

## Chapter 7

### “The Four Beasts”

#### Summary

- Daniel has a prophetic vision about a series of world powers
- Revisits and expands upon the themes of Chapter 2

#### Outline

- I. Introduction - vs. 1
- II. The Vision
  - A. The setting - vs. 2-3
  - B. The four beasts - vs. 4-8
  - C. The Second Coming - vs. 9-14
- III. Explaining the Vision
  - A. Daniel asks for help - vs. 15-16
  - B. Explaining the four beasts - vs. 17-18
  - C. Explaining the fourth beast - vs. 19-27
- IV. Conclusion - vs. 28

#### Misc. Notes

- vs. 1 - “first year of Belshazzar” - about 553 B.C., 14 years before Babylon’s fall
- vs. 16 - Daniel is probably speaking to an angel here

#### Interpreting the Vision

- vs. 2 - winds = God’s actions, something beyond man’s power moving unseen
- vs. 2 - sea = people, earth, population of earth (see Matthew 13:47, Revelation 13:1)
- vs. 2 - beasts = kings and kingdoms (see vs. 17)

#### J. Dwight Pentecost’s Rules for Interpreting Prophecy from *Things to Come*

- Interpret literally
- Interpret according to the harmony of prophecy
- Observe the time relationships - “Mountain Peaks of Prophecy”
  - “It is important to observe that the prophet may view widely separated events as continuous, or future things as either past or present”
- Interpret prophecy Christologically
  - It is all about Him!
- Interpret historically
- Interpret grammatically
- Interpret according to the law of double reference
  - Some prophecies can have more than one fulfillment, or fulfillment in multiple events.
- Interpret consistently

**The First Beast - BABYLON - vs. 4**

- Pictured as a lion with wings = regal, powerful, swift. Statues like these have been found in Babylon
- Corresponds to the golden head of chapter 2
- “wings plucked”, etc. = refers to the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 4

**The Second Beast - MEDO-PERSIA - vs. 5**

- Pictured as a bear = powerful, ferocious, not as majestic as a lion
- Corresponds to the silver chest and arms of chapter 2
- “raised... on one side” = lopsided alliance between Medes and Persians
- “three ribs” = not sure, possibly represents conquered kingdoms
- “Arise, devour much flesh” = further conquests, greater territory than predecessor

**The Third Beast - GREECE - vs. 6**

- Pictured as a leopard = quick, fearsome, agile (Alexander’s conquests)
- Corresponds to the brass stomach of chapter 2
- four heads and wings = four-fold division of Alexander’s kingdom after his death

**The Fourth Beast - ROME - vs. 7-8**

- Pictured as unknown “monster” = terrible, fearsome, unlike anything seen before
- Corresponds to the iron legs of chapter 2
- The other kingdoms conquered, Rome crushed
- Not only pictures the Roman Empire of old, but the Empire of the Last Days
  - “ten horns” = ten kings - Revelation 13:1
  - “little horn” - the Antichrist (not the same as the little horn in chapter 8)
    - See II Thessalonians 2:3-4 and Revelation 13:3-6
    - vs. 21 - makes war against the saints - Revelation 13:7
    - vs. 24 - defeats three of the ten kings
    - vs. 25 - “speak great words against the most High” - Revelation 13:5-6
    - vs. 25 - time, times, dividing of times = last 3 1/2 years of Tribulation
    - vs. 26 - defeated - Revelation 19:11-21

**The Fifth Kingdom - THE KINGDOM OF GOD - vs. 9-14**

- Ancient of Days = GOD THE FATHER (compare to vs. 9 to vs. 13)
- fire - pictures glory and judgment - Psalm 97:2-3
- vs. 10 - this setting of judgment is God’s judgment during the Tribulation, and not the Great White Throne. Compare to Revelation 5:11-14.
- vs. 11-12 are about the Tribulation - Revelation 19:20
- vs. 13 - the Second Coming - see Mark 14:61-62
- vs. 14, 22, 27 - the Millennial Kingdom and after