

Daniel Chapter 7

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We saw in our study of chapter 2 how God outlined world history in advance by way of a dream given first to king Nebuchadnezzar, then to the prophet Daniel. Through the symbolism of a multi-metal statue, we saw that the head of gold represented the kingdom of Babylon, the silver chest and arms were the Medo-Persian empire, the belly and thighs of brass being Greece, and the legs of iron being Rome. History confirms that the four great world empires were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

Then we saw that the feet and toes represented the ten divisions of Rome after it fell, which eventually became modern Europe. What followed was the kingdom of God established on earth, represented by a stone cut without hands that smashed the image and filled the whole earth.

In Daniel chapter 7, God gave this same world history prophecy. However, this time God uses different symbols for the purpose of giving more details. Remember, each time God gives the prophecy, we learn something new.

Daniel 7:1, 2

¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

² Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

NOTE: Daniel sees four beasts, or four different animals rising out of the sea. What do these symbols mean? Always remember, the Bible interprets itself. It says in Isaiah that we must look to other parts of the Bible to find the answers, “precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little.” Now Daniel saw each beast rising out of the sea. Using this method, we can go to Revelation to find out what the sea represents.

Revelation 17:15

The waters which thou sawest...are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Daniel 7:17

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

Daniel 7:23

Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the *fourth kingdom* upon earth

NOTE: In prophecy, the sea represents peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues, and beasts represent

kingdoms. In other words, these kingdoms arise out of the flow of events in the civilized world; thus God represents the ebb and flow of human activity and events as the sea. Kingdoms are symbolized by God as diverse animals so that specific characteristics of each can be identified.

With that in mind, let's look at the four beasts, starting with the first:

Daniel 7:4

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings.



Like the head of gold in Daniel chapter 2, the first beast is **Babylon**. Archaeology has revealed that a lion with eagle's wings was a common symbol in ancient Babylonian designs and sculptures.

Daniel 7:5

I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

The meaning of this can actually be found in Daniel chapter 4. Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar was a prideful, pagan king who, through influence and friendship with Daniel experienced a divine conversion to God and truth. You can read what happened to him in chapter 4, which was written by the king himself. He ends that chapter by saying, “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment.” Daniels says that “a man's heart was given to the lion.” This is Nebuchadnezzar's conversion, as the Spirit of God enters the hearts of those who believe in Him.

In verse 5 we continue with the next nation, or empire, which we know from Daniel 2 to be Medo-Persia:

Daniel 7:5

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.



Medo-Persia

NOTE: The bear being lifted up on one side means that although this was a joint kingdom, the Persians were actually stronger than the Medes. The three ribs in its mouth represent the three principal nations conquered by Medo-Persia, which were Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt.

By the way, the fulfillment of Medo-Persia conquering Babylon actually happened in Daniels lifetime. He witnessed it and wrote about it in Daniel chapter 5. You see, God gave these prophecies during a time where the first two parts of it would be fulfilled so that there would be no mistaking the starting point. All we need do is look back in history to see how much of what happens next was also fulfilled.

Now the third kingdom, which is Greece:



Greece

Daniel 7:6

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.

NOTE: Wings in prophecy represent speed. Alexander the Great conquered the world swiftly, with great speed. After Alexander's death, Greece was divided into four parts. Thus the four heads of the leopard in Daniel's vision.

We know that the fourth world empire, is the one that was in power when Jesus was born: Rome



Rome

Daniel 7:7

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.

NOTE: Notice, in the statue of Daniel 2, Rome was symbolized by legs of iron. Here this terrible beast has iron teeth. So terrible was the sight of this beast that Daniel could not even liken it to anything he had seen before. Like the statue which depicted ten toes, this beast has ten horns. As in the statue, these horns also represent the ten tribes that took over Rome when it fell.

Daniel 7:23, 24

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

²⁴ And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise.

Daniel 7:8

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.

NOTE: From this Roman beast, another, "little horn" grows from among the first ten. Daniel was intrigued by this little horn more than any other part of the vision.



Daniel 7:20, 24

²⁰ That horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them.

²⁴ He shall be diverse (different) from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

NOTE: This power was not like the other kingdoms. It had great power but was different somehow.

Daniel 7:25

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.

Let's break this down so that we can identify this little horn power.

- This little horn power rose up from among the ten divisions of the Roman Empire—the ten horns. A horn in prophecy represents power, just as the horn of an animal is its power. This horn has eyes like a man, meaning that a man is the head of this power.
- It has a mouth that speaks great words against the Most High God. In prophecy, when a beast or horn speaks, the words represent what this power stands for; its laws and decrees, which in the case of this little horn are in opposition to God and His word and law.
- In the Bible, “saint” is a term that represents all of God’s true followers. If you believe that Jesus died for your sins, and you accept His sacrifice on your behalf, then according to God you are a saint. The little horn would persecute the saints of God for a certain amount of time, which the prophecy tells would be “a time, times, and the dividing of time.”
- This power began as a small power—a little horn—but became great and exceedingly powerful, subduing three

kingdoms. Of those ten nations, seven would go on to become the nations of modern Europe. But what happened to these other three?

