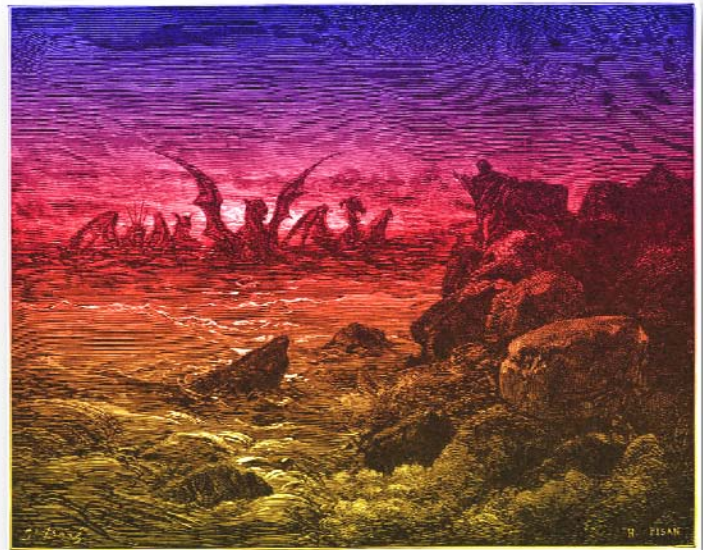


- Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream in **Chapter 2**, which Daniel interpreted as the future Gentile powers until the end of time. Now Daniel has his own vision, one which broadens the information given in Chapter 2, and provides amazing prophetic details for these world empires.
- Chapters 7-12 give us **world history before it happened**, primarily concerned with the four major empires Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman...and a final world power, and final world leader.
- This chapter 7 is the **most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future historical events anywhere** in scripture. It has the broadest scope, and provides the most details.
- To better understand this book, and the chapters that follow, it is highly recommended to get a brush-up in the overview of world history from the beginning until current times (see the timeline for Daniel chapters 7-12). It is also helpful to read **Revelation chapters 13 and 17-18**. The book of Daniel and the book of Revelation complement each other in providing the prophecies that will govern end times.
- This chapter deals with Gentile powers, so we are still in **Aramaic** (the common language of that day). The message concerns the “common powers” so the language fits. God engineered this book so that chapters 2-7 are in Aramaic since they concern Gentile history. Beginning with chapter 8, the text returns to Hebrew.
- Most see chapter 7 as providing further **explanation of the dream of Chapter 2**. The multi-metallic awesome image of Gentile powers in chapter 2 is thought to be how man views these powers – full of splendor and glory, awesome in nature. However, in this chapter, God reveals to Daniel how HE views human government – wild beasts, ravenous, carnivorous, destructive and voracious killers.
- There are various thoughts about the beasts presented in this vision. Some believe they represent the four powers seen in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. Others believe that represent end time powers. Some think both. We will discuss that a bit later.
- **Because of the range of events and the incredible details provided in this chapter, this study will be longer than usual for this book.**
- **COMMENTARY: In The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, the historian Edward Gibbon, who was not a Christian, said, “The four empires are clearly delineated; and the invincible armies of the Romans are described with as much clearness in the prophecies of Daniel, as in the histories of Justin and Diodorus.”**



<sup>1</sup>*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.*

- *“In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon ...”* was the date of this vision (actually a series of visions) received by Daniel during the night. This one occurred in the first year of Beshazzar’s reign as coregent with his father Nabonidus.
- This vision occurred several years prior to the events recorded in chapters 5 and 6, but after chapter 4. Those chapters were primarily history. This chapter contains the first of the visions that came directly to Daniel and concerned prophetic events. The visions seen by Daniel in chapters 7-12 were all received during the events recorded in the first six chapters, but God has led Daniel to record them separately in this last half of the book.
- *“...dream and visions ...”* **“Visions” suggests there are several**, three that are mentioned in this chapter. The four beasts who rise from the sea (and the little horn, final world leader) are followed by a vision of the great day of awesome judgment, and the last vision focuses on the glorious return of the Son of Man.
- *“...he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts....”* Daniel may have been “retired” at this time, since it seems that Belshazzar didn’t even know who he was. It could have even been during this time that he recorded the first part of the Book of Daniel.

<sup>2</sup>*Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. ”*<sup>3</sup>*“And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.*

- *“...the four winds of heaven ...”* **Reference to winds is found often**, about 120 times, in scripture. In many cases they are used to suggest the power of God, something at His disposal – especially the reference to the “four winds” – this implies his authority over the entire earth. They can also speak of great upheaval. The “winds” here are from all four ordinal locations (North, East, South, West), which implies the entire earth. This vision is going to relate to the entire world, and God is doing it.
- *“stirring up the Great Sea. ...”* The Mediterranean Sea was literally referenced as “the Great Sea” – so literally it is the Mediterranean Sea (interesting that all the empires we discuss will border on this sea). But the “sea” also suggests the masses, the mob, and the peoples of the Gentiles. (see Matt. 13:47; Rev. 13:1; Isa. 57:20). Revelation 17 gives us a few more clues: *“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,...”* (17:1) And later in the book we get the interpretation: *“Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”* (17:15). The sea is this conglomerate population of peoples throughout the world, as well as the Mediterranean Sea.
- Out of this disturbed sea, out of the masses of the peoples of the earth, Daniel now sees four beasts that different from one another. We are going to learn that these beasts represent world kingdoms, and they are very different from one another, as are these beasts.



- We need to take time here to discuss the various interpretations of these beasts, before we are given more details. Daniel sees first a lion, then a bear, then a leopard (or panther) and then a terrible, indescribable beast. There are **three basic positions regarding the interpretation of these symbolic beasts**. The first is that these beasts correspond directly to the metals in the image of chapter 2 (Nebuchadnezzar's dream). The second position is that these beasts have nothing to do with chapter 2, but refer to unnamed end times powers. The third position, and the one that most eschatologists are coming to hold, and the one we will focus on in this study, is that positions one and two are both true. **The beasts do correspond to chapter 2, but they ALSO may refer to end time powers** – this is particularly true when we get to the fourth beast. It is helpful to explore these positions before looking at the rest of the scriptures here.

### COMPARING DANIEL CHAPTERS 2 and 7

God showed Nebuchadnezzar an amazing dream of an awesome metallic image. This image represented all of Gentile history through man's view of the world – glitz, glamour, power, and shiny metals. Now in chapter 7 we have another view of world governments, but most say this is from God's perspective – showing these powers to be the voracious, bloodthirsty beasts that they are.

### THE BASIC POSITIONS

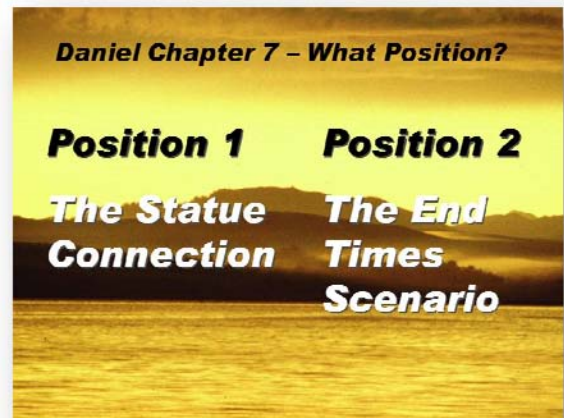
There are two basic positions about the prophetic nature of chapter 7, and just what all these beasts and visions stand for. Up to now, Daniel has been pretty straightforward – the presentation of historical events, but not merely for the sake of history. We have seen great types and prophetic "inuendos" concerning end times. Even in chapter 2, when God gives Nebuchadnezzar a fantastic futuristic dream, the vision is interpreted for us so there is no mistake. However, when we enter the second half of Daniel, we enter into detailed prophecy, which is always subject to controversy. Whenever man tries his hand at interpretation there is *always* controversy. There are two basic camps about the visions here. Let's do a quick run down before we actually look in detail at this chapter.

### MAIN STREAM, Call it the "Statue Connection"

This opinion is held most commonly, and that is that Daniel chapter 7 corresponds to the dream of Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 2. In Neb's dream we see all of Gentile history from man's perspective – beautiful shiny impressive metals. In chapter 7, we have the same history but this time from God's point of view – these kingdoms of man are like beasts. This opinion then compares each of the four beasts presented in these visions in chapter 7 to the four (not five!) kingdoms in the statue of chapter 2 (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome). The details of these beasts, and their successive fulfillment in history lend themselves well to this interpretation. This interpretation makes sense to most.

### END TIMES VIEW/Scenario

The alternate opinion about these beasts in chapter 7 is that they are not to be compared to the kingdoms of chapter 2, but are representative of empires or kingdoms that will arise in the end times.



