

Daniel.10. Chapter 7

This morning, we continue in the series on the Book of Daniel looking at chapter 7

This chapter begins the second section of Daniel, Daniel 7-12, which records revelations Daniel received in 4 dreams/visions concerning kingdoms that shall arise on the earth

These revelations have been classified by scholars as “Apocalyptic Literature”

- The word “apocalyptic” is derived from the Greek word “apocaluptis,” literally “apo” meaning “from” and “caluptis” meaning “hidden, covered, veiled,” thus to “uncover” or “reveal”
- This identification comes from the Book of Revelation, which is called “The Apocalypse”
- **Revelation 1:1** = *The revelation [apocaluptis] of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John*

Like all classifications of different kinds of literature, Apocalyptic Literature has certain characteristics, among them being:

(1) Symbolical

- A “symbol” is a something that represents another thing, such as the bread and wine of the Sacrament symbolizing the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ
- The Apocalyptic symbolism in Daniel is seen, for example, in chapter 2, with the kingdoms of the earth symbolized as gradations of metals in the “*statue*” and a “*stone*” that becomes a “*mountain*,” and in chapter 7 with kingdoms being symbolized as hybrid “*beasts*”

(2) Mysterious

- Because the revelation is highly symbolic, although it is a revelation, it is a “*mystery*”
- **Daniel 2:28** = *There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries*” (See also Daniel 2:18, 19, 27, 28, 29, 30, 47; 4:9; Rev. 1:20; 17:5, 7)

(3) Prophetic of Future Events on Earth

- “Prophetic” primarily means it is “a word or communication from God”
- Basically, there are two kinds of prophecy, “forthtelling,” which is speaking “forth” the word of God to a person or situation, and “foretelling,” which is speaking about future events
- The characteristic of Apocalyptic Literature is that it is a “foretelling” of future events on earth

(4) Eschatological

- “Eschatology” comes from the Greek word “eschaton” which means “last” or “end,”
- The characteristic of Apocalyptic Literature is that it “unfolds” the future leading to and focusing on events during the “latter days,” the “last days,” and the “end of the age,”
- **Daniel 2:28** = *There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.* (Also, Dan. 10:14)

(5) Triumphant

- The characteristic of Apocalyptic Literature is that of the conflict between God and His kingdom and the forces of the kingdom of evil, which is the kingdom of Satan

- In this conflict, the forces of evil “*wage war against*” the people of God “*overpowering them*” (Dan. 7:21), but in His “*appointed time*” (Dan. 7:12; 8:19; 11:27), God will sovereignly bring His judgment against His enemies to destroy them and give victory to His people
- This is summed up in the declaration, “I read the back of the Book and we win!”

Chapters 7-12 are foundational for the eschatological teaching in the New Testament

- References to Daniel are seen in the teaching of the Lord Jesus, who explicitly cites Daniel in His teaching about the “*end of the age*” in Matthew 24:15 and His use of the title “Son of Man,” in the Apostle Paul, especially in the Books to the Thessalonians, and in the Apostle John, especially in the Book of Revelation

The revelations in Daniel chapters 7 through 12 are based on the foundational revelation in chapter 2, which records a dream given to Nebuchadnezzar and interpreted by Daniel, that reveals different kingdoms that arise on the earth until the end of this age

- Chapters 7 through 12 are “telescopic,” meaning each revelation Daniel receives develops the stages and increases the focus on certain details of these kingdoms, especially the last kingdom
- Most significantly, the focus increases on the final leader of the final kingdom that will arise
- Daniel chapter 7 records Daniel’s dream/vision of five kingdoms on the earth, four coming out of the sea/earth and the fifth the kingdom of God

Outline of Chapter

- 1:1** - Daniel sees a dream/vision, writes it down
- 1:2-8** - Daniel sees 4 Beasts and Little Horn
- 1:9-10** - Daniel sees Thrones in Heaven Sit in Judgment
- 1:11-12** - Daniel sees the Beasts killed
- 1:13-14** - Daniel sees the Coming of the Son of Man
- 1:15-16** - Distressed, Daniel asks for the Interpretation
- 1:17-27** - The Interpretation of The Dream/Vision
- 1:28** - Alarmed, Daniel Keeps the Dream/Vision to Himself

