

Daniel, Chapter Seven - A Paraphrase

Dan 7:1 In the first year of the Babylonian co-regency of Nabonidus and Belshazzar, in c. 556 B.C., I had a dream. I was lying on my bed when I saw several visions. I recorded the visions, in summary fashion, in my 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. It was clearly the Mediterranean Sea.

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

Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion; it had wings like an eagle. This first creature represented Babylon. I watched until its wings were ripped off and it was made to stand on its two back feet like a man. The heart of a man was given to it. The bizarre series of events pointed to Nebuchadnezzar's bout with his zoanthropy, his temporary demise as ruler of Babylon and his recovery after his regeneration.

Dan 7:5 I saw a second awful creature; it looked like a bear. The second beast represented the Medo-Persian Empire. The giant grizzly rose up on one of its sides. Between its teeth, and protruding from its mouth, were three ribs. The three ribs represented Babylon, Lydia and Egypt; these were three nations recently conquered by the Medo-Persians. A command from one of the angels standing nearby declared, "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. This beast also had four heads. It was given authority to rule. The nature of the leopard with its winged back spoke of Alexander the Great's speed of conquest. He conquered the world in 12 short years. The four heads represented Alexander's four generals who, after Alexander's death in 323 B.C., ruled four Hellenistic empires.

Dan 7:7 In a terrifying night vision, I saw a fourth beast, more terrifying, and frightening and powerful than the other three. It had huge iron teeth. What it didn't grind with its teeth it smashed with its feet. It was different from all the former beasts; it had ten horns coming out of its head.

Dan 7:8 While thinking about these horns, a little horn appeared before me. Three of the beast's horns were pulled up by the roots to make room for it. This horn had the eyes of a man speaking boastfully of the things that it would do; the little horn was particularly critical of God.

Dan 7:9 Suddenly my eyes were directed toward heaven. There I saw thrones being set in place by none other than God the Father, the Ancient of Days. He took His seat in the middle of the throne room. He wore a robe, as white as snow, signifying His absolute Righteousness; the hair of His head was white and thick like wool, a sign of His earned respect. His throne was elevated, surrounded by flaming fire. The throne had wheels that were all ablaze, as a symbol of His omnipresence and severe judgment upon all who deny His authority, 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 was 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 ordered that the Antichrist's body be thrown into the blazing fire of Hades.

Dan 7:12 Satan and his demons were allowed to live. They were chained for the greater part of one thousand years. At the end of the millennial reign of Christ, they were released, but only for a short period of time.

Dan 7:13 I continued to dream. I saw the Messiah. He looked like the Son of Man, the incarnate Christ. He came clothed in the clouds of heaven, and was led before the throne of the Ancient of Days.

Dan 7:14 The Ancient of Days gave Christ all authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language were required to worship Him. The dominion given Him was an everlasting one; one which would not pass away, a dominion that would never be destroyed.

Dan 7:15 My vision caused me to become overwrought. I did not understand the meaning of what I had dreamed, and worse, I felt terrible pain for my people Israel.

Dan 7:16 I asked one of the angels, "What is the meaning of what I have dreamed?" An angel began an extensive explanation of my dream.

Dan 7:17 "The four great beasts are four world empires which will rise out from the turmoil of planet earth.

Dan 7:18 Ultimately, however, God's forever family will take possession of a new earth. They will live forever in a state of absolute happiness."

Dan 7:19 I was greatly puzzled and wanted to know more of the fourth beast. This beast was different from all the others. It was certainly more terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws. It crushed and devoured its victims, trampling them underfoot. This beast showed no mercy whatsoever.

Dan 7:20 I, Daniel, also wanted the angel to tell me more about the ten horns. I was especially interested in the horn that looked more imposing than the others; the one that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully against all authority.

Dan 7:21 While I was looking, this little horn, the Antichrist, attacked and defeated God's chosen people.

Dan 7:22 God, the Most High, the Eternal One, then intervened in favor of His chosen ones. The time had arrived for the people of God to receive Christ's earthly kingdom.

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

Dan 7:24 The ten horns you saw are ten kings ruling ten sovereign nations. They will align themselves by treaty, forming a federation. From one of the lesser kingdoms the Antichrist will arise. He will quickly strike and conquer two of the ten nations. He will be a military and political genius; as a result, this little horn will be elected chairman of a powerful European federation headquartered in Rome.

Dan 7:25 “He speaks against God and oppresses those who profess Christianity. He even changes the calendar and replaces national laws with international laws. Under the permissive will of God, the saints of planet earth are handed over to him for three and one-half years.

Dan 7:26 The Antichrist will establish himself as the military, political, religious and economic ruler of all the earth. In the third heaven all attention is directed to the throne room where the Supreme Court sits in session. The court rules that all power is to be taken away from the Antichrist. The Antichrist and his associate, the False Prophet, will be cast into the lake of fire.

Dan 7:27 The kingdoms of the earth will be placed under the saints of God. Christ will be made ruler over both heaven and earth. He will rule all peoples and nations. Their leaders will worship and obey Him.”

Dan 7:28 And there it ended. I, Daniel, was in shock, and deeply troubled by what I had seen. I was like a man who had seen a ghost. I decided to keep the matter to myself.