



SAVED TO SERVE

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 7 THE FOUR BEASTS & LITTLE HORN, PART 1

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will begin studying Daniel 7. As we will see, Daniel chapters 2 and 7 are the same prophecy, but it is repeated so that additional characteristics may be brought out, and additional facts and features presented.

“To the student of prophecy, the seventh chapter of Daniel is a most important record. By a continuous chain of events, the prophet gives the history from the days of Babylon to the great investigative judgment, which is the central theme of the chapter.” {1901 SNH, SDP 88.2}

2. What was the first thing Daniel saw while he was in vision? Daniel 7:1, 2

3. What do the winds represent? Revelation 7:1-3; Job 1:19; Jeremiah 25:31-33; 49:35-37

4. What does the great sea represent? Revelation 17:15; Isaiah 17:12

5. What did Daniel see next coming up out of the sea? Daniel 7:3

6. What does a beast represent in Bible prophecy? Daniel 7:17, 23

7. What animal characteristics are used to describe the first beast? Daniel 7:4

8. What kingdom or nation is here being represented as the lion? Jeremiah 50:17, 43-45

9. What do the wings represent? Habakkuk 1:6-8; Deuteronomy 28:49-50; Job 9:26

10. **Note:** Read Daniel 7:4 again. The lion is described as standing upon the feet as a man and being given a man's heart. For one application, this symbology is undoubtedly pointing to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who, as we discovered in previous lessons, was given a beast's heart for seven years (Daniel 4:16) before being given a man's heart by God following his conversion. It also means that because the nation and rulers of Babylon cherished pride in their hearts, God plucked away their power and brought the nation down (Jeremiah 49:16). See the following quotations for confirmation.

“Man's heart without Christ is simply sin...Babylon committed the unpardonable sin, imputing the power and Spirit of God to the gods of the heathen, and by this act the lion was shorn of its strength, the wings were plucked, and a man's heart was given to it. Two years after the vision, in the year 538 b. c., Daniel was a witness to the complete overthrow of the kingdom.” {1901 SNH, SDP 91.1}

“At first the lion had eagle's wings, denoting the rapidity with which Babylon extended its conquests under Nebuchadnezzar. At this point in the vision a change had taken place; its wings had been plucked. It no longer flew like an eagle upon its prey. The boldness and spirit of the lion were gone. A man's heart, weak, timorous, and faint, had taken its place. Such was emphatically the case with the nation during the closing years of its history, when it had become enfeebled and effeminate through wealth and luxury” {DAR1909 127.2}

11. Since we know that the lion represents Babylon and we understand that Daniel 7 is a repetition of Daniel 2, we can now follow the progression of truth to identify the succeeding kingdoms. What nation is depicted as the bear? Daniel 7:5; 5:25-31; Isaiah 13:16-18

12. Why is the bear described as being lifted up on one side? Daniel 7:5; 8:3, 20

“...The bear raised itself up on one side. This kingdom was composed of two nationalities, the Medes and Persians. The same fact is represented by the two horns of the ram of chapter 8. Of these horns it is said that the higher came up last; and of the bear that it raised itself up on one side; and this was fulfilled by the Persian division of the kingdom, which came up last, but attained the higher eminence, becoming the controlling influence in the nation. (See on chapter 8:3.) The three ribs perhaps signify the three provinces of Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt, which were especially ground down and oppressed by this power. Their saying unto it, “Arise, devour much flesh,” would naturally refer to the stimulus given to the Medes and the Persians by the overthrow of these provinces, to plan and undertake more extensive conquests. The character of the power is well represented by a bear. The Medes and the Persians were cruel and rapacious, robbers and spoilers of the people. As already noticed in the exposition of chapter 2, this kingdom dated from the overthrow of Babylon by Cyrus, B.C.538, and continued to the battle of Arbela, B.C.331, a period of 207 years.” {DAR1909 127.4}

13. What nation conquered the Medes and Persians and is represented as a leopard? Daniel 7:6; 8:5-7, 20-21

14. We saw on question 9 that the wings of the lion, Babylon, were a symbol of rapid conquest. Since the leopard has four wings, what does that mean about Greece?

“The third kingdom, Grecia, is represented by this symbol. If wings upon the lion signified rapidity of conquest, they would signify the same here. The leopard itself is a swift-footed beast, but this was not sufficient to represent the career of the nation which it symbolized in this respect; it must have wings in addition. Two wings, the number the lion had, were not sufficient, it must have four; this would denote unparalleled celerity of movement, which we find to be historically true of the Grecian kingdom. The conquests of Grecia under Alexander have no parallel in historic annals for suddenness and rapidity.” {DAR1909 128.2}

