

## INTERPRETATION OF FOUR BEASTS AND LITTLE HORN

(Dan 7:15-21) 04/01/20

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### OUTLINE OF DANIEL 7

- A. DANIEL'S INTRODUCTION (Dan 7:1)
  - 1. Timeframe of Daniel's Vision (1)
  - 2. Belshazzar's 1<sup>st</sup> year - approx. 553 B.C.
- B. DANIEL'S VISION (Dan 7:2-14)
  - 1. Vision of the Four Great Empires (2-7a)
  - 2. Vision of the Little Horn (7b-8)
  - 3. Vision of Ancient of Days (9-10)
  - 4. Vision of Beast(s) (11-12)
  - 5. Vision of Christ's Kingdom (13-14)
- C. DANIEL'S INTERPRETATION (Dan 7:15-28)
  - 1. Interpretation of Four Beasts (15-19)
  - 2. Interpretation of The Little Horn (20-25)
  - 3. Interpretation of Christ's Kingdom (26-28)
- I. INTERPRETATION OF FOUR BEASTS (Dan 7:15-19)
  - A. Daniel's Distress (15)
    - 1. Distressed - Possibly, Daniel was "**distressed**" (*kerá*) because kings and kingdoms will continue to rebel against the Lord until the end.
    - 2. Alarmed - Daniel was also "**alarmed**" by the grim judgment brought against rebellious man by God in the end (cf. Dan 7:28).
  - B. Angel's Interpretation (16)
    - 1. Angel - Daniel needed more information for his vision, so he **approached** one who was standing by. It was probably an angel.
    - 2. Messenger - In Scripture, angels are known to assist prophets and apostles in understanding visions (Dan 8:16; 9:21; Rev 17:7).
  - C. Four Beasts are Four Kings (17)
    - 1. Four Kings - The interpretation by the angel is straightforward. The four beasts are "**four kings.**"
    - 2. Most Notable - These kings will be the "most notable" kings from those kingdoms who will **arise in the earth**. It is the Antichrist who is going to be the most notable king of the Roman Empire, albeit revived.
      - a. Nebuchadnezzar - Lion (Golden Head) - Babylonian Kingdom [605 - 539 B.C.].
      - b. Cyrus the Great - Bear (Silver Chest) - Medo-Persian Kingdom [539 - 331 B.C.].
      - c. Alexander the Great - Leopard (Bronze Waist) - Greek Kingdom [331 - 63 B.C.].
      - d. Caesars - Terrible Beast (Iron Legs) - Roman [63 B.C. A.D. 476].
      - e. Antichrist - Little Horn (Iron/Clay Feet) - Revived Roman [Future].
  - D. Saints in the Kingdom (18)
    - 1. Saints - This is the only chapter where Daniel uses the term "**saints**" (Dan 7:18, 22, 25, 27). There has been considerable debate in determining their specific identification.
    - 2. Timeframe - The timeframe to which Daniel refers is the Millennial **Kingdom**. It has been referenced numerous times in Daniel (Dan 2:34-35, 44-45; Dan 7:13-14, 18, 22, 26-27 cf. Rev 20:4).
    - 3. Longevity - What sets Christ's kingdom apart from the others is that this kingdom is "**forever, for all ages to come.**" No kingdom has lasted forever, but Christ's future kingdom will.

4. Literal Kingdom - The fact that the other kingdoms are literal, and Christ's kingdom is connected with them, argues that Christ's kingdom is also literal.

5. Tribulation Saints - Since the timeframe is the Millennial Kingdom, those who **possess the kingdom** most likely are believers who survive at the end of seven-year Tribulation. However, the raptured Church saints (Rev 5:10), OT saints (Dan 12:1-2), and martyred Tribulation saints (Rev 20:4) will reign with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom with Christ (Pentecost).

E. Fourth Beast (19)

1. Roman Empire - The fourth beast has application to the Roman Empire which was "exceedingly dreadful," "teeth of iron," "claws of bronze," and "devoured" in its dominance. But the Roman Empire ("legs of iron") extends to a revived Roman Empire ("feet of iron and clay") that is governed by the Antichrist who "crushes and tramples down the remainder with its feet".

2. Antichrist Most Prominent - Every kingdom mentioned had more than one ruler. However, it was the most prominent ones that Daniel had in mind. Though there were some prominent Caesars, the Antichrist will surpass them all (cf. Rev 13:2). Daniel's "fourth beast" will be "different from all the others" (Dan 7:19, 24).

II. INTERPRETATION OF THE LITTLE HORN (Dan 7:20-25)

A. Ten Horns on Head (20)

1. Ten Horns - Speaking specifically of the future, the **ten horns** on the head of the fourth beast represent ten kings (Dan 7:24). These are ten kings over ten kingdoms in the revived Roman Empire. Many see a connection between the ten horns of Dan 7:7 and the ten "toes" of Dan 2:41-42.