1:1 - Daniel sees a dream/vision, writes it down

- **Daniel 1:1** = *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter.*

The year is 552 B.C., chronologically it is during the time of the Babylonian Empire

While he is laying “in his bed,” God gives Daniel a dream and he records it

- Receiving dreams from God is one of the ways the gift of prophecy manifests
- **Numbers 12:6** = *If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream.*
- This “*dream*” is a manifestation of the prophetic spiritual gift given to Daniel (Dan. 1:17)
- While this gift was exercised by Daniel interpreting two dreams of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel chapters 2 and 4), and “the writing on the wall” (Daniel chapter 5), Daniel is now given a dream

7:2-27 - The dream and Its Interpretation

- We will look at the passage according to the major subjects of the text

The first thing Daniel sees is that “the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea”

- “The four winds” are referred to in Daniel 8:8 and Zechariah 2:8 as being “winds” located or originating from the direction of the 4 points of the compass, North, South, East, West, and spoken of in the Book of Revelation

- **Revelation 7:1** = *After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.*

While these “winds” may merely be impersonal physical forces, Scripture also speaks of angels being “winds” created by God (Heb. 1:7)

- This may be what these “winds” are for they are “stirring up the great sea”

“Stirring up” is a common phrase used of God moving people by spirits to do certain actions

- **Judges 13:25** = *And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan*

- **1 Chronicles 5:26** = *So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, the spirit of Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he took them into exile, namely, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river Gozan, to this day. (See also 2 Chron. 21:16; Ezra 1:1; Haggai 1:14)*

“The great sea” is clearly not a physical body of water, but symbolic of the Gentile nations

- That “the great sea” is symbolic of Gentile nations is confirmed further in the chapter as the “four great beasts came up out of the sea” (v. 3) is later interpreted as “four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth” (v. 17), thus the “sea” is also the “earth”

- **Isaiah 17:12** = *Ah, the thunder of many peoples; they thunder like the thundering of the sea! Ah, the roar of nations; they roar like the roaring of mighty waters!*

- **Revelation 13:1** = *And I saw a beast rising out of the sea*

- **Revelation 17:15** = *And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.*

Daniel then sees 4 “great beasts,” which are a combination or hybrid of different animals symbolizing certain characteristics attributed to each “beast”

- In the interpretation of the dream, v. 17 states, “These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth”

- The 4 “great beasts” correspond to 4 kingdoms of the “statute” in Daniel chapter 2

(1) The Kingdom of Babylon

- **Daniel 7:4** = *“The first was like a lion and had eagles’ wings and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it”*

This corresponds to the “head of gold” (2:28) and is the Babylonian Empire

- As the head was gold is, in effect, the chief and foremost metal, the “lion” and “eagle” are “kings” of their respective realms of the earth and the air, as Babylon is prophetically regarded

- A cryptic statement is made about what happens to it: “and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it”

- One interpretation is that this refers to what happened to the individual Nebuchadnezzar, recorded in Daniel 4, when he lost his human “*mind*” and was humiliated, being “*chopped down*” (4:14), and it was restored
- Another interpretation is based on the description in this chapter that seems to be different from what happened to the individual, Nebuchadnezzar
- This is about a whole kingdom, and Daniel looks at it for a period of time “*until*,” which indicates “*until*” the end of the Babylonian kingdom
- It is “*made to*,” which describes another power causing something to happen to this kingdom
- It is “*lifted up from the ground*,” literally “*earth*” and “*made to stand on two feet like a man*”
- This seems to describe the end of the Babylonian kingdom which had lifted itself up to be “*like God*” (Isa. 14:14) but was “*cut down the earth*” (Isa. 14:12), and then “*lifted*” from the “*earth*” and “*made to stand like a man*” with a “*mind of a man*” meaning, far from being “*like God*” and filled with the mind of the “*spirit of the gods*,” it is made to be like every other human kingdom, and would come to an end like every other human (See Psalm 82:6-7)

(2) The Kingdom of the Medea and Persians

- **Daniel 7:5** = “*And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh’*”

This corresponds to “*the chest and arms of silver*” (2:32) which is the Medo-Persian Empire

- This is evident in that “*it was raised up on one side*,” the Persians being greater than the Medes
- The “*three ribs*” in its mouth would be the three empires Cyrus conquered and unified under his rule, the Lydian (546 B.C.), Babylonian (539 B.C.), and Egyptian (525 B.C.)

