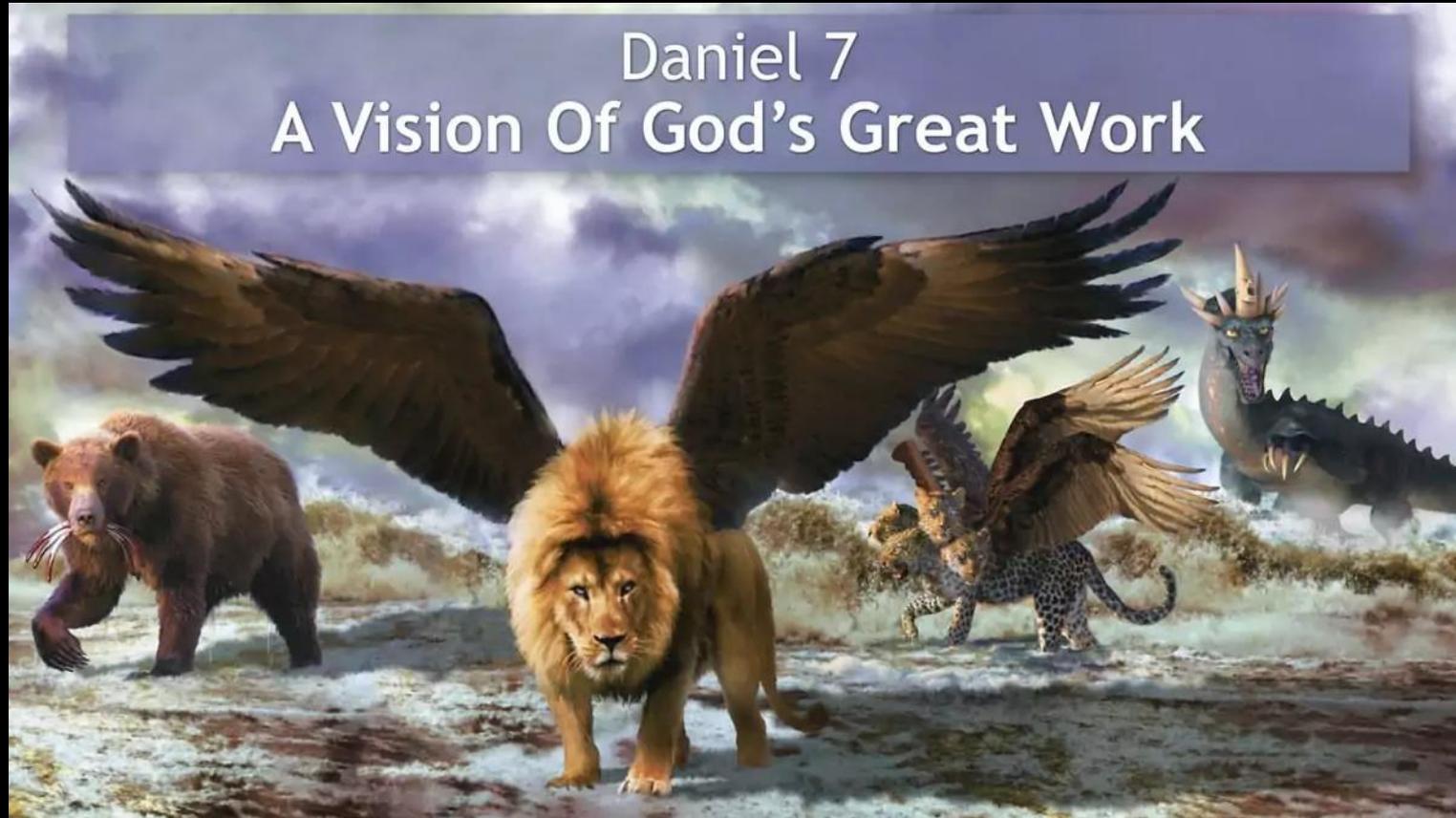


Daniel Chapter 7 – Part 1

The Four Animals and the Little Horn



Past > Present > Future



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**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Activated Charcoal: Intro

Activated Charcoal - Benefits and Uses (Seek Medical Advice)

Activated charcoal is thought to offer several benefits: less gas and flatulence, lower cholesterol levels, improved kidney function, whiten your teeth, filters water, cures hangovers.

What is activated charcoal? It is charcoal that has been treated with oxygen at very high temperatures to make it more porous. This treatment changes its internal structure, reducing the size of its pores and increasing its surface area.

How does activated charcoal work? It doesn't get absorbed by your gut. Thus, after you swallow it, it reaches your gut in its unchanged form. The charcoal's porous texture has a negative electrical charge, which causes it to attract positively charged molecules, such as toxins and gases. When liquids or gases pass through this activated charcoal, they bind to it through a process known as adsorption. These toxins and chemicals get trapped in your gut and eliminated through stool instead of being absorbed into your body.

Precaution to be taken:

You should not self-administer activated charcoal as a poison or overdose treatment. If you suspect poisoning or overdose, it's best to seek emergency medical assistance immediately.

TOP 10 ACTIVATED CHARCOAL Uses

- 1 Whitens Teeth
- 2 Alleviates Gas & Bloating
- 3 Treats Alcohol Poisoning
Help Prevents Hangovers
- 4 Mold Cleansing
- 5 Water Filtration
- 6 Emergency Toxin Removal
- 7 Body & Health
- 8 Digestive Cleanse
- 9 Anti-Aging
- 10 Reduces High Cholesterol



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!

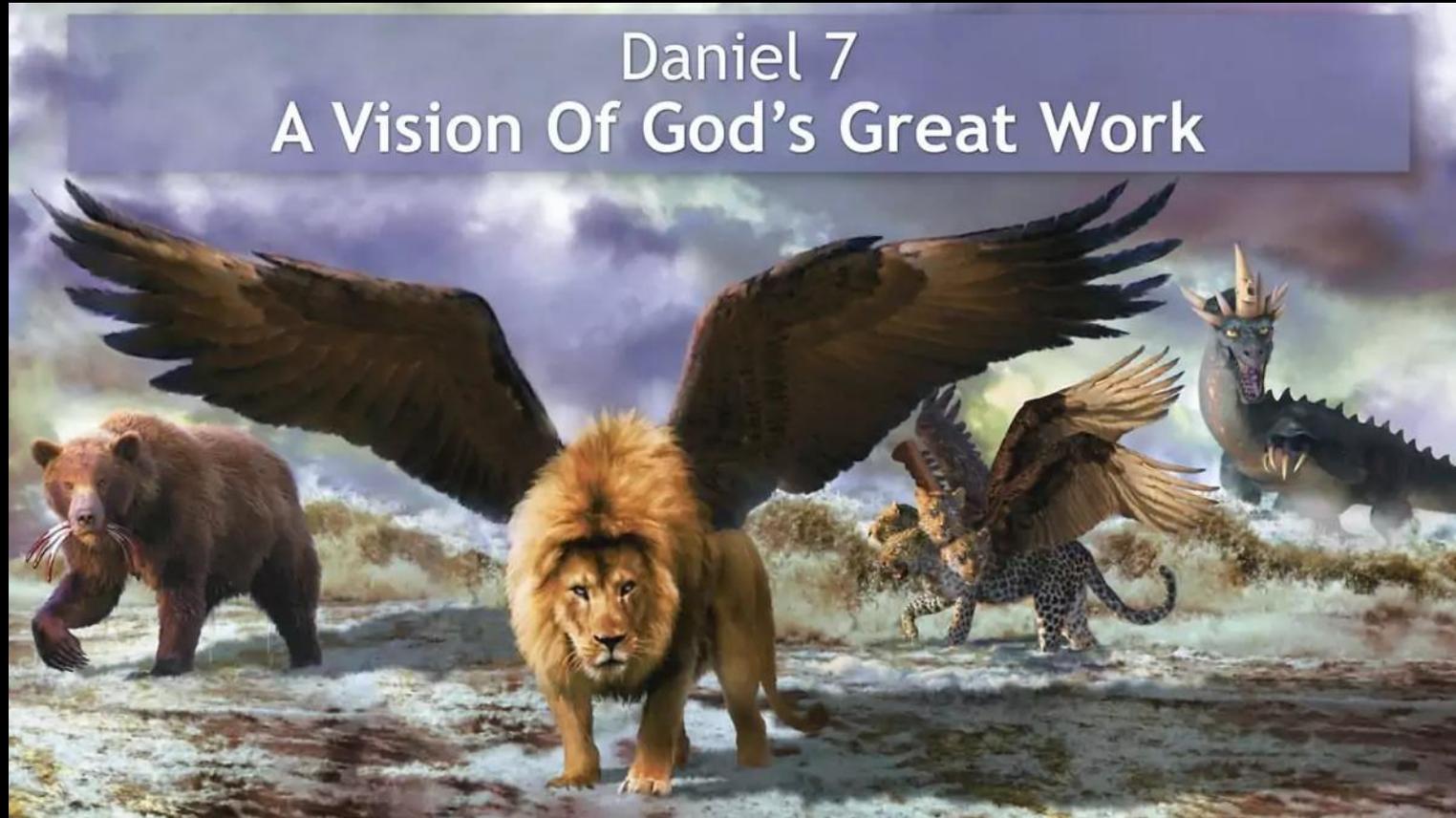
AS CHARCOAL TO EMBERS
AND AS WOOD TO FIRE,
SO IS A QUARRELSOME PERSON
FOR KINDLING STRIFE.