Those in this camp say that these beasts have too many dissimilarities with the statue of chapter 2, and can't be compared. They give the following arguments for their reasoning, and we provide some counter-thoughts here as well:

- 1) **The symbols are different** (metals vs beasts) – this is not unusual. God does this in other places in scripture (Israel is referred to as a fig tree, the apple of God's eye, and also as dry bones among other things)
- 2) **Number of symbols is different** (five in statue 4 beasts) – this depends on your interpretation of the statue. Many think that there are 5 kingdoms presented because of the iron and clay toes. Others think there are only 4 kingdoms, that the iron kingdom merely degenerates, making only 4 kingdoms, which would toss out this argument.
- 3) **The timing is different** – Chapter 7 was given to Daniel in a vision during the first year of Belshazzar, near the end of the Babylonian empire, so the first beast, the lion, cannot be one of those that "will rise from the earth" – because it is close to being over. We believe that is irrelevant. God is beyond history and is laying out the entire plan here. It does not matter that the lion, which viewpoint #1 says represents Babylon, is almost over in the grand scheme of things.
- 4) **The end of the kingdoms is different** – In chapter 2 each kingdom was phased out by the next, but in chapter 7 the first three beasts are allowed to live after the fourth beast is destroyed. This is a valid argument for this position, but we believe can also be explained. We'll get to this later.
- 5) **The relationship between the kingdoms is different** – in chapter 2 the materials of the statue apparently do not exist at the same time, at least historically, but in chapter 7 the beasts seem to all live at the same time. This argument may or may not have relevance. Again, God is beyond our historical timeline, but there may be more to it than that – later!
- 6) **Past history versus present history:** in chapter 2 the gold, silver and brass kingdoms will not exist when Jesus returns – past history. In chapter 7, however, all the beasts will be alive when Jesus returns. This may seem valid, but hang on, we'll get to this also in a moment.
- 7) **Daniel knew the head of gold in chapter 2, but not the lion in chapter 7.** This seems a weak and ridiculous argument. Daniel had to be told the identity of both. Even though he was living during the time of the head of gold AND the lion, he was not aware of God's view of them. Thus the vision. We think we can scrap this argument.
- 8) **The first three beasts in chapter 7 appear to be the same kingdoms associated with the Antichrist's power in Revelation 13:2:** *"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. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority."* (Rev 13:1-2). This is a very valid argument, but once again, wait moment and we'll get to this too.
- 9) In chapter 8, a **two-horned ram represents Medo-Persia not a bear, and a shaggy goat represents Greece, not a four-winged, four-headed leopard.** The vision about the goat and ram in chapter 8 is interpreted for Daniel, so there is no mistake or controversy. These beasts in chapter 7 are not identified, so they are up for grabs, so to speak.

**Position #1**

**The beasts in Daniel chapter 7 are readily and correctly identified with the statue in chapter 2, and represent ancient world empires.**



The first argument on this list however, is nullified by this comment! Two different images or materials are likened to the same prophetic character! In chapter 2 the arms and chest of silver is the Medo-Persian empire, which in chapter 8 is a two-horned ram! Sort of shoots down the theory in argument #1.

However, we should pay attention to the fact that the parts of the statue in chapter 2, and the ram and the goat in chapter 8 are clearly identified for us, whereas these beasts in chapter 7 are not. What is the reason for this?

**There is another option** to the understanding of these strange visions in chapter 7 – a combination of the two!

**POSITION 3 – THEY'RE BOTH RIGHT!**

More and more of those who study God's amazing word are coming to this conclusion, and we believe the same thing, that the beasts in chapter 7 are a combination of the kingdoms seen in chapter 2, but now are serving "**double-fulfillment**" as they in addition will represent kingdoms that have not yet been – those that will be at the end times. We have seen God do this repeatedly in scripture, that certain events are prophesied, but these events then are doubly fulfilled – once at the time of their original occurrence in history (near fulfillment, and secondly at end times (far fulfillment). This is often called dual fulfillment, telescoping prophecy and double fulfillment. This is a very common prophetic tool God uses often in His Word.

**DANIEL'S VISION – POSITION 3**


So, rather than hold strictly to either **position 1** – that the beasts in chapter 7 are aligned with the statue in chapter 2 and have no other significance – or **position 2** – that the beasts do not align with the image in chapter 2, and should not be compared to those empires at all and only apply to end times, we think we would be safe to assume a third option – that **BOTH positions can be married - not only is position 1 correct, that these beasts are closely related to the image of chapter 2, but beyond that they have double fulfillment and are extremely relative to end times.** We will see this dramatically illustrated later in this book.

**REMEMBER TO KEEP IN MIND THAT...**

There were *four* different kinds of metals in Nebuchadnezzar's image—not five. Daniel's vision of the beasts in chapter 7 is of *four* beasts—the lion, the bear, the panther (or leopard), and a composite beast which is apparently unlike anything in nature. Daniel could not compare it to anything he had ever seen.

**Position #2**

*The beasts in Daniel chapter 7 are prophetic representatives (symbols) of world powers to arise in the END TIMES.*



**Position #3 – They're Both Right!**

*The beasts in Daniel chapter 7 are readily and correctly identified with the statue in chapter 2, AND also serve as prophetic of powers to arise in the END TIMES.*

*These passages will have double fulfillment – once in actual world powers passing through the historical time line, and in the END of TIME.*

**Daniel's Visions Compared**

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	AND... powers to come at the end...
Gold - Babylon 612-539BC	Winged Lion	Babylon
Silver - Persia 539-331BC	Bear	Persia
Brass - Greece 331-168BC	Leopard	Greece
Iron - Rome 168BC - AD476	Terrible Beast	Rome 1
Iron/Clay - Ten Kingdoms	10 Heads	Rome 2

<sup>4</sup>*“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.*

- *“The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. ...”* The lion represents **Babylon**. The lion is the king of beasts – it is regal. This is the head of gold in the statue of chapter 2. The winged lion was the **national symbol** of Babylon in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. Some have said that while the head of gold on the multi-metallic image represents the outward glory of this advanced civilization (they even had indoor bathtubs and brass plumbing!), the cruel nature of the lion describes the brutal paganism of this kingdom. (We made a note last time that it is not always safe to assume a nation’s identity in prophecy based on their secular symbols, but in this case it is true.)



- The eagle is also regarded in scripture as the most regal of the birds, also a reference to divine provision. The lion with eagle’s wings represents Babylon in particular (*mentioned numerous times this way in scripture, and also in ancient artwork*). King Nebuchadnezzar is included also, as verse 17 declares that the four beasts represent four kings – the nation and the leader of the nation. God raised up Nebuchadnezzar and called him “his servant.”



- These eagle’s wings may also indicate the ability that Babylon had of moving an army speedily, which has been the secret of any great world power down through history. It was also behind the success of Alexander the Great, the Roman Caesars, and Napoleon. Some believe the eagle’s wings may have other symbolic reference. More in a moment.

- This lion also may also represent an end times power, and some think that is the British Empire. Here is a commentary supports this, but is also typical of the kind of interpretation that is **dangerous** when we read these kinds of prophecies. **COMMENTARY: “In spite of the brevity of the description of the lion, the identification of this world power at the end-time is quite obvious. It unmistakably suggests the British Empire. In support of this, consider that the coat of arms of the throne of England bears two standing lions – standing on their hind feet as would a man.”** (Edward Tracy) Words like “obvious” and “unmistakable” are dangerous when used in defining prophecy, especially prophecy that has yet to be fulfilled, and is surrounded by mystery, not hard facts.



- *“...I watched till its wings were plucked off; ...”* This may refer to Nebuchadnezzar’s “discipline” for his pride, when he believed he was a beast of the field, and lived that way for 7 years (chapter 4). Others believe this may be a reference to the United States (the eagle is America’s national symbol). The US broke away from the British Empire (coat of arms is a lion) and stood independently as an entirely new nation. The wings of the lion became separate from the lion.

- *“...and made to stand on two feet like a man, ...”* This may indicate Nebuchadnezzar’s restoration. He became like a beast and acted like one, but his mind was restored, and he was brought back to sanity, and to his kingdom. Again, other interpretations exist for this phrase, as well as the next one.



- *“...a man’s heart was given to it...”* This may refer to Nebuchadnezzar’s conversion. He came to know the Most High God. These are very enigmatic words. We cannot be certain of their meaning, though that certainly has not stopped commentators for centuries tossing their ideas into the mix.

- Another commentary that **suggests that the United States is this lion, or the wings:** **COMMENTARY:** *“All it (the lion) will become is a political voice in the world, saying what it wants to say but without its past glory. That would explain Daniel 7:12 where the lives were prolonged for a season and a time. It may have existed for a time as a great nation, but its wings were plucked and all of a sudden it was lifted up from the earth – no longer having the effectiveness it once had. It becomes nothing more than a man speaking and acting like he has power when, in fact, he does not have it anymore.”* (David Hocking)

- These commentaries reveal the wide spectrum of interpretations of these beasts, based on very loose guidelines and very few, if any, real facts. The Babylonian empire exactly matches up with this description, but any further attempt to nail down its partner in end times is futile at this point, and creates division rather than harmony. It seems that parts fit the British Empire and parts fit the United States, but this is mere speculation. If we hold Position 3, that this lion represents both Babylon and an end time power, we may soon see other historical events that enable us to better identify him. The word “may be” rather than “is” seems much safer here! We can say the lion MAY represent the British Empire (United Kingdom), and eagle’s wings MAY be symbolic for the United States. But then again, they MAY be something else entirely!

