

The Book of Daniel

God's Prophet and Statesman

VII. Daniel's *Testimony* of His Visions and Prophetic Revelation (7:1-12:13)

- A. The *Vision* of the 4 Beasts (7:1-8)
- B. The *Vision* of God (7:9-10)
- C. The *Vision* of the 4 Beasts Continued (7:11-12)
- D. The *Vision* of the "Son of Man" (7:13-14)

E. The *Vision* of the 4th Beast Interpreted (7:15-28)

¹⁵ "As for me, **Daniel**, my spirit was *distressed* within me, and the **visions** in my mind kept *alarming me*."

¹⁶ I approached **one of those** who were **standing by** and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So **he** told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

¹⁷ "These **great beasts**, which are **four in number**, are four kings who will **arise** from the **earth**."

¹⁸ But the **saints** of the **Highest One** will **receive the kingdom** and **possess the kingdom forever**, for **all ages** to come.'

¹⁹ "Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the **fourth beast**, which was **different** from all the **others**, exceedingly **dreadful**, with its **teeth of iron** and its **claws of bronze**, and which **devoured**, **crushed** and **trampled** down the **remainder** with its feet,

²⁰ and *the meaning* of the **ten horns** that were on its head and the **other horn** which **came up**, and before which **three of them fell**, namely, that **horn** which had **eyes** and a **mouth** uttering **great boasts** and which was **larger** in appearance than its **associates**."

²¹ I kept looking, and **that horn** was **waging war** with the **saints** and **overpowering them** ²² until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the **saints** of the **Highest One**, and the **time arrived** when the **saints** took **possession** of the **kingdom**."

²³ “Thus **he** said: ‘The **fourth beast** will be a **fourth kingdom** on the **earth**, which will be **different** from all the **other kingdoms** and will **devour** the **whole earth** and **tread it down** and **crush it**.

²⁴ As for the **ten horns**, out of this **kingdom ten kings** will arise; and **another** will **arise** after them, and **he** will be **different** from the previous ones and will **subdue three kings**.

²⁵ **He** will **speak out against** the **Most High** and **wear down** the **saints** of the **Highest One**, and **he** will **intend** to make **alterations** in **times** and in **law**; and **they** will be given into **his hand** for a **time, times, and half a time**.

²⁶ But the **court** will sit **for judgment**, and his **dominion** will be **taken away, annihilated** and **destroyed forever**.

²⁷ Then the **sovereignty**, the **dominion** and the **greatness** of **all the kingdoms** under the **whole heaven** will be given to the **people** of the **saints** of the **Highest One**; **His kingdom** will be an **everlasting kingdom**, and **all the dominions** will **serve** and **obey Him**.’

²⁸ “At this point the **revelation ended**. As for **me, Daniel**, my thoughts were **greatly alarming me** and my face grew **pale**, but I kept the matter to **myself**.”

Message Summary

The *Vision* of the 4th Beast (7:7-8, 19-26)

“...I (**Daniel**) kept looking ...and behold, a **fourth beast**, **dreadful** and **terrifying** and **extremely strong**; and it had **large iron teeth**. It **devoured** and **crushed** and **trampled down** the **remainder** with its feet;...” (7:7-8)

“Then I desired to know the **exact meaning** of the **fourth beast**, which was **different** from all the others, exceedingly **dreadful**, with its **teeth of iron** and its **claws of bronze**,” (7:19)

Interpretation → **Historically**, this **beast** clearly represents the **Roman empire**, which ruthlessly **crushed, devoured, and trampled** peoples and civilizations with its powerful armies. **Rome** could never get enough of **conquest**, and all her designs were **imperial, crushing** all those who resisted.

“...and it (the **fourth beast**)...had **ten horns**.” (7:7b)

“As for the **ten horns**, out of this kingdom **ten kings** will arise...(7:24a)

Interpretation → The **ten horns** represent **ten kings** (kingdoms) that will arise from the **fourth kingdom (Rome)** (7:24).