PROVERBS 26:21



Daniel Chapter 7 – Part 1

The Four Animals and the Little Horn



Past > Present > Future



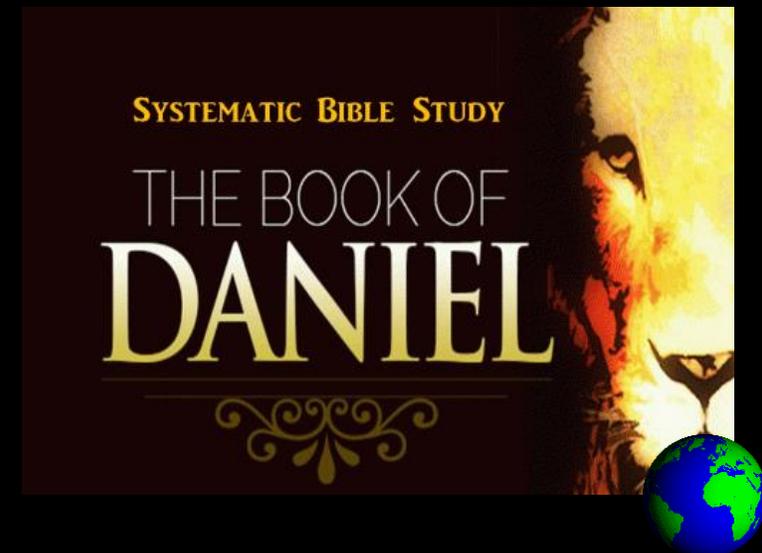
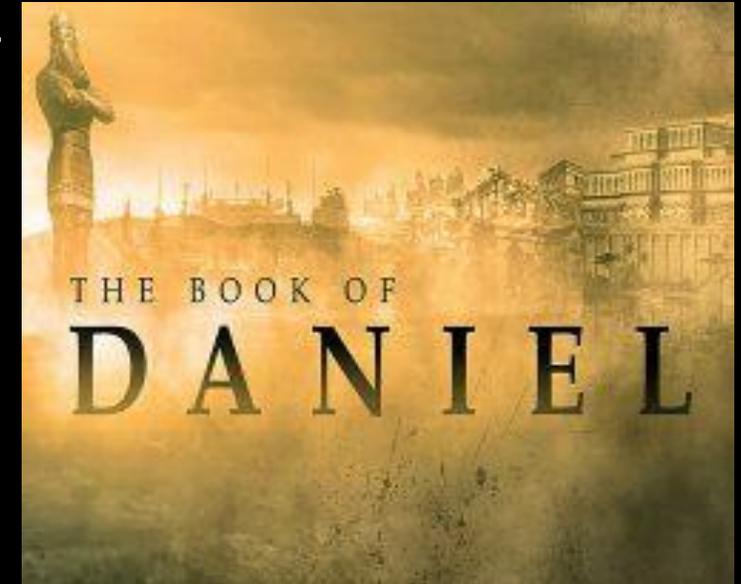
Introduction

So far we have studied the first six chapters of the book of Daniel. Briefly, these six chapters are summarized as follows:

Daniel 1: Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem, took Daniel and his friend's captive, and attempted to merge the things of God with paganism. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah purposed in their heart to remain true to God and His laws, regardless of the consequences.

Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a image made of different metals. Through Daniel's interpretation, God prophetically revealed future world kingdoms starting from Daniel's time to Christ's second coming.

Daniel 3: Nebuchadnezzar rejected God's prophecy, set up an image of all gold, and legislated and enforced false worship. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to disobey God's law and were thrown into a burning fiery furnace. But, because of their faithfulness to the true God in heaven, the Son of God was with them and saved them from the fiery furnace.

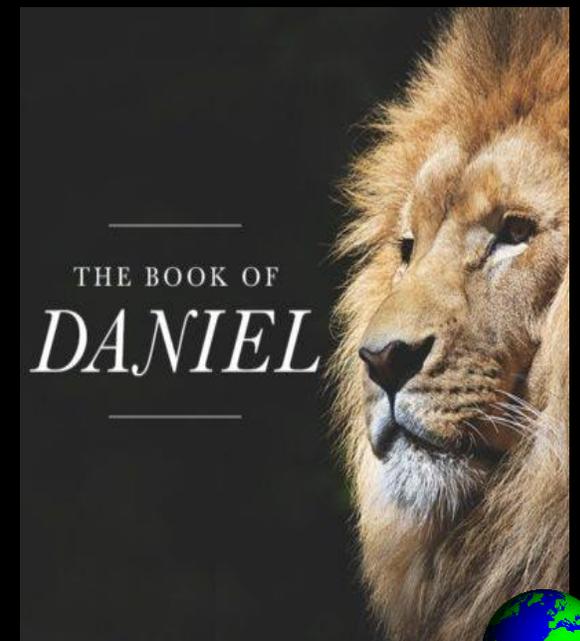


Introduction (cont'd)

Daniel 4: This is Nebuchadnezzar's "testimony" chapter. Nebuchadnezzar was being drawn to God through the events of chapters 2 and 3. In Chapter 4, we learn that he had accepted God and His rule, but only after going insane for seven years.

Daniel 5: Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, had a drunken party, and misused God's holy sanctuary vessels, thus rejecting and blaspheming God. That night Cyrus led the Medo-Persian army in and captured Babylon. Belshazzar was killed as the kingdom of Babylon (Head of gold) came to its end. Now came the reign of the Medes and Persians (Arms and chest of silver), just as God had prophesied.

Daniel 6: The experience of "Daniel in the Lion's Den" tells us that Daniel remained true to God, even when it was not politically correct. God's angels protected Daniel from the lions, and we saw that Daniel's prayer life was a type of the prayer life of Jesus, our great High Priest. We were challenged to evaluate our commitment to remain true to God's law as Daniel did, even in the face of conflict. Plus, we noted the parallels between Daniel 3, 6, and the end-time decree of Revelation 13.



Introduction (cont'd)

Nations use images of animals as their representatives, conveying a message about how they see themselves. Some have chosen an eagle, others a lion, and still others a bear or an antelope. Sometimes humans are given animal names. This can be negative or positive. To be called “dog,” “fox,” “wolf,” or “ass” is typically negative. Animal names are sometimes also used as nicknames for loved ones.

In Daniel 7 we also encounter various animals. However, these animals are either indefinable or strange mixtures of beasts. All of them are ferocious.

Daniel 7 closely resembles Daniel 2. Both chapters report a vision that is followed by an interpretation. In both of them, four elements appear, which obviously follow each other chronologically, reaching the eschatological climax—the final establishment of the kingdom of God on earth.

