

**Hymns: 286 O Happy Day 448 The King's Business 460 Send the Light**

## DANIEL

### Chapter 7

#### Daniel's vision of four beasts

**1** In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, *and* told the sum of the matters. **2** Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. **3** And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. **4** The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. **5** And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and *it had* three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. **6** After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also 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, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it *was* diverse from all the beasts that *were* before it; and it had ten horns. **8** I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn *were* eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

#### and of God's kingdom

**9** I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire. **10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. **11** I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. **12** As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. **13** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **14** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

#### The interpretation of the vision

**15** I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me. **16** I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. **17** These great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings, *which* shall arise out of the earth. **18** But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. **19** Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth *were of* iron, and his nails *of* brass; *which* devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; **20** And of the ten horns that *were* in his head, and *of* the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even *of* that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look *was* more stout than his fellows. **21** I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; **22** Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. **23** Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. **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. **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. **26** But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end. **27** And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. **28** Hitherto *is* the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Daniel 7:1-28 (KJV)

### **...THE TEN HORNS OUT OF THIS KINGDOM ARE TEN KINGS**

#### **OUTLINE**

- (1) The 4 Human Kingdoms Illustrated (v1-8)
  - a. Babylon - Lion with Eagle's Wings (v2-4)
  - b. Medo-Persia - Bear with 3 Ribs in Mouth (v5)
  - c. Greek - Leopard with 4 Wings of Fowl and 4 Heads (v6)
  - d. Roman - Beast with 10 Horns and a Little Horn (v7-8)

- (2) The Heavenly Kingdom (v9-14)
- (3) The Interpretation (v15-28)
  - a. The Kingdom of God on Earth (v15-18, 26-28)
  - b. 4<sup>th</sup> Beast Explained (v19-25)

**INTRODUCTION**

Daniel was given a vision of world empires culmination in Christ’s Second Coming and the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom. Previous visions were given to kings and Daniel interpreted. Now the vision is given to Daniel himself, he sought the Lord for illumination. This prophecy was given in 553 B.C., where Belshazzar began to rule. 50 years lapsed from the interpretation of the same prophecy in Daniel 2 under king Nebuchadnezzar. This began the second section of the book that gives to us the final 4 prophetic visions as we move back in time from Cyrus’ reign to Belshazzar.<sup>1</sup>

It is a most profitable study for us living at the last of the last days. We are moving towards the ten toes of Daniel and would like to understand the world events in the light of Scripture. Daniel chapter 2 and 7 share the same prophecy depicting human empires culminating in God’s rule. In Daniel 2, it was a great monument depicting human achievement without God that eventually amounts to nothing and in Daniel 7, 4 beasts were described “man from God’s perspective” [Whitcomb] (See chart below).

*32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Daniel 2:32-33 (KJV)*

<b>World Empires at a Glance</b>					
<b>Babylon</b>	<b>Medo-Persian</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>Rome</b>	<b>Revived Roman Empire</b>	<b>God's Kingdom (Christ's Millennia Rule)</b>
612-539 B.C.	539-331 B.C.	331-63 B.C.	63 B.C. - ?		
Gold	Silver	Brass	Iron	Iron/Clay	Diamond
Head	Chest and Arms	Belly and Thighs	Legs	Feet - Ten Toes	Stone Breaks Image and fills the earth
<b>Dan. 2:38</b>	<b>Dan. 2:39</b>	<b>Dan. 2:39</b>	<b>Dan. 2:40</b>	<b>Dan. 2:42-43</b>	<b>Dan. 2:44-45</b>

<sup>1</sup> John C. Whitcomb, Everyman’s Bible Commentary: Daniel, (Chicago:Moody, 1985), p 91.  
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Two- Winged Lion	Bear with 3 ribs in mouth	Leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads	Fierce Beast	10 Horn Beast/Little Horn	
Dan. 7:4	Dan. 7:5	Dan. 7:6	Dan. 7:7	Dan. 7:8	Dan. 7:9

(1) The 4 Human Kingdoms Illustrated (v1-8)

a. Babylon - Lion with Eagle's Wings (v2-4)

<sup>2</sup> Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. <sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. <sup>4</sup> The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