- It also **may be possible that these first three beasts do not really have an appropriate end time counterpart**, but are merely to provide the overall arching structure and picture of world governments and kingdoms as God sees them. Because there are only 4 empires pictured, it also could be that all subsequent world powers fit into one of these three categories (the regal and devouring nature of the lion, the crushing and voracious appetite of the bear, and the lightning speed and merciless likeness of the leopard. While it is a possibility, however, it seem unlikely since the descriptions are somewhat detailed and specific, which would indicate a specific power. That picture changes, however, at least for us who are bound to a linear timeline, with the fourth beast. All interpretations seem to merge into one on this – it depicts a future and final terrible world power and leader.

- Remember also, each of these beasts is **NOT exactly a lion, bear, or leopard, but is LIKE, similar to these animals**. Notice the word “like” used in the descriptions. Just like John in his vision of the Revelation, he could not adequately describe what he saw, so he used the word “like” frequently. This beast is not exactly a lion, but it is LIKE a lion. This could be very important.

*<sup>5</sup>“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!’”*

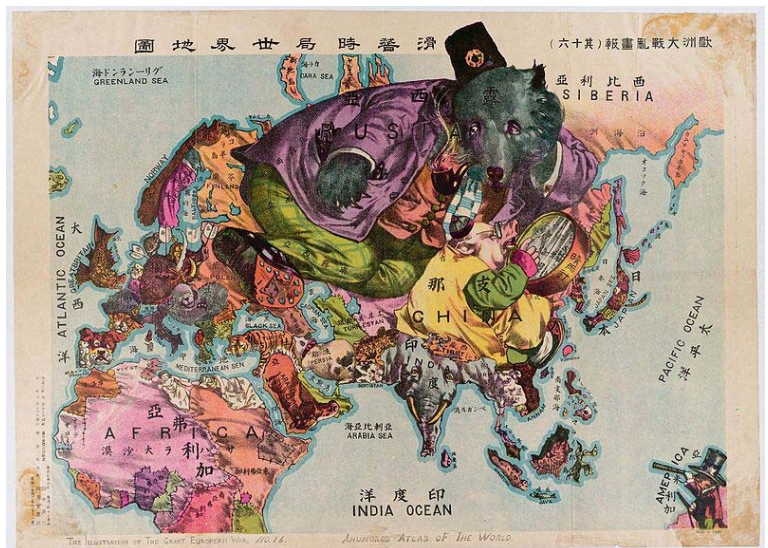
- *“...a second, like a bear...”* If we continue in the correlation with the statue in Chapter 2, this second beast, *like* a bear, would correspond to the Persian Empire. When compared to a lion, the bear is larger, less “regal” and with more strength. It also doesn’t move as quickly as a lion, especially since this bear does not have wings like the first beast. This would be true of the Persian empire. It did not move very quickly in its military conquests, but the sheer size of their armies was crushing.

- **“It was raised up on one side ...”** The commentators say this refers to the two portions of the Persian Empire, the Medes and the Persians, and that one was stronger than the other (Persians stronger). This empire began with the Medes being stronger, but Persian became dominant.
- **“...had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth...”** This may refer to the three geographic areas that comprised this empire: Babylon, Syria and Egypt, all conquered by Persia.
- This bear is told to **“Arise, devour much flesh!”** The Persian Empire was considerably larger than either the Babylonian or Assyrian empires before it. Persia was not very fast, but they were large in number and generally overwhelmed their enemies. The secular history records tell us that Xerxes (the Persian king in the book of Esther) could field an army of 2 ½ million.
- If Position 3 is true, that these beasts not only correlate with Nebuchadnezzar’s dream statue in chapter 2, but also represent an end time power, **this bear may represent Russia.** Years ago, when Russia and the Soviet Union were at the peak of their power during the mid-twentieth century, this group of nations was commonly referenced as “the bear.” This likeness to a bear can be traced even as far back as the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- **COMMENTARY: The first thought that comes to one when Russia is mentioned is the Russian bear. For generations, this animal has been used to designate this vast, ungainly country. Can any one country on the face of the earth be so aptly described as having devoured much flesh? Even Hitler, with his demonic lust for power and willingness to shed much blood, cannot equal the human loss of Russia in the First World War, the Russian Revolution, the prison camps of Siberia (20,000,000), the Volga famines (6,000,000), the murders and liquidations that took place under Stalin (wholesale murder of Polish officers), and the human loss during the Second World**



**War. How could anyone describe Russia in better terms?** (Wallace Emerson)

- Even old political cartoons and maps make this common reference.
- Whatever group or power is referenced by the “bear,” it will **apparently be on the scene in the last days**, and the time of the antichrist. It does not mean it is the largest or most powerful, or is a ruling empire like Babylon or Persia. It merely means it will be present.
- Many today speculate about a prophecy in **Ezekiel 38 and 39** (generally referred to as the “Gog and MaGog” passage) that has not yet happened. It provides very specific and very alarming details about a future attack on Israel. A group or alliance of nations is actually mentioned in these passages by their ancient names, which are traceable to nations today. It would seem that Russia would be a leader in this attack, along with a federation or group of today’s Arab nations. Some say this alliance could also be considered the “bear.” Some even speculate that Britain and the United States will have lost so much power by now they are essentially good for words only, and will talk a lot about this impending attack, but either won’t or can’t stop it. Lots of speculation, but that’s all it is. The passage in Ezekiel 38 and 39 is NOT speculation. It is precise in its players.



*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.*

- “Leopard” would perhaps be **better translated “panther.”** Leopards and panthers are all part of the same family. Panthers leap with great quickness, surprising their prey. This beast represents the Graeco-Macedonian (Greek) empire of Alexander the Great.
- **“Four wings” indicates the speed** of this beast, a known factor in Alexander’s conquests. Of all the ancient armies, none were faster than Alexander’s. Four wings are faster than the two wings of the lion. This will be explored much more in chapter 8.
- The “four heads” probably represent **Alexander’s four generals** who divided up the empire among themselves at Alexander’s death. We get our information about the Greek Empire from secular history. The Bible does not provide much information about this, other than prophecies concerning the campaigns of Alexander. The Greek Empire falls in history during the 400 years between the two testaments. A number of stories about the evil reign of Antiochus Epiphanes are found in the apocryphal books. This first fulfillment of an evil world leader comes from the Seleucan dynasties. Seleucus was one of the four generals, who took the area of ancient Syria as his domain. Israel suffered more under these reigns than many others.
- As far as end time correlation, this is **still somewhat of a mystery**. There doesn’t seem to be any real obvious likeness right now, but that certainly doesn’t stop us for speculating. On an historical timeline, it appears this beast receives its power somewhere between the decline of the second beast and the rise of the fourth beast. Because of the four wings and four heads, some think this could be a coalition of sorts.
- **“...and dominion was given to it.”** Some believe that this implies that this power does not rise out of conquering others, but that it will be GIVEN power by someone or something else. Some people speculate that this might imply a group of nations like NATO, or the UN, or even possibly the European Union, giving power to some entity. We have seen a lot of shifting going on in all these entities. As the world aligns with what we know will be in the end times, we will probably be seeing quite a lot of power grabbing, appointing and “giving” of dominion. There are quite a lot of interesting commentaries about this third beast’s end time identity.



- **COMMENTARY: Could the leopard be an alliance of Arab nations? Most especially those that are closer to the old Babylonian world and which are found in the areas now designated as Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, and Arabia? Some of these Arabian states in North Africa belonged to the old Roman Empire in its greatest extent and might conceivably belong to the new one but not necessarily so. ...That fourfold federation could rather suddenly appear in the Arab world should not seem too far-fetched or impossible. (Wallace Emerson)**
- **COMMENTARY: So who in the world might this third beast be? It is not possible that this leopard that comes to power in the midst of the continuance of the lion and the bear nations (although they have lessened powers) is something different than we have ever thought before? Could this refer to some sort of Arab alliance of the end-time? Could the leopard who strikes very quickly be someone like Saddam Hussein? Could the result of handling the difficult Middle East problems be the mergence of an Arab empire with four powerful nations all looking at the question of domination? We simply don't know. (David Hocking)**

- While many commentators believe this third beast may be some Islamic alliance of nations or bloc of Arab countries, there are plenty of speculations outside of this thought. That's all any of this is....**speculation**. We do not know yet. The Arab alliances may hold the most potential, but we can't be locked into that position. We have seen how quickly things change in this time of increased knowledge and "goings to and fro."