(3) The Kingdom of Greece

- **Daniel 7:6** = *After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it*”

This corresponds to “*the middle and thighs of bronze*” (2:32), which is the Greek Empire

- The Greek Empire, with the speed of a “*leopard with four wings*” rapidly conquered the Persian Empire and much of the rest of the world under Alexander the Great and his generals
- When he died at the age of 32, the Greek Empire was divided between the four generals, who become “*four heads*”

(4) The Revived Islamic Empire

- **Daniel 7:7, 19, 23-24** = *After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns...¹⁹ “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet,²⁰ and about the ten horns that were on its head...²³ “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. .²⁴ As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise*

As Daniel writes in verse 19, he focused on the 4th Kingdom and, since more is written about it, showing the significance of it and its importance as the last and final kingdom

- **Daniel 7:19-20** = *Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast²⁰ and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.*

While it is easy to assumed that this is a chronologically consecutive kingdom following the Greek Empire, there is nothing in the text that states it immediately follows the Greek Kingdom

- It is a characteristic of prophecy to “skip” chronological events with the effect that rather than the text being like a “movie” with one scene following another, it can be more like a “photo album” with pictures, and one can turn the page from one picture to the last of the album
- For example, when Jesus is commissioning His “*apostles*” in Matthew 10, He initially tells them not to go to the “*Gentiles*” (Matt. 10:5), but later in the text He is speaking about them being “*before Gentiles*” (Matt. 10:18), clearly something that happens after Matthew 28:19
- Also, this kingdom corresponds to the last and final kingdom of the “*statue*”

Because this kingdom is composed with both “*iron*” and “*feet*,” this kingdom would not be the 4th kingdom of the “*statue*” that was the “*legs*,” but the 5th kingdom which has the “*feet of iron and clay*” and “*feet and toes*” (2:33, 41), thus it has 10 toes

- The ten “*toes*” of the “*statue*” correspond to the “*ten horns*” of this “*beast*”
- v. 24 interprets “*the ten horns*” as being “*ten kings*” that shall “*arise out of this kingdom*”

As was stated when we looked at chapter 2, while many in the West interpret this to be the Roman Empire, it is the revived Islamic Empire

- It is “*different from all the rest*”
- One way this kingdom is “*different*” is that it is a “*divided*” kingdom, depicted in the “*statue*,” not only in the 2 “*iron legs*” of the 4th kingdom but also the 2 “*feet*” of the 5th kingdom, and representing Sunni and Shia Muslims
- Another way it is “*different*” from the other kingdoms is that, while the other kingdoms allowed the ethnic nations to worship their gods, with the ideological religious hegemony of Islam, people must convert to Islam or be killed, with the exception during the time of the first Islamic Empire of the subjugated Christians and Jews (“*dhimmis*”), but which is currently, in the “*revival*” of the Islamic Empire, progressing by killing everyone who does not “*convert*” and worship the god of Islam, especially Jews and Christians (Rev. 20:4 = “*beheaded*”)

This kingdom, the 5th of the “*statue*” and 4th of the “*beast*,” is the final and last kingdom on earth before the “*stone*” of chapter 2 destroys it and becomes a “*mountain*”

- This corresponds to the “*beast*” kingdom in Revelation chapter 13, whose hybrid nature is that of the combination of the “*lion, bear, and leopard*” of the preceding “*beast*” kingdoms in Daniel 7 which arose out of “*the great sea*” (v. 2)
- **Revelation 13:1** = *And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.*
- As with Daniel 7:24, “*ten horns*” are interpreted in Revelation 17:24 as “*ten kings*”
- **Revelation 17:24** = *As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise*

Out of this, the final kingdom, shall arise “another horn,” which is another king, the 11th

- **Daniel 7:8, 11, 20-22** = ⁸ and behold there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things....¹¹ “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire ²⁰ ...and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. ²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom”

Daniel’s focus is now especially on this “little horn”

- **Daniel 7:19-20** = Then I desired to know the truth about...the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.