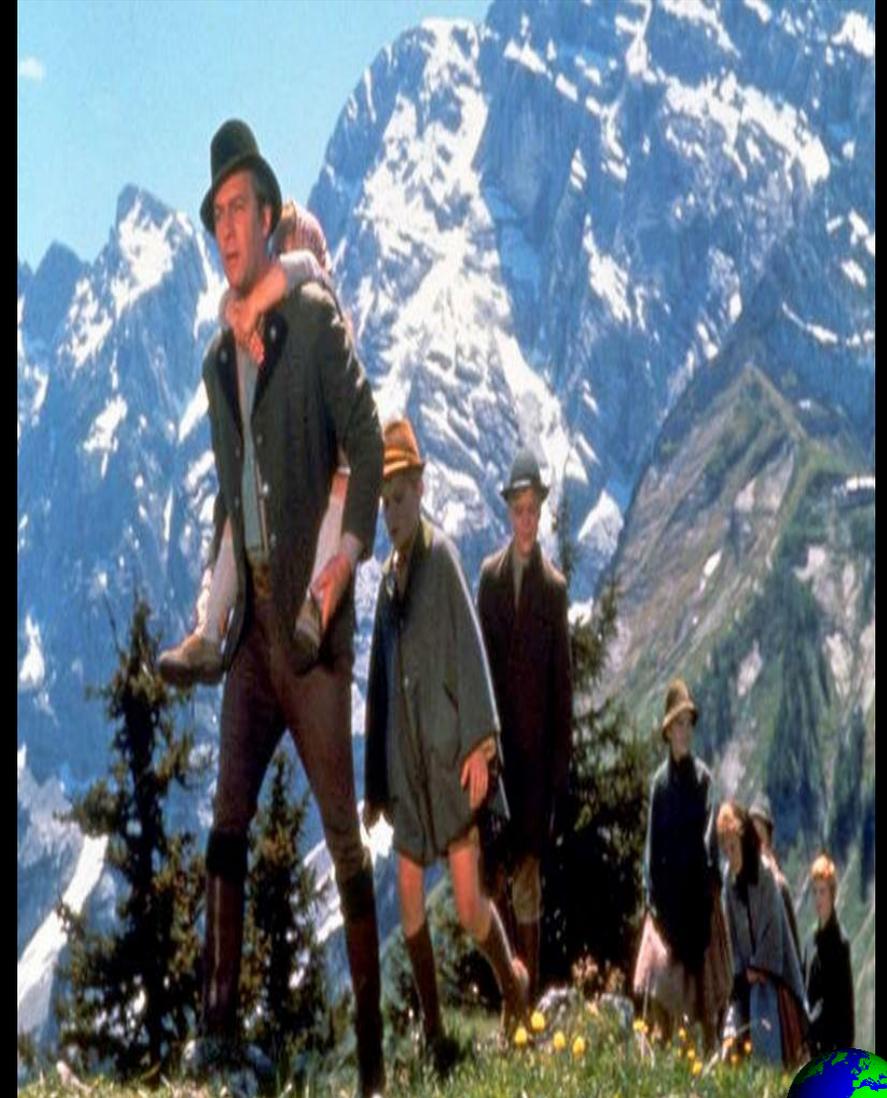


Setting the Stage...

The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation apply with particular force to the end of time. Jesus' parting words to His disciples sound a warning to you and I, urging us to study the book of Daniel for ourselves.

Matthew 24:15-16, 20 "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth, let him understand), then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains." "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day."

Jesus warned the people of His day that the destruction of Jerusalem was imminent, and He commanded them to read and understand the book of Daniel. But Jesus' warning in Matthew 24 also has application for the end of time. This prophecy foretells the condition of the world at the end of time, just before the second coming of Jesus. That's why Jesus said that need to better understand the book of Daniel.



Setting the Stage (cont'd)...

Daniel received the vision of Daniel 7 in the first year of King Belshazzar. This would be 553 BC just fourteen years before the fall of Babylon in the year 539.

The great controversy theme is at the very centre of the book of Daniel in general and of Daniel 7 in particular. This central theme can be described in the following way:

Since the inception of sin in heaven, there has been an invisible, cosmic controversy between Christ and Satan. Although this is heavenly conflict, it is reflected on Earth in a visible battle between the followers of Christ and the followers of Satan. In the course of this battle, Satan and his wicked followers have appeared to prevail over God and his people, but in the end God and his people will prevail because he controls and guides history to its desired end.

The passive voice of many of the verbs of Daniel 7 clearly points to someone who is directing history from behind the scenes. We will notice this when we do a verse by verse study of the chapter.



Outline of Daniel 7

Daniel 7 consists of two large parts—the vision and the interpretation plus prologue and epilogue:

- **Prologue** (vv. 1–2a)
- **The vision** (vv. 2b–14)
- **Four empires and the little horn** (earthly scene, vv. 4–8)
- **Heavenly judgment and the eternal kingdom of God** (heavenly scene, vv. 9–14)
- The interpretation (vv. 15–27)
- **Daniel's first reaction** (vv. 15–16)
- **First short interpretation** (vv. 17–18)
- **Daniel's second reaction** (vv. 19–22)
- **Second and more extensive interpretation** (vv. 23–27)
- **Epilogue** (v. 28)

In Daniel 7, the same period of history is covered, but additional details are also given. This principle in prophetic writing is called “repeat and enlarge.” Instead of four metals, chapter 7 uses four beasts to represent the same kingdoms in prophetic history.



Emphases of chapter 7

In the vision proper, each of the animals, as well as the little horn, is characterized by one verse each.

However, in the interpretational part, the first three animals appear very briefly and in one single verse only. Extensively described are:

- **The little horn** (vv. 20–22, 24–26)
- **The judgment, including the saints receiving the kingdom** (vv. 18, 22, 26–27)
- **The saints** (vv. 18, 21–22, 25, 27).

This is of great importance, revealing the major message of the chapter:

- (1) **The little horn attacks the saints, the people of God,**
- (2) **The judgment of God takes place in favour of His saints,**
- (3) **The kingdom is given to the saints.**



Links between Daniel 2 & Daniel 7

Before anything else is said, we must recognize that historicism should be the governing principle in the study both outlines.

There are several reasons for linking [Daniel 2](#) and [Daniel 7](#):

First of all, in the chiastic structure of the book of Daniel, chapters 2 and 7 are on the same branch of the candelabra.

Secondly, [Daniel 2](#) and [Daniel 7](#) have the same number of basic elements. [Daniel 2](#) has four metals and [Daniel 7](#) has four beasts.

Notice how the enumeration of the basic elements is the same in both chapters:

Daniel 2

'Gold'
'After thee'
'Third'
'Fourth'

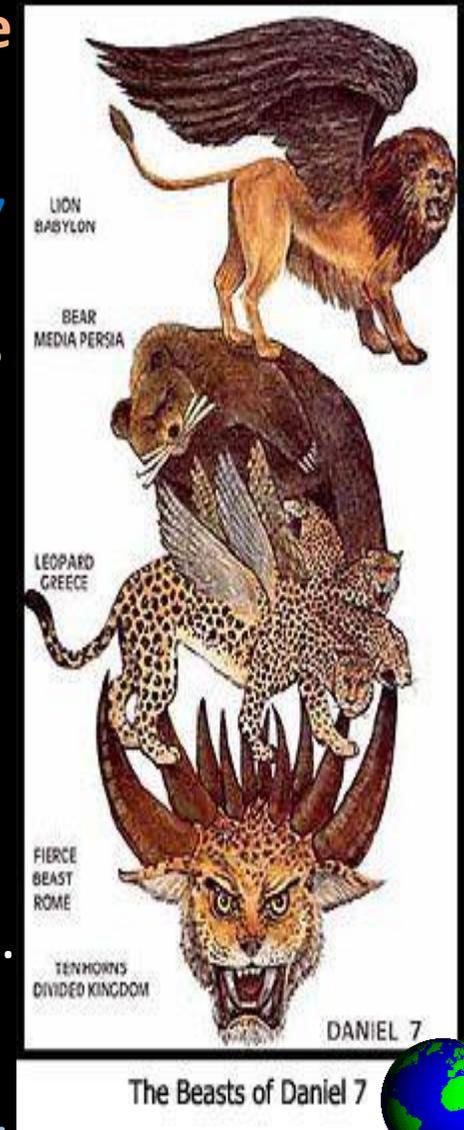
Daniel 7

Lion (7:4)
Bear (7:5)
Leopard (7:6)
Dragon (7:7)

Thirdly, the Iron characterizes the fourth kingdom in both lists. In [Daniel 2](#) the legs are of iron and in [Daniel 7](#) the dragon beast has great teeth of iron.

Fourthly, consider that [Daniel 2:44, 45](#) and [Daniel 7:14](#) describe the last kingdom—the everlasting kingdom—with very similar terminology.

In both, the everlasting kingdom follows the fourth power in the sequence.



Important Structure of Daniel 7

Another important structural item of Daniel 7 is that the fourth beast has three periods of existence. **First it rules for a period by itself. Then ten horns grow from its head. Finally, after the ten horns have governed for a period of time, a little horn arises among them to rule over them.** This clearly shows that Rome would rule in three consecutive stages (see Daniel 7:23-24). **In Revelation we will find that Rome will have a fourth stage when the beast's deadly wound is healed.**

It is also important to remember that the judgment in Daniel 7 has three distinct stages:

- INVESTIGATIVE: **The books are opened** (Daniel 7: 9, 10).
- VERDICT OR SENTENCE: **Given in favour of the saints** (Daniel 7: 22).
- **The time came when the saints POSSESSED the kingdom.**

It is clear that the judgment has an investigative stage, a sentencing stage and an execution stage (Daniel 7:22b).



Other Key Points in Daniel 7

The vision of Daniel 7, our topic for this week, parallels the dream in Daniel 2. But Daniel 7 expands on what was revealed in Daniel 2. **First**, the vision occurs at night and portrays the sea agitated by the four winds. Darkness and water evoke creation, but here creation appears to be somehow distorted or under attack. **Second**, the animals in the vision are unclean and hybrid, which represents a violation of the created order. **Third**, the animals are portrayed as exerting dominion; thus, it appears that the dominion God gave to Adam in the garden has been usurped by these powers. **Fourth**, with the coming of the Son of Man, God's dominion is restored to those to whom it properly belongs. What Adam lost in the garden, the Son of Man recovers in the heavenly judgment.

