How do you know? Rev 5.

Who is this son of man? How is He different from the son of man of Ezekiel 2? How do you know they are different?

What are the "clouds of heaven"? Who is "they"?

Why did "they" present the son of man to God? What does this mean symbolically?

What did the Ancient of Days give to the son of man?

When will this take place? Matt 11:27

What's unique about the kingdom of this son of man?

LESSON: The message of the vision of Daniel 7

By the halfway mark of Dan 7, we are given the vision that Daniel had when he was sleeping. In the vision, we understand that empires are stirred up from the earth. The term "kingdoms" is used, but understand that they are empires that are violent and bear rule over the whole earth (according to Daniel 2). These kingdoms are likened to beasts – beasts on the earth were created on the 6th day.

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VV15-18

How did Daniel feel after seeing this vision?

Why would he be troubled? What did he see that would be troubling?

Who did Daniel ask to explain what he was seeing?

Did the one he approached explain completely; to his satisfaction?

What did the 4 beasts represent? Where do they come from?

Where do the saints of Most High appear in the vision? Where do they take possession of the kingdom? Isa 53:11-12. Hallelujah! See Ps 35

LESSON: This part of Chapter 7 always makes me laugh. The one that Daniel approached to get clarification started out well, addressing the part of the vision with the beasts, but then he jumps right to the end, about the saints of the Most High taking the kingdom! But, when you think about it, that one Daniel approached was in the future

VV19-22

What in his words tells you Daniel was not satisfied with this interpretation?

What was it Daniel wanted to understand?

Where in the vision is the “little horn” making war on the saints?

What actions can possibly describe war being waged on the saints?

Where do “words” come from?

Who is winning the war, according to this section of Daniel?

Is it the war or a battle?

When does the Ancient of Days set in? Why did He wait? Whose side did He choose?

What is the reward to the victor? How can the saints be called the victors, and yet they lose to the little horn?

LESSON: Daniel was asking specifics about the vision that he had – he knew that there was more to the interpretation, otherwise he wouldn't have been show such detail. What did Daniel ask the person initially? Dan 7:16 says that he went to one of the onlookers and asked “what's the truth of all this”? The onlooker told him the truth – those beasts are 4 kingdoms but the saints of the Most High will take the kingdom and possess it forever and ever and ever. What? It's the truth... even if it left out the majority of the vision. Daniel wasn't going to let him get away with that; he became specific about what he wanted to know and received a more specific response.

All the good it did him, he was still bothered by the information V28.

VV23-25

Did the angel start explaining from the beginning of the vision? From where did he start giving the interpretation? Why did he start from the 4th beast?

So, when Daniel first asked about his vision, what exactly was his request? See V16

What does this teach us about our requests?

Is this 4th kingdom one and the same as the “little horn”?

How does this vision correlate to Daniel 2?

When Daniel used the term “great” words in VV8, 11, what did he mean according to this passage?

What is the result of the “great words” on the saints? So, does the word “speak” mean only talking in this passage?

According to Matt 12:34 what does Jesus say motivated our words? And, was He only referring to

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just “talking”?

So, in what ways could “wearing out” the saints be manifested? How else will the little horn wear out the saints?

How long will the saints suffer at the hands of the little horn? How does this correlate with Rev 11:2; 12:14?

VV26-28

Daniel’s vision is different from both Isaiah’s and Ezekiel. God had not appeared to personally interact with Daniel, per se, though He was allowing Daniel the opportunity to peer far into the future. The question that keeps coming to me is, Why? Why Daniel? Why a vision of God’s throne from this perspective?

This made me think about Daniel, and where he was at this point in his life. It was in the third year of Jehoiachin’s, the king of Judah’s, reign that Nebuchadnezzar conquered and deported the royal house to Babylon. I would assume that Daniel was in his early teens at that time because he was old enough to understand the need to not defile himself with the Babylonian king’s food. He survived the conquest of Babylon by the Medo-Persian kingdom, a hostile work environment, resulting in a night in the lion’s den under the Median king, Darius, and also serves under the Persian king, Cyrus. I should think that Daniel’s prayers were full of longing for the return of the kingdom of Israel. He was probably very tired of dealing with these idol-worshipping people, with whom he had to constantly watch his back!

God gave Daniel a ringside seat to the dismantling of Gentile kingdoms, and it wasn’t going to be pretty; nor did he see the kingdom of Israel emerging dominant, as Isaiah prophesied. What he did see is dominion being placed into the hands of the Son of man, Jesus Christ, of whom he didn’t have a clear concept yet.

Imagine Daniel’s emotional disposition in this circumstance, and God gives him a vision that addressed his longings, yet it confused him further. So, God sends an angel to help Daniel to understand. Why? God wanted Daniel to understand – not just him but all, at that time and long after, who yearn in their souls for God’s kingdom to come, for a new and better Jerusalem – the order of events. To provide comfort and encouragement to His remnant, barely hanging on, that He is working all things together for their good.

And, how did this vision bring comfort? It let His remnant know that He sees their suffering and pain resulting from their desire and commitment to be faithful to God. It let them know that God is actively bringing the rebellious, idolatrous kingdoms to an end. Furthermore, God is hearing their prayers – He was allowing Daniel to see the future, even though it is a long way out and he would not get to touch it in his earthly lifetime. Similar to how Moses got to see the Promised Land, but would not be allowed to enter it.

And, God assured Daniel that Israel will indeed have a part in the kingdom of God, in the very person of Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if Israel had not been faithful, if they had not failed at times, if they had not covenanted with God to begin with, none of the rest of us would have had a way to avoid that wrath of God that is coming! We would not have even known about it! None of the rest of us could hope in the promise of reconciliation with God! None of the rest of us could hope for life everlasting in paradise! None of the life that we enjoy in Jesus Christ would have ever been possible if Abraham had not have covenanted with God through his willingness to offer his own flesh, his own son, Isaac.

1. According to Dan 7:23, the interpretation of a beast is given to be a “kingdom”.
2. According to Dan 7:24, the interpretation of the 10 horns is given to be 10 kings.
3. According to Dan 7:24-25, an 11th king shall arise and conquer 3 of the 10 kings.