

Daniel's Vision
4 Beast-like Empires
Daniel 7

I. The Dream - 7:1-14

1. Daniel's dream, contrast to Image – Dan. 2
In the first year of Belshazzar's reign – 7:1
Image - 2nd yr. of Nebuchadnezzar's reign – 2:1
Winds (spirits) of heaven blow on sea – 7:2
Great sea may refer to Mediterranean
Or simply to the sea of humanity
Spirits of heaven impact the people of earth
Four different beasts arise out of the sea – 7:3
Image – metals of declining value - 2:31-33
Head of gold; Breast & arms of silver; Belly & thighs of brass; Legs of iron, feet part iron, part clay
2. Lion with eagle's wings – 4 Babylon
Lion is king of beasts, eagle is king of birds
Wings plucked, made to stand upright
A man's heart is given to him
May refer to Nebuchadnezzar's humbling, and restoration
3. Lop-sided bear – 5 Medo-Persia
One side raised up - dominance of Persia
3 ribs in its mouth
May refer to Egypt, Assyria & Babylon
These 3 kingdoms impacted people of Israel
Told to arise and devour much flesh
4. Leopard with 4 wings & 4 heads – 6 Greece
4 wings may refer to speed of Alexander's conquests
4 heads refer to division of empire by 4 generals
Dominion was given this empire to impact Israel
Seleucus Dynasty (Syria) & Ptolemy Dynasty (Egypt)
5. Non-descript monster - 7 Rome
Dreadful, terrible, exceedingly strong, great iron teeth
It devoured, broke in pieces, stamped other kingdoms
Different from all the other beasts before it
It had ten horns
6. There were 10 horns & the little horn – 8
10 horns speak of 10 kings – cp. Rev. 17:12
Little horn plucked up three of the other horns
Had eyes like a man - intelligence
Mouth speaking great things – boastful
7. God's Kingdom is established - 9-14
Compare with Daniel 2:44-45
All of man's kingdoms are cast down - 9
God's awesome throne is described - 9
He is described as holy and pure

But also as a fiery flame
God will judge these beast-like kingdoms - 10
Kingdoms judged, destroyed by God in presence of angels
God deals specifically with this little horn – 11
He is slain, cast into Lake of Fire – Rev. 19:20
Other beasts allowed to continue for a time - 12
Son of Man appears, with authority to rule – 13-14
He returns in glory to establish His eternal kingdom
He will have dominion over all nations on the earth

II. Dream Interpreted - 7:15-28

1. Dream distressed Daniel greatly – 15
2. Angel interprets for Daniel – 16-18
Four beasts are four kings or kingdoms
God's people will prevail & He will reign
3. Focus on 4th beast & ten horns - 19-28
Little horn will persecute God's people - 21
God will prevail for His people - 22
7. 4th beast is 4th kingdom – 23
It will devour the whole earth
8. 10 horns are 10 kings that will arise - 24
9. A little horn will come at end time – 24-25
He will subdue 3 of the 10 kings – 24
He will blaspheme God – 25 (Rev. 13:5-6)
He will persecute saints 3 1/2 yrs. - 25
10. God will prevail over the horn - 26-28
The horn will be judged & beast destroyed
God's kingdom will be established - 27
His saints will reign forever
11. Daniel thought on all this – 28
Even though he did not understand it all