The above description gives a panoramic view of the biblical imagery that runs in the background of this highly symbolic vision. Fortunately, some of the crucial details of the vision are explained by the angel, so we can understand the main contours of this amazing prophecy.

Daniel 2	Daniel 7
	
	Babylon 605-539 BC
	
	Medo-Persia 539-331 BC
	
	Grecia 331-168 BC
	
	Rome 168 BC-476 AD



Daniel 7:1-3 – Daniel's Vision

Daniel 7:1 *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.*

2 *Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.*

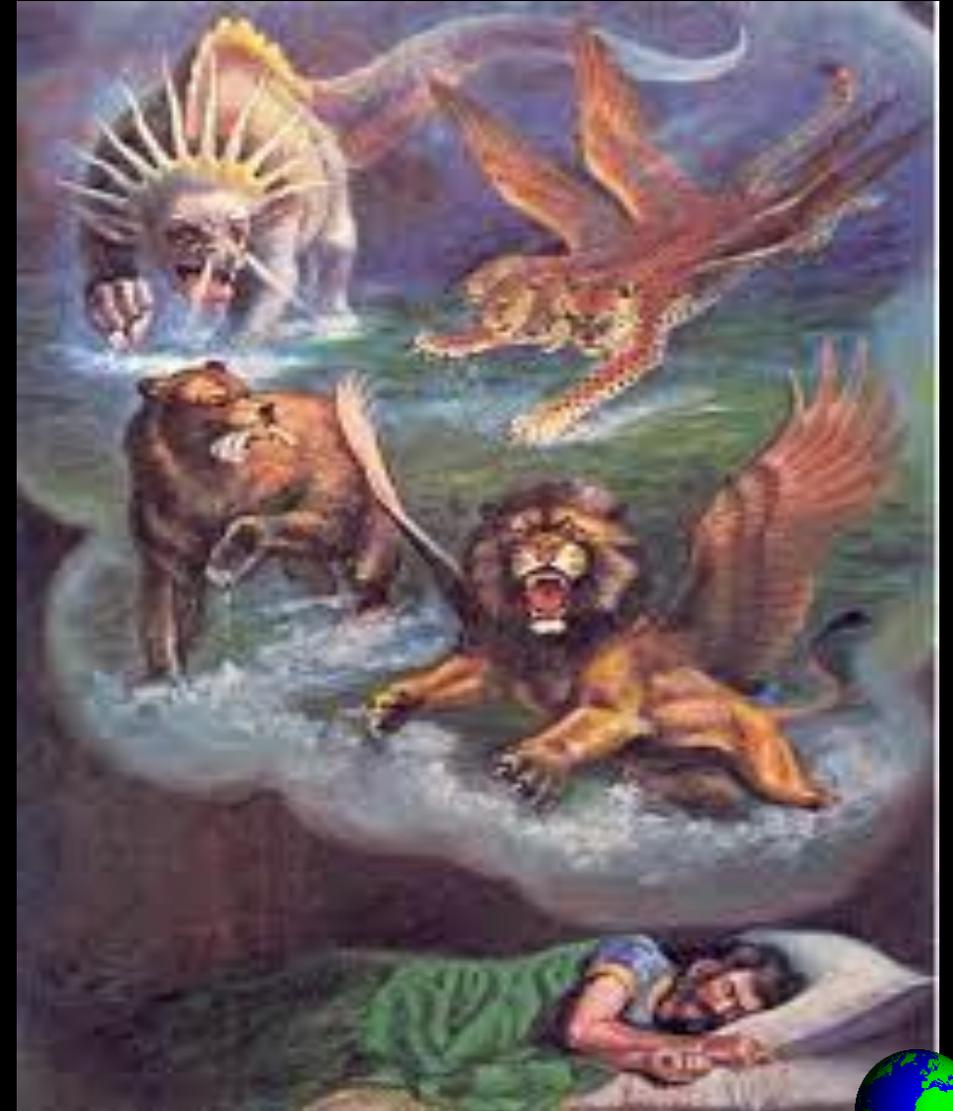
3 *And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.*

Daniel saw a wind-whipped sea, out of which four fierce beasts marched out in strange succession.

Wind, water, and beasts are common symbols in Bible prophecy. Let's look at the meaning of these symbols when used in Bible prophecy.

To help us understand prophecy, God's Word gives these symbols a consistent meaning in both the Old and New Testaments.

That's why we must use Scripture to interpret the symbols found in Scripture.



Understanding Symbols in Scripture

Beast: Beasts represent kingdoms.

Daniel 7:17 – “These great beasts . . . are four kings.”

Daniel 7:23 – “The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom.”

Sea: The sea, or waters, represents multitudes of peoples.

Revelation 17:1, 15 – “The waters . . . are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”

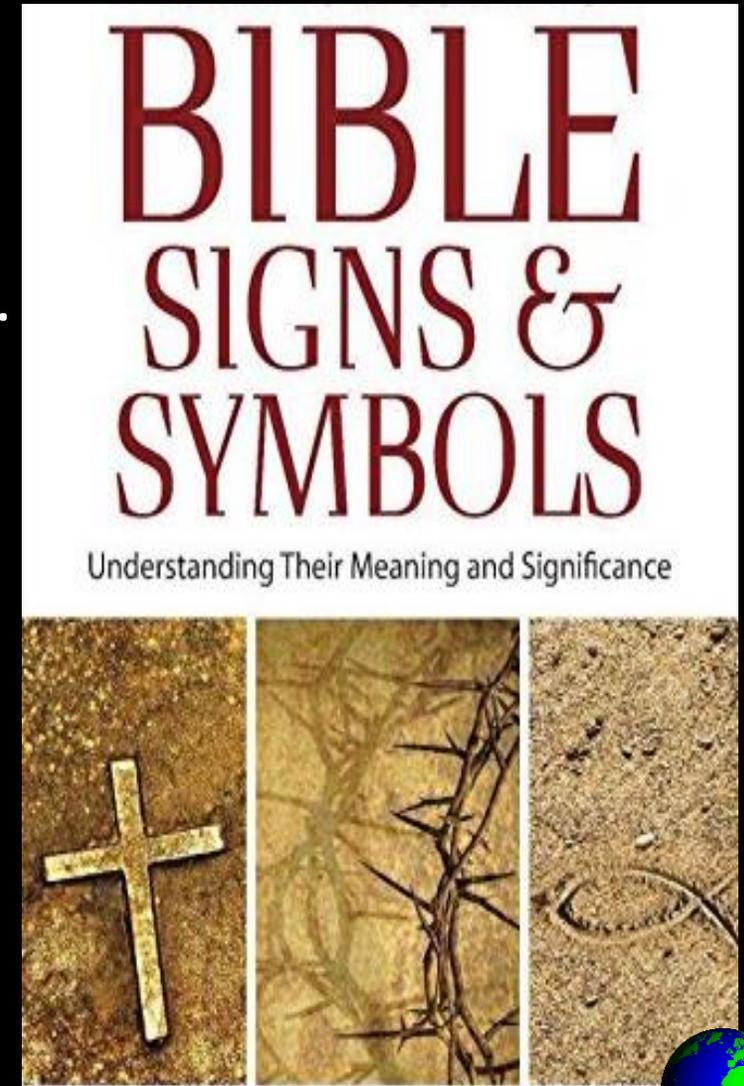
Isaiah 57:20 – “The wicked are like the troubled sea.”

Psalms 65:7 – “The noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.”

Winds: A symbol of war and strife (diplomatic, political, and military) that shapes world history.

Jeremiah 49:36-37 – “I will bring the four winds . . . I will send the sword after them.”

Revelation 7:1-3 – “I saw four angels . . . holding the four winds of the earth. . . Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”



Examining the verses...

In the first year of Belshazzar... - It was in the first year of king Belshazzar that Daniel had a vision and wrote down all that he saw, with the interpretation.

Four winds of heaven - It is quite obvious as we go down through this prophecy that the Bible uses a number of symbols to describe what is taking place. Only the Bible can be used to interpret these symbols.

Strove upon the great sea - Seas are a symbol of multitudes, nations, tongues, and peoples. (Revelation 17:15, Isaiah 17:12)

Four great beasts came up from the sea - A beast is a symbol of a king or kingdom, so too is a horn. (Daniel 7:17; 23-24)
Already we are seeing a picture of what Daniel is being shown. Strife, war and bloodshed is upon the nations as kingdom conquers kingdom to rise to world supremacy. Notice how the beasts rose up out of the sea, thus showing that each kingdom rose out of a densely populated area. We are looking at world events as it comes from all directions, all encompassing.

Diverse one from another - The people in each controlling nation were different, the laws and customs were different, and even the administration of the kingdoms was different.



Understanding the verses...

Verse 1:

The date for this chapter, as we have already seen, is 553. The text clearly states that Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed. This is what we might call a 'prophetic dream'. Daniel also had 'prophetic visions' while he was awake. It is remarkable that Ellen White also had both kinds of prophetic communications from the Lord.

