

1. Last week I started teaching Dan 7:20-22 and when time ran out I was in the process of giving you seventy-two points about the Antichrist.

2. Before continuing I want to provide an expanded translation of Dan 7:1-19:

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 I Daniel 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.

Dan 7:7 As I slept in my bed I saw 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.

Dan 7:9 Suddenly my eyes were lifted toward heaven. I saw thrones being set in place by none other than the Father, the Ancient of Days, Who took His seat in the middle of the Throne Room of Heaven. He wore a robe as white as snow signifying His absolute Righteousness; the hair of His head was white a sign of His earned respect. His throne was surrounded by flaming fire; the throne had wheels which were all ablaze to describe His omnipresent nature and severe judgment upon all who deny His rule and protocol.

Dan 7:10 I saw a river of fire flowing like a sea of lava from the throne room of God. Vast numbers of angels stood before him; I estimate their numbers in the billions. It was announced that the Supreme Court of Heaven would soon be in session; a large set of books were brought into the heavenly court room.

Dan 7:11 I watched in amazement as the little horn, the Antichrist, boasted of his greatness and power. I kept on watching until he was slain at the Second Advent of Christ; I watched further as Christ had the Antichrist's body thrown into the blazing fire of Hades.

Dan 7:12 Satan and his demons however were allowed to live but were chained for the greater part of 1000 years in Sheol and then they were released for a short period of time at the end of Christ's Millennial reign.

Dan 7:13 As I slept I continued to dream and there before me was the Christ, He looked like the Son of Man, the Incarnate Christ; He came clothed in the clouds of heaven. He approached the Throne of the Ancient of Days being led into his presence in the middle of the Throne Room in the middle of the Third Heaven.

Dan 7:16 I then asked one of the angels in the vision "what is the meaning of what I have dreamed?" The angel Gabriel began an extensive explanation of what had earlier troubled me so greatly.

Dan 7:17 The four great beasts are four world empires which will arise out from the turmoil of planet earth to be ultimately destroyed

Dan 7:18 and then believing Israel will be given an earthly Kingdom; they will possess it forever and ever.

Dan 7:19 I was greatly puzzled and wanted to know more of the fourth beast, for this beast was different from all the others and in fact he was more terrifying than all the others combined; with its iron teeth and bronze claws it could be seen crushing and devouring its victims and trampling them underfoot. This beast showed no mercy whatsoever.

3. When time expired we were about to cover our ninth of seventy-two points about the Antichrist; before returning to our points however let's take a look at how the NIV has translated Dan 7:20-22.

NIV

Dan 7:20 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.

Dan 7:21 As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them,  
Dan 7:22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

4. First a brief review and then we will pick up with new material at 4.9:

4.1 John in the Book of The Revelation is fulfilling the role of a prophet, one sent by God with God's message to man.

4.2 In the thirteenth chapter, John introduces us to a beast. God in the Apocalypse has John use many figures and many symbols to convey truth.

4.3 To many these are arcane, but they need not be, for when you compare Scripture with Scripture, you find that Scripture often will interpret its own figures and its own symbols. So we are not left with idle speculation as to the significance of these.

4.4 Reading in Revelation chapter 13 verses 1 and 2 (KJV), "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."

4.4.1 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

4.5 The Sea in Scripture is frequently used, particularly in the Old Testament, as a reference to Gentile nations. "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Isa. 57:20

4.6 The sea represented Gentile nations. John saw this beast emerging from among Gentile nations. He says a unique thing about this one at the end of Rev 13:2: ". . . the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

4.7 Now we see another symbol, the dragon. If you will look back to Revelation chapter 12, the dragon is introduced to us there for the first time in the book of the Revelation. "The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent - the devil."

4.8 The dragon then is the symbol for Satan. So here is one emerging from among the Gentile nations who receives his power and his authority and his right to rule, not from God directly but from the permissive will of God indirectly."