“The great sea”, in biblical symbolism, pictures fallen humanity (Isa. 8:6-8; 17:12-13; 57:20; Jer. 6:23; 46:7-8; 47:2; Matt. 13:47; Rev. 13:1; 17:1, 15). The “four winds of heaven” probably speaks of angelic forces through which God controls and moves the nation.<sup>2</sup> Of more than 120 references in the Bible to wind (more than 90 in the O.T. and about 30 in the N.T.), well over half are related to events and ideas which reflect the sovereignty and power of God.<sup>3</sup>

Jeremiah described Nebuchadnezzar as “a lion from the thicket of the Jordan” (Jer. 49:19; 50:44), is a picture of the overflowing waters of Jordan in the spring, driving lions from its thickets to devour men in the surrounding villages (Prov. 22:13; 26:13). His armies were like the “wings of the eagle” for the swift destruction it brings to his enemies (Ezekiel 17:3, 7).<sup>4</sup>

I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it - God's chastened Nebuchadnezzar removing his pride in Daniel 4 that led to his conversion after 7 years of beast-like insanity.

b. Medo-Persia - Bear with 3 Ribs in Mouth (v5)

<sup>5</sup> And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 93.

<sup>3</sup> John F. Walvoord, Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation (Chicago: Moody, 1971), p 152.

<sup>4</sup> John C. Whitcomb, Everyman's Bible Commentary: Daniel, (Chicago:Moody, 1985), p 94.

This corresponds to the silver arms of Daniel's image in Daniel 2. The bear is less majestic and swift than the lion to describe the Medo-Persian Empire of Cyrus and later to the Persian king Xerxes (Esther 1:19).<sup>5</sup>

The three ribs alluded to the 3 great conquests of the Medo-Persians under Cyrus and his son Cambyses: (1) Lydia in Asia Minor under King Croeus, 546 B.C. (2) Babylon under Nebonidus and Belshazzar, 539 B.C., and (3) Egypt under Psamtik III, 525 B.C.<sup>6</sup>

c. Greek - Leopard with 4 Wings of Fowl and 4 Heads (v6)

*<sup>6</sup> After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.*

This corresponds to the thighs of bronze in Daniel 2. It describes the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great which grew at incomparable speed. He conquered the Medo-Persian empire under Darius III including Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and the eastern territories to the borders of India and he died at the age of 32.

d. Roman - Beast with 10 Horns and a Little Horn (v7-8)

*<sup>7</sup> After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.*

The 4<sup>th</sup> beast describes the Roman Empire identified by iron that extends to the ten toes which is part iron and part clay. It is described as "*dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly*" (v7) - The form or nature of the beast is not given as in the preceding cases - the lion, the bear, and the leopard - but it is left for the imagination to fill up. It was a beast more terrific in its appearance than either of the others, and was evidently a monster such as could not be designated by a single name. The terms which are used here in describing the beast - "*dreadful, terrible, exceedingly strong,*" are nearly synonymous, and are heaped together in order to give an impressive view of the terror inspired by the beast. There can be no doubt as to the general meaning of this, for it is explained Daniel 7:23 as denoting a kingdom that "*should devour the whole earth, and tread it down, and break it in pieces.*" As a symbol, it would denote some power much more fearful and much more to be dreaded; having a wider dominion; and more stern, more oppressive in its character, more severe in its exactions, and more entirely destroying the liberty of others; advancing more by power and terror, and less by art and cunning, than either. This characteristic is manifest throughout the symbol. [Barnes]

Ten horns - "*horn*" represents power, political or military. The horn gives an animal a regal look and provides such an impressive mechanism that their imagery was widely employed to represent power. [Dictionary of Biblical

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 94.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 95.

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Imagery, 400] Understood in the light of Daniel 2, we see a corresponding description between the ten toes and the ten horns – in that they are ten kings - **24** *And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise...*

There have been suggestions on the regional groupings that we can observe as nations gravitate together as we study the world today in the light of Scripture – this 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom is diverse and will devour the whole earth (v23).

