

Daniel 7: 1-14 – The Beasts and the Man With the Beard

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a statue of 4 parts (a head of gold, a chest and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of bronze, and feet of iron and clay). Daniel explained to Nebuchadnezzar that the statue represented 4 kingdoms – his kingdom was the head of gold. But God wasn't saying that the 4 kingdom were special of themselves. He simply used those 4 kingdoms as counting tools for the advent 降临 of the 5th kingdom-Christ's kingdom - a kingdom without end...and whose king would have no end. So while the Jews in Babylonian captivity would see troubles that the 4 kingdoms would cause, they would still be able to look forward to God's unstoppable kingdom coming. Here in Chapter 7, you will see God adding on the revelation of the statue. God adds to the first revelation because multiple testimonies confirm truth and give increasing hope to his people!

Our headings are: The Monstrous Beasts on the Earth, and The Man with the Beard in Heaven.

Our goals are: That you will see the sovereign 主权 hand of God in history...a hand that destroyed the wicked... and a hand that preserved the Jews for the coming of Messiah.

The Monstrous Beasts on the Earth

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. 2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

1. In the 1st year of Belshazzar's rule Daniel had a dream and he wrote down the main points of the dream so he wouldn't forget them so the people of God could be instructed, receive comfort, and trust God more.

2. In Daniel's dream he saw 4 beasts coming out of the Great Sea which was being stirred up by the 4 winds of heaven.

3. What did the "sea," and "four winds" represent?

a. The "sea" represented foreigners (we say "overseas"). (Similar to Revelation 13&17 as John looked toward the sea for the 4th beast – the Romans.) "Sea noise" showed the confusion of different languages.

b. The "four winds of (the corners of) heaven" also meant that the beasts were being moved from a foreign land. The beasts were foreign beasts in relation to geographic Israel.

4. So who specifically were these 4 foreign beasts?

4 "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off 被拔去 and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

a. Beast 1 was like a lion...with eagle's wings. He could fly quickly and destroy his prey. This was Babylon and its monarchy: powerful, strong, and untamed 未被驯服. This beast had absolute power. (Babylon's kings were absolute.) But beast's wings were plucked off...meaning it lost the power to soar. It was humbled. God broke it. Instead of putting fear into man like a lion would, the beast became ordinary. Remember Belshazzar's knocking knees? This lion was the same as the head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar dream of the statue in Chapter 2.

5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

b. Beast 2 was like a bear – vicious 狠毒 and strong, but weaker than the lion. In Nebuchadnezzar's earlier vision this was like the two arms that were joined by the chest of the statue in Chapter 2. This is clearly the Medo-Persian 玛代波斯 Empire: two empires joined in one. But the 3 ribs in the mouth pointed to its weakness. How? It showed that he had not finished devouring 吞食 or conquering other nations, when it came up against the lion –Babylon. So it was told to set aside the ribs-bones-and eat much new flesh! (God directed it.)

Jeremiah 51:11 Make the arrows bright! Gather the shields! The LORD has raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes. For His plan is against Babylon to destroy it. Because it is the vengeance 报复 of the LORD, The vengeance for His temple.

6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

c. Beast 3 looked like a leopard: active, crafty, and cruel. But how could the leopard have 4 wings while Babylon, the greater, had only 2? Nebuchadnezzar was fast, but the Greeks were faster. The Greek Empire was founded by Alexander the Great. Henry: "In six years' time he gained the whole empire of Persia, a great part besides of Asia,

made himself master of Syria, Egypt, India, and other nations.” What about the 4 heads? After Alexander died, the kingdom was famously divided into 4 parts: Seleucus Nicanor had Asia the Great; Perdiccas, and after him Antigonus, had Asia the Less; Cassander had Macedonia; and Ptolemeus had Egypt. God gave the Greek dominion over Persia. Greece was represented by the belly and thighs of bronze in Nebuchadnezzar’s vision in Chapter 2.

7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, **dreadful非常恐怖and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth**; it was devouring, breaking in pieces **吞吃碎** and **trampling剩余的** the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns**. 8 "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, **a little one**, coming up among them, before whom **three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots**. And there, in this horn, were **eyes like the eyes of a man**, and a mouth **speaking pompous words夸大话**.

d. **Beast 4 was the most fearful and terrible beast which had exceeding strength. It destroyed nations with crushing force. None of the other beasts compared with its violence. This was the Roman Empire with 10 famous kings...on 7 hills. This was the feet of clay and iron in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of Chapter 2. John spoke of this.**

Revelation 13:1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast **rising up out of the sea**, having **seven heads** and **ten horns**, and on his horns **ten crowns**, and on his heads a blasphemous **斐读name**. **4** ... and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle **帐幕** and those who dwell in heaven.