2. Other Horn - Special attention is given by Daniel to the "**other horn**" (or "little horn", Dan 7:8). The first stage of the revived Roman Empire is that the Antichrist comes on the scene almost insignificant to the ten horns.

3. Three Fell - The second stage of the revived Roman Empire is when the Antichrist consolidates the ten kings and subdues three of them (Dan 7:24), pulls them out by their roots (Dan 7:8), and causes them to **fall** (Dan 7:20).

4. Larger in Appearance - The Antichrist begins as a "little horn" but his power and authority grow larger than the other kings (Rev 13:2). The third stage is when the Antichrist rises to the top and has world-wide control (Rev 17:12-13,17).

5. Eyes - The little horn is described with having eyes (Dan 7:8, 20). This may be a reference to the Antichrist's intelligence or the intelligence operations of the Antichrist, or both.

6. Great Boasts - If there is one theme rolled over and over it is the blasphemous nature and speech of the Antichrist (Dan 7:8, 20, 25; 11:36; 2Th 2:3-4; Rev 13:1, 5, 6). There is a connection between Daniel and Revelation regarding with the time of Antichrist's world-wide rule. In Dan 7:25, the boastful Antichrist is allowed to temporarily reign for "time, times, and a half time" (3 ½ yrs.). In Rev 13:5-6, the blasphemous Antichrist is allowed to temporarily reign for "forty-two months" (3 ½ yrs.).

B. Waging War Against the Saints (21)

1. Waging War - **War with the saints** is another theme repeated throughout Daniel and Revelation.

a. Daniel tells us that the Antichrist will especially target true believers during the Tribulation (Dan 7:21, 25).

b. Revelation teaches about an incredible amount of persecution during the Tribulation (Rev 6:9-10; 12:11, 13:7; 17:6).

2. Saints Persevere









a. The Bible prepares believers for persecution now before the Tribulation.

b. If there is anything that characterizes believers in the face of any adversity is their perseverance and faithfulness (2Ti 4:5-8; Rev 2:10; Rev 14:12-13).

III. OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

A. Depressed over sin and judgment (Dan 7:15, 28).

- B. Encouraged by how it all ends (Dan 7:18, 22, 27)
- C. God's Sovereignty Over Persecution and Plagues (Dan 7:22)

| <b>NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S IMAGE (Dan 2:37-45)</b>                                         |                   |                                                                                                                                      | <b>7:1-8</b>                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | <b>GOLD</b>       | <b>BABYLONIAN (605 - 539 B.C.)</b><br>(Dan 2:32, 37-38; 7:4)<br>(King Nebuchadnezzar)                                                |    |
|                                                                                     | <b>SILVER</b>     | <b>MEDO-PERSIAN (539 - 331 B.C.)</b><br>(Dan 2:32, 39a; 5:31; 6:28; 7:5)<br>(Cyrus the Great)                                        |    |
|                                                                                     | <b>BRONZE</b>     | <b>GREEK (331 - 63 B.C.)</b><br>(Dan 2:32, 39b; 7:6)<br>(Alexander the Great)                                                        |    |
|                                                                                     | <b>IRON</b>       | <b>ROMAN (63 B.C. - A.D. 476)</b><br>(Dan 2:33, 40; 7:7a)<br>(Caesars)                                                               |    |
|                                                                                     | <b>IRON /CLAY</b> | <b>REVIVED EMPIRE OF 10 KINGS</b><br>(Dan 2:33, 41-43; 7:7b-8, 11, 19-21, 24-25; 9:26; Rev 12:3; 13:1)<br>(Little Horn - Antichrist) |   |
|  | <b>STONE</b>      | <b>CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL KINGDOM</b><br>(Dan 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 26-27; Rev 20:4)<br>(The Lord Jesus Christ)              |  |

## 3½ Years occurs 5X's in Revelation!

Clustered together in 3 consecutive chapters at Rev 11, 12 & 13!

$$3\frac{1}{2} \text{ Years} \times 2 = 7$$

### In Daniel

- "time, times, and a half time" (Dan 7:25)
- "middle of the week" (Dan 9:27)

### In Revelation

- 1) Gentile Occupation- 42 months (Rev 11:2)
- 2) Two Witnesses - 1260 days (Rev 11:3)
- 3) Israel in Wilderness - 1260 days (Rev 12:6)
- 4) Israel in Wilderness - Time, Times, ½ (Rev 12:14)
- 5) Antichrist's blasphemy - 42 months (Rev 13:5)

Its all the same amount of time expressed in different ways!

$$3\frac{1}{2} \text{ Years} = 42 \text{ Months} = 1,260 \text{ Days} = \text{Time Times \& } \frac{1}{2} \text{ a Time.}$$