We have come through only six verses, and so far Daniel saw three beasts, **one LIKE lion and one LIKE a bear, and one LIKE a leopard**. We have seen that these three correlate perfectly to the empires represented in the statue that Nebuchadnezzar saw in chapter 2. The lion is Babylon, the bear is Persia, and the leopard is Greece. As far as their end time correlations, we can only speculate. The Lion MAY represent the British Empire, perhaps even including the United States. The bear MAY represent Russia, and some coming alliance of nations, the leopard, however, is wide open. It MAY represent some force given authority by another, and may include Islamic or Arab nations. We do not know, and should not be hung up on these guesses. We are told enough information to know to watch for them, be aware of them, and **then know the end of them**. **That is the important part.**

God is showing Daniel the "helicopter perspective" of history. God sees the whole thing from beginning to end. He not only sees, it but has engineered it. And that is what Daniel is seeing here – the whole of Gentile history from beginning (at least from Babylon, the first true world empire from God's point of view) to end. He lived through the beginning portion of this procession (the lion of Babylon) and now he is seeing through this vision its resurgence at the end of time. The most important thing about these visions, however, is not the identity of these beasts, but God's plan for victory and for his ultimate kingdom without end. That is the beautiful part of this chapter, and the place where we need to dwell.

We must understand the devouring and evil nature of man's government, but more than anything we need to know that God HAS a plan, and it will be done. His plan is for His ultimate rule and our ultimate fellowship with Him.

***<sup>7</sup>"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.***

- Now we get to the **real focus of this chapter, the indescribable fourth beast** – and the victory against him. This vision is one that almost all commentators agree on – that this fourth beast represents the final world kingdom. It will be completely evil, and completely crushing. We are given more information about this final world empire than all three of the others combined.
- ***"...dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet..."*** Daniel seems to have a **hard time describing this beast**. It is like nothing else he knows of. In his earlier vision, apparently Daniel didn't see anything too frightening in the previous three beasts, but this fourth beast filled him with terror. It will not be like anything man has ever seen before. It will crush its victims and trample them underfoot.
- ***"It was different from all the beasts that were before it ..."*** **The fourth beast is completely different from the others.** All the other beasts have counterparts in the animal kingdom. We all have seen a lion, or a bear, or a panther, but we have never seen a beast like this on land or sea or in the air. The beast is described as "dreadful and terrible, and exceedingly strong." This beast is characterized by **strength**. It incited dread and terror, and it bore no resemblance to any beast (or world government) that preceded it.

- It is interesting to note that these animals (beasts) are **scattered throughout the Word**, if we are looking for them. These animals already described, the lion, the bear and the leopard, and now the indescribable fourth beast are scattered throughout scripture when we are watching for them. Look at this interesting passage in Hosea: *"But I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me. I cared for you in the desert, in the land of burning heat. When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me. So I will come upon them like a lion, like a leopard I will lurk by the path. Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open. Like a lion I will devour them; a wild animal will tear them apart."* (Hosea 13:4-8) We have the same animals here. Lion, bear, leopard and a wild beast, or wild animal (not compared to any other. Notice that a "wild animal" (or "wild beast" in KJV) will tear them apart. This is a fourth beast, again undescribed here. You can also find these animals in 1 Samuel 17, Proverbs 28:15, Jeremiah 5:6 and Amos 5:9 and other places.

- From the book of **Revelation (13:1-2)**, these verses will be key to our study: *"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. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority."* We know from the end of the previous chapter, chapter 12 of Revelation, the identity of the dragon (Satan).



- **"It had huge iron teeth..."** This is most likely a deliberate tie to the vision of chapter 2. The iron mentioned ties it to the iron legs in the statue. This is the Roman Empire (*and perhaps allusion as well to the old Islamic Empire*). The iron heel of Rome was on the neck of this world for well over a thousand years. A great deal has been said about the Roman Empire, and even to this day it amazes historians.
- **COMMENTARY:** *"Two millennia ago, Rome gave the world the ecumenical unity which the League of Nations and the United Nations organizations have sought to give in our time. The modern attempts are not original at all (as many of our contemporaries suppose), but are revivals of the ancient Roman ideal which never since the time of Augustus Caesar has been wholly lost."* (Dr. Robert D. Culver)
- **From our history lesson we know** that Babylon was conquered by Persia, Persia was conquered by Greece, Greece was conquered by Rome, but Rome wasn't conquered by anybody. Rome really started with occupation of Sicily in 241 BC. The Mediterranean became a Roman lake (beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC) with conquest of Spain, Macedonia, Asia Minor. Pompei swept into Palestine about 63 BC, conquering the Seleucid empire (one of Alexander's 4 generals we talked about earlier.) In following decades conquered almost all other territories, Britain, France, Belgium, Germany west of the Rhine, and grew for four centuries. They were at their peak at about 117 AD. Then began to decline gradually. Left Britain in about 407 AD, and Rome was sacked by the Visigoths in 410 AD, but it was not until AD 1453 that the last Roman/Byzantine ruler was killed by Mohammed the second. More than one and a half millennia under Roman rule! But the Biblical view is **that it is still there**, in some shape or another, and remains in either the declined or restored version until the Kingdom of God begins on earth during the Millennium. **This fourth empire remains in some form until it is replaced by the Kingdom of God.** That is what the statue in chapter 2 reveals. (*Again, there may be some involvement here with the old Islamic Empire. We strongly encourage you to do your own research into this possibility.*)

- *“It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. ...”* Now we get some more information about this beast. Not only is it different than the others, but it has ten horns. These 10 horns are not found on any known animal today. In scripture, horns are a symbol of power, or kings and dominions. These 10 horns tie this beast to the 10 toes of the statue dream. If we are holding the position that this beast represents a kingdom in history past, and a kingdom of the future, we can assume the iron teeth are a link to the legs of the statue and therefore represent Rome.
- Here’s what **chapter 2** says about this fourth beast, or fourth empire: *“And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. “Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. “And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. “As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. “And in the days of these kings (the ten toes, and related now to the 10 horns) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. “Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” (Daniel 2:40-45)*
- It is helpful also to review **Revelation chapter 17:** (v 1-3, 7, 9-11): *“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, “with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns...But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.”... “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.*
- This passage from Revelation is confusing enough by itself, especially verses 10 and 11 above. We will not spend the time on these right now (*you can obtain the notes for these under the Revelation Study.*) For the moment, however, we should understand that these ten horns on the terrible beast correspond with the ten toes on Nebuchadnezzar’s image (2:41) which will be ten kings, as well as the “kingdoms” they rule.
- Are you noticing how **remarkably connected scripture is?** God has something very important to say to us here, and is using every opportunity to reinforce it.
- The position 1 opinion says this corresponds to the legs of iron of the image in chapter 2 – the Roman Empire (*or perhaps the Islamic Empire, or both*), which was considered the most barbaric, most power hungry, most godless and vicious of all empires. It’s tactics and brutality were unknown in former empires (*this is actually true of both the Roman and the Islamic empires*). The toes of iron and clay in chapter 2 correlate to the 10 horns in this chapter. **Position 2** sort of merges with position 1 on this beast, at least on the 10 toes part. Position 2 accepts that this indeed is the final wicked world kingdom and ruler, which will be so evil it will be beyond compare. Both agree that the ten toes and the 4<sup>th</sup> beast portray the final stages of history. Later in chapter 7 we will meet the blasphemous “horn,” which is the final world leader (what we call the “Antichrist.”)

<sup>8</sup>*“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.*”

- Daniel is now focused on the ten horns of the beast. Notice that they do not represent a fifth kingdom: they grow out of the head of the fourth beast and are the final form of the fourth beast. In the toes of the first vision, the vision of the statue, they are iron and clay. Iron is still there—Rome is still there, but the clay, the weakness, is there also. The iron perhaps represents the autocratic rule of one man, and the clay represents the people, masses, opinions, polarized positions, perhaps even rule by democracy (by the people) (we have seen before in the vision in chapter 2 that clay usually represents mankind in scripture). There are all kinds of speculations regarding the clay.
- The **ten horns** are 10 kings (we know this from v. 24), and the **little horn** is another king who will arise among the 10 and be coexistent with them (v. 24) Note that they are simultaneously ruling, not a succession of kings.
- Once again, we need to refer to the companion prophecy book of Revelation, chapter 17 for more information on these 10 toes which are the 10 horns which are 10 kings: *“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. “These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”* (Revelation 17:12-14)
- The **intention of these kings is to build an alliance against the Lamb**. What a foolhardy and fruitless endeavor! (Reminds us of Psalm 2. There is nothing more “vain” than going against God.)
- This little horn will subdue three other kings (v. 24) and will persecute the saints (v. 25). The identification of the 10 horns and the little horn has generated much discussion. The 10 kingdoms represented by the 10 horns may be the nation (or group of nations, such as the European Union) that will grow out of the old Roman Empire, or they may be 10 future kings who will rule over some form of a revived Roman Empire. Or, some have **speculated that the entire world will be divided up into 10 geographic regions**, each with one all-controlling leader. Some have even gone so far as to suggest the divisions:
 

