

1. Earlier I exegeted Dan 7:20-23. As a result, I developed seventy-two points about the Antichrist. When time expired last week I was about to teach the 54th of the 72 points.
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. 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 4:54:

4.1 John in the Book of The Revelation fulfills the role of a prophet.

4.2 In the thirteenth chapter, John introduces us to a beast. God in the Apocalypse uses many figures and symbols to teach.

4.3 To many these are mysterious, but they need not be, for when you compare Scripture with Scripture, you find that Scripture often will interpret itself.

4.4 For example in Revelation chapter 13 verses 1 and 2 John says the beast will come out of the sea.

4.5 The Sea in Scripture is frequently used, particularly in the Old Testament, as a reference to Gentile nations. Isa 57:20

4.6 The sea represents Gentile nations. John saw this beast emerge from several Gentile nations and a dragon gives him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

4.7 If you look back to Revelation chapter 12, the dragon is introduced to us for the first time. "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 from Satan but under the permissive will of God.

4.9 The Antichrist gets his power from a unique and powerful indwelling.

4.10 Then the description of the beast is given. It 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 The description of the beast, like much of the Book of The Revelation, is veiled in symbolism.

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

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

4.15 There are many parallels between Revelation 13 and Daniel 7.

4.16 Daniel had been carried captive into Babylon in 606 B.C. He knew from Jeremiah that God had predicted Judah would remain in Babylon for 70 years.

4.17 Daniel is turning all of this over in his mind.

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

4.19 Daniel is asking "What is God's program for Israel?"

4.20 In Dan 7:1 recall, "Daniel had a 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 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.

14.23 And so we find here the beasts of Revelation 13 are only an expansion and an enlargement of what was given to Daniel some 6 centuries earlier.

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.

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

4.26 Each beast represents an empire which would consecutively arise. Each has its own king.

4.27 The first one was like a lion with wings. 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, will find Ishtar Gates that were taken from the ruins of ancient Babylon and reconstructed in those museums.

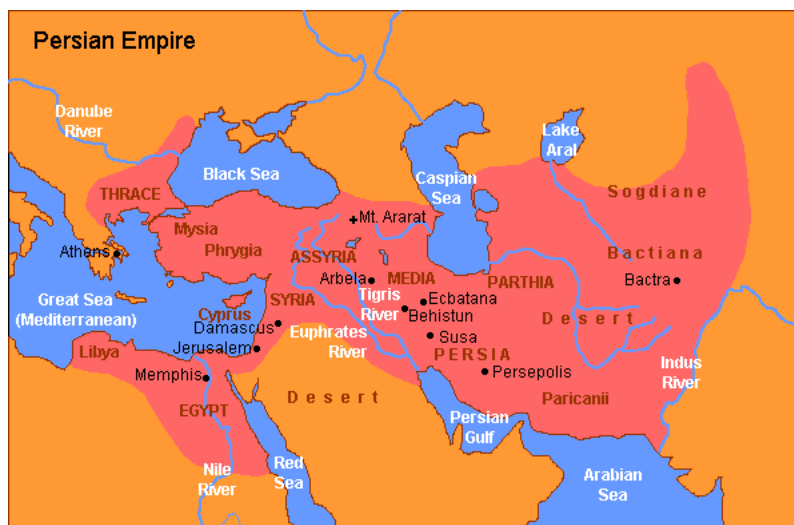
4.29 Those gates were adorned with azure tiles, and placed in the walls; surrounding or in the center of those azure tiles were winged lions.

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

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.



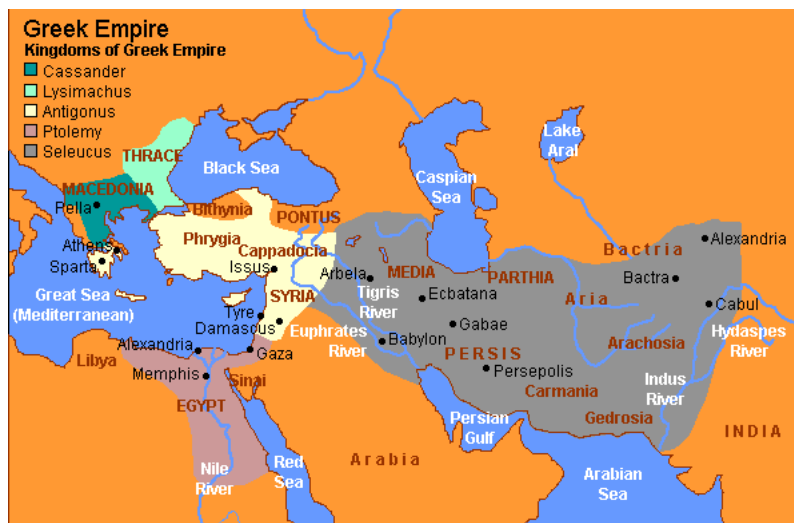
4.34 Then the third is like a leopard. The leopard had four wings.

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

4.36 After he extended his Empire from Macedonia to the Indus River, Alexander died. His wife and son are assassinated by Cassander and Antigonus and a brief civil ensues.

4.37 The young King was only thirty-two.

4.38 His kingdom was finally divided among four generals: Ptolemy, Seleucus, Cassander, and Lysimachus.



4.39 Daniel in chapter eleven will develop the details of this prophecy.

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 historical perspective; 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 is nearest to him? It was the leopard, then the bear and lastly the lion. 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 God just after the Exodus made clear that obedience would bring blessing and disobedience disaster.

4.45 Further, in Deuteronomy 28, God said that He would deliver the people of Israel to the authority of Gentiles, and these Gentiles would rule over them.