15. Why does this leopard beast have four heads? Daniel 8:8, 21-22

“The beast had also four heads.” The Grecian empire maintained its unity but little longer than the lifetime of Alexander. Within a few years after his brilliant career ended in a fever induced by a drunken debauch, the empire was divided among his four leading generals. Cassander had Macedon and Greece in the west; Lysimachus had Thrace and the parts of Asia on the Hellespont and Bosphorus in the north; Ptolemy received Egypt, Lydia, Arabia, Palestine, and Coele Syria in the south; and Seleucus had Syria and all the rest of Alexander’s dominions in the east. These divisions were denoted by the four heads of the leopard; B.C.308.” {DAR1909 131.3}

16. Read Daniel 7:7. What nation is represented as this fourth beast which had iron teeth? Daniel 2:33, 40; John 19:19-20; Luke 2:1

17. What two primary things make this beast diverse from the rest? Daniel 7:7, 23

18. What do these ten horns represent? Daniel 7:24; 2:41-42

“...How accurately Rome answered to the iron division of the image! How accurately it answers to the beast before us! In the dread and terror which it inspired, and in its exceeding strength, the world has never seen its equal. It devoured as with iron teeth, and brake in pieces; and it ground the nations into the very dust beneath its brazen feet. It had ten horns, which are explained in verse 24 to be ten kings, or kingdoms, which should arise out of this empire. As already noticed in chapter 2, Rome was divided into ten kingdoms, enumerated as follows: The Huns, the Ostrogoths, the Visigoths, the Franks, the Vandals, the Suevi, the Burgundians, the Heruli, the Anglo-Saxons, and the Lombards. These divisions have ever since been spoken of as the ten kingdoms of the Roman empire. See on chapter 2:41, 42.” {DAR1909 132.2}

19. Read Daniel 7:8. What came up among the ten horns?

20. What did this little horn do to three of the other horns? Daniel 7:8

21. What does it mean that this little horn or nation had “eyes like the eyes of man?” Daniel 7:8; Proverbs 27:20

22. This little horn also had a “mouth speaking great things.” This does not mean that the little horn speaks wonderful or admirable things but rather, it means that it makes boastful claims. Compare Daniel 7:8 & 25. Against whom were these “great words” directed towards? See also Revelation 13:5, 6

23. **Note:** Based on the previous points, the little horn power points to a “little or small” nation that arose out of the Roman Empire (modern Europe). This little nation also overthrew or uprooted three other nations. It was never satisfied with the power it wielded and always sought for more power along with absolute obedience from its subjects. It also speaks blasphemies and “great words” against God (John 10:30-33; Mark 2:5-7). This little horn power represents none other than the Papacy or Roman Catholicism. See the following references for confirmation.

What is the smallest country in the world?

“It may be difficult to imagine, but there is a country in the world smaller than New York City’s Central Park and one with a population smaller than a typical high-school class. Based on landmass, Vatican City is the smallest country in the world, measuring just 0.2 square miles, almost 120 times smaller than the island of Manhattan.”

<https://www.history.com/news/what-is-the-smallest-country-in-the-world>

“Daniel considered the horns. Indications of a strange movement appeared among them. A little horn (at first little, but afterward more stout than its fellows) thrust itself up among them. It was not content quietly to find a place of its own, and fill it; it must thrust aside some of the others, and usurp their places. Three kingdoms were plucked up before it. This little horn, as we shall have occasion to notice more fully hereafter, was the papacy. The three horns plucked up before it were the Heruli, the Ostrogoths, and the Vandals. And the reason why they were plucked up was because they were opposed to the teaching and claims of the papal hierarchy, and hence to the supremacy in the church of the bishop of Rome.” {DAR1909 132.4}

“And “in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things,” the eyes, a fit emblem of the shrewdness, penetration, cunning, and foresight of the papal hierarchy; and the mouth speaking great things, a fit symbol of the arrogant claims of the bishops of Rome.” {DAR1909 134.1}

24. **Note:** As we saw, Daniel 7 largely talks about various beasts and the characteristics of the kingdoms they represent. However, just knowing about the fulfillment of Bible prophecy regarding the rise and fall of nations cannot of itself help anyone receive eternal life. We must also have a practical experience mingled with Bible knowledge. Since, Daniel 7 primarily describes the characteristics of various beasts, let us now turn our attention to the beast which is primarily used as a symbol of Jesus in scripture, the Lamb, to learn about His character and the work He desires to do in our lives.

25. What other animal, similar to a lamb, was used for sacrifices in Bible times? Numbers 6:14

26. When Abraham was about to sacrifice his son Isaac, what animal did he see caught in the thicket? What lesson can we learn about Jesus’ work for us from this account? Genesis 22:13

27. Read Genesis 22:8. What did Abraham have, which is seen in the words, “God will provide himself a lamb?” Hebrews 11:1

28. With faith in our hearts toward Jesus as our substitute, what should we do continually? What will Jesus do in return? John 1:29

29. Read Proverbs 27:26. After they sinned, what did God do for Adam and Eve as a symbol of what He desires to do for us?
Genesis 3:21

30. What will Jesus clothe us with if we accept Him as our substitute from sin and death, and behold His life so that He can
cleanse us from sin? Isaiah 61:10; Revelation 19:8