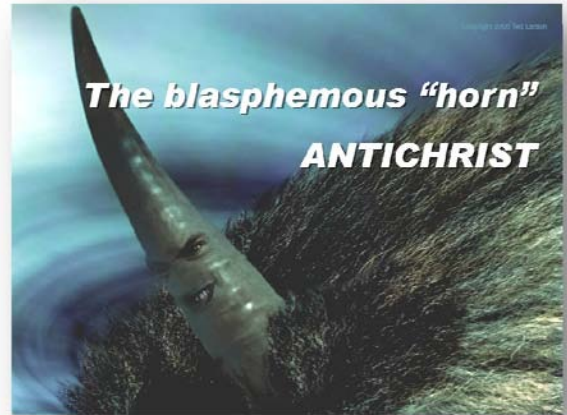
Region 1	Canada and the USA	Region 6	Latin America, Mexico, Central and South America
Region 2	European Union – Western Europe	Region 7	North Africa and the Middle East (Islamic nations)
Region 3	Japan	Region 8	Central Africa
Region 4	Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Israel, and Pacific Islands	Region 9	South and Southeast Asia
Region 5	Eastern Europe	Region 10	Central Asia
- While interesting, this kind of speculation is creative, but stupid. We have no idea what the divisions will be. It’s possible they may look like this, but it’s just as possible they will not. Sometimes this kind of speculation is not just foolish, but dangerous. When we study any Bible prophecy it is important to hold the pure Word in our hearts and minds, not the words of man.
- We have heard talk for years now about the coming one world government. We know that eventually that will be the condition of the world, after this eleventh horn makes his appearance.



Here is an interesting commentary, spoken back in the days of President Clinton's administration.

**COMMENTARY: "The Talbott types (Strobe Talbott, President Clinton's person foreign policy adviser) in the Clinton administration know that Americans will never willingly replace sovereignty with a "single global authority," so they instead talk about global governance, a global village, a global neighborhood, a global commons, a global economy, a reinvigorated United Nations, and an expanded NATO, Instead of advocating a "single" global authority, the globalists are moving us incrementally into a variety of global entities with interlacing tentacles of control. They use two principle techniques to increase the power of global organizations at the expense of American freedom to run our own affairs: treaties and international conferences."** (Phyllis Schlafly)

- The push toward a one world government is happening right under our noses. Since this commentary, the move in this direction has picked up incredible speed. It won't take long.
- **This "little horn" is one of many titles that this guy has in scripture.** The Hebrew implies that this little horn came up "between" them – like an eleventh horn. He is inconspicuous as first, not like the other ten kings. "Plucked up" implies it is complete – from the roots. Remember in ancient conceptions of power, the authority of an animal was characterized by the extent and size of its horns. **Horns have become a symbol of authority and power** – that's what is inferred here. This little horn is not only a power, but an individual. He is the final world ruler.
- **"...mouth speaking pompous words."** *This correlates with Revelation 13:5-6 (speaking of the final world ruler): "And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven."* He pretty much blasphemes everything in sight, and not in sight. Notice the last group he blasphemes – "those who dwell in heaven." May be another indication of the rapture (removal of the church) already having taken place. This implies he is blaspheming who? Us!!



***<sup>9</sup>"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;***

- The vision of the four beasts can be considered Act 1 of this vision. Now we see **Act 2, and the throne of God is revealed.** This vision is happening in heaven, as the Ancient of Days is seated. It is a solemn courtroom scene. A little later we will see that these visions may be appearing simultaneously, one on earth, the other in heaven, as Daniel is able to see both at the same time.
- This is the **only place in scripture where we see God referred to as The "Ancient of Days."** In this vision, this being is the Father, as the Son is ushered into His presence. We are reminded of another such appearance, again in the Book of Revelation: This is from that glorious vision of John's in chapter 1 of Revelation: *"Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw*

*Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."* (1:12-18)

- ***"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;..."*** The white garment is righteousness, holiness, and purity. His hair of pure wool is for perfect wisdom and knowledge. His throne and the fiery flame speak of judgment. There are references throughout scripture that indicate fire is an idiom for judgment. The wheels on the throne may be a symbol for his mobility – He is omnipresent, His salvation and His judgment extends to the ends of the universe. Or these wheels may be something that Daniel has never seen, and we have no comprehension of. This is, after all, the throne of God!
- ***"...till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated..."*** This appears to be the same scene described in chapters 4 and 5 of the Book of Revelation. It is the preparation for the judgment of the Great Tribulation and the second coming of Christ to the earth. We need to refresh ourselves in what these incredible chapters contain, and how they compare to the vision that Daniel received.
- *"After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4:1-11)*
- This awesome setting in Daniel chapter 7 of the thrones being put in place corresponds directly with chapter 4 of Revelation. There is an interesting difference, however. In chapter 4 of Revelation, John tells us how many thrones were there, besides the throne of God (24). In this passage of Daniel, we are not given a number, but the scenes are obviously one and the same. The natural question is, why doesn't Daniel tell us how many thrones, and why does John give us that piece of information? We might find our answer in Ephesians, chapter 3: *"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: <sup>6</sup>that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him." (Ephesians 1:1-12)*

- The Church **was considered a mystery, until revealed in the New Testament**. The Church was actually hidden in the Old Testament, and revealed in the New Testament. So, we know that Daniel was telling what he saw, but that by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he did not reveal the number of thrones he saw (they were there, but no information is given about them), but in Revelation, the apocalyptic book of the New Testament, John did reveal this. So what's the big deal here? We need to look at chapter 5 of Revelation to get some answers: *“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”* (Revelation 5:8-10)
- **Who has been redeemed here?** US (the redeemed), according to the 24 elders. So, even without a background in the book of Revelation, who are these twenty-four elders? The Church - the combined presence of believing Jews and Gentiles (12 + 12) around the throne of God. So we see that John is revealing the presence of the church around the throne of God in that great throne room scene in Revelation chapters 4 and 5. When does this scene take place, chronologically in the book of Revelation? **BEFORE the tribulation**. What does this suggest to you? Perhaps more potential evidence for a pre-Tribulation rapture. The church is not mentioned in the Old testament account of this scene, but IS in the New Testament. The mystery is no longer a mystery, and here in Revelation, the Church is present BEFORE the Tribulation begins.



<sup>10</sup> *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.*

- **“A fiery stream ...”** This is pretty awesome isn't it? Can you picture this incredible scene. The fiery stream or river may indicate the complete and continuing nature of God's judgment. Fire is a symbol for judgment. For another amazing view of the throne room, read Ezekiel chapter 1. Again, scripture is remarkably connected and engineered.
- ***A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him...*** This is the angelic host, beyond number. Again, they are also seen in the Revelation 4 throne room vision.
- ***The court was seated,...*** A court implies a trial of some sort, with a judgment. Such a court is seen in Revelation 21, in what is termed the “Great White Throne Judgment.” The throne room seen in Revelation 4 is not the “court room.” This one is.
- ***“...And the books were opened.”*** In the passage from Revelation 20 we see another reference to books being opened. *“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”* (Revelation 20:12) The Great White Throne Judgment is the judgment of the unsaved, the lost who rejected the free gift of God. The question of what these books are, both here in Daniel and in Revelation, is intriguing.

- In the study of Revelation these books indicate we are allowed entrance to heaven and eternal life based on **two different books** – and we choose which one. Jesus told the Pharisees that Moses would be their judge. Moses was the Lawgiver, bringing the Law to the people. In the Revelation passage above, we see these people are judged “according to their works,” which means whether or not they kept the Law. We know that NO ONE can keep the Law perfectly, except Jesus. If we reject Jesus, we will be judged by the books of the Law (according to our works, as recorded in heavenly books). If we accept Jesus and His atoning sacrifice for us, we are not judged under the Law, but under grace. If we have accepted this gift, our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. The books then include the books of Law, OR the Lamb’s Book of Life.
- Notice these people (at the Great White Throne Judgment in Rev 20) are **judged by their works**, not whether they are written in the Book of Life. Obviously, they are not there – by their own choice.
- We believe everyone starts out (at birth) with their names written the Book of Life, then they are blotted out as their final choices are made to reject the free gift of Life. “...*the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.”* (Exodus 32:33) Those whose names remain in the Book of Life are those who trusted God (and in the substitutionary sacrificial system of the Old Testament, before Jesus), and then placed their belief and trust in Jesus and His work on the cross, will not be judged by the books of Law, but by God’s grace. When Jesus arose from the dead, completing His atoning work for us, God’s Book of Life became the Lamb’s Book of Life. Life can only come through the Lamb of God.
- This is concept reinforced in Daniel chapter 12, verse 1: “*At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.*”
- The **disciples understood this well**: “*Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*” (Luke 10:20)
- These books here in Daniel’s vision are not identified, but they obviously involve a courtroom drama and judgment. Whatever these books are, either the Lamb’s Book of Life, or the books of the Law, they will determine everyone’s ultimate destiny. Perhaps there is also a book of God’s plan, which completely determines the destiny of our enemy, and this little horn.