The **Roman empire** would eventually be **characterized** by progressive **weakness, deterioration, and division**. When the **hordes** from the **north** *conquered* the **Roman empire** in the **fifth century A. D.**, they **did not unite** to form **another** empire. Instead **individual nations** emerged out of the **old Roman empire**, some of them **continuing** to this very day.

“While I was contemplating the **horns**, behold, **another horn, a little one**, came up among them, and **three** of the first horns were **pulled out** by the **roots** before it; and behold, this **horn** possessed **eyes** like the **eyes of a man**, and a **mouth** uttering **great boasts**” (7:8, 20, 24a-25)

Interpretation → This “**little horn**” represents **another king** who will rise to **power** from among the **ten kings**, and in the process of its emergence, will **subdue three kings** (7:24).

The **little horn** having “the **eyes of a man**” represents **intelligence**. This **king** will “**utter great boasts**,” and will “**speak out against the Most High...**” (7:25a) **boldly opposing God’s authority** (Rev. 13:6).

“I kept looking, and that **horn** was **waging war** with the **saints** and **overpowering them...** He will...**wear down** the **saints** of the **Highest One...**” (7:21, 25a) (also Rev. 13:7)

Interpretation → He (the **little horn**) will **persecute** the **saints** of the **Most High God**. Some believe that this has reference to **all believers**, while others believe the **saints** to be the **believing remnant** of the nation of **Israel**, who will be **persecuted** along with **unbelieving Israel** during the **tribulation** of the **latter days**. (7:25) (Rev. 13:5-7, 12:6, 14)

“...and he (“the **little horn**”) will intend to make **alterations** in **times** and the **law**; and **they** (the **saints**) will be **given** into **his hand** for a **time, times, and half a time**.” (7:25)

Interpretation → This **king** (the **little horn**) will try to **change times and laws** in order to **oppress** and “**wear down**” the **saints**, and promote **his blasphemous and godless agenda**. He will be given “**time, times, and a half of time**” (3 ½ years) to rule with **complete authority** over the **saints**, and **all the nations**. (7:25, 12:7) (Rev. 13:5-7, 12:14)

“ **But the court will sit for judgment, and his** (the **little horn**) **dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.**” (7:26)

“Then I (**Daniel**) kept looking because of the **sound** of the **boastful words** which the **horn** was speaking;...until the **beast was slain**, and its **body destroyed** and given to the **burning fire.**”(7:11)

Interpretation→This depicts **God’s final judgment** on the **ten king confederacy**, the **final form** of the **fourth beast**, and on its **blasphemous ruler** (the **little horn**) (the **anti-christ**) of the **last days**. (7:11, 26) (Daniel 2:34, 44) (Rev. 19:20; 20:10)

“I kept looking,...until the **Ancient of Days** came and **judgment** was passed in **favor** of the **saints of the Highest One**, and the time arrived when the **saints** took **possession of the kingdom...**

Then the **sovereignty**, the **dominion** and the **greatness** of **all** the **kingdoms** under the whole heaven will be **given** to the **people** of the **saints** of the **Highest One**; **His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom...**”
(7:21-22, 27)

Interpretation→ After God **judges** this **final kingdom** (the **4th beast**), He will establish **His kingdom**, a **kingdom** ruled by the “**Son of Man**” (7:13-14), and **possessed** by the **saints** (believing **Israel**) of the **Highest One** (7:22). This **kingdom** will be an **everlasting kingdom**, and “**all dominions** will serve and obey Him.” (7:27)

According to **Daniel’s Prophetic Vision**, What **events** should we *expect* to happen?

