

Daniel 7

Read Daniel 7:1: Daniel is about prophecies of the Gentile world empires over time. God uses worldwide events and the lives of individual believers to communicate all of this. We get forced into situations by outside forces...and then we obtain a new awareness of where we are going.

The Book of Daniel starts out with worldwide events and dreams of kings. That is the backdrop to the forthcoming prophecy. Dreams and visions are often referred to as *burdens* in the scriptures. They cause prophets to be unable to sleep or have peace. It is a heavy burden. They are exhausting and heavy messages with a lot of gravity. In many cases, the prophet probably wished that they had not been the recipient to bear and communicate that burden. It really was not enjoyable or glamorous. The prophets were either hated or feared. In addition, God would judge that prophet if they would not share it.

'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.' (Ezekiel 33:2-6)

These dreams and events set the stage for Daniel to enter a place of service and leadership. It also causes the world leaders to praise God publicly. Daniel was a tool used to glorify God to the entire world, through the mouths of the worldwide kings. It is exactly like Cesar Augustus and Mary, mother of Jesus. Cesar caused Mary and Joseph to move and fulfill the prophecy. At the same time, Mary was prayerfully obedient to God.

Why are we jumping out of sequential order now? We just went backwards 20 years in time to a dream that Daniel had. It took place, just before Daniel 5, during King Belshazzar's reign. We already studied the writing on the wall in the final moments of Belshazzar's reign. This chapter took place two years earlier, when Belshazzar first became king. Normally, this chapter should have slipped in between Daniel chapter 4 and chapter 5. It could be confusing if it was King Belshazzar's dream...but it was not. This is the first of Daniel's own dreams. In other words, this happened to Daniel just before the handwriting on the wall. That must have given Daniel added context for the writing on the wall. God gives more information to those who are more interested in him. If you want to understand Jesus better; then come to him and spend your free time with him, like any other friend. If you are just trying to be a non-violator, to keep on track for heaven, you will end up like Lot. Empty and demoralized, without a good

legacy. He was ruined for this world's lusts, and yet he refused to step away from the worldly influences.

You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (John 15:14-15)

Read Daniel 7:2-8: There is a central theme in Daniel. It is the lifecycles of the worldwide Gentile empires. Israel was a theocracy, ruled by God's appointees; until his people abandoned God. God packed up, and left Jerusalem for a while. We are currently in what is called the Church Age, or the age of the Gentiles. When Jesus returns, it will commence what is called the Kingdom Age.

And I looked, and there in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubim, there appeared something like a sapphire stone, having the appearance of the likeness of a throne. Then He spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, "Go in among the wheels, under the cherub, fill your hands with coals of fire from among the cherubim, and scatter *them* over the city." And he went in as I watched. Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and the cloud filled the inner court. Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, *and paused* over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD's glory. And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard *even* in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks. Then it happened, when He commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, "Take fire from among the wheels, from among the cherubim," that he went in and stood beside the wheels. And the cherub stretched out his hand from among the cherubim to the fire that *was* among the cherubim, and took *some of it* and put *it* into the hands of the *man* clothed with linen, who took *it* and went out. The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man's hand under their wings. And when I looked, there were four wheels by the cherubim, one wheel by one cherub and another wheel by each other cherub; the wheels appeared *to have* the color of a beryl stone. *As for* their appearance, all four looked alike—as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went toward *any of* their four directions; they did not turn aside when they went, but followed in the direction the head was facing. They did not turn aside when they went. And their whole body, with their back, their hands, their wings, and the wheels that the four had, *were* full of eyes all around. As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, "Wheel." Each one had four faces: the first face *was* the face of a cherub, the second face the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. And the cherubim were lifted up. This *was* the living creature I saw by the River Chebar. When the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also did not turn from beside them. When *[the cherubim]* stood still, *the wheels* stood still, and when one was lifted up, *the other* lifted itself up, for the spirit of the living creature *was* in them. Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels *were* beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD's house, and the glory of the God of Israel *was* above them. (Ezekiel 10)

Outside forces now rule over God's people. We saw the blueprint of the Gentile age in Nebuchadnezzar's totem pole image of a man. That dream was focused on the leadership of the kingdoms. This dream of Daniel is more about the nature of each kingdom.

The sea is an idiom of the Gentile nations combined. The rivers describe the various nations. They have a unique place of origin. They are distinct, like our nationalities. A river has a distinct origin and serves as a boundary for a nation. All rivers pour into the sea; and blend together. The US and Canada and Europe are becoming one *metro population* of mixed breeds with the same pop culture and unified beliefs. We are losing our national sovereignty and degrees of separating influences. The sea is characterized as a dangerous place; that is influenced by high winds. The winds that affect the seas are idioms of spiritual forces invisibly blowing on the nations. The winds from the 4 corners of the earth are a way of saying that they were worldwide. God created 70 original nations when the Tower of Babel and Nimrod centralized control and idolatry. God created separate languages to re-separate us and create a balance of power.

There are 4 beasts that come up out of the sea; meaning that they are Gentile-based kingdoms. They arise through stormy and tempestuous commotion and extreme danger. The bible uses animals to represent powerful and unreasoning, godless people groups. Babylon is characterized as a lion with eagle's wings.