***II “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.***

- Notice that Daniel continues to watch this amazing scene. He can apparently see both at once – the awesome throne room, AND the blasphemous little horn busy on earth. His continuing watchfulness is a sign of **some time passing here**.
- “*...pompous words which the horn was speaking...*” We have already been told, both here in Daniel and in Revelation, that the final world ruler (the little horn here) will blaspheme God, and His people. He will “bad mouth” everything and everyone associated with the God of heaven. He will be arrogant beyond compare, filled with deadly pride. Daniel is apparently watching the “reign” of this little horn on earth, which we could call the Tribulation.
- Chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation which correspond to this scene Daniel sees in verses 7-10 of this seventh chapter are located on our linear time line at the **beginning of the Tribulation**, the first outpouring of judgment. Now, apparently some time has passed which we are not told about, and now we correlate to Revelation 20 and the final judgment of the damned. All of a sudden the beast is killed – and the little horn goes with it!

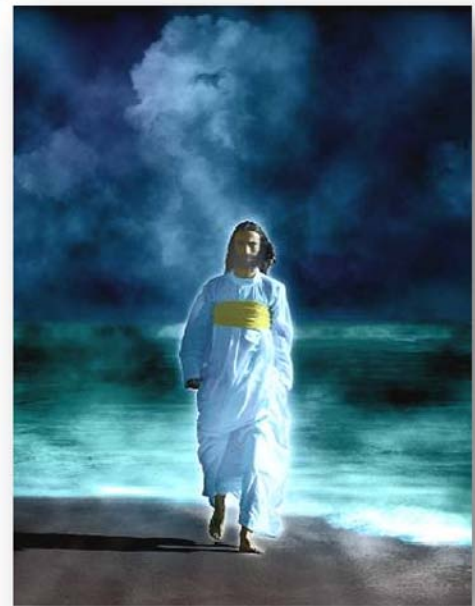
- **“...till the beast was slain...”** Daniel has apparently **skipped right over the Tribulation**, at least in these verses (*not mentioning this time, but he will deal with it a little later*), and gone right to the bottom line of the fourth beast – he is eventually killed, and that is what is important. This is a capsule version of all man’s history (human government) in only 11 verses (7:1-11)! Then God’s history and God’s kingdom begins. The beast represents the kingdom that will be in place at the end, and here it is destroyed. It has been judged (the courtroom scene) and now ended (just like Belshazzar in Chapter 5). God’s kingdom begins on earth after this (*aligning with the end of Revelation 20, and into chapter 21*).
- In this vision, the beasts are world powers, empires, and even world rulers. This fourth beast, the indescribable terrible beast, is the one with the horns. When the beast is killed, the little horn (the final world ruler) is “killed” as well. This correlates perfectly with the stone of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, which crushed the statue and the metals were pulverized and blown away. The stone, not “cut from human hands” is of divine nature. This is a symbol of Jesus (the Stone, or Rock of our salvation) putting an end to human government. Now in chapter 7, this final beast, the final world power, is killed, and same end is seen – no more human government.
- **“...destroyed and given to the burning flame.”** From Revelation, we know the final world ruler (Antichrist) is ultimately thrown into the lake of fire.
- Despite the horrors of the beast, the evil of the little horn and the terror of this time of Tribulation, God has allowed Daniel to see the ultimate end of this beast, forever, and the beginning of something new (the next few verses).

<sup>12</sup>***“As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.***

- There is a lot of discussion about this verse and its meaning. Apparently, the judgment of the fourth beast (*indicating both the world power and the man, the Antichrist*) is such that he and it is totally destroyed. There are no second chances here. The **first three beasts represent all other world powers** in God's eyes, all other forms of government, nations, etc. What this most likely indicates is that man will never rule again (*their dominion is taken away*). Man will never again have dominion over the earth. Their lives, however, are spared (*unlike the beast's – the false prophet's and the Antichrist's*) to enter into the Millennium under God's rule.
- We know from Revelation 20 that there is a revolt at the end of the thousand year reign of Jesus (indicating the continued evil of unredeemed humankind, even without the presence of Satan), but that is quickly put down prior to moving to the “eternal state.” All evil is destroyed forever, and consigned to the lake of fire.
- Apparently, from Isaiah, and other Old Testament accounts, God will allow territories and "puppet" dignitaries **to exist for a time under Jesus’ reign**, as we are told that all nations and kings will come and pay tribute to God during the Millennium (*see Zechariah 14*).

<sup>13</sup>***“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. <sup>14</sup> 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.***

- This vision is like the **inauguration of reign of the Son of Man**, the glorified Lord, before the Ancient of Days. He is given all the dominion. It is no longer in the hands of the beasts, the human government formerly seen on earth. And unlike the dominion of the beasts, this dominion is everlasting, it will never end. This correlates to the end of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in chapter 2. The Son of Man is the stone that filled the whole earth. This vision is an extension of the second vision of the Ancient of Days and the courtroom setting. This is scene two of that vision.



- **“...One like the Son of Man ...”** The title **“Son of Man”** was Jesus’ favorite title for Himself (Matt. 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 16:27, 28; 19:28; 24:30; 25:31). The vision depicts the kingdom era or the Millennium. The dominion that had previously been given to the four beasts has been taken from them and given permanently to our Lord Jesus.

- Jesus referenced this passage during his trial. *“... Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven”* (Mark 14:61–62).

- The angel prophesied at the time of Jesus’ birth: *“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David”* (Luke 1:32).

- The Word of God makes it very clear that the **location of this Kingdom is on the earth**. In Micah 4:2 we read: *“And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”* This is a direct reference to the Millennial reign of Jesus on earth, from Jerusalem. This correlates with Revelation 20.

*<sup>15</sup>“I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. <sup>16</sup>“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: <sup>17</sup>“Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup>“But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”*

- **Daniel is pretty troubled here**, understandably. Just seeing the visions of the beasts, especially the terrifying fourth beast would have been bad enough. Now the vision gets complicated with the Ancient of Days and the One like the Son of Man. Daniel isn’t just seeing this from afar. Apparently in his vision he is part of it, as he goes to ask of *“...of those who stood by,”* what everything means.

- Verse 17 is the key to this passage, and tells us plainly that the four beasts are four kings (and kingdoms) which come out of the earth. Notice also how the teller underscores the fact that there are only four kings, not five.

- And then, despite what Daniel is seeing that is so troubling to him (the fourth beast, and soon the extension of the fourth beast), he is told the end of the story: *“...the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”* It is almost as if the teller wants Daniel to understand immediately all turns out well, despite what he is about to see, as the vision expands.

- **These four beasts are not only kingdoms but kings.** Nebuchadnezzar, together with his kingdom of Babylon, was represented by the head of gold and the two-winged lion. Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes and the other kings of Persia were synonymous with the arms and chest of silver in the statue and the lumbering, crushing bear. Alexander the Great, synonymous with the Graeco-Macedonian Empire, is depicted by both the thighs of brass and a panther. The Caesars of Rome are included in the legs of iron and the terrible fourth beast. So the “kings” or leaders of the end time kingdoms are also included in the references to these kingdoms. In scripture, often there is no distinction between the king and his kingdom. They are often referenced as one and the same. These wild beasts of prey, with their carnivorous and voracious natures, are **representative of the character of both the king and the kingdom.**
  - When our Messiah reigns, we will reign with Him. This will occur at the conclusion of the Battle of Armageddon when Jesus establishes his 1000 year reign on earth (Rev 20:4).
  - **Who are the "saints" referenced here?** It is used to speak of believers who are called “saints” or “holy ones.” The word for “holy” literally means “set apart.” In the New Testament, “saints” are the sinners who have been declared righteous because of their faith in Jesus. They have been set apart for him. It is also used for Old Testament believers (see Matt. 27:52–53) and for tribulation saints (see Rev. 13:7). Throughout history, the saints are those who have been redeemed by God, set apart for Him.
- **COMMENTARY: The identity of “the saints” is the important factor of this statement. There are five verses in this chapter which mention them (see also vv. 21–22, 25, 27). Reference to them occurs again in Daniel 8:24. Immediately one school of prophetic interpretation assumes they are New Testament saints. A great many people think even narrower than that; they feel that their denomination or their little group is the saints. My friend, God has a pretty big family. In the Old Testament He had Old Testament saints. The nation Israel was called saints; the Gentiles who came in as proselytes were called saints of God. That’s a different company from New Testament saints today who are in the church. Don’t get the idea that your little group is the only group that will be saved or even the idea that believers in this dispensation of grace are the only ones to be saved. God saved people before the Day of Pentecost, and He is going to be saving people after the Rapture. God is in the saving business; maybe the church is failing to reach people with the gospel as it should be, but God is not failing at all. (McGee)**
- **The saints of the Tribulation are believers, both Jew and Gentile, from all ages.** The saints today are the Church. When Jesus returns, however, – saints are saints – and all of us will inherit His kingdom. The main point here is that none of the beasts receives the kingdom, but the saints of God. Period.