The Man with the Beard in Heaven

9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days **was seated**; His garment was white as snow, And the **hair of His head was like pure wool**. His **throne was a fiery flame**, Its **wheels a burning fire**; 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A **thousand thousands ministered** to Him; **Ten thousand times ten thousand** stood before Him. The court was seated, And the **books were opened**.

1. Daniel then spoke of this strange picture of a person with white clothes and white hair, **ruling from a great throne of fire with burning wheels**. Thousands were ministering to the ruler and were ready to do his business of executing the wicked. And an unnumbered amount of people were waiting for him to judge them. **This is God!** He would judge all the kingdoms that harmed his people.

2. The **white clothes** spoke of God’s beauty and purity. **His sitting meant** he was not in any panic about what the **Babylonians**, Medo-Persians, the Greeks, or the Romans would do to his people. God doesn’t bite his fingernails. His **white hair** meant he had been living for a long time...for eternity. He laughs from heaven.

Psalms 103:19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.

Psalms 37:13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.

And the fiery throne...with wheels of fire? This is a picture of the roaming justice of God to devour **吞食** his enemies. No one can escape his judgment. He will consume his enemies. **Will you evangelize them to save them from this?**

3. **Why did God speak of these awful nations and described their judgment to his people?** Some Jews **falsely** expected a return to the nationalistic glory days of David and Solomon. So God wanted them to know that they would not excel that way anymore, **but they were to look for Messiah**. Furthermore, they were to **be comforted in God’s sovereignty** even though they would face some severe persecutions, especially from the Greek and the Romans.

11 "I watched then because of the sound of the **pompous words夸大话** which **the horn** was speaking; I watched till the **beast was slain**, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. 12 "As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, **yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time**.

4. **God in heaven heard the pompous words of the small horn of the 4th beast...but only when God was ready he destroyed that beast...just like he destroyed arrogant Pharaoh**. Yes, God still left those nations to continue a while, but he pulled their teeth out, so to speak. He does as he pleases on his timetable. **Be patient when he doesn’t do what you want!**

13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the **Son of Man**, Coming with the **clouds of heaven!** He **came to** the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and

languages should serve Him. **His dominion is an everlasting dominion**, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

5. And during the life of the 4th beast, the Son of Man would appear. Who is this Son of Man? "Man" means Adam. So this would be the Son of Adam, the 2nd Adam, who did what Adam did not do.

1Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. **45** And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit使人活的灵

The Son of Man is the same stone cut out of the mountain that destroyed the image to pieces that Nebuchadnezzar saw in Chapter 2. Jesus confirmed this picture of himself:

John 5:26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, **27** "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

Aren't you glad you are a part of his everlasting kingdom?

6. Some see the fact that Jesus is coming with the "clouds of heaven" and assume that this meant his 2nd coming. But that is ignoring what the text says. Look back: **The Son of Man came TO God**. Isn't this what happened to Jesus? Isn't this consistent with the rest of the Bible?

Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

And having ascended to heaven, doesn't he now rule? God was satisfied with his work.

Ephesians 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all principality执政的和 power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,**23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Acts 2:34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."' **36** "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Now Jesus **Christ is the best friend of the church.**

7. He is now establishing an everlasting kingdom, even as he continues to rule from heaven.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."

No one will be able to invade入侵 or capture this king's kingdom...unlike the previous empires.

He will accomplish this through his church through the Word of God and through the Holy Spirit of God. **The church will be militant作战 until it is triumphant. Rejoice.**

Conclusion:

Four kingdoms would come and 4 kingdoms would be destroyed. God's people would not have to lift a sword to destroy any of them...not a literal sword. Then the true kingdom, led by King Jesus would be established-an unstoppable, unending kingdom-and not with a literal sword but a more powerful Sword.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. Sometimes you will have to experience hardships before the good times come. God is not obligated to give you what you want, but he obligated himself to do what is best for you. Remember how Israel endured Egypt – some plagues, but left very rich. So be patient and endure without complaining. 2. Are you playing your part in this unstoppable kingdom to exemplify体现 Christ and promote his glory in this world? Are you advancing the rule of Christ by your godly life and talk? 3. Do you see that you must not be afraid or uncertain about the trials in this world? God is sovereign. PTL.

Finally, if you are not God's child, think what he will do to you. What he did to the 4th beast was only a small part. His greater judgment is when he sends the wicked to hell. If you are not God's child and you don't have the righteousness of Christ as yours, ask him today to give you the righteousness of Jesus Christ – to count it as yours让基督的义归算在你身上... Only this will save you on judgment day.