

DANIEL Chapter 7

As we study into Daniel chapter 7, and if you read those chapters between 2 and 7, you will find that much time elapsed from where we left off our study of Daniel chapter 2. Daniel himself has now become a much older man. Also, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is dead and a new king rules over Babylon.

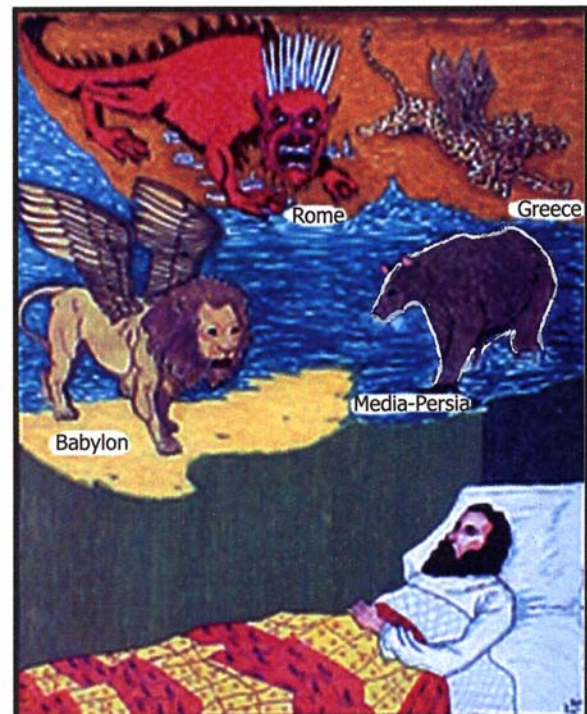
In fact, the golden kingdom of Babylon is only a few years away from being conquered by the Medes and Persians. (Daniel 5:28) And Daniel lives through this whole episode, witnessing the fall of the great kingdom of Babylon into the hands of the kingdom of the Medes and Persians —just as the True God had foreseen and predicted. What the True God revealed to Daniel in his small book of only twelve chapters, “predicting” the affairs of men and their world empires, is so awesome and so important that our Lord Jesus Christ even quoted from the book of Daniel. (Matthew 24:15)

Now in Daniel chapter 7, God gives to Daniel personally a vision that covers again the exact same time period as the dream given to King Nebuchadnezzar. But instead of a metallic image of a man, God now chooses to use “animals” as symbols to represent the very same “four” man made world kingdoms. They actually become a format.

That is: From the time of King Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon, there was to be four and “only” four man made world kingdoms, after which, God then sets up His own eternal Kingdom. There is absolutely no other interpretation! There is not so much as a hint that there can be a dual or another application. And God follows true using this format right into the book of Revelation.

Another exquisite feature that God uses, that once understood, gives perfect understanding of what He is trying to convey. God focuses on the fourth, or the very last world kingdom that is ruling, prior to God setting up His own eternal Kingdom. But this last world kingdom is more brutal and rules longer, over two thousand years, then all the other world kingdoms combined. So God constantly enlarges the picture and elaborates in ever greater details, the characteristics and the atrocious work of this last world kingdom — so there can be no mistaking its identity.

The animals or beasts that God used as symbols to represent the world kingdoms that He showed to Daniel were as follows: The first was like unto a lion, which represented Babylon. The second was like unto a bear, which represented Media-Persia. The third was like unto a leopard, which represented Greece. The fourth and last was so terrible there was nothing in nature to even compare it with, and it represented Rome.



Daniel's Dream

But so there can be no misunderstanding whatsoever, the Word of God declares that, “the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon the earth.” (Daniel 7:23) How much plainer can that be? And that fourth kingdom represents Rome, then and even until today and beyond, until God casts it into the burning flame at the second coming of Christ. Anyone who teaches otherwise, is teaching a lie with the intent to deceive, so to get Rome out of the limelight.

Again, very specific, the Word of God declares Daniel as saying: “I beheld even till the (fourth) beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.” (Daniel 7:11&12) Read that over carefully. Because if you understand that declaration perfectly, you will never go into error about who is behind today’s world miseries.

So, just what does it mean? It means that when Babylon was conquered by the Medes and Persians, that Babylon and all its people were not obliterated from off the face of the earth, but instead, was “absorbed” into the victorious kingdom, so that their lives were prolonged for a season and time. And that became true for each of the man made world kingdoms that were conquered by man. But for the fourth and last world kingdom, which is Rome, it will be different. Man does not conquer it. God does! At the second coming of Christ, who will cast it into the burning flame. Now that is something worth pondering.

But something else that is worth pondering, and is incredibly awesome, is that Daniel was allowed to view the “judgment” and the very environment of the throne of the Sovereign True God of the universe, whose Majestic name was made known as the Ancient of Days.

And in those scenes, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was brought before His Father, the Ancient of Days — and the Father “gives” to His Son, “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 7:14) How can a mere mortal even begin to comprehend all of that?

But what is more harder to comprehend, is why this incredible Majestic God loves His people so much that He even bothers to make Himself known to them. And evil men could care less, as they set up their false system of **Pontifex Maximus** worship and deceives the whole world into following after it. But God does have a people that yearns to know the truth, and for those few, God in His love identifies that false system, so that no one will ever have the excuse to say, I never knew.

The detailed description that God gives of the fourth and last man made world power, fits the history of the Roman empire so perfectly that it is more than ludicrous to even think of it as fitting some other world power. The whole western civilization testifies that its roots come from Rome. Remember now, the Roman caesars were also the **Pontifex Maximus**. And the fourth “beast” that God showed to Daniel had ten horns.