

DISCERNING DANIEL

Vision of the Four Beasts

Text: Daniel 7:1-28

Introduction: Daniel chapters 1 to 6 gave to us the _____ of Daniel. That included Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the _____, which of course proved to be prophetic. However, Daniel chapters 7 to 12 consists of a series of _____ sent to Daniel himself along with explanations of their interpretations. These passages are _____ prophetic. They have as much or more to say about _____ time as they did about the days of Daniel.

- First we will examine the vision.
- Then we will look at the explanation of its meaning.
- Finally we will consider its implications and application to us.

I. THE VISION

Given to Daniel in the first year of _____ reign.

Dan. 7:1-8 1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. 2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' 6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

1. 4 beasts from sea
 - a. _____ with eagle wings
 - b. _____ with three ribs in its mouth
 - c. _____ with bird wings and four heads
 - d. _____ beast with ten horns
 - a. Another little _____ comes up
 - b. Plucks out _____ of the original ten horns
 - c. The little horn has eyes and mouth speaking _____ words.

2. Thrones set up

Dan. 7:9-14 9 “I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. 11 “I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. 13 “ I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

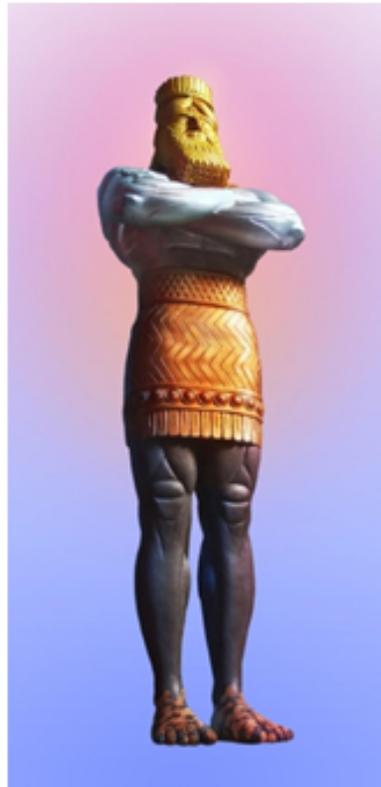
- a. This is a scene of _____
- b. Terrible beast slain and cast into the _____
- c. An everlasting _____ set up

II. THE MEANING**A. Four Beasts – the same picture as Nebuchadnezzar’s _____**

Dan. 7:15-18 15 “I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 17 ‘Those great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings *which* arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.’

1. The four beasts represent four kings and their kingdoms. Immediately the four kingdoms remind us of the prophetic statue God showed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream.

Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.



STATUE	INTERPRETATION	BEASTLY VISION
Head of gold	_____ (625 – 539 B.C.)	
Chest and arms of silver	Medo- _____ (539-335 B.C.)	
Belly and thighs of bronze	_____ (335-37 B.C.)	
Legs of iron	_____ (37 B.C.-476 A.D.)	

Daniel 7:5 “And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’

Daniel 7:6 “After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

Daniel 7:7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns.

As with the statue, Daniel noticed that the fourth beast was _____ than the other three. He likely remembered that in the vision of the statue, the statue itself clearly portrayed the change, the iron legs gave way to feet with ten toes mixed with iron and _____. So he asked,

Dan. 7:19-22 19 “Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, *with* its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, *which* devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; 20 and the ten horns that *were* on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. 21 “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favor*

of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

The answer was given:

Dan. 7:23-25 23 “Thus he said: ‘ The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all *other* kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. 24 The ten horns *are* ten kings *Who* shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first *ones*, And shall subdue three kings. 25 He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.



STATUE

Feet of
iron
mixed
with clay

INTERPRETATION

The

Roman Empire,
the future
dynasty of

in the
tribulation.
10 horns are
10 _____.
Another horn
is the
_____.

BEASTLY VISION



2. Thrones set in Judgment

Dan. 7:26-27 26 ‘But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy *it* forever. 27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’



STATUE INTERPRETATION BEASTLY VISION

The
Antichrist
cast into the
Lake of



—
The
Kingdom of
Christ



Rev. 19:20-21 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Rev. 20:1-6 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I* saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

III. MESSAGE - Despite the awesome appearance of the power of man, the power of God is always the overwhelming victor. God directs the _____ of history. He has appointed the end. _____ are on the winning side. These things are going to happen _____!