Verse 2:

'Winds' in prophetic language are symbolic of strife, war, bloodshed and destruction. Jeremiah, a contemporary of Daniel, makes this very clear in Jeremiah 25:31-33. Ezekiel, another of Daniel's contemporaries, also affirms the same (Ezekiel 7:1-2). In Revelation 7:1-4 when the four angels release the winds, the result is a universal conflagration and destruction (Revelation 6:12-17).

Concerning the 'winds':

"Winds are a symbol of strife. The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power." *The Great Controversy*, p. 440



Understanding the verses (cont'd)...

The 'sea' symbolizes multitudes of unconverted peoples who are inimical to the people of God (see, Isaiah 17:12-13; 8:7-8; 60:5; Revelation 17:15). When symbolic winds and waters are placed together the meaning is, 'nations which are warring for world dominion.' It is of great importance that these four beasts arise from the sea, while the winds of strife are blowing. In contrast, Revelation 13:11 depicts a beast which arises from the earth, where there are no waters and no winds!!

Verse 3:

Several things must be taken into account when we examine this verse.

1) Do the four beasts represent four kings or four kingdoms? **The answer is simple.** The four beasts represent four kingdoms which were ruled over by a succession of kings (study carefully, Daniel 2:37-39; 7:17, 23; 8:20-22; Revelation 17:12; 20:4-6; 1:5-6).

2) **Why are wild beasts employed as symbols?**

Notice the following inspired comment:

How many heads does each beast have?
How many Horns does each beast have?

Daniel 7



One Head No Horns One Head No Horns Four Heads No Horns One Head Ten Horns

Seven Heads Ten Horns

Daniel 7 Beasts Has Seven Heads Ten Horns



Revelation 13 Beast Has Seven Heads Ten Horns

Revelation 13



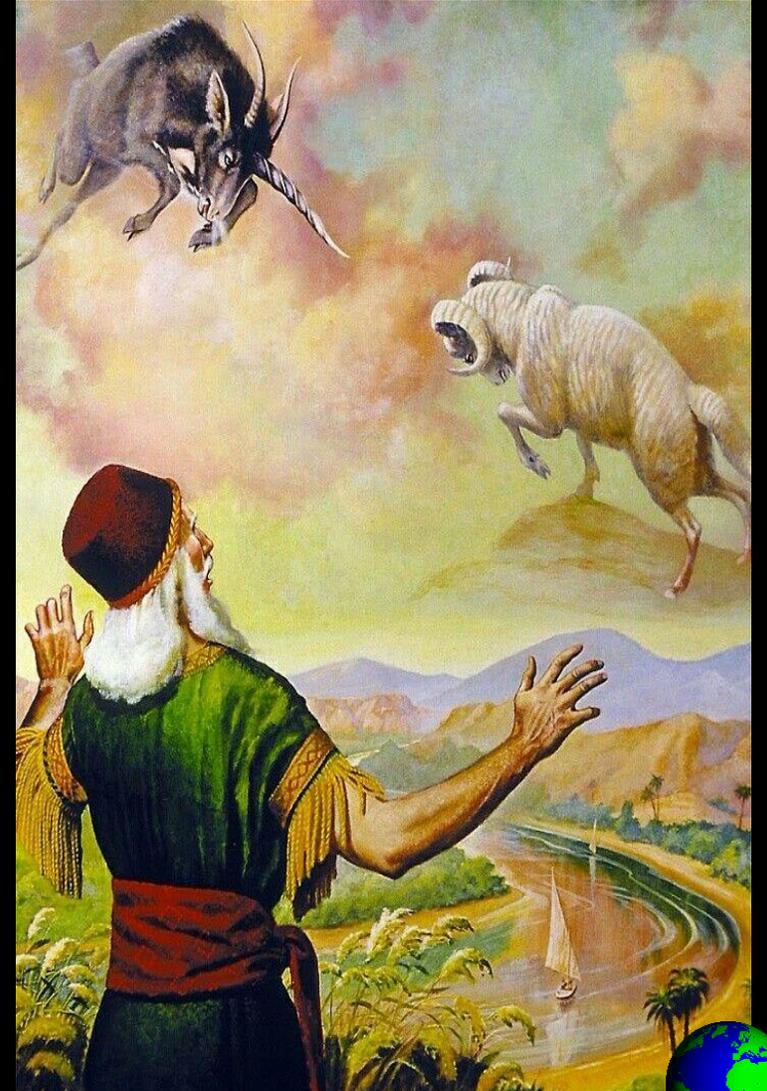
Understanding the verses (cont'd)...

“Earthly governments prevail by physical force; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey; but Christ is ‘the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.’” Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 77

In this context it is significant that the two beasts of Daniel 8, in contrast to the four beasts of chapter seven, are domestic sanctuary animals (more on this when we study Daniel 8).

3) It is worthy of notice that the fulfilment of prophecy moves from east to west. The lion and bear are powers which bear sway in Asia. The leopard governs toward the eastern part of Western Europe and the dragon rules in the western portion of Western Europe.

When we study Revelation, we will see that the second beast of Revelation 13 rules west of Europe (the United States of America). While Protestant eyes are fixed on the east as the place for the fulfilment of Bible prophecy, it is fulfilling in the west right before their eyes and they can’t see it because they are looking in the wrong place!!



Daniel 7:4 – The 1st Beast

Daniel 7:4 *The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.*

Each animal shown to Daniel corresponds to a section of the statue shown to Nebuchadnezzar, but now more details about each kingdom are given. **How interesting that the creatures, symbolizing pagan nations, are all unclean beasts.** Also, except for the fourth beast, Daniel describes the animals as resembling some known creatures. So, the animals are not arbitrary symbols, inasmuch as each one bears some characteristics or points to some aspect of the kingdom it represents.

Lion: A lion is a most fitting representation of Babylon. **Winged lions decorated palace walls and other works of Babylonian art.** The lion depicted in the vision eventually has its wings pulled off, is made to stand upright like a man, and receives a human heart. **This process symbolizes the Babylonian Empire under its kings.**



Examining the verse...

The first - This shows that all the kingdoms came in succession, as they are known as the first, second and so on.

Was like a lion, and had eagles wings - A lion is strong and very courageous, and it is also known as the king of the beasts. But which kingdom does this winged lion represent? If we look in [Jeremiah 4:5-7](#), it is seen there a prophecy regarding the coming destruction of Judah and Jerusalem under the hand of **Babylon**. Notice how Babylon, who came from the north, is described as a lion. We also know from [Daniel 1](#) that it was **Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, that came and conquered Judah and Jerusalem. Babylon is represented by this lion.**

Wings are a symbol of speed or swiftness as seen in [Habakkuk 1:6-9](#). It is also interesting to note that in these verses it is prophesied of the rise of the Chaldeans/Babylonians whilst they were still an Assyrian province. **Their horsemen were to be like an eagle that hasteth to eat, that is, fast, showing their speed of conquest.** The winged lion symbol is found on many Babylonian objects of art and also upon the Ishtar gates, which were the gates of entry for the triumphant armies. This symbol is utilised by Bible prophets in talking about Babylon.

