

BEASTS Rise out of the Sea!

Late in his Career, the Elder Statesman Daniel was given another Extraordinary Vision, which we read of in Daniel Chapter Seven. We are Now on the Threshold of the Emergence of that Final Beast portrayed in his Vision!

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In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. This was some years after his revealing Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2.

It is the general consensus among prophecy buffs that this dream/vision is a second reiteration of what's revealed in the four stage image in Daniel 2 that was given to King Nebuchadnezzar. Despite a few similar aspects between the two accounts, there are dissimilarities that lead us to consider other possible explanations. Not the least of which is Daniel's consternation as to its meaning. He never did understand it fully nor could he make a logical connection with any possible situation that would have made sense in his time. This is significant, because if Daniel had seen his vision as a repeat or overlay upon the previous dream of the king, it would be logical that he would be the first to realize it.

So, his not understanding what it meant, beyond the obvious reading, is a significant consideration.

Not for Them, but For US

It might also be appropriate to note that his dream was not intended for the former king, as Daniel's dream came to him during a successor's reign. What he saw was not shared with the regime of the day.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream presented an inanimate image. But Daniel's involved living beasts: All predatory beasts at that. Not only are we introduced to representative living animals but something about them is noted for us also regarding their overall natures. We're given an assessment of their recognizable empirical characteristics. May we take the approach that these character-

istics are given to aid us in making identifications of what empires they're referring to?

But also the Saints are brought into the scene, as living beings also. In fact, it is hard to escape the interjection of the millennial kingdom in several places. This revelation is more involved with the millennial kingdom than is the other.

Widely accepted among Bible scholars is the identification of the lion with Babylon; the bear with Greece; the leopard with Persia and the indescribable beast with Rome. Reinforcing this premise are the 'four heads' on the leopard. Didn't Alexander's empire become divided into four, with the generals of his army being assigned one of the four regions? Also, the 'iron' aspect of the indescribable beast: Doesn't iron equate with Rome, the major component of the legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image?

The problem with this position that Daniel 7 is a reiteration of Daniel 2 is that it distracts us from the real revelation being given to us.

What creates a serious challenge to this, perhaps casual, assignment is the realization that these living beasts come up together. They also are allowed to continue after the great Beast is destroyed, (v. 12) which is a fact that frustrates explanation under the 'accepted' correlations. That alone should cause us to realize that these beasts are contemporaries, not successors, as are the other image's component stages in Daniel 2.

Another relevant 'beast' is also brought into this revelation, a lesser beast who didn't then exist to have any involvement with three of the four component 'empires' of Nebuchadnezzar's image. This too should tell us something.

So now, let's look at what Daniel related for our advisement regarding his extraordinary dream that we read of in Daniel chapter 7.

Daniel 7:2 *"Daniel spake and said, "I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.*

[3] *And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another."* He presents a scene of these beasts emerging from the 'waters' of a sea together! Calling them 'great' suggests they were more than ordinary powers. And, since these beasts relate to the end-time, not ancient history, what empires could they represent?

The Standing Lion

[4] *"The first was like a **lion**, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.* Note the components: not just a lion, but a standing lion, with 'wings that were later 'plucked-off' and a standing posture. Being 'lifted-up' suggests a high stature in the world! But perhaps the most significant characteristic is it being given the heart of a man!

The Leaning Bear

[5] *"And behold another beast, a second, like to a **bear**, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.* Second in this progression up out of the 'sea' is a flesh-devouring bear, self-raising, with three ribs in its mouth and the characteristic of being a huge killing machine.

The Winged Leopard

[6] *After this I beheld, and lo another, like a **leopard**, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.* Third in this graphic progression is unusual in that it possessed four heads and wings like the lion, but having four wings as opposed to two.

A Very Different Beast

[7] *"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it*

*devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had **ten horns**.* As it regards having ten horns, Imperial Rome didn't have anything like these ten kings. Only the restored Holy Roman Empire just before the end-time is to have these!

[8] *"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another **little horn**, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.* Again we are made aware of the sinister aspects of this 'other beast'.

[11] *"I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.* I've repositioned this verse to maintain context with verse 8.

The Final "Empire"

[9] *I beheld till the **thrones** were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: **his throne** was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.*

[10] *A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand (100 millions) stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.* ¹ We should note that the ten 'thrones' are shown being cast down. These thrones are shown to be existing and cast down concurrently. They are not thrown down in any long term succession, but all together. These thrones are the ten monarchies represented by the 'ten horns' of verse 7, which are defined in verse 24 as the ten kings. The same are also represented by the 'ten toes' in Daniel 2.

Ten toes, ten horns, ten crowns and ten thrones are each representative of the ten kings that will reign concurrently, giving their political authority and endorsement to form the final great Beast. Revelation 17: 12-13 adds this: *"And the ten horns which thou sawest are **ten kings**, which*

¹ This term is used again in Revelation 20:12, of 'books being opened'. That is in the context of the second resurrection, after the millennium, when the 'rest of the dead' are raised to life again.

have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast." The dreadful Beast is to be formed by a coalition of these ten kings, but it will prove to be a short term situation.

