

DANIEL - History of Four Beasts & the Little Horn & the Judgment (Religious Picture) Part 1

DN-11

When we arrive in Daniel 7, we find the political aspect of the same four beasts referenced in chapter 2. We have many symbols which need to be 'decoded' through this prophetic book. But first a little history on the time frame of this chapter.

Daniel identifies the date of this vision in the first verse as "the first year of Belshazzar 553 B.C. and thus the date of this vision. The future of Babylon did not look promising for the very young king (a teenager). It was a time of political uncertainty for all in Babylon, including the Jews. Daniel, himself was getting up in age, possibly around 70. Fifty years had passed since the vision of Daniel 2. Daniel had certainly seen Babylon's "symbolism as the head of gold", yet soon the golden age of Babylon would pass. The time certainly "seemed ripe for the breast and arms of silver to take its place." The fact that Daniel has this vision in the same year Nabonidus "entrusted the kingship" to Belshazzar is not by mistake. We will see that God considered the timing significant.

In Daniel's vision (vs.2) he saw the following symbols which need to be identified in our understanding of prophetic interpretation.

"Four winds of heaven" that "strove upon the great sea."

Four winds: _____

Great Sea: _____

THE FOUR BEASTS

1. The four great beasts which came out of the sea, were "diverse one from another." These are mentioned in vs.4-8.

Here each is descriptively stated:

- a. A Lion had _____ and the wings were _____ and it was _____ from the earth and made _____ as a man. A man's _____ was given to it.
- b. A Bear _____ itself on one side [taller] and _____ in the mouth of it between the teeth of it.
- c. A Leopard and upon the back of it _____ of a fowl; it also had _____ and dominion was given it
- d. Fourth Beast _____ and _____ and strong exceedingly. It had great _____: it devoured and brake in pieces and _____ with the feet of it. And it had _____.

e. Daniel considered the horns, and noticed **there came up among them another** “_____”, before whom there were three of the first horns **plucked up by the roots**. This little horn had “_____ like the eyes of man” and a _____ speaking great things.”

We will find out in studying this chapter that more space is given, more words recorded about this “little horn” than all the other beasts combined. God considers it pretty important.

2. The picture of these four beasts are the religious aspects of the same beasts symbolized by the **gold**, **silver**, **iron**, **iron** and **clay** mentioned in Daniel 2. (The metal-man image of Daniel 2 is a picture of the political elements of these kingdoms.) Why is chapter 7 emphasizing the “religious elements” of these beasts/kingdoms?

_____ **involves the Judgment** _____

3. Notice a change in verse 9, 10: “And I beheld till thrones were cast down [*i.e. put in place*] and the _____ did sit, whose garment _____ as snow, and the hair of His head like the _____: His throne like the _____, His wheels _____ fire. A _____ issued and came forth from before Him: _____ thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand _____ before Him: the _____ was _____, and the _____ were opened.

4. How many aspects of the Ancient of Days (or the scene taking place) are recorded in these two verses? _____

As we look at verses 8 and on we find an interesting sequence or pattern developing through the rest of the chapter. There is good reason for this sequence. Note these verses diagramed out:

Vs.8

Little Horn introduced
and described

Vss. 9,10

Ancient of Days
Judgment setting

vs.11,12

Great words of
little horn till
beast slain/body
destroyed & burned

vss. 13,14

Son of Man came near
to Ancient of Days

Given him dominion,
and kingdom.
Everlasting Dominion
& His kingdom not
destroyed.

vs.17,19

4 beasts=4 kings
Truth of 4th beast
Different from all
Others. Little horn
plucked up three;
spake very great things

vs. 18

But saints of the Most High
shall take the kingdom
and possess the kingdom
forever and ever.

vs. 21

Little horn made war
with the saints and
prevailed against them.

vs.22

Until Ancient of Days
Came & Judgment given to
saints & time came they
possessed the kingdom.

vs. 23-25

Fourth Beast / ten horns
Little horn speaks great words
against Most High & persecutes
Saints. Changes times/laws

vs.26, 27

Judgment sits
Little horn dominion
destroyed in the end

Saints inherit the Kingdom
and dominion as an
everlasting Kingdom.

5. Before we look at the sequence in these verses, we recall that these beasts are depicted politically in chapter 2. There is a biblical principle occurring here in chp.7 that has its origin in the book of beginnings—Genesis. This principle is known as repeat and enlarge . Chapters 8 and 11 will follow same pattern.
6. Looking more closely at chapter 7, particularly the verses noted above, we see a back and forth sequence taking place from verse 8 through end of the chapter. This is for at least two reasons. Please give these reasons:
 1. In verse 8, little horn is depicted, then in vs 9 a Judgment scene and in vs.14 God's Kingdom set up. This sequence is so important It is repeated three times in this chapter:
Little horn, Judgment in heaven, God sets up His kingdom.
(vss.21,22 and vss.25-27)
 2. God desires the reader to recognize that the Little horn power continues to the very end of time even persecuting the saints at the end .

So, it's interesting to note, that after the 'Little Horn', we have the Judgment.

The following diagram will help us as we continue on into Chapter 8:

DANIEL 2	DANIEL 7
Babylon	Babylon
Media-Persia	Media-Persia
Greece	Greece
Rome (pagan) Rome (Europe/papal)	Rome (pagan) Rome (papal)
	Judgment in heaven
God's Kingdom	God's Kingdom

Don't forget the historical context of this chapter. Daniel receives the vision in the first year of King Belshazzar. (Remember he was only a teenager, when he was slain.)

It is not by coincidence God gave Daniel the vision of the Judgment in chapter 7 in the very year Belshazzar had his feast and the "handwriting on the wall" occurred.
Thought question: Why do you think God did it this way?

Seriousness of the Judgment in Daniel's mind as the rest of the book and the visions he would receive are focused on this very theme and that there is a probationary time allotted.