*<sup>19</sup>“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; <sup>20</sup>“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.*

- Daniel is **most concerned about the fourth beast.** It is not like anything he has ever seen before (both in beast, and in kingdom likeness). It has some very terrifying features, and Daniel wants to know more. The first three beasts don’t seem to trouble Daniel, as he doesn’t question about them. It would seem that we should take Daniel’s lead and also not spend wasted time trying to speculate about the identities the first three beasts. They were world kingdoms, whether past or future or both, but it is the fourth beast that requires most of our attention and is the focus of most of this chapter.

- **Every description provided of this fourth beast speaks of terrible power and ferocity.** Daniel's description is indeed "dreadful." It "*devoured, broke in pieces and trampled*" everything in its path. If this fourth beast represents Rome past, or Rome recreated, it is a good match. The Roman Empire of the past was hated by those who had been conquered by her.
- ***"...ten horns that were on its head..."*** These ten horns relate directly to the ten toes of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Now Daniel gives us some new information, about another horn that comes up. This beast was not dead, but alive, when the little horn makes an appearance. This is why most commentators believe that the Roman Empire, which still exists in many ways throughout the world today, does not completely die before it is "revived" to become the final world empire.
- ***"...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."*** This "other horn" comes up and three of the original fall down. This would make this horn the 11<sup>th</sup>, but by replacing three others, it is now the 8<sup>th</sup>. This is important information when we relate this to Revelation chapter 13. If these original 10 horns stand for 10 kings, then this "other horn" must somehow bring down 3 of the original 10. This horn also has eyes and a mouth, which speaks "pompous" (the original Chaldean word literally means "domineering" and "great" which could be interpreted as "big"). It is obviously this horn is a person. "Whose appearance was greater than his fellows" in the KJV is "*whose look was more stout than his fellows.*" The original words here mean his look was fiercer, commanding more attention, and looking more like one in charge.

*<sup>21</sup>"I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, <sup>22</sup>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.*

- Daniel watched as this "horn," an **obvious person with authority and terrible power, waged war against the saints.** Naturally, he was more concerned about this horn than any of the other beasts or horns, because this one directly affected the well-being of the believers, the people of God.
- From Revelation, we know that the final world ruler will campaign ferociously against all believers, and in particular the Jews (the woman fleeing in Revelation 12). All Jews will flee from the Antichrist and he will continue to wage war against them and against those who believe in Jesus as Savior. This will indeed be an outright war.
- The final world ruler is **encouraged, supported and empowered by the dragon of Revelation**, who is clearly identified as Satan. He is angry and determined to lash out at God, and the best way to do that is to attack His people. Revelation 12:13-17 states: "*When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*"
- ***"...and prevailing against them,..."*** Daniel's people were used to persecution, but here the horn is "prevailing," winning against God's people. This troubled Daniel a great deal. These scenes with the blasphemous "horn" take place at the end of time, during a period we call the yet future "Great Tribulation." From Daniel chapter 9, and the well-known "70 weeks" message, we believe the Tribulation will last 7 years.

- The “Great Tribulation” is considered to be the last 3 ½ years of this time, as referenced by Jesus. *“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”* (Matthew 24:21-22)
- *“...until the Ancient of Days came,...”* This horn waging war and prevailing against the saints will last until God comes again. This refers to the coming of Jesus to earth at the end of the Tribulation, also called the “time of Jacob’s trouble,” a terrible time for the Jews unlike any other time on earth.
- *“...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.”* God rules in favor of the saints, not because of anything they or we have done, accomplished or are worthy of. We are “worthy” only of damnation, but the judgment comes in favor of the blood of His Son, which covers and justifies all believers, all saints. This verse also indicates that the saints will “possess” the kingdom He establishes at this time. This is confirmed repeatedly throughout scripture. We are co-heirs with Jesus, who will inherit the final kingdom, God’s Kingdom, and we inherit it *with* Him. This is something we cannot fully comprehend right now. This is the good news that God wanted Daniel to know, and wants all of us to know. He overcomes the enemy, and ultimately the saints win. But until then, it will be a terrible time for all believers.

<sup>23</sup>*“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.’<sup>24</sup> 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.<sup>25</sup> 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.*

- Now the fourth beast (*note how many times the words “four” or “fourth” are used to underscore the fact that this is not a fifth kingdom*) is clearly identified as a world kingdom on earth. This is **the final kingdom, the kingdom of the beast of Revelation 13.**
- *“...Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces...”* Unlike every other power in world history so far, this kingdom, different from the others, will cover the entire earth, having devoured everything in its way. The reference to trampling and breaking indicates there is no successful resistance, and this will most likely be a violent and vicious takeover eventually. Everyone and everything on earth will be brought under his authority and dominion. This has never happened before in history.
- The final coming world leader, the blasphemous horn, will be the one to pull this terrible kingdom together, revived from the old Roman Empire (*or perhaps the Islamic Empire, or both*). **The entire world will fall under his ways and power.** He will begin as the most charismatic of men, with all the answers to the world’s problems. Not suspecting his monstrous nature, the world’s populations will embrace this individual, at least at first. As the world today grows increasingly more violent, in more turmoil and on the brink of every kind of “disaster,” the stage is being set for this guy who will enter the stage and command attention with his smoothness, cunning and charm. That will hide the true nature of this beast, which will later be revealed, when it is too late to turn back. Daniel’s reference to the “pompous” words confirms this. This person will persuade everyone in the beginning.

▪ **COMMENTARY:** Bishop Fulton J. Sheen made this statement: **“The Antichrist will come disguised as the great humanitarian. He will talk peace, prosperity, and plenty, not as a means to lead us to God but as ends in themselves. He will explain guilt away psychologically and make men shrink in shame if their fellowmen say they are not broadminded and liberal. He will spread the lie that men will never be better until they make society better.”**

- *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.* Bit by bit, the angel is revealing the meaning of the vision to Daniel. We learn here, along with Daniel, that this terrible kingdom will begin with 10 kings that arise from this power. Then there will be another “king” on the scene (an 11<sup>th</sup>). We are told he is different. That is an understatement! He is certainly different than any other human on the planet, but this might also be a clue that his position, manner or whatever else may be different specifically from the other 10 kings. This 11<sup>th</sup>, different, king now puts down three other kings. This essentially makes him the 8<sup>th</sup> king. Again, this is important information to correlate with Revelation, especially chapter 17.
- *“...He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,...”* Again Daniel is reminded that this horn will blaspheme God, and persecute His saints. This is also confirmed repeatedly throughout scripture, especially in Revelation 13:5-8: *“And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”* Notice the reference in this passage to “42 months.” In the book of Revelation God references this time period several different ways, so there is no mistaking the fact that this is a literal period of 3 ½ years. We will see this also in the Daniel passage, as noted below.
- *“..and shall intend to change times and law....”* There is all kinds of speculation about what this phrase means. People have suggested all kinds of things, including somehow changing the Law of God, or the calendar, values, or whatever. We do not know exactly what this means, but somehow the final world ruler will attempt to change things that have been basic to us since the beginning of time, things like our calendar (The Christian calendar, currently used by the entire world, is based upon the year Jesus was born. The Jewish calendar is based on the time, supposedly, that God created the world. He may claim he needs to change them so as to not offend other faiths.) All of this is speculation, however. We believe that the people who witness these things and live through these times (what Revelation calls the “Tribulation Saints”) will know exactly what this means, when it happens.
- **War is currently being waged today** against the saints all over the world. This is in terms of actual physical warfare where the saints’ lives are threatened and taken, they are persecuted in bodily form and also in emotional ways. There is not one corner of the world today that is free of this persecution of the saints, whether through physical means, laws, cultural shifts, toleration or mindsets. What we see today, however, is merely the beginning. It will become so bad that right now it is beyond our ability to conceive.
- *“...Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.”* Although terrible and terrifying, the period of the little horn’s reign is of relatively short (though it will not seem that way at the time. The time of terrible persecution, where the little horn actually prevails against the saints is identified as the same time period given in Revelation to refer to 3½ years, or 1260 days, or 42 months. (Remember, these are God's prophetic years, 360 days each, not 365 days). In Daniel’s day, and in the Hebrew method time reference a “Time”= 1 year, “Times” = 2 years, and “half a time” (“dividing of time” in KJV) = 1/2 year, totaling 3½ years. This period equals the “Great Tribulation,” the last half of the 7-year Tribulation period.
- It is during the last three and one-half years of the Great Tribulation that this little horn, the Antichrist, will reign over the entire earth (see Rev. 11, 12, 13). **This horn will attempt to defeat the saints of God. He will have some success for 3-1/2 years.** This is probably a reference to the final 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation, the last half of Daniel’s seventieth week (9:24–27). Revelation 11:2

pictures his rule as continuing for 42 months (3 ½ years); and Revelation 12:6 speaks of the same period as being 1260 days, while Revelation 12:14 calls it a time, times, and half a time just as Daniel does.