What we need to consider at this point is where do these ten kings come from? What nations are there where such a thing could possibly happen?

A Startling Statement!

[12] *As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.* The rest of the beasts are whom? They lose their dominion, yet they're to **continue** in some way. This is another positive indication that these three identifiable beasts (the lion, the bear and the leopard) exist concurrently, and are not successive as Babylon, Persia and Greece were in ancient history.

The Son's Mandate is Awarded

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

[14] *And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.* This inset describes the event of Christ's ascension to His Father on the 'morrow after the weekly Sabbath', presenting Himself as what is known as the Wave Sheaf Offering. This 'ceremonial fulfilment' occurred just after His resurrection, on that Sunday morning.²

[15] *"I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.* If this dream had represented Rome or something quite similar to Nebuchadnezzar's, then why would Daniel have been so traumatized over it? Why would he not have any awareness of its meaning? We're told he didn't.

Daniel Seeks Explanations

[16] *"I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.*

[17] *These great beasts, which are four, are **four kings**, which shall arise out of the earth.* These particular kings are not any of the ten. They are four empires that will arise in the future. Within these empires' territories will be found those ten lesser kings who will collaborate to form the fourth 'overarching' empire: the dreadful Beast.

[18] *"But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.* An aspect of this dream is to show that this situation is how the world condition will be just prior to the Second Coming.

What Daniel Really Wanted to Know

[19] *"Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;*

[20] *And of the **ten horns** that were in his head, and of **the other** which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.*

The Disturbing Factor?

[21] *"I beheld, and the **same horn made war with the saints**, and prevailed against them;*

[22] *Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.* Apparently the thing that troubled Daniel to such degree seems to be his being shown that up until what we know as the Second Coming the Saints will be made war upon by this other 'little horn' figure. We need to consider, how would he have known how long into the future this would be? That too may have been a factor.

[23] *"Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.* Here again we have indication that the "fourth beast" is not Imperial Rome. Rome never

² John 20:17 "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet **ascended** to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."

devoured the whole earth to the degree implied here. There were significant other nations that Rome, in their day, never conquered.

[24] *“And the **ten horns** out of this kingdom are **ten kings** that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall **subdue three** kings.* Showing that the ten kings are different than the four kings referenced above. The ‘other’ (king) mentioned is shown to be a disrupter, creating havoc among the ten (subduing three of them) and making war on the Saints, especially as the Second Coming draws near. It will be a distressing time!

[25] *“And he (this other horn/king) shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.* That’s 3½ years, prophetically speaking. It’s a time interval significant in other prophecies, particularly those relating to the Great Tribulation period. That too, Daniel knew nothing about.

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

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

One For the Memory Bank

Even with a detailed angelic explanation, Daniel still wasn’t able to ‘place’ these events. How long into the future they would be, he didn’t know. But the prospect troubled him greatly!

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

But, we know! We at least know some things. We know of the coming times of Great Trouble, the Beast Power, the Antichrist, the Second Coming with the resurrection of Saints, and most importantly, the coming millennial Kingdom of God on earth. Much of this dealt with here is ‘old stuff’ to us, but alarmingly new to Daniel.

What Do WE Learn?


Besides these fundamental elements of prophecy, this exposé provides a **means of identifying** the major political entities that will soon come together to form the end-time Beast Power. In Nebuchadnezzar’s dream none of that is brought out. Who the ‘ten toes’ are is left for us to discern from this and later-related prophecies.

This expansion of the matter in Daniel 7 introduces us to three identifiable living beasts. They also are identified as ‘kings’ (four in this case (v. 17)). We have identified them as great empires which are found to exist in the ‘latter days’: The **lion**, the **bear** and the **leopard**. But we can’t know all of the relevant information regarding these from this one narrative alone. It’s when we overlay another significant prophecy that the picture becomes much clearer. That is Revelation 13:1-2, where we see the Great Beast described again. Another chapter will deal with that information in greater detail.

When Will they Come to BE?

But one ‘interesting’ point, Daniel lists these three beasts in the order of their formation (when we understand who they are). John lists them again, but in reverse order. The two prophets are looking at these from a different time reference: one looking ahead, one looking back.

The other element of these prophecies that is unstated in Daniel 2 is the presence of an influential religious figure, one who puts himself against the God of Heaven, speaking great blasphemies against Him, and persecuting to death those who are His true representatives. We know of this ‘little horn’ as the religious beast. That too is further explained in Revelation 13. He empowers the great Beast, performs miracles and long has had ‘intercourse’ with the kings of the earth.³

We’ll continue in a subsequent chapter. 

³ Revelation 17:1-2 “...the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”