Now for new material:

4.9 The Antichrist gets his power from a unique indwelling; an indwelling the likes of which I suspect we have never seen nor will ever see.

4.10 Then the description of this beast is given. What a strange beast it is. He is best described as a mongrel beast.

4.11 Parts of it look like a leopard, parts of it look like a bear and parts of it look like a lion.

4.12 This again is a symbol, but what in the world is John talking about?

4.13 In Scripture if you want to understand a portion that is giving trouble, we should look for another portion of Scripture that casts light on that which is puzzling.

4.14 The best interpreter of Scripture, as we have seen, is Scripture itself. And so we best look to our prophecy in Daniel 7.

4.14.1 This we like to call in this church a "categorical study."

4.15 There are many parallels between Revelation 13 and Daniel 7 just as we have seen many parallels in Daniel chapter two and eight.

4.16 Daniel had been carried captive into Babylon in 606 B.C.

4.16.1 He knew in studying Jeremiah's prophecy that God had announced that the people of Judah would remain in captivity in Babylon for seventy years.

4.17 Daniel is turning this over in his mind. What is God's program for Israel now that Israel has been carried captive into Babylon?

4.18 In fact, when this vision was given to Daniel, the people of Israel had been in captivity for approximately 70 years.

4.18.1 As best we can tell by comparing Scripture with history, the year is c. 537 B.C. and seventy years from 606 is 536. The time is nigh says Daniel so please God let me know something, do not forget us?

4.19 Daniel is asking "What was God's program for Israel?" God is about to reveal Himself and His plan and His purpose.

4.20 In Dan 7:1 recall, "Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream." And this is what he wrote: "And four great beasts," (verse 3) "came up from the sea."

4.21 There's the sea again, the Gentile nations. Four beasts would arise from among the Gentile nations different one from another, four separate identifiable empires.

4.22 The first one was like a lion, verse 4. The second one, in verse 5, was like a bear. The third one, verse 6, was like a leopard. The fourth one, in verse 7, is described not so much from its external characteristics, as its internal character.

Dan 7:4 "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 man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

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!'

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.

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.

4.23 And so we find here the beasts of Revelation Chapter 13 are only an expansion and an enlargement of portions of what was given to Daniel so many centuries before.

4.24 As we look again into Daniel 7 we are not left to scratch our heads as to the significance of these beasts, because it is made very clear in Dan 7:17.

Dan 7:17 The four great beasts are four world empires which will arise out from the turmoil of planet earth to be ultimately destroyed ...

4.25 God did not leave Daniel to puzzle over this strange dream. He explained, "These great beasts, which are four kings ..."

4.26 Now God is not picturing a single leader, but He is uniting the empire with the leader so that each beast in Daniel Chapter 7 represents an empire that in turn would arise.

4.27 The first one was like a lion. The unique thing is that eagle's wings emerged from this lion, and no one would have to interpret this to a person living in ancient Babylon.

4.28 Dwight Pentecost writes: "If you go to museums in either Germany or London, you will find Ishtar Gates that were taken from the ruins of ancient Babylon and reconstructed in those museums.

4.29 Those gates were adorned with azure tiles, and placed in the walls; surrounding or in the center of those azure tiles were winged lions.

4.30 They did not write a road sign to travelers proclaiming, "This is Babylon," for when the traveler entered those gates, he realized that he was coming to the capital of the Babylonian Empire. And so Babylon would be the first of the four empires."

4.31 Babylon fell to a combination of two political powers, the Medes and the Persians. And that's why the second beast is a bear that is higher on one side than the other.

4.32 This is a lopsided bear because while the Medes and the Persians united to overthrow Babylon, the Persians soon overshadowed the Medes.

4.33 So in ancient history you don't study the Medo-Persian Empire, but rather the Persian Empire. Such was the nature of the second beast seen.

4.34 Then you come to the third, which is like a leopard. The unique thing about this leopard, its abnormality, it had four wings.