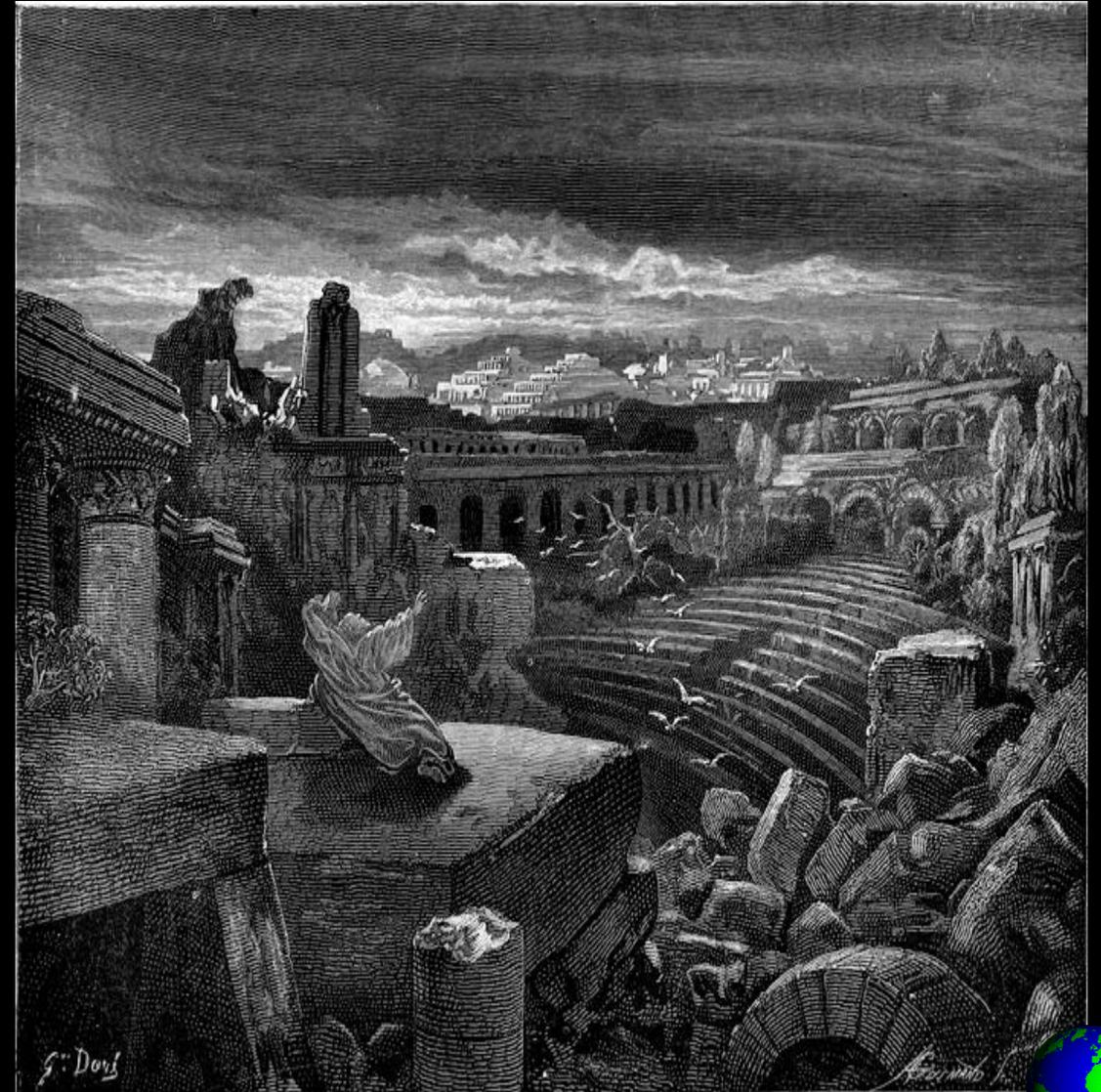


Examining the verse (cont'd)...

Wings were plucked...made stand upon feet as a man...man's heart given... -

Here we see a change taking place in the Babylonian power. No longer was it swift to fly upon its enemies or quick to defend its territory like the king of the beasts, the strong courageous heart of a lion was replaced by a weak and wicked heart of a man, and made to stand as a man.

In the time of the downfall of Babylon under Belshazzar's reign, the kingdom was reduced to the walls of Babylon itself. With the conquering spirit gone and regarding that their power came from their god's. (Habakkuk 1:11, Jeremiah 50:38) God had abandoned them and the Babylonian kingdom fell with Belshazzar being slain in the middle of a drunken feast. See Daniel 5. Babylon reigned from 606-538 B.C.

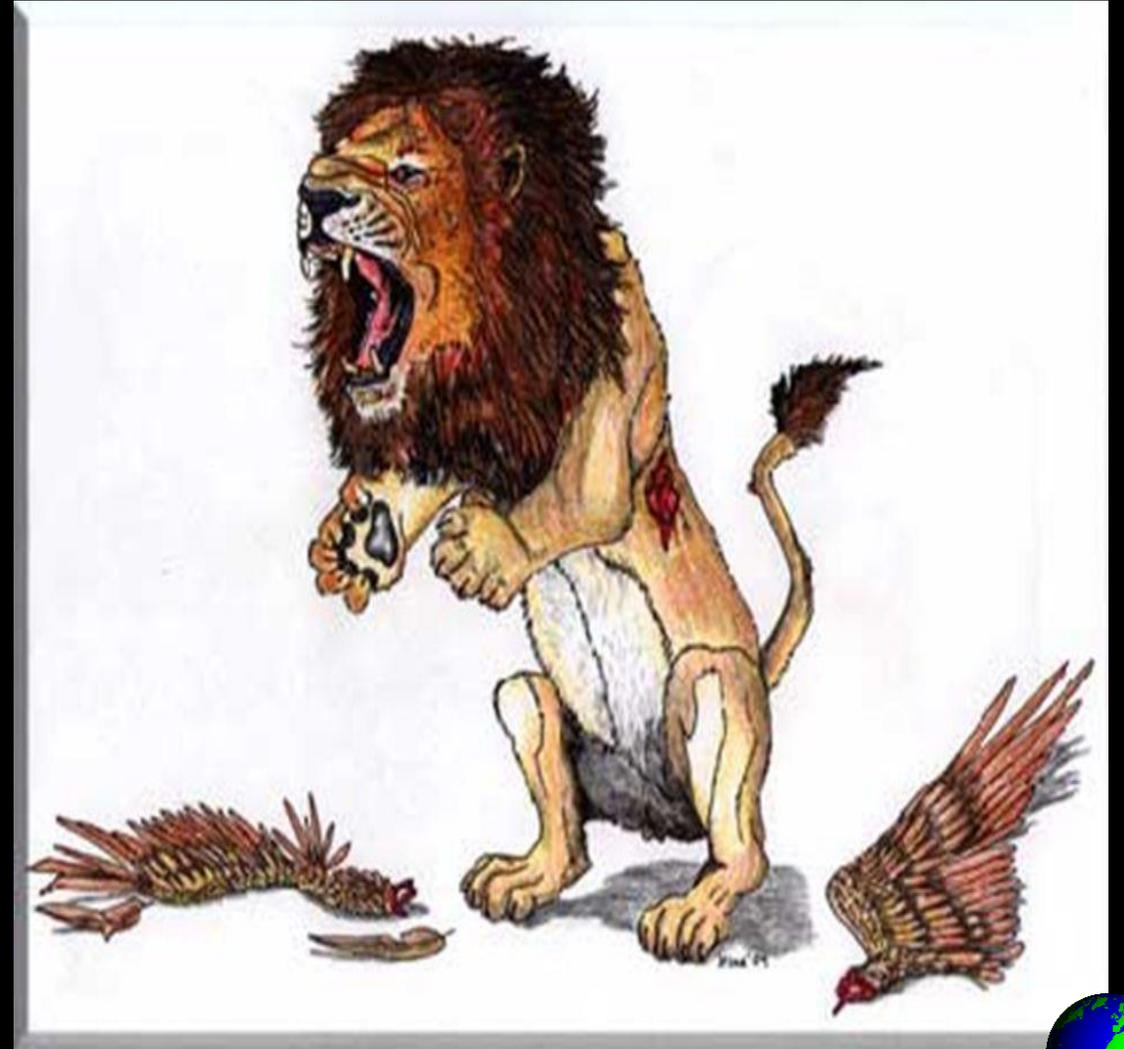


Lion with Eagle's Wings = Babylon

Like the head of gold from the image in [Daniel 2](#), the lion with eagle's wings represented the kingdom of Babylon. The symbols for Babylon are all descriptions with the highest praise; gold is the finest of metals; the lion is king of the beasts; the eagle is lord of the air. Ancient Babylon was a mighty empire, and archaeology reveals that a winged lion was the official symbol of the Babylonian Empire.

[Jeremiah 4:6-7](#) – Jeremiah refers to Babylon as a lion “from the north.”

[Daniel 4:33-34](#) – Nebuchadnezzar's testimony parallels the lion symbol in [Daniel 7:4](#) whose “wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made to stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart given to it.”



The lion represents Babylon

Everything connected with Babylon is 'top of the line'. Gold is the most precious metal, the lion is the king of beasts, the eagle is the king of birds, etc. Archaeological excavations have proven that lion sphinxes were very common in ancient Babylon. Jeremiah affirms that the lion represents Babylon (see, Jeremiah 4:7; 50:17).

'Wings' in Bible prophecy represent speed of conquest (see Ezekiel 17:3, 12; Lamentations 4:19; Habakkuk 1:6-8). The plucking of the wings symbolizes the reality that Babylon will no longer be swift to conquer the nations. A lion with a man's heart is cowardly (even though fictional, the story of the Wizard of Oz picks up on this. Richard the Lionhearted, king of England, was so called because of his great courage). Babylon's cowardice is clearly displayed by King Belshazzar when the kingdom fell to the Medes and Persians (see Daniel 5:6).

Notice the passive verbs in this verse: 'wings were plucked', 'it was lifted up,' it 'was made to stand,' and 'a man's heart was given to it'. It is clear that someone else is guiding history!!



Daniel 7:5 - Another Beast

Daniel 7:5 *And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.*

Another beast - We are now introduced to the next kingdom rising to power.

Like a bear...raised up on one side - A bear is very vicious, ferocious, also blood thirsty. But this one is raised up on one side showing that one side is being favoured, thus being weaker.

Three ribs in its mouth - This bear has been devouring other beasts as it has three ribs in its mouth. These three ribs can represent the three kingdoms that the Medes and Persians conquered as they were rising to power, these are Lydia, Egypt, and Babylon.