This horn, or power, “plucked up” three of the ten horns by the roots. History records that Rome was split into ten divisions. And of these ten there were, in fact, three kingdoms; the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths, that were uprooted and overthrown by the same power. What these three had in common, and the reason why they were destroyed was that, unlike the other nations, these three opposed the newly enthroned Bishop of Rome (the pope).

In **A.D. 533**, Emperor Justinian decreed that the Bishop of Rome was to rule supreme over all the churches. The three nations—or three uprooted horns—were overthrown by the year **A.D. 538**, and papal supremacy—or the little horn power—had begun.

When we put all the clues together that God gave us in this prophecy, it can only be the papacy. No other power in history fulfills every characteristic given in Daniel’s vision.

Let’s examine the specific characteristics of this power.

Again, in **verse 25**, the angel says that it, “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.”

NOTE: This power speaks words against the most High God. Remember, that the Word of God is Jesus Christ. The Word is the Bible. This power speaks words against the most High, against the Bible and against Jesus. How? It says in **verse 8** that this power has a man at its head. The Roman Catholic Church has a man, the pope, as its head. The angel said the man has a mouth speaking great things. **Verse 25** says that this power thinks to change **the times and laws**. When laws are mentioned in prophecy, it is referring to the **Ten Commandments**. This power “thinks” they have changed them. But God says of His law in **Psalms 89:34**, “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.”

Ferraris’ Ecclesiastical Dictionary:

*“The Pope has power to **change times, to abrogate laws**, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ. The Pope has authority and has often exercised it, to dispense with the command of Christ.”*

Notice the language used and how it parallels the prophecy! The Catholic Church teaches that the popes have the right to change God’s laws. This little horn power thinks to change the times and laws. There is only ONE

law that has anything to do with time, and that is the Sabbath commandment:

Exodus 20:8

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.

THE ROMAN CHURCH ADMITS to CHANGING THE SABBATH.

The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine,
page 50:

Q. Which is the Sabbath day?

A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.

Note: The papacy takes full credit for changing the Sabbath from Saturday the seventh day, to Sunday, the first, a day that has its origin in false pagan sun worship. The papacy further changed God's law by eliminating the second commandment completely—the law against bowing before idols.

Does that sound like a mouth speaking great things against the most High God? Especially when God said He would never change His holy Law?

Jesus said in **Luke 16:17**, "It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law."

Further proof that this little horn power is the office of the papacy; the angel tells Daniel in **verse 25** that this power, "shall wear out the saints of the most High...and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." And **verse 21**, "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them."

Note: Remember, in the Bible, the word 'saint' simply refers to any person who gives there life to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. If you have done that, then, says God, YOU are a saint. No special decree has to be made by man to make you a saint in the eyes of God. 1 Corinthians 1:2, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, **to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.**"

Now this little horn power would persecute the saints, or God's true people, for **a time and times and the dividing of time**. A **time** in prophecy is a Jewish year, or **360 days**. **Times = two years**, or **720 days**. And a **dividing of time**

is half a year, or **180 days**. 360 + 720 + 180, together they add up to **1,260 days**. However these are not literal, but prophetic days. We know from **Ezekiel 4:6**, God says, "I have appointed thee each day for a year." Therefore a day in prophecy represents a year. This persecuting power would rein supreme for **1,260 years**.

History records that the papacy came to power in **A.D. 538 until 1798** when Napoleon's army marched into Rome and took the pope captive, ending a supremacy that lasted **exactly 1,260 years**. The prophecy said that this power would make war with the saints and wear them out. During that time period, the papacy is responsible for the persecution and deaths of countless millions of innocent people, people who recognized the Bible and Jesus Christ alone as their sole authority. Recent popes have even publicly apologized for the atrocities committed by the Roman Catholic Church during the Dark Ages. Although the Church admits to putting to death roughly 50 million people, others estimate the deaths closer to 70 million, even others say about 100 million people died for their faith in Jesus Christ at the hand of the Roman Catholic Church. History says that the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind.

Note: This is not a prophecy against Catholic people. This prophecy is about a system of false beliefs and a power that is contrary to Jesus Christ, His law, and His Holy Bible.

After all these things happen that God's judgment begins:

Daniel 7:9-14

⁹ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit...

¹⁰ ...The judgment was set, and the books were opened.

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

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

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

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

Daniel 7:18

But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom,



Babylon

and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Daniel 7:22

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.

Daniel 7:27

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.



Medo-Persia

Note: That time is coming soon. Human history is drawing to a close. Jesus' kingdom will be set up and given to all those who have put their trust and faith in Him. The Father gave the kingdom to His Son, and Jesus gives it to His faithful followers.

Daniel 7:28

Hitherto is the end of the matter.



Greece



Rome



Papacy