- **The "saints" mentioned here** are not to indicate all of New Testament saints, but rather those who have been converted during the Tribulation. These are Jews and Gentiles alike who have accepted Jesus as Savior during this time. We believe the saints of today, the Church, are removed before the Tribulation. The saints living through this "Great Tribulation" are what Revelation terms "*...the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*" (Revelation 7:14) These are most likely martyrs.
- **A note about Amillennialism** – Many believe that the Church will be responsible for a great revival all over the world, and that this will usher in the kingdom of God on earth. This is known as **Kingdom Theology**. We do not believe this. It is not Biblical! These visions in Daniel seem to indicate just the opposite. The last Gentile world power will almost succeed in wiping out God's people. Even Jesus said that if He did not intervene, everyone would be lost. "*And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*" (Matthew 24:22) This certainly does not sound like believers will usher in the kingdom. Only God will do that, and only after these visions of Daniel (and of John in Revelation) are literally fulfilled.

*<sup>26</sup>But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. <sup>27</sup>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.'*

- *"But the court shall be seated ..."* This brings us back to verse 7 in this chapter, and to Revelation chapters 4 and 5 where thrones are depicted. The three-and-one half-year reign of the Antichrist has come to an end, and we are at the end of the Tribulation.
- *"...And they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever..."* It is already (since the dawn of time) been determined by the One on the central throne and by the Lamb, who is the executor of the judgment, that the beast (the kingdom, and the ruler) must be destroyed. The little horn's authority must be ended and he himself judged. This judgment is consummated by the return of Jesus to the earth to establish His Kingdom. This is confirmed in Revelation 19:9-21. This passage depicts the so-called "battle of Armageddon" (*ended suddenly by HIS "breath!"*) and the immediate aftermath: "*And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 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. 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.*" The final world ruler (the beast in this passage) is thrown directly into the lake of fire, the ultimate place for all sin, all evil, and all of those who persist in their sins without the free gift of God. This is a forever place. The enemy, and the final world ruler, will be "destroyed" – they will no longer be allowed access in God's Kingdom, but they will not merely disappear into oblivion. They will be tormented forever.
- *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...."* Once again it is stated that the new kingdom, the Kingdom of Jesus as King, will be "given" to the saints. We don't know exactly what this means, nor can we truly understand it now. We do know that we are co-heirs with Jesus who is given the kingdom, so we inherit it as well.

- We also know that we are co-regents with Him, co-rulers, who are called “priests and kings.” *“Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”* (Revelation 1:4-6) We are not capable right now of fully comprehending what this means, but it is quite remarkable. It is most certainly an indication that the Kingdom of God will not ever again experience evil or sin. All of that has been destroyed, and the pure kingdom will be inhabited by and belong to the saints of the Most High God.
- **This will end “the times of the Gentiles”** which began with Nebuchadnezzar and will continue until the return of Jesus. The Gentiles no longer reign, and no longer have power over the earth. They will no longer persecute the saints, or crush Israel and the Jews. This begins the times of Jesus, which will never end. This correlates directly to the stone seen that crushed the statue at the end of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel chapter 2. That stone filled the entire earth, and the statue (representing world Gentile domination) was seen no more. Human government is gone, God’s government has begun, finally, and will never end. *“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”* (Revelation 19:6) What a joy it is to know what is coming!
- Notice that this verse is direct and to the point. The kingdom is taken away from the little horn of the fourth beast, and given to Jesus. The end, and the beginning! This judgment occurs after the Tribulation period and **may correspond with the judgment of the nations** (the sheep and the goats) of Matthew 25:31–46.
- *“...His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”* This verse says God’s kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. This is God’s eternal Kingdom which appears first in its millennial aspect (see Rev. 20) and continues into eternity. The 1000-year Kingdom (Millennial Kingdom) is a phase of the everlasting, the eternal Kingdom. This is clearly related in Revelation 20: Satan is bound, then Jesus reigns a thousand years on the earth under His imposed conditions (see Psalm 2). After this period, Satan is released. The unregenerate human heart, still in rebellion against God (even without the direct influence of the Enemy), rallies again to Satan’s leadership after his release, and he deceives them to make war against the Messiah. This rebellion is quelled instantly, and all the rebellion of all time is over. The great deceiver, Satan, and all the rebellious are cast into the lake of fire. Again, this lake of fire is the ultimate place for all eternity of evil and sin, and those who refused God’s free gift of salvation. The lost dead are raised for judgment before the Great White Throne. After this, the eternal aspect of the Kingdom comes into view in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. The verse here in Daniel indicates that all who had any form of power or dominion, who end up going into the Millennial Kingdom, will now serve the new King, Jesus. This, and other verses, are a clear reference to the Millennial Kingdom when Jesus reigns on earth. In the eternal state, the everlasting Kingdom will continue into eternity after the earth and the heavens have been recreated. It must be understood that from the moment of Jesus’ return to earth, His Kingdom rules and will continue for all eternity. There is no end to this Kingdom.
- **Some have tried to say that the early church did not believe in the Millennium, or the literal 1,000 year reign of Jesus on earth.** However, doctrinal statements by early church fathers like Irenaeus make it clear that they definitely believed in a literal 1000 year rule by Jesus. **Note this statement by the historian, Philip Schaff:** *“The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age is the prominent chiliasm, or millenarianism, that is their belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years, before the general resurrection and judgment. It was indeed not the doctrine of the church embodied in any creed or form of devotion, but a widely current opinion of distinguished teachers.”*

<sup>28</sup>*“This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart.”*

- We have come to the end of this remarkable vision, merely one in a succession. Daniel has seen, portrayed in vision before his eyes, **the parade of world empires across history, culminating in the last one, a fourth beast, which is different and more dreadful than any others before it.** If this wasn't bad enough, Daniel also sees a horn coming up in the midst of 10 other horns on this fourth beast, pushing out three before it, and raising up higher than any of the others. This little horn is full of blasphemy of God and His people, and his heart is evil, determined to eradicate the earth of the saints of God. He experiences some success in this war on the saints, but ultimately Daniel sees the victory, granted in solemn judgment by the Most High God. The kingdoms of the earth are now awarded to the Messiah, and the saints. This new kingdom will last through eternity, never again to fall into the hands of evil men (beasts, as God sees them). This must have been very difficult for Daniel. Daniel had a close relationship with God, one that he trusted and relied upon. He knew this was no dream as a result of eating something weird before bed. He knew this was from God, and its content was very disturbing, so much so that his “countenance” changed. He literally looked different. His mind was occupied with this vision as he pondered its potential meaning.
- *“...but I kept the matter in my heart.”* It is natural for us to seek out the comfort of friends or others to tell about what was disturbing us, especially a dream such as this. But God had given Daniel instructions, and Daniel was obedient. He did not tell anyone about his dream, but obediently wrote it down for all ages to see. Often, when we try to figure out what God is doing, either in the past, present or even the future, our humanness gets in the way of fully understanding His plan and intent. Daniel did not understand, but he knew enough to let it alone (not speculate and idly discuss), and allow God to do what He showed Daniel He would do. It still may not make perfect sense to us today, but someday it will. It will be perfectly and literally clear as God fulfills these visions.
- Many people today study prophecy because they are curious and want to know about end times. Sometimes this study becomes one of idle curiosity or the pursuit of vain knowledge, not as a careful and prayerful study as a believer seeking the Truth, and seeking the transforming power of God's Word. We may glean information about the end times, but more than this, we should be seeking a closer relationship with the Most High God who has given and will fulfill all of prophecy perfectly. God has authenticated Himself through this and all other prophecy. He shows us that He is indeed the Most High God, and that His promises are real and He will keep them. What a faith builder! Daniel had this relationship. It is one we should desire.
- **COMMENTARY: “No one could be informed about what was coming upon this world at the end of this present age without being troubled. As we behold our world even today, it is no wonder that Daniel was troubled. But the blessed hope as presented in this marvelous chapter of prophecy is the coming of the Son of Man to save the world for both Jew and Gentile.”** (Hutchings)

As amazing as this vision is, in perfect correlation with the book of Revelation and other passages of apocalyptic scripture, it is just the beginning of Daniel's prophetic experiences, and the remarkable things God showed to him.

**NOTE:** There are some commentators today who have done extensive research and claim to have determined the identity of this fourth beast, as well as the little horn. Many of these are fanciful, without merit, some are more thoughtful and have potential. Instead of exploring these human speculations, we have tried to remain true to the scriptures alone and provide only the basic understanding that this fourth beast and the little horn represent the final world kingdom and its final evil ruler, who will be destroyed by God, and the Kingdom given over to the saints. We believe that while some speculation is interesting and may even provide real glimpses into identities, they are at this point fruitless and perhaps even dangerous. We believe the true identities of this beast and horn will be quite obvious when they are present in our historical timeline. Those who live through this time will have no difficulty lining up personages and empires with this vision, and seeing the prophecies of the Most High God perfectly fulfilled, as always.