- This “little horn” is called by Paul “the man of lawlessness” (2 Thes. 2:3), and by John “Antichrist” (1 John 2:18) and “the beast” (Rev. 19:20)

- With this increased focus, numerous details are revealed about him and the end of his “beast” kingdom, many of which are referred to in the New Testament

(1) v. 8 = there came up among them another horn

→ This king comes on the world scene after the establishment of the final “beast” kingdom on earth to lead, “guide,” and rule it

(2) v. 8 = a little one

→ At first, this king appears to be an insignificant, “minor player” on the world scene

(3) v. 24 = he shall be different from the former ones

- **Revelation 17:24** = As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones

- One primary difference is that he is not merely given spiritual “authority” and influence by high-level demonic spirits but is given “authority” and “power” from Satan himself

- **2 Thessalonians 2:9** = The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders

- **Revelation 13:4** = And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

(4) v. 8 = before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots

v. 24 = shall put down three kings

- **Revelation 17:24** = As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.

- In some kind of political intrigue, he will cause the demise of 3 of the 10 kings with whom he evidently came into conflict, and will violently “uproot” and “conquer” them (Rev. 6:2)

(5) v. 8 = in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man

- The “eye” is an organ of “seeing,” thus insight, knowledge, understanding, perception, and intelligence, as well as a “revelation” of what is in the heart of the person
- As is evident from the differences in commentaries, the correct interpretation of this is difficult, yet whatever it means, it emphasizes that this person is a “man” and not God
- **2 Thessalonians 2:3** = *the man of lawlessness*

(6) v. 8 = a mouth speaking great things

- The Hebrew word translated “great” can mean “chief, head”
- Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matt. 12:24), and his words reveal His pride and arrogance which, it would seem, attracts, appeals to, and “captures” those who want to identify with, follow, and want “their” “great” leader to rule, as is evident throughout history
- **Revelation 13:5** = *And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words*

(7) v. 20 = that seemed greater than its companions

- Because of the Satanic “authority” and “power” manifesting in and through him, he will become “the Supreme Leader” of this kingdom who people will follow him
- **Revelation 13:3** = *the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast*

(8) v. 25 = He shall speak words against the Most High

- He is Antichrist empowered by Satan, the adversary, and his words reveal his hatred of God
- **Revelation 13:6** = *It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.*

(9) v. 25 = shall think to change the times and the law

- **Daniel 2:21** says this is the “right” of God, specifically in establishing kings and kingdoms (also Acts 1:7), and he intends to be “like God” by establishing his Satanic kingdom rule

**(10) v. 21 = As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them
v. 25 = shall wear out the saints of the Most High**

- This will be a period of “great tribulation” and persecution of God’s people
- **Matthew 24:21** = *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*
- **Revelation 13:7** = *Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,*

(11) v. 25 = and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time

- The time of the great tribulation of God’s people will be for 3 ½ years, or 42 months
- **Revelation 13:5, 7** = *And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months...⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.*

(12) v. 26 = But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end

- At “the end” of the age, he will be destroyed in the fire of hell by the “stone” of chapter 2
- **2 Thessalonians 2:8** = *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.*

- **Revelation 19:20** = *And the beast was captured, and ...thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.*

(13) And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire

- The final “beast” kingdom will be destroyed by the fire of the wrath of God
 - **2 Thessalonians 1:7-8** = *when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

The Court of the Council of God in Heaven is Convened

- **Daniel 7:9-10** = *As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.*

“Fire” is one of the primary ways the presence of God is manifested

- **Hebrews 12:29** = *our God is a consuming fire*

The Coming and Everlasting kingdom of “the Son of Man”

- **Daniel 7:9-10** = *I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.¹⁴ And 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 one that shall not be destroyed.*

The title “Son of Man”

- This was the title Jesus used of Himself more than any other
 - While in the Gospels no one else used it of Him, He used it to identify Himself 80 times

Coming on clouds

- Coming on the “clouds” is a manifestation of the presence, power, and authority of God
 - This is the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus
 - **Matthew 26:64** = *Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:17** = *Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*
 - **Revelation 1:7** = *Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.*

The People of God Receive the Everlasting Kingdom

- **Daniel 7:18, 27** = *But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*