

**DANIEL 7:1-7**

Study by Glenn Palmer

Part I: Daniel 1-6: Chronological, Historical; Political, for the kings

Part II: Daniel 7-12: Vision is for the Church

Theme of these future chapters: Because God is Lord of lords and King of kings, do not be afraid through trials and tribulation.

Scripture should be interpreted by scripture. Like Revelation, not everything is understood as it is apocalyptic.

**Practical application:** NIV Study Bible: “Apocalyptic literature is a primarily a literature of encouragement to the people of God.” All details may not be known, but **OUR GOD REIGNS.**

Note: These chapters are interpreted in the mainstream, historical method.

**Daniel 7:1**

1. In the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Belshazzar: 553 BC
2. Written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person, but the vision is in the first person

**Daniel 7:2 “Four winds of heaven churning up the sea”**

3. Four winds of heaven = four corners of the world; universality
4. Great sea - NOT the Mediterranean, but just a sea
5. Churning - fighting = chaos
6. Isaiah 17:12
7. They all strive against the Lord and His anointed.

**Daniel 7:3 “Four great beasts”**

8. See Daniel 2
9. Daniel 7:17

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Meaning
Gold head	Lion: wings of an eagle; wings torn off; two feet; heart of a man	Babylon
Silver chest and arms	Bear: raised up on one side; three ribs	Medes and Persians
Bronze belly and thighs	Leopard (panther): four wings; four heads	Greek
Iron legs Feet iron & clay	Beast: terrifying; frightening; large iron teeth, ten horns; a little horn; 1 <sup>st</sup> three horns uprooted; horn had eyes like a man; spoke boastfully	Roman
Rock not cut by human hands; mountain	Thrones; Ancient of Days; Son of Man given authority, glory and sovereign power	God the Father God the Son

**Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion**

10. Lion = king of the beasts; Nebuchadnezzar
11. Jeremiah compares Babylon to a lion
  - a. Jeremiah 4:7:
  - b. Jeremiah 50:17
12. Jeremiah compares Babylon to an eagle: 49:22
13. Ezekiel compares Babylon to an eagle: Chapter 17
14. When were Nebuchadnezzar's wings torn off?
15. When was Nebuchadnezzar given a heart of a man?



Striding Lion from the Babylonian Processional Way, 604-562 BC

<http://www.ancientreplicas.com/babylon/striding-lion.html> accessed on 27 Oct 13

**Daniel 7:5 “2<sup>nd</sup> which looked like a bear”**

16. Second in strength to a lion
17. Raised on one side = Medes and Persian empire, but Persians became more important
18. Daniel 8:3: two horns; but one horn was longer than the other
19. Three ribs:
  - a. Shows power: Calvin: “Those who understand three definite kingdoms by the three ribs, seem to refine far too minutely. . . . When, therefore, the Prophet speaks of the three ribs, it implies the insatiable nature of this beast, since it was not content with a single body, but devoured many men together.”
  - b. Specific kingdoms
    - 1.) Cyrus conquered the Lydian empire in 546 BC. He defeated Croesus, richest ruler.
    - 2.) Cyrus conquered the Babylonian empire in 539 BC
    - 3.) Cyrus's son, Cambyses, conquered Egypt in 525 BC

**“Eat much flesh”**

*Practical application: Bear can only eat because God tells him to eat. God is in control, although there are bears out there.*



Alexander's empire <http://ao.arolier.com/atlas?id=mh00072> accessed on 26 Oct 13



Alexander's kingdom divided into four kingdoms. [http://www.kingsacademy.com/mhodes/02\\_The-West-to-1900/02\\_The-Hellenists/02b\\_Hellenistic-Political-World-r.htm](http://www.kingsacademy.com/mhodes/02_The-West-to-1900/02_The-Hellenists/02b_Hellenistic-Political-World-r.htm) accessed on 26 Oct 13

