

Introducing the Final World Power

In the Early Eighth Century BC, the Elder Statesman Daniel was given an Extraordinary Vision, which we read of in Daniel Chapter 7. 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 time after 553BC. Belshazzar was then coregent, and later the final king of Babylon. But this was Daniel’s personal vision, as opposed to the profoundly prophetic dream of Nebuchadnezzar, occurring much earlier during Daniel’s and the nation of Judah’s captivity there. By the time of this one, Daniel was in his early 70’s!

Held in Abeyance

This extraordinary vision however, was not for his time. Its meaning escaped Daniel, where the dream of Nebuchadnezzar had been Divinely revealed to him. It is only after comparing John’s vision in Revelation 13 that we see where this information provides us with understanding that the elder statesman was not privileged to have in his day. We see in verse 28 that the vision disturbed Daniel greatly, but he had to ‘file’ the matters until much later, and not in his time.

What He Saw!

Daniel relates for posterity and for us as follows: Dan.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.*

[4] *The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.*

[5] *And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth*

of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

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

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

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

Now, it’s this part where we’re introduced to a positive time reference. This Beast, composed of three component beasts (which form the fourth) is set in advance of the Second Coming. That of course was in the far distant future from Daniel’s day, which would explain why he couldn’t make any connections to the illustrations in his vision.

Terminated by the Second Coming!

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

[10] *A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.”* A description of Jesus Christ glorified like we read in Revelation 1:13-16.

Despite knowing of the four successive world empires that would arise, beginning in his own time and beginning with the kingdom in which he was prominently serving, yet the meaning of the vision he himself had seen, was not given to him as the other had been, despite the following explanations.

Daniel 2 and 7; NOT the Same!

This fact alone contradicts the assumption of some scholars that Daniel 7 is a reiteration of Daniel 2. This is not the case, and can not be so, as the components of Nebuchadnezzar's image are known to be successive empires, bring events from his time thru to ours'. Whereas, the three components of this 'fourth beast' come up out of the sea concurrently, lending their characteristics to the fourth beast, which is not what is seen in Daniel 2. That's not so apparent here in Daniel 7, but becomes more obvious when we compare what John the apostle related in Revelation 13.¹

[11] *I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.*
[12] *As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time."*

Now, this is "Interesting"

We're brought to the time of the 'end' first for the destruction of the 'little horn' and subsequently for the Beast itself. What's a potent consideration is the fact that the 'rest of the beasts', (the lion, the bear and the leopard) are allowed to continue after their demise for a short period (a season and a time). This is one indication that the component three beasts are concurrent functioning political entities separate of the 'Super Beast' which they earlier had lent their powers to form.²

A Step Back in Time!

[13] *"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of*

*heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him."*³

[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."* Though Daniel was being given a glimpse into the final years just prior to the Second Coming, he also was presented with a vision of what was also to happen well before that. This event here described (vs. 13 & 14) was to occur just after Christ's resurrection, when He ascended to the Father. This was on the Wave-sheaf Day when He ascended to His Father's actual presence for the first time since His physical incarnation. Angelic Beings 'brought Him near before Him', as it says. We can read of the Mandate then given to Jesus on this special occasion in Psalm 110:1.

Daniel Didn't Make the Comparison

[15] *"I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.*

[16] *I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things."* He needs it to be explained to him! If this vision was a reiteration of the one he'd dreamed before, then he wouldn't have been so grieved, despite being given the explanation.

[17] *"These great beasts, which are four, are **four kings**, which shall arise out of the earth.*

[18] *But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.* This summation, on the part of this 'standing-by' angelic being, sets out the general purpose of this entire vision. It is the immediate lead-up to the establishment of the everlasting Kingdom of God on Earth.

Daniel Still Remained Clueless

[19] *"Then I would know the truth of the **fourth beast**, which was diverse from all the others,*

¹ See chapter

² Revelation 17:12-13

³ This scene creates the question as to which Being is the Ancient of Days. My article #4 on "Who IS the Ancient of Days" deals with this question specifically.

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** (horn) which came up, and before whom three (horns) fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.*

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

The ‘little horn’ is the instigator of severest persecutions to be imposed upon the Saints of God.⁴

The Time Allotted

This period of severest persecutions is to be relentlessly pursued by this ‘little horn’ figure, and the institution he represents up until just before Christ intervenes in the world scene.