Arise devour much flesh - The Medo-Persian empire was much larger than the Babylonian empire. They ruled over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia. (**Esther 1:1**) Medes and Persians ruled from 538-331 B.C.



Bear, raised up on one side = Medo-Persia

This is a very good description of the Medo-Persian Empire. They were cruel and vicious. (Isaiah 13:15-19) **Also they were partly strong and partly weak. Darius the Mede and Cyrus his nephew came together so as to go up against Babylon.** The Persians were much stronger than the Medes, hence the bear raised up on one side, with the Persians ruling the kingdom for the majority of the time.

Daniel 8:3, 20 – The ram, another symbol of Medo-Persia, had one horn higher than the other. **This parallels the description in Daniel 7:5, “raised up on one side.”**

This is made clear in Daniel 8:3 where we are told that the ram has two horns and the highest one comes out last.

Horn: A symbol of kings, kingdoms, divisions of kingdoms, power, authority.

Daniel 7:24 – **The ten horns are ten kings [kingdoms] that shall arise.**

Daniel 8:21 – **The great horn is the first king [kingdom].**

Revelation 17:12 – **The ten horns are ten kings.**



Examining the verse...

This is made clear in [Daniel 5](#) where the Medes and Persians are described as the conquerors of Babylon. **This is remarkably true to history.** When the kingdom began, the Medes were dominant but at the end the kingdom was ruled exclusively by Persian kings and the Medes receded into the background.

The three ribs in the bear's mouth represent the three provinces which the Medes and Persians conquered in order to ascend to power:

- 1) **Lydia (ancient Turkey/Anatolia) was conquered in 547.**
- 2) **Babylon, was overcome in 539.**
- 3) **Egypt, was forced to submit in 525.**

Notice, once again, that someone is active behind the scenes of history: 'they said unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.'

It is obvious that someone is giving the Medes and Persians permission to conquer. 'They' in this verse no doubt refers to the watchers or angels who are the emissaries of God in the guidance of human events (compare [Ezekiel 1](#) where the angels carry on God's redemptive purpose on earth).



Daniel 7:6 - The 3rd Beast

Daniel 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

Leopard: The swift leopard represents the Greek empire established by Alexander the Great. The four wings make this beast even swifter, an apt representation of Alexander, who in a few years brought the entire known world under his dominion.

The leopard with four wings and four heads is a very fast animal. The Greeks under Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire with unprecedented speed. But Alexander's kingdom was divided in four, and later three, parts after his premature death (see Daniel 8:8, 21–22).

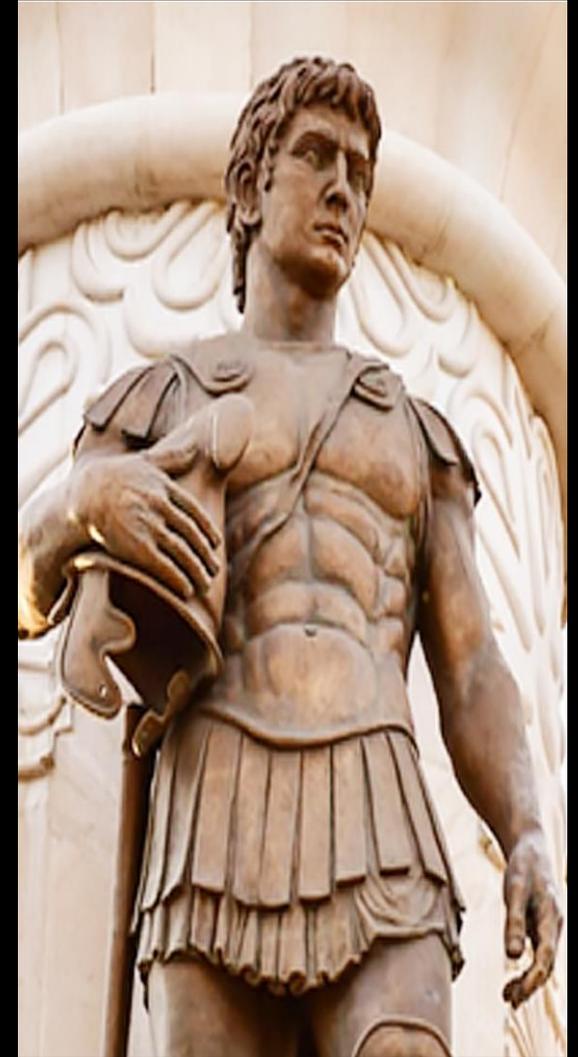


Examining the verse...

After this...another - The next power is now introduced to us. You would notice by now that this chapter is a parallel to **Daniel 2**. You can see a repeat of what we have already looked at but with a little more information. This is one of the very important principles to remember, prophecy works on repeat and enlarge.

A leopard...four wings of a fowl - A leopard is very good at catching its prey off guard especially by ambushing its prey. It has a reasonable amount of speed, but with four wings to assist it in gaining more speed. This, you will see, is a fitting description of this next power.

Greece, under Alexander the Great, was good at catching their prey off guard because of the speed at which they moved. In showing this we only have to look at the time taken to conquer the then known world. It took Alexander and his army 12 years to subdue the world. He marched his army over 8364 kilometres in that space of time, which took them from Macedonia all the way to India and down through to Libya and Egypt in the south. The final death blow to the Medo-Persian kingdom was at the Battle of Arbela in 331 B.C. where Darius the third was defeated. We shall see more of this in **Daniel 8**.



Alexander the Great

On October 1, 331 B.C. Alexander the Great defeated Darius III at the battle of Arbela. With the overthrow of the Persians, Alexander the Great and Greece, then ruled the world.

Wings: Represent great speed for conquest.

Habakkuk 1:8 – “Swifter than leopards . . . shall fly as the eagle”

Jeremiah 4:13 – “His horses are swifter than the eagles of heaven.” Deuteronomy 28:49 – “The Lord shall bring a nation against thee . . . as swift as the eagle flieth.”

In June, 323 B.C. Alexander the Great died in Babylon, at the age of 32, as a result of an illness that was probably brought on by a drinking binge. The Scripture in Daniel 7:6 described the Leopard as having four wings and four heads. After Alexander’s death, civil wars popped in an attempt to ascend to power.

The kingdom was eventually divided up between his four generals: Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus.

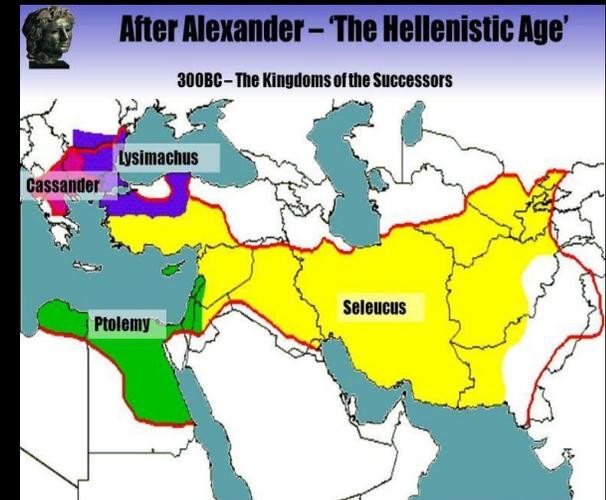


Rise of the Grecian Empire

The wings of a fowl were upon this beast. A fowl's flight is one of speed whilst ascending, but expires very quickly at its peak. Thus was the case of Greece. Alexander rose very quickly to power but at the peak of his rise he died in a drunken debauch at the age of 31 in 323 B.C. Some say it was malaria that killed him.

Four heads - As Alexander was dying, his generals asked who was to take the kingdom and rule. Alexander's reply was "to the strongest." Through much fighting the kingdom was divided amongst the four remaining generals and hence the four heads. The decisive battle was the battle of Ipsus in 301 B.C. where Antigonus was killed and thus the four divisions as follows:

1. **Cassander** - Macedonia and Greece.
 2. **Lysimachus** - Thrace, parts of Asia, Hellespont and Bosphorus in the north.
 3. **Ptolemy** - Egypt, Libya, Arabia, Palestine, and Coele-Syria in the south.
 4. **Seleucus** - Syria eastward.
- The Grecian empire reigned from 331-168 B.C.



The fall of Greece & the 4 Dominions

Alexander the Great conquered the whole Near East (from Egypt to the Indus Valley in India) in just 3 years. **Nebuchadnezzar took 13 years to just reach a stalemate with Tyre.** In contrast, Alexander conquered Tyre in just eight months.

It is important to underline that the leopard did not have the four heads when it began to rule. How do we know this? **The answer is, by a comparison of Daniel 7 with Daniel 8.** In Daniel 8 the he-goat (a symbol of Greece, 8:21) governed for a period with a notable horn on its head (Alexander the Great). Only after the great horn was broken, did four others come out to replace it. So, just as the he-goat governed for a period and then sprouted four horns, so, the leopard ruled for a period and then it grew four heads. It is clear that the four heads and the four horns came up after the leopard and he-goat had ruled for a period of time (see, Daniel 8:5-8).