**Daniel 7:6 “a leopard. (KJV: panther) And on its back it had four wings like that of a bird.”**

20. Four wings:

- a. Calvin: Not for speed; four wings for four heads, one for each general (see below)
- b. Speed: Lion had only one set of wings, and the bear had no wings. A leopard has four wings, so speedy conquest.
  - 1.) Cf. Daniel 8:5: “a goat. . . crossing the whole earth without touching the ground.”
  - 2.) Alexander the Great’s conquests
    - a.) 336 BC: Alexander the Great, at twenty years old, BC becomes king of Macedonia.
    - b.) 334 BC: Alexander the Great leaves Macedonia defeats the Persians at Granicus
    - c.) 333 BC: Alexander the Great defeats Darius at Issus (Syria)
    - d.) 331 BC: Alexander the Great conquers Egypt, defeats Darius at Gaugamela; world conquered in four years all with horses and chariots.

21. Four heads:

- a. General/symbolic: Alexander the Great conquered the world, much like the four winds from the four corners of the earth; four heads means that no corner of the earth was unconquered
- b. Specific: Alexander the Great would die and his four generals would rule after him:
  - 1.) Cassander rules over Macedonia and Greece
  - 2.) Antigonos/Lysimachus rules over Thrace and Asia Minor
  - 3.) Seleucus over Syria and the Levant
  - 4.) Ptolemy over Egypt

22. Three beasts:

- a. The above interpretations have been believed by the vast majority of Christians.
  - 1.) Historically - since Christianity began and for the centuries: Jerome, Luther, Calvin, Young, Boice, Jewish traditions, etc.
  - 2.) Percentage - vast majority of Christians: Orthodox, Catholic, and most Protestants believe the above.
- b. Some Premillennialists, primarily in the US TV and radio preachers, who are very vocal and are obsessed with the end times, disagree with the commonly accepted approach as outlined above. For them, this vision has nothing to do with Daniel or the Jews in exile. Daniel 7 is only for the future when the anti-Christ will appear. For them, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Daniel is perhaps the most important chapter in the Old Testament as it deals with the coming of the anti-Christ in specific detail. This new modern view point has only occurred in the last 70 years or so.

*Objection: What meaning does this have for Daniel if nothing was going to happen in his lifetime? Why would Daniel be so distraught if these things won’t happen for at least 2500 years? What comfort did it bring to the Jews in Exile? Prophecy has to deal with what they are currently experiencing. It may also have a future hope, but the prophecy must deal with their current events, otherwise there is no purpose.*

In the modern theory, all four beasts are about today’s political powers. They are not sequential and do not refer to Daniel 2.

Note: the coming of the anti-Christ has been predicted frequently since the state of Israel has been restored in 1947. Almost all these theories and interpretations have occurred since 1947. However, as the current events keep changing, their theories keep changing. What was sure thirty years ago, is not so sure today.

In their view, the lion is Great Britain and the eagle wings torn off are the US breaking off from the UK. Remember Richard the Lion Heart?

The bear is Russia.

The leopard is Germany. The four heads are

Theory 1: the Holy Roman Empire (Charlemagne 1<sup>st</sup> Reich), Bismark 2<sup>nd</sup> Reich (1871-1918), Hitler 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich, European Union = 4<sup>th</sup> Reich (Note that the Germans have Leopard tanks!) (Note the inconsistencies. On the one hand they say that the four beasts are contemporary, but then they say that the four heads of the leopard are sequential.)

<http://awmach.net/eschatology/daniel/vision1> accessed on 27 Oct 13

Theory 2: The Germans are made up from Angles, Saxons, Alemans, and Franks

Theory 3: The Germans had 4 primary states: Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, and Wurttemberg

Theory 4: Germany was divided into four after WWII: US, UK, French, and USSR sections.