10 Regions

Region 1-NAU – Canada, United States of America, Mexico

Region 2-EU - Western Europe, British Isles, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Turkey

Region 3 – Japan, Pacific Islands

Region 4 – Australia, New Zealand, South Africa

Region 5 - Eastern Europe, Russia, Siberia, Mongolia, Korea

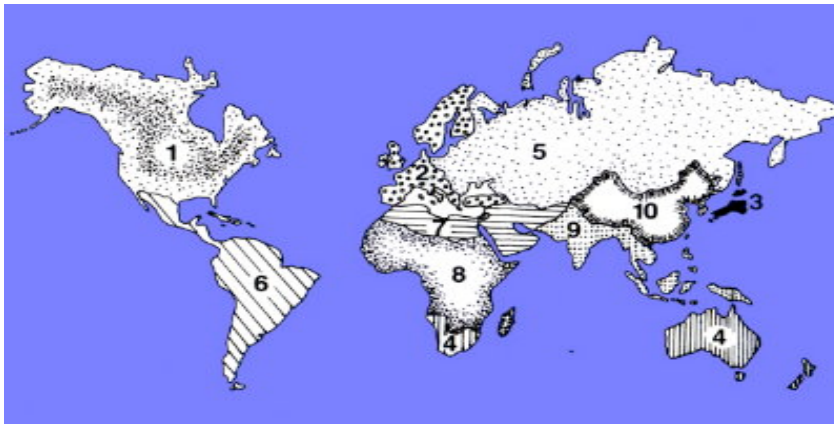
Region 6 - Central America (including Mexico), South America, Carribean Islands

Region 7 – Egypt, Lybia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morrocco, Saudi Penisula, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan

Region 8-AU - Africa (without the above North African countries and South Africa), Madagascar

Region 9 – India, S. E. Asia

Region 10 - China



**8** *I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*

The Anti-Christ (little horn) will arise after the 10 kings (Daniel 7:24) after he vanquishes 3 kings. The bible describes him as very intelligent (“eyes”), arrogant and boastful (Daniel 7:11), will persecute the saints (Daniel 7:25 cf. Matthew 24:8), subjugate and control Israel and will be judged by God (Revelation 19:19-20).

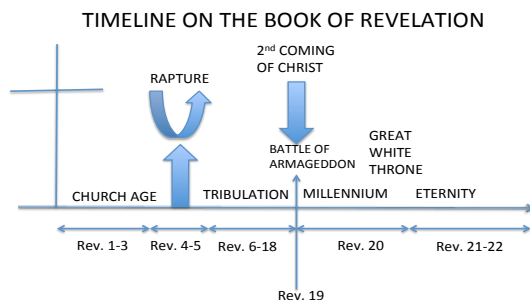
## (2) The Heavenly Kingdom (v9-14)

**9** *I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. **10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.*

Verses 9-10a is a description of heavenly worship of glorified saints before God the Father on His throne. The rapture has taken place.

Verse 10b the judgment was set, and the books were opened – alluding to Revelation 20:11-13 *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”*

This is the Great White Throne judgment after the millennium where the dead outside Christ were resurrected for final judgment.



**11** *I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.*

This episode comes when Christ returns with His saints to defeat the Antichrist and his army - Revelation 19:20 *"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."*

The 4<sup>th</sup> beast is destroyed by the stone that smashes the feet of iron and clay - Daniel 2:34 *"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces."*

**12** *As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.*

This is the description of the existence of Greece, Iraq and Turkey that has no significant power in the world stage.

**13** *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

Jesus, the Son of man, God's Son, yet fully man was bestowed the kingdom from the Father.

Psalm 2:6-9 *"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."*

**14** *And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

This kingdom begins at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ to defeat the Antichrist and establishes a 1000-year rule on earth and finally ushering the kingdom into the eternal state in the New Jerusalem.

### **(3) The Interpretation (v15-28)**

- a. The Kingdom of God on Earth (v15-18, 26-28)
- b. 4<sup>th</sup> Beast (v19-25)



**15** *I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. **16** I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.*

Daniel could not unravel the mysteries of this night vision and prayed for enlightenment. And he asked to the angel to show him the interpretation.