1. We can *expect* the formulation of a **ten nation confederacy**, comprised from the **old Roman empire**, consisting of both **strong** and **weak nations**. (2:41-42, 7:24)
2. We can *expect* a **king/kingdom** to *arise* from among the **ten nations**, that will **subdue three kings**, and be “**larger**” in **appearance**. (7:8, 20a, 24)
3. We can *expect* this **king** to be **intelligent**, **boastful** (7:8, 11, 20), and **blasphemous** (7:25, Rev. 13:6). **He** will **wage war** against, and “**wear down**” the **saints** (7:21, 25, Rev. 13:7). **He** will seek to **change times** and **laws**, and **all authority** will be **granted him** for **3 ½ years** (7:25, Rev. 13:5).
4. After this **3 ½ year period**, **God will come** and **judge** this **king** (the **little horn**), and his **kingdom** (the **fourth beast** in its final form→the **ten nation confederacy**). **He** will **annihilate** and **destroy him forever**. (7:11, 26) (Daniel 2:34, 44) (Rev. 19:20; 20:10)

5. **God, through His King, the Son of Man, will then establish His kingdom.** His kingdom will be an **everlasting kingdom**, and **all peoples and nations will obey Him** (7:13-14, 27b, 2:44, Psalm 2:6-12, Rev. 11:15). At this time the **saints** of the “**Highest One**,” the **believing remnant of Israel**, will **receive** and **possess** the **kingdom forever**. (7:18, 22, 27a)

Personal Application

So the *future* looks a little “**scary**.”

How do we then live?

1. *Live* Confidently...

- a. *Knowing* that regardless of the actions of **nations** and **empires**, **God is in control** of *all things* (Daniel 2:20-21)
- b. *Knowing* that **God** is **causing** “*all things to work together for good*,” and is accomplishing **His purposes** in **your life**. (Romans 8:28) (Phil. 1:6)
- c. *Knowing* that regardless of **present events** in the world, **God** has **secured your future life** and **blessings forever** (I Peter 1:3-4)

2. *Live* Righteously...

When the **whirlwind** passes, the **wicked is no more**, but the **righteous** has an **everlasting foundation**. (Prov. 10:25)

Therefore, **prepare your minds** for action, keep **sober in spirit**, **fix your hope** completely on the **grace** to be brought to you at the **revelation of Jesus the Messiah**.

As obedient **children**, do not be **conformed** to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, but like the **Holy One** who called you, **be holy yourselves** also in your **behavior**; because it is written, “**YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY**.” (I Peter 2:13-16)

3. *Live* Wisely...

The **wise man** is **cautious** and **turns away from evil**, but a **fool** is **arrogant** and **careless**...

The **prudent** sees the **evil** and **hides himself**, but the **naïve** go on, and are **punished** for it. (Proverbs 10:16, 23)

Therefore **be careful** how you **walk**, not as **unwise men** but as **wise**, making the most of **your time** because the days **are evil**. So then do **not** be **foolish**, but **understand** what **the will of the Lord is**.
(Ephesians 5:15-17)

4. *Live Lovingly...*

So, as **those** who have been **chosen** of God, **holy** and **beloved**, put on a heart of **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness** and **patience; bearing** with **one another**, and **forgiving each other**, whoever has a **complaint** against anyone; just as the **Lord forgave you**, so **also should you**.

Beyond all these things **put on love**, which is the **perfect bond** of **unity**. (Colossians 3:12-14)

5. *Live Faithfully...*

Trust in the LORD with **all your heart** do not lean on your **own understanding**. In **all your ways acknowledge Him**, And **He** will make your paths **straight**. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Therefore, my **beloved brethren**, be **steadfast, immovable**, always **abounding** in the **work of the Lord**, knowing that **your toil is not in vain in the Lord**.
(I Corinthians 15:58)

6. *Live Courageously...*

“Have I not **commanded** you? Be **strong** and **courageous!** Do **not** tremble or be dismayed, for the **LORD your God** is **with you wherever you go**.” (Joshua 1:9)

“Be **strong**, and let us show ourselves **courageous** for the sake of **our people** and for the **cities of our God**; and may **the LORD** do what is **good in His sight**.” (II Samuel 10:12)

7. *Live Relationally...*

...and let us consider how to **stimulate** one another to **love** and **good deeds**, **not forsaking** our own **assembling together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the **more** as you see **the day drawing near**. (Hebrews 10:24-25)