*Note the inconsistencies of the above. On the one hand they want a literal interpretation, but when Daniel says in 7:17 "The four great beasts are kingdoms" they say kingdoms should not be taken literally but mean states.*

### **Daniel 7:7 "A fourth beast-terrifying and frightening and very powerful**

23. Fourth Beast: Calvin: "There is greater difficulty in the Fourth Monarchy."

a. Calvin: three possible interpretations:

- 1.) Roman Empire - parallels chapter 2; preferred by Jerome, Luther, Calvin, Young, Boice, etc. Vast majority of Christians.
- 2.) Pope -
- 3.) Turks - Jews in the 16<sup>th</sup> century

b. Modern Others: The fourth beast is the (all accessed on 26 or 27 Oct 13)

- 1.) European Union because it has 10 countries - Hal Lindsey:  
<http://www.hallindsey.com/watchman-warning-572012/>
- 2.) UN - Ken Raggio:<http://kenraggio.com/KRPN-DreadfulBeast.htm>
- 3.) Islam Ted Montgomery:  
<http://www.tedmontgomery.com/bblovrvw/emails/fourthbeast.html>
- 4.) The future Islamic caliphate  
<http://p2alm.com/2011/03/30/daniel%E2%80%99s-4th-beast-isn%E2%80%99t-rome/>
- 5.) Anti-Christ kingdom <http://versebyversebibleteaching.com/daniel-7-how-to-find-the-antichrist-alternate-view>
- 6.) US: "ten standard Federal Regions were established by OMB (Office of Management and Budget) Circular A-105, "Standard Federal Regions," in April, 1974, and required for all executive agencies." <http://awmach.net/eschatology/daniel/vision1>

The list can go on and on as each has their own pet theory. European Union was very popular when it had ten nations, but now that Christ has not returned, and now that the European Union has more than 10 nations. this view is not so popular. Other premillennialists, who say that the Bible, even the apocalyptic literature, must be taken literally, see the UN as the fourth beast. But the UN has more than 10 nations. But the Security Council has 5 permanent nations and ten rotating members. Maybe the 10 rotating members are the 10 horns? But wait, there is talk with the Security Council increasing in size.

24. Note that the fourth beast is so different and frightening it does not have a name.

25. Iron

- a. Daniel 7:7: "Large iron teeth"
- b. Daniel 2:33: "legs of iron"
- c. Roman Empire was the largest, longest lasting, and rapacious empire.
- d. Rome also was rarely defeated.
- e. Calvin: "For we know how many lands the Romans had consumed, and how they transferred to themselves the luxuries of the whole world, and whatever was valuable and precious . . . all was swept away-and even this was insufficient to satisfy them."

#### Daniel 7:19

26. *Iron teeth*

27. *Bronze claws*

28. *crushed and devoured its victims*

29. *trampled underfoot*

#### Daniel 7:7 "It had ten horns"

#### Daniel 7:20 "the ten horns on its head"

#### Daniel 7:24 "The ten horns are the ten kings will come from this kingdom."

30. Ten horns:

- a. Young: "symbolic . . . indicating a multiplicity of rulers, or an indefinite number of kings."
- b. Completeness
- c. Note that the ten horns, like the ten toes, are not consecutive.
- d. Calvin: "And with regard to the number ten, we know this to be a frequent and usual form of speech in Scripture, where ten signifies many. When plurality is denoted, the number ten is used." He goes on to criticize those who try to make Rome having 10 provinces.
- e. Young: "**To seek to identify these kingdoms when Scripture furnishes no clue as to their identity, is very precarious and probably unwarranted.**"
- f. "The ten kingdoms, which arose from Rome after its decline, are the same ones represented by the ten toes of the image described in Daniel 2. They represent the Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Alamani, Anglosaxons, Heruli, Lombardi, and Burgundians. Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Alamani, Anglosaxons, Heruli, Lombardi, and Burgundians." Professor Walter J. Veith, PhD [http://amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception\\_end-time\\_Antichrist\\_horns\\_kingdom\\_Rome](http://amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception_end-time_Antichrist_horns_kingdom_Rome) accessed on 26 Oct 13.