This would accurately represent the Babylonian Empire, since the winged lion represents supreme authority, power, and swiftness. Winged lions guarded the gates of the royal palaces of the Babylonians. The king of Babylon is compared to a lion, Jeremiah 4:7; Isaiah 5:29; and is said to fly as an eagle, Jeremiah 48:40; Ezekiel 17:3, Ezekiel 17:7. The lion is considered the king of the beasts, and the eagle the king of the birds; and therefore the kingdom of Babylon, which was signified by the golden head of the great image, was the first and noblest of all the kingdoms; and was the greatest then in being. The wings of the eagle denote the rapidity with which the lion - Nebuchadnezzar, made his conquests; for in a few years, by his own arms. The wings can relate to either speed or range of conquest. Belshazzar was just an occupier. He did not extend the kingdom. Once a worldwide empire stops advancing, they fall prey to other more hungry and focused kingdoms. Nebuchadnezzar grew feather-like covering. He became incapacitated; until he was restored back to a simple man.

The Medo Persians were like a big hungry and strong bear, that favored one side. The Persians were the power and control partners. The Medes were just junior partners. They are told to get up and eat much flesh.



For bears, the end of summer is a vital life stage; it's when they start a feeding frenzy called "hyperphagia," which involves seeking food and eating for up to 20 hours per day. To prepare for a healthy hibernation, bears must consume about 20,000 calories and gain three to five pounds every day just to survive winter in the den. Because bears hibernate in their dens for three to six months they risk starvation. Their physiology changes and they become eating machines, entering a state called hyperphagia. In this state their appetite is almost insatiable and they will eat for twenty hours in a row, sleep for four and then go again.

The Medo Persian empire was used to free the Jews from Babylon and to again save Jews worldwide in the book of Esther. Once a few generations had transpired, the effectiveness of the Medo Persians collapsed into insulated and distracted follow-on generations. They consolidated what Alexander the Great would come for.

Next, we see a leopard with 4 wings and 4 heads. This is the Grecian Empire. Alexander the Great was famous for the speed that he would travel and attack. The 4-winged leopard represents speed to kill. The original image of world empires had Greece as the belly and thighs of bronze. The four heads were Alexander's 4 main generals (Seleucus, Lysimachus, Cassander, and Ptolemy). When Alexander died, his generals divided up the kingdom. Ptolemy took Egypt, Seleucus took Syria and Asia Minor, Lysimachus took Thrace, and Cassander took Macedonia and Greece.



Greece rose from insignificance to power very rapidly. Everything about it was fast. The conquests were fast. He conquered the world in 15 years; and never lost a battle. Alexander named 70 cities after himself, and one after his horse. He died mysteriously at age 32. He rose and disappeared just as quickly.

...you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. (James 4:14)

Now we move on to the fourth beast. The two legs of iron in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represented the Roman Empire in the original image. Here we still have the Roman Empire; but it is in a revived state. The original Roman Empire was never really defeated. It lost its grip and focus.

The kingdom looked less and less like its original state. The western Roman Empire, based in Rome had become enormous. The taxes to support that *logistical goliath* were a big burden to its citizens. The responsibilities were divided; and an Eastern capital in Constantinople was established. Constantine promoted a form of Christianity, which introduced Popes and a blending of the church and state. The corrupt and compromised clergy would weigh in on military campaigns, etc... On top of all of that, child leaders inherited the throne, giving instructions to various generals. All of the conquered people groups further diluted the original ethnic flavor and defining purposes. The outlying lands stopped receiving the logistical support that was required. Trade routes were taken back by surrounding nations. The funds to run the Empire kept shrinking; and the boundaries kept pulling back. The Turks took Byzantium, and the Eastern Empire. Rome entered into a moral freefall. The soldiers stopped wearing armor and performing drills. The whole thing imploded.

Today, we have a European confederation of nations called the EU. The original legs of iron representing the Roman Empire will also compare to the revived roman Empire. It will be a terrifying force that will crush its enemies.



The 10 horns can represent 10 seats of power, or 10 nations. One little horn displaces three other horns. Apparently, the leader of a small nation will parlay his control into annexing some neighboring countries under his control. This emerging filthy and unfiltered horn will be pompous and prideful and braggadocious. This notable horn is often referred to as the antichrist. This problem-solving man of perdition will be catapulted into control over the whole empire. This will be yet another attempt by one man to rule the world by intimidation and dark motives.

Read Daniel 7:9-14: The end of the Gentile age takes place when Jesus returns to Jerusalem for the 1,000 year millennial reign. The first thing that happens is that the antichrist and his false prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is not hell. This is worse. Hell will eventually get emptied into the Lake of Fire after the 1,000-year reign and the Great White Throne Judgement. Every unbeliever who has died; or who has not will then be thrown into the Lake of Fire after the 1,000 year reign.

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He [e]had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, [i]free and slave, both small and great.” And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their

armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19:11-20)

Read Daniel 7:15-28: The bible will interpret itself if you let it. This section explains what we have just read. This includes how the antichrist will intimidate and control everyone. He will kill every new believer, except for some newly believing children of Israel. This tool of the Devil will inadvertently become the biggest salvation machine the earth has ever produced. There will be more people saved and martyred in the tribulation than at any time in history.

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Revelation 7:9-17)

God will let 2/3 of the Jews die in the tribulation. They will be unbelievers. there will be 144,000 children of Israel who will survive until the 2nd coming. I say children of Israel instead of Jews, because Jews denote people of the tribe of Judah specifically. I do not know how God will find 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes (144,000) , since we are not currently aware of surviving descendants of tribes other than Judah. I only know of populations of Jews; not people of Ephraim, Ruben, Issachar, Zebulun, etc.. God will have to do something supernatural and special. The northern 10 tribes were carried away by Assyria, and have not returned, or are even known to exist..

People are like popcorn. God would like us to transform without much heat; but we require it. The tribulation is where God turns the heat as high as it can go without smoking the kernels of

corn. Like Lot, the Tribulation Saints will come out of the fire and smoke within an inch of their lives...while the rest just get overcooked and burnt.