4.35 Alexander the Great, leader of the Grecian Empire, defeated the Persians.

4.36 After he had extended the Greek Empire from Macedonia all the way to the Indus River to the east of what is now Iraq, Alexander died.

4.37 The young King was only thirty.

4.38 Since Alexander left no heirs, his kingdom was divided among four of his generals: Ptolemy, Seleucus, Cassander, and Lysimachus. Four generals each became ruler over a divided Grecian Empire.

4.39 Daniel as we will see will describe what occurs in more detail in chapter eleven.

4.40 In Revelation 13, John gives us the external appearance of this fourth beast. It was like a leopard and like a bear and like a lion.

4.41 You will notice that John mentions them in reverse order, because Daniel is looking from his ancient historical perspective down through the corridors of time, and they appear first as a lion, then a bear, then a leopard, and then the fourth.

4.42 John is living under the fourth, so he is looking backward. So what's nearest to him, the predecessor? The leopard. Back of that is the bear and in back of that is the lion, so that John and Daniel are describing the same vision.

4.43 And Daniel was told that Israel, during the course of her history would be controlled, dominated, ruled over and subjugated to four Gentile world powers.

4.44 That was the sign of God's displeasure; it was a sign of God's divine discipline. God had made it very clear at the time of the return from the Exodus, that the principle on which God would deal with His people was simple. Obedience will bring blessing, disobedience will bring discipline and possibly even disaster.

4.45 And as He described that disaster in Deuteronomy 28, God said that He would deliver the people of Israel to the authority of Gentiles, and Gentiles would rule over them.

- Blessing for Obedience

Deu 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Deu 28:2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deu 28:3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

- Discipline for Disobedience

Deu 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Deu 28:16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field...

Deu 28:32 Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, and you will wear out your eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand.

Deu 28:33 A people that you do not know will eat what your land and labor produce, and you will have nothing but cruel oppression all your days.

Deu 28:34 The sights you see will drive you mad.

Deu 28:35 The LORD will afflict your knees and legs with painful boils that cannot be cured, spreading from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.

Deu 28:36 The LORD will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to you or your fathers. There you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone.

Deu 28:37 You will become <sup>¶</sup>a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the LORD will drive you.

Deu 28:38 You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts will devour it.

Deu 28:39 You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.

Deu 28:40 You will have olive trees throughout your country but you will not use the oil, because the olives will drop off.

Deu 28:41 You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity.

Deu 28:42 Swarms of locusts will take over all your trees and the crops of your land.

Deu 28:43 The alien who lives among you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower.

Deu 28:44 He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, but you will be the tail.

Deu 28:45 All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the LORD your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you.

Deu 28:46 They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever.

Deu 28:47 Because you did not serve the LORD your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity,

Deu 28:48 therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the LORD sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.

Deu 28:49 The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand,

Deu 28:50 a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young.

Deu 28:51 They will devour the young of your livestock and the crops of your land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine or oil, nor any calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks until you are ruined.

4.46 Daniel is told that four gentile empires would rule over Israel in a time period which our Lord in Luke 21:24 called the "times of the Gentiles."

Luk 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

4.47 That is a very important prophetic statement. The "times of the Gentiles" is that period in Israel's history when no Davidic descendant is ruling on David's earthly throne over David's earthly people in the city of Jerusalem.

4.48 The gentile dominance began with Nebuchadnezzar and it will continue until the return of Christ, when Christ will liberate Israel from her Gentile occupiers. And here in Daniel 7, Daniel is looking and wondering.

4.49 After he has introduced the fourth beast, he introduces a very significant feature of prophecy. Look at the last words in Dan 7:7: This fourth beast had ten horns--a ten horned beast. For Daniel the message is getting complicated.

4.50 Again, Daniel must have wondered about the significance of all this, but God didn't leave him to wonder long, in verse Dan 7:24 it is explained.

4.51 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

4.52 The ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings in their individual kingdoms.



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