

1. Last week I taught Dan 7:6 and when time expired we were studying verses seven and eight.

2. Before continuing I want to provide an expanded translation of Dan 7:1-6:

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.

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!'

Dan 7:6 And then I saw another beast rise out of the sea, one that looked like a leopard. 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 nature of the leopard and its winged back spoke of Alexander the Great's speed of conquest when he would conquer the world in 12 short years. The four heads given authority represented his four generals who would rule the Hellenistic Empires; the four generals being Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucid.

3. Now let's continue our study of the fourth Empire--Rome. Dan 7:7-8

KJV

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Dan 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

NIV

Dan 7:7 "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.

Dan 7:8 "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 man and a mouth that spoke boastfully..."

Principles:

1. The fourth beast is none other than Rome.
2. A beast which is said to be more powerful and fierce than all the others.
3. And after Alexander the Great, from the banks of the Tiber river will rise a Kingdom unlike any before or since - the fierce iron boot of Rome will soon make its imprint known to all.
4. Roman legions will march west and conquer Hispania, Gaul, Brittany, North Africa, Asia Minor, Egypt, Persia, Pakistan and even into the savage lands of Southern Russia; everyone will feel the fury of the iron fist of Roman dominance.
5. We know Rome is the fourth empire from historical observation.
6. Wycliffe writes: "Since this kingdom must prevail until the destruction of the Antichrist (the little horn) and the establishment of the eternal, final, visible kingdom of Christ, it must be regarded as prevailing today, at least in pieces - the national pieces are extant in Europe as I speak."
 - 6.1 The ten-fold form of the final stage, known to us as the Revived Roman Empire, suggested by the ten toes of Dan chapter 2, is clearly taught here in our two verses and confirmed by Rev 17:3-15.
 - 6.2 Later in the chapter the little horn is identified with the final Antichrist.
Dan 7:9-14.

Dan 7:9 "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.
Dan 7:10 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.

Dan 7:11 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.

Dan 7:12 (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

Dan 7:13 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.

Dan 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men 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..."

7. Let's return to Daniel's vision and verses seven and eight:

Dan 7:7 "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.

Dan 7:8 "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 man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

7.1 The fourth beast is Rome, awesome and terrible who tramples those who get in her way.

7.1.1 Recall it was Rome who crucified Peter, it was Rome who martyred countless first century saints, it was Rome who burned its capital and then blamed it on Christianity, it was Rome who decapitated Paul and it was Rome who fed thousands of Christians to the lions.

7.2 Daniel is deep in thought; he is puzzled by the ten horns and their meaning.

7.3 These, as we have seen, represent ten nations most likely on the continent of Europe from which the Revived Roman Empire will arise.

7.3.1 Today we know the spirit of the Antichrist is in the world; we see the Commonwealth of Europe rearing its ugly head with its fifteen members and its common currency called the Euro, this is but a signal of what will one day come.

7.3.2 Whether the ten nation federation will include only continental Europe is mere conjecture. All we know for sure is that one day there will be a federation and the Antichrist will rule from Rome.

7.3.3 Today the Commonwealth is made up of Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Italy and Greece.

7.4 Besides verse seven the ten horns are mentioned eight other places:

Dan 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Dan 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

7.5 The statement recorded in verse eight "a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it" is a reference to the methodology of the Antichrist's rise to power.

7.5.1 Most believe within the short lived Ten Nation Federation of Europe there will exist a small and insignificant power like an Albania or a Rumania or perhaps a Vatican or Luxembourg. The small nation from which the Antichrist comes may or may not be a member of the original ten nation federation. What we do know is that the Antichrist gains control over three of the original ten.

7.5.2 Perhaps it is from within such a small nation that the Antichrist will first rule. Under the indwelling power of Satan he is made to prosper taking over two other nations and thus strengthening himself as a formidable leader of a three nation federation within the Ten Nation Federation.

7.5.3 It is from this triumvirate the Antichrist will make his move and become the supreme leader of the Ten Nation Federation headquartered in Rome.

7.6 The nature and character of the Antichrist is described in the Daniel 7:8 phrase "This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully."

7.6.1 He was like a man but different for he spoke boastfully against God; He was a man who was not afraid to call God into account "for all his failures"; His unfairness, lack of compassion, His permitting war, autism, mental retardation, burn victim, cancer, racism, etc.

7.6.2 The character of the Antichrist is described in Rev 13:1-8

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Rev 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

Rev 13:4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

Rev 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Rev 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Rev 13:7 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.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

7.6.3 Let me give you an expanded translation of Dan 7:7 and 8:

Expanded Translation:

Dan 7:7 "As I slept in my bed I dreamed of a fourth beast more terrifying and frightening and powerful than the other three. It had huge iron teeth and what it didn't grind with its teeth it smashed with its feet. It was different from all the former beasts ... and it had ten horns coming out of its head.

Dan 7:8 Just as I was thinking about these horns, a little horn appeared before me; and three of the other horns were pulled up by the roots to make room for it. This horn had the eyes of a human and its mouth spoke boastfully of the things which he would do; he was particularly critical of God."

7.7 You will notice again the dots which separate the beast with the terrible teeth and the feet which trampled on everything ... from the beast with ten horns.

7.8 This because the Roman Empire is separated from the Revived Roman Empire by more than 2500 years. There was and has never been a Rome of 10 nations thus another reason to understand the ... separation.

7.9 As we prepare to study verse nine I want to borrow from Dr. David L. Cooper who has written, and I shall paraphrase: "To understand these verses the student needs to dream along with Daniel by picturing in his or her mind a split screen. The screen has a horizontal line dividing the monitor in half. The top screen shows what is going on in heaven as the Ancient of Days sits on His throne and the Lord Jesus Christ is summoned in preparation for His return; while the bottom half displays the terrible beast, The Revived Roman Empire, perpetrating his terror on mankind and planet earth."

8. Now let's see what we can glean from verse nine.

KJV

Dan 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

NIV

Dan 7:9 "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..."

Principles:

1. Our scene now shifts from earth to heaven. Daniel sees a series of visions which tell pictorially what happens just before the Second Advent of Christ.
2. First he is given a picture of God the Father making preparation for the coming into His presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Daniel is privileged to see the Father as the "Old One" the Ancient of Days making ready for the triumphant return of His Son.

4. This is the only place in the Bible where we see the term Ancient of Days and here we find it three times in our context. It literally means the Old Man with the Authority as the source of time.

5. The Father is here described in human form to Daniel; much of the meaning is obvious; some of the symbolism however requires careful analysis.

5.1 That He is said to be the Ancient of Days stresses His "foreverness" or as we like to say the eternal life aspect of His essence.

Psa 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Isa 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says--he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite..."

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Eph 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Isa 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

5.2 The Thrones of God being established speaks of His majesty or as we also like to say "His Sovereignty." God is the Sovereign God of the universe; nothing happens but for the permissive will of God and this includes the establishment of each nation, its leadership and its role--so also in the Tribulation.

5.2.1 There is no higher power or higher volition.

5.2.2 All things are subject unto Him.

5.2.3 Everything falls under the permissive will of God.

End Lesson Taught 2-24-2002