

1. Last week I taught Dan 7:2, 3 and 4. When time ran out we were about to begin a study of verse five.
2. Before continuing I want to provide an expanded translation of Dan 7:1-4.

Dan 7:1 In the first year of the Babylonian co-regency of Nabonidus and Belshazzar in approximately 550 B.C., Daniel had a dream; he was lying on his bed when he saw several visions. He recorded the visions in summary fashion in his diary.

Dan 7:2 Daniel recorded "In my vision at night while I was lying in my bed I looked up and saw the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea - the Mediterranean Sea.

Dan 7:3 Four dreadful creatures, each different from the other, arose out of the sea; the sea represented the vast confused gentile world.

Dan 7:4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle;" this first creature represented Babylon; I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it; here we have a reference to Nebuchadnezzar's bout with his zoanthropic malady, his temporary demise as ruler of Babylon and his recovery after his regeneration.

3. Now let's see what we can learn from verse five:

KJV

Dan 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

NIV

Dan 7:5 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!'

Principles:

1. Daniel sees another beast which looked like a bear.
2. Dr. David Jeremiah writes "the bear is a symbol of ancient Medo Persia; it is so recognized by ancient historians".
3. The bear raises itself up on its side like the giant Asian Grizzly who has just eaten, still having three ribs in its mouth.

4. Gary Richards in his book "All God's Creatures" writes of the bear:

"What is the ... word that come to mind when you think of bears ... Dangerous, ferocious - now these are the words I recognize ... people who work in zoos ... rate bears as a zoo's most dangerous animal"... The brown bear of the Bible weighed in somewhere between five to six hundred pounds, and at that weight would have the pulling power of at least twenty men ... Many animals are capable of killing but the Asian Brown bear can make it a particularly gruesome event."

5. There is very little in Scripture about a good bear; they are usually described as vicious and when metaphorically used they describe power and devastation.

5.1 Let's look at a few such uses in Scripture:

1Sa 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

1Sa 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

2Sa 17:7 Hushai replied to Absalom, "The advice Ahithophel has given is not good this time.

2Sa 17:8 You know your father and his men; they are fighters, and as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs. Besides, your father is an experienced fighter; he will not spend the night with the troops.

2Ki 2:23 From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some youths came out of the town and jeered at him. "Go on up, you baldhead!" they said. "Go on up, you baldhead!"

2Ki 2:24 He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the LORD. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

Pro 17:12 Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly.

Hos 13:8 Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open. Like a lion I will devour them; a wild animal will tear them apart.

Hos 13:9 "You are destroyed, O Israel, because you are against me, against your helper.

Isa 11:7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

5.1.1 Notice how the day of the Lord's coming is likened to successively meeting a lion, a bear and then entering the safety of ones home where a poisonous snake secretly awaits to strike.

Amo 5:19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

Amo 5:20 Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

6. The three ribs in his mouth represent the three Kingdoms just conquered: Babylon, Lydia and Egypt; having just eaten these three she is ready for more; she is pictured raised up on her side looking for more.

7. Thus we have the picture of the bear, ready to devour even more; eager is she to follow the instructions of the angelic being standing near-by.

8. How do we know this is Medo Persia? By historical observation and Scriptural evidence found in chapter two of Daniel and specific identification in chapter eight of Daniel.

9. Babylon was the head of gold and Medo Persia is the breast and arms of silver in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Dan 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

Dan 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee ...

10. The identification from chapter eight I will briefly preview:

Dan 8:1 In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first ...

Dan 8:3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last ...

Dan 8:5 And as I was considering, behold, a he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

Dan 8:6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.

Dan 8:7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he struck the ram furiously and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

Dan 8:8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.

Dan 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

Dan 8:21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

11. Before we move to the third awful beast arising from the sea, let me give you an expanded translation of verse five:

Expanded Translation:

Dan 7:5 And then I saw a second awful creature, it looked like a bear. The beast represented the Medo Persian Empire The giant grizzly had raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs protruding between its teeth. The three ribs represented Babylon, Lydia and Egypt; these were three nations recently conquered. A command from one standing near-by said, 'Get up and eat more!'

12. Now let's see what principles we can glean from Dan 7:6:

KJV

Dan 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

NIV

Dan 7:6 "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.

Principles:

1. The leopard is none other than the Hellenistic empire of first Philip, his son Alexander the Great and Alexander's four successors: Lysimachus, Cassander, Ptolemy and Seleucid.

2. The identification of this third beast as Grecia can be clearly seen in history; Alexander the Great destroyed the Medo Persian Empire and was thus the leopard with the wings; further identification can be seen when objective comparison of Dan 8:5; Dan 8:21-22 is made with Dan 2:32-35 and 39.

Dan 8:5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

Dan 8:21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

Dan 8:22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

Dan 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

Dan 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

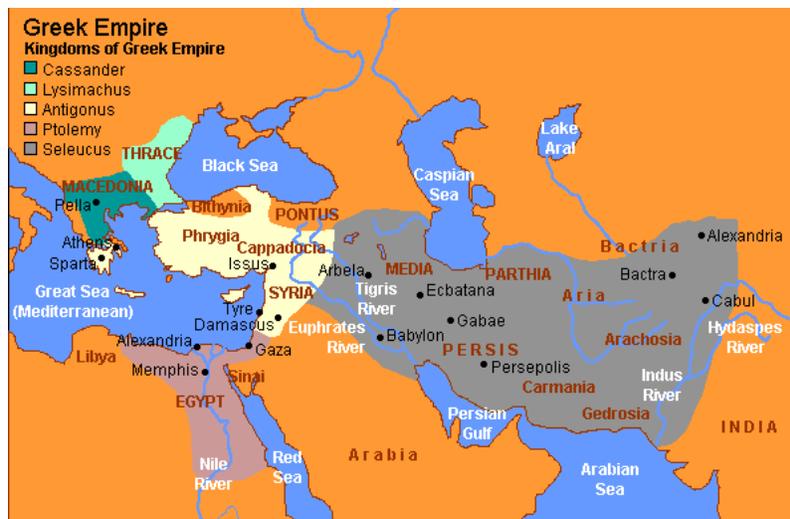
Dan 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Dan 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Dan 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

3. Grecia is the "thighs of brass" of Dan 2:32 and the "third kingdom of brass" of Dan 2:39.

4. The notable horn of Dan 8:5 is none other than Alexander the Great and as earlier noted the four horns represent the four Kings who followed Alexander.



5. The wings of the leopard represent the speed, aggression and ferocity of Alexander's conquest; in twelve-years Alexander conquered the then known world.

5.1 Other uses of the leopard in Scripture pictures his speed, cunning, ferocity and strength.

Jer 5:6 Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.

Hos 13:7 Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them:

Hab 1:8 The horses of the Chaldeans also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

Isa 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

6. If only Alexander could have conquered himself.

6.1 At age 32 in about 323 B.C. Alexander died of "profligacy;" a man who commanded 35,000 troops into Turkey, Israel Egypt, Media, Persia and India where he defeated more than 300,000 of the world's finest soldiery; and yet he could not command his own appetite for self-indulgence.

End Lesson Taught 2/10/02