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

4.47 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.

4.48 The gentile dominance began with Nebuchadnezzar and it will continue until the return of Christ. Here in Daniel 7, Daniel is looking and wondering.

4.49 After introducing the fourth beast, he describes it as having ten horns. For Daniel the message is getting complicated.

4.50 Daniel pondered the significance of all this. He was taught:

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 subdues 3 kings.

4.52 The ten horns are ten kings ruling ten separate kingdoms."

4.53 The fourth empire, given our hindsight is the Roman Empire that came to power by overthrowing the Greeks.



And now for new material:

4.54 The Romans, as they swallowed up the territory that had been occupied by Greece, Medo-Persia, and Babylon, incorporated for themselves not only the land, but also the peoples, the cultures, the traditions, the laws, the customs and the religions of all these other peoples.

4.55 That is why this fourth beast is such a conglomerate. Part of it is Babylon, part of it is Medo-Persia; part of it is Greece and part of it is Rome.

4.56 In referring to the ten horns, Daniel is given the history of the Roman Empire to come.

4.57 In fact the fall of the Roman Empire would take place almost half a millennium after John wrote the book of the Revelation.

4.58 When the New Testament opens, Rome is at the zenith of its power, invincible, irresistible, dominate and in control.

4.59 But Daniel told us that there was going to be a division of the political power that had centralized in Rome among ten emerging nations.

4.60 Now this is spectacular. Where did Babylon get its power? By taking over the political power of Assyria and Egypt.

4.61 Where did Medo Persia get its power? By taking over the political power of Babylon.

4.62 Where did Alexander get his political power? By taking over the political power of Medo-Persia.

4.63 Where did Rome get its power? By taking over the political power of Greece.

4.64 If Rome falls, and it did in the middle of the fifth century, what would you have expected from the history of empires?

4.65 You would have thought that those who defeated Rome, would take over the political power of Rome, and constitute themselves as a succeeding political unity.

4.66 Such was the history of empires. But what's Daniel telling us? God teaches in the case of Rome this will not happen! It would instead be divided out among ten separate identifiable nations.

4.67 What specifically happened? In the fifth century the Huns and the Goths from central and northern Europe crossed the Alps and sacked Rome.

4.68 They did not unite all the land that Rome had occupied under their authority, but rather many separate identifiable nations emerged.

4.69 Nations such as Greece and Italy and Spain and Portugal and France and Belgium and Holland and Great Britain had their origin as independent nations through the break up and the division of the political power of Rome.

4.70 Accordingly that fourth empire exists today not as one but as independent nations that exercise their own political power independently.

4.71 Let me point out to you that in Daniel 7:8, Daniel introduces us to a political leader who eventually will head up a reunited Roman Empire.

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."

4.72. In verse 21 the Antichrist is seen winning and then in verse 22 Daniel gives us a look at the coming deliverance of God's people and then in verse 23 he revisits the perverse nature and power of the Antichrist.

5. This is a good place to pause and get an expanded translation of Dan 7:20-23

Expanded Translation:

Dan 7:20 I, Daniel also wanted Gabriel to tell me more about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell--I was interested particularly in knowing of the horn that looked more imposing than the others; the one who had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully against all authority.

Dan 7:21 While I was looking, this horn, the Antichrist, attacked God's chosen ones and at times seemed to be winning the battle.

Dan 7:22 Then God, the Most High, the Eternal One, came and judged in favor of his chosen ones, because the time had arrived for them to be given the kingdom.

Dan 7:23 Then I was told by the one standing there: "The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom to appear on earth. It will be different from all the others - it will trample the earth and crush it to pieces."

6. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 7:24-25.

KJV

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.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

NIV

Dan 7:24 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.

Dan 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

Principles:

1. Now Daniel is told ten kings will be transformed from a ten nation federation to an international One World Government. Let's speak to this point of "One World Government" under the Antichrist.

2. As Daniel was looking at these ten emerging kingdoms there came up among them a little horn.

3. Now if each of the ten horns represents a king, we must conclude the little horn is another king who emerges from among the ten.

4. He is called little because he is seen as having an insignificant beginning. Nobody paid any attention to him; he was inconsequential.

4.1 But then he quickly gained power over three of the original ten horns.

5. Daniel sees emerging from this political figure of insignificance a change. Nobody paid any attention at first, but now the world begins to take cognizance of him.

6. This little horn is the subject of the rest of Daniel's prophecy from Daniel 7:8 to the end of the chapter.

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. Let's review again the appellatives used of the Antichrist.

7.1 In chapter 8 verse 23 he is the "king of fierce countenance" or as the NIV translates "a stern faced king, a master of intrigue."

Dan 8:23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, "a king of fierce countenance," and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

7.2 In Dan 9:26, he is called "the prince that shall come."

Dan 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of "the prince that shall come" shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

7.3 In chapter 11 verse 36 he is "the king that does according to his own will," or as some have translated "the willful king."

Dan 11:36 And "the king shall do according to his will;" and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

7.4 His likeness is called "the abomination of desolation" in Mat 24:15.

Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

8. So over and over again, Daniel enlarges on the work, the ministry, the activity of this one who emerges from among the nations that had their origin in the break-up of the old Roman Empire.

9. Now let's go back to the book of the Revelation.

10. If you look in Rev 17:8 you will find that John reintroduces us to the beast.

Rev 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

11. This beast of Rev 17:8 is the same beast of Rev 13:1.

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.

12. Verse 12 of Rev 17 says, "The ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings in their independent kingdoms: they are not united; they are divided."

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

End Lesson Taught 4-21-2002