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

[23] *Thus he said, The **fourth beast**⁵ shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.*

[24] *And the **ten horns** out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.*

[25] *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

A New World Government

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

⁴ Compare Revelation

⁵ THIS fourth Beast is not the fourth beast of Daniel 2, it’s the fourth beast seen within this prophecy, the fourth after the lion, bear and leopard.

[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.*

Daniel Still Didn’t Fathom It!

Despite Divinely inspired explanations, Daniel still couldn’t relate to what was being explained to him. He had to let it rest for the time being.

[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.* This is consistent with what he was told in the concluding chapter of his book. These things would be sealed thru time, but would become decipherable in the “time of the end”, not so much before!

Major Players

In this chapter of Daniel we are again introduced to the major players in the end-time scenario that are also explained in other prophecies. But this chapter gives an overall outline of the situation that is helpful in correlating all the others.

The Beast

Four Kings

The Ten Horns (kings)

The ‘little Horn’

The Ancient of days

The Saints of the Most High.

We might want to know what it is about this vision of the future that had such a troubling effect with Daniel. In this second one, Daniel is made aware of other factors that didn’t play out in the previous dream given to Nebuchadnezzar back in chapter 2. Here we see the Saints of the Most High being identified, and the situation as it regards danger to their well-being.

NOT Your “Head of Gold”

We see a religious/political entity that will be adamantly hateful of God and will be intent on persecuting God’s people, making concerted war against them! This (now called a Beast) is quite different in its deeply evil character: Far more frightening than the former revelation!

This particular vision introduces the personalities of these ‘beasts’, beyond their just being world dominating empires. It also fills-in some particulars of the world-ruling “Kingdom of God” on Earth referred to in Daniel 2, describing the Saints part in that administration.

Different Paths: Same Destination

It’s essential to realize the distinction between this vision and Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. Nebuchadnezzar foresaw the series of major world powers from his time thru to the end times. Daniel was given a description of the very last phase of the sequence, the “ten toes” phase, which represents the final restoration of Rome by means of the three world empires’ kings collaborating together to form that all-important seventh restoration of the HRE. It’s this phase which contains the ten kings, which correspond to the ten toes of Daniel chapter 2, the ten crowns of Revelation 13:1 and the ten horns of Daniel 7:24 and Revelation 17:16.

Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 are complementary in ways, but they are NOT reiterations of the same prophecy. ⁶ Both visions/dreams END with the same event, but the first is successive, while the latter describes concurrent kings who are alive at the same time. ⁷ Verse 20 explains that the ten kings are going to exist as a group, with three of them demoted in some manner afterward, with the ‘little horn’ joining with the remaining seven to then become the ‘eighth’. That couldn’t happen if the ten were consecutive and not all acting together. Some explanations pose the ten as being consecutive, which greatly distorts what this prophecy is telling us.

More About these Kings

Certain modern ‘prophets’ occasionally pose that the ten kings come to power one after the other in succession. We can learn more about them from the words of a comparable prophecy in Revelation 17:12-13, where it says. *“And the ten horns*

⁶ The lion is not Babylon; the Bear is not Persia; the leopard is not Greece, as some explanations pose.

⁷ The chart in Appendix B presents a graphic illustration of this relationship between the two prophecies.

*which thou sawest are **ten kings**, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. [13] These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”* From this we can clearly see that these ten kings collude together to provide the basis for creating the seventh head, the seventh restoration of the “Holy Roman Empire”. While they weren’t in existence in John’s day, they are now, and the missing ones soon will be.

The Whore’s Demise

Another way of realizing that they exist concurrently, besides the way we saw in the column to the left of this, is that they become seriously disillusioned with the ‘eighth’ little horn, and do God’s bidding in ridding themselves of ‘her’ interferences. That we see in verses 16 & 17 of Revelation 17. *“And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall **hate** the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.*

[17] For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled”. All of this is with God’s full intent. The ten kings (horns) will be instrumental in bringing the great whore to its end and its ‘little horn’ leader with it.

The Beast’s Ultimate Destruction

Where we are at this point is the realization that the final (seventh) restoration of the “Roman Empire” will be the final empire to have dominion over the Earth prior to the Second Coming of Christ to smash the whole power structure. As that power structure comes together, the world will stand aghast at its fearsomeness.

Daniel 11 gives us more details on the actions to be taken by this coming world power. But no amount of success on its part will forestall what’s to happen. Armageddon is the ultimate venue for the destruction of the last vestige of the great image, striking its toes with irresistible force! We’ll discuss that in another chapter. 