**17** *These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. **18** But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.*

The kingdom of man is temporal, fleeting, transient, only God's kingdom is everlasting. The 4 beasts represent human kings and their kingdoms and the temporal nature of them in God's timetable.

**19** *Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; **20** And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. **21** I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;*

The Antichrist arise in the close of man's history having surpassing brilliance - "eyes and mouth that spake very great things" - a special charisma. The Antichrist will persecute the saints and will succeed in subduing them.

**22** *Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.*

Here the Ancient of days ascribed the human kingdom to the saints giving them rule over the earth. Christ is the final and eternal King who would rule on earth.

**23** *Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. **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.*

The 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom of the Roman Empire will be diverse and will devour the whole earth as mentioned earlier with its 10 kings ruling the ten super-nations.

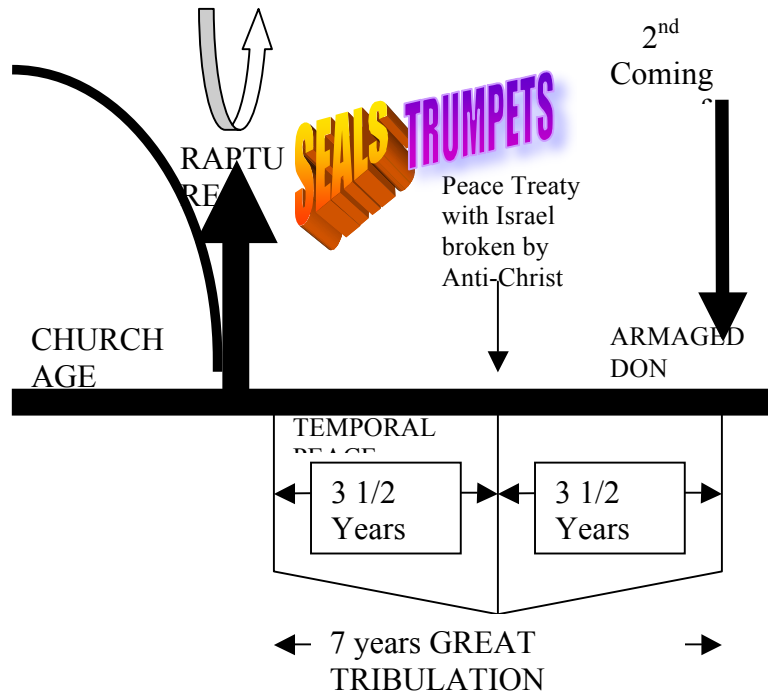
Is this report a movement toward the first bloc was proposed in the New York Times article dated 5 September 2011 by LIZ ALDERMAN AND JAMES KANTER in PARIS? — As the stock and bond markets seem eerily similar to the dark days of 2008, Jean-Claude Trichet and Mario Draghi, the current and incoming

chiefs of the European Central Bank, pointedly urged European leaders to move quickly to ensure that the euro zone's debt crisis does not become seriously worse. Europe needs to "make a quantum step up in economic and political integration," Mr. Draghi said as the bond yields of Greece, Italy and other countries with weak finances jumped Monday amid investor fears that such efforts might be failing. He and Mr. Trichet addressed a forum in Paris that focused on the world three years after the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

*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. 26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.*

This integration will culminate with the rise of the Antichrist, the little horn, the 11<sup>th</sup> horn out of the 10 horns. He speaks "great words" against God and persecute the saints for 3 ½ years (a time and times and the dividing of times) in the Great Tribulation until Christ comes at the end of the Great Tribulation in the battle of Armageddon to defeat the Antichrist and his minions.

*Revelation 19:11-21 "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."*



*27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*

*28 Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.*

After the defeat of Antichrist, the saints will rule with Christ for a thousand years. Christ will rule from Jerusalem.

Revelation 20:6 *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."*

**CONCLUSION**

Truly, God had revealed to Daniel the future that is still be unravelled today before our eyes in our generation more than 2500 years later. Indeed, God's word will be fulfilled as He has said. May God's people be assured of His protection and care amidst persecution and afflictions, birth pangs before the rise of the Antichrist. Christ will come to take His church in safety. Let us be watchful and ready. Amen.