In Daniel 7 the leopard was swift, but it was made even swifter by wings. In Daniel 8 the he goat is so swift he does not even touch the ground. Once again we are told that a power outside history is guiding world affairs: 'and dominion was given to it'. **Notice that the leopard did not take dominion. Rather, dominion was given to it!!**

Symbolisms Found in the Book of Daniel



Nebuchadnezzar's Image The Four Beasts

theharvestatearthsend.com

Notes:

1. The Prophecies of Daniel Part 5, Nebuchadnezzar's Image.
2. The Prophecies of Daniel Part 6, Daniel's Four Beasts.
3. The Prophecies of Daniel Part 7, The Ram, Goat, and Little Horn



Daniel 7:7 - The 4th Beast

Daniel 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

The dreadful and terrible animal: Whereas the previous entities only resemble the animals mentioned, this one is an entity unto itself. That is, the first ones are depicted as “like” a lion or “like” a bear, but this one is not depicted like anything. This multi-horned beast also appears far more cruel and rapacious than the previous ones. As such, it is a fitting representation of pagan Rome, which conquered, ruled, and trampled on the world with its feet.

The fourth animal is undefinable. It corresponds to the fourth empire of Daniel 2 (see Daniel 2:40). In both cases iron is mentioned. It is the Roman Empire.



The Imperial Roman Empire

The dreadful, terrible, non-descript beast, sometimes thought of as a dragon, represented the cruel, crushing power of the kingdom of Rome. In the image of different metals, from Daniel 2, we saw the kingdom of Rome was symbolized by iron that “Subdueth all things.” At the battle of Pydna, on June 22, 168 B.C., Rome defeated the Macedonians (Those left from the Grecian dynasty), to rule the then known world. The iron monarchy of Rome ruled the world for more than five centuries. Notice that this scary beast in Daniel 7 has iron teeth, representing the cruelty of Rome, and bronze claws, representing the culture, language, and pagan beliefs of Greece which Rome adopted. Today we use the term “Greco-Roman” to describe the assimilation of Greek culture by Rome.

The dragon beast represents the Roman Empire (168 BC-476 AD). This empire came to be known as the ‘iron monarchy of Rome’. - Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, volume 4, p. 161



Examining the verse...

After this...a fourth beast - Daniel saw this power coming to its end, and as he does he sees a fourth kingdom coming to supremacy.

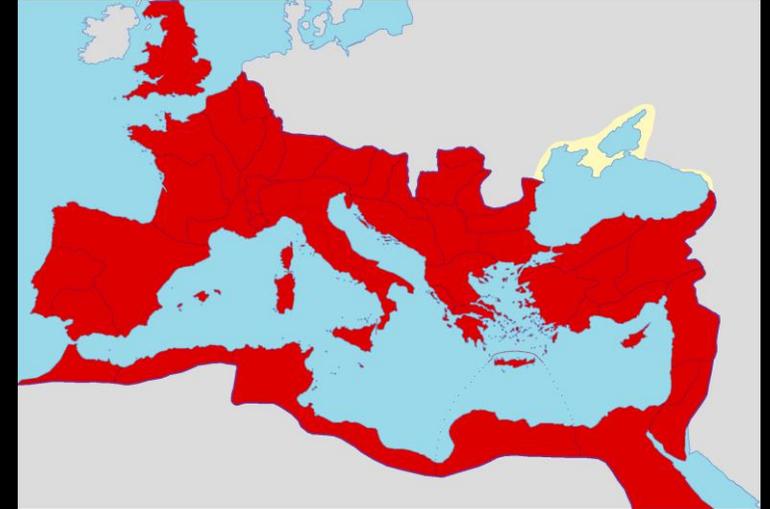
There is no animal to describe this power that is rising to supremacy, thus it is called the non-descript beast.

Strong exceedingly - This power was to be very strong.

Iron teeth...devoured and brake in pieces - It had iron teeth that were to brake and devour whatever was before it. In v23 we find it was to devour the whole earth.

Stamped the residue with the feet of it - Whatever was left over was to put into subject to this power.

This gives us a good description of the great iron Roman power that conquered the Grecian empire. Rome conquered many cities and left a trail of carnage behind them, with the residue put into slavery. They stamped their authority upon the then known world and Rome was the strongest and largest of all the preceding kingdoms. We shall see more of them in [Daniel 11](#).



The 10 divisions of Rome

It was diverse - This was true of the Roman empire. It was different to all the kingdoms before as they were monarchy's whereas Rome was a republic.

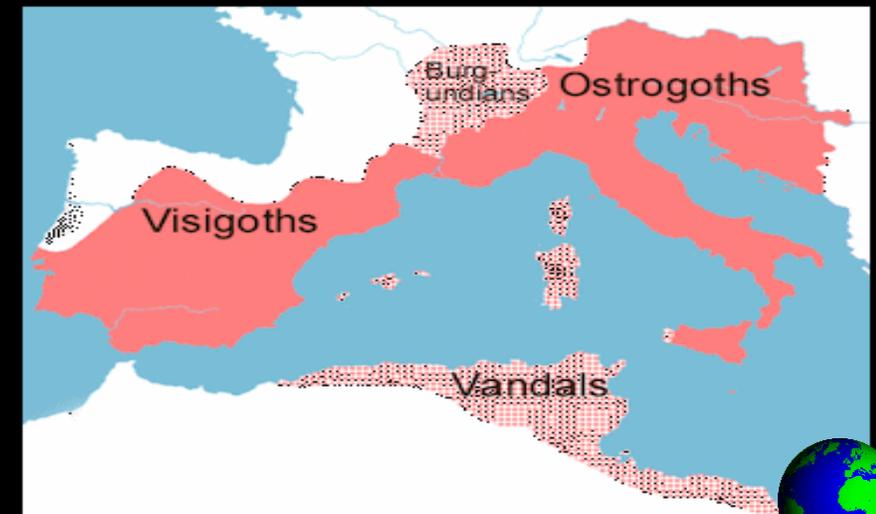
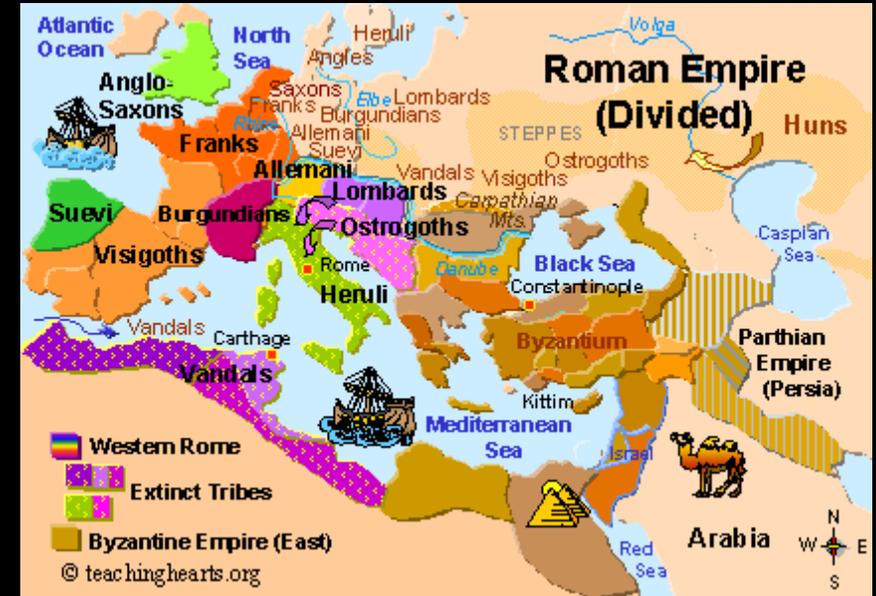
It had ten horns - You will remember that a horn is a symbol of a king or kingdom v24. The 10 horns parallel to the feet of iron and clay of Daniel 2.

Western Rome eventually split into 10 divisions by 476 A.D., with the last emperor, Romulus Augustus, moving his seat to the east, Constantinople. The ten divisions are as follows.

The ten divisions of Rome:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ostrogoths - Exterminated. | Vandals - Exterminated. |
| Franks - France. | Suevi - Portugal. |
| Alemanni - Germany. | Anglo-Saxons - England. |
| Heruli - Exterminated. | Lombards - Italy. |
| Burgundians - Switzerland. | Visigoths - Spain. |

Rome ruled from 168 B.C.-476 A.D.



Daniel 7:8 - 10 Horns & little horn

Daniel 7:8 *I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*

Whilst Daniel was considering the 10 horns, another little horn rose up from among them.

We will look at this power a little later in the chapter, as there are 10 identifying marks in this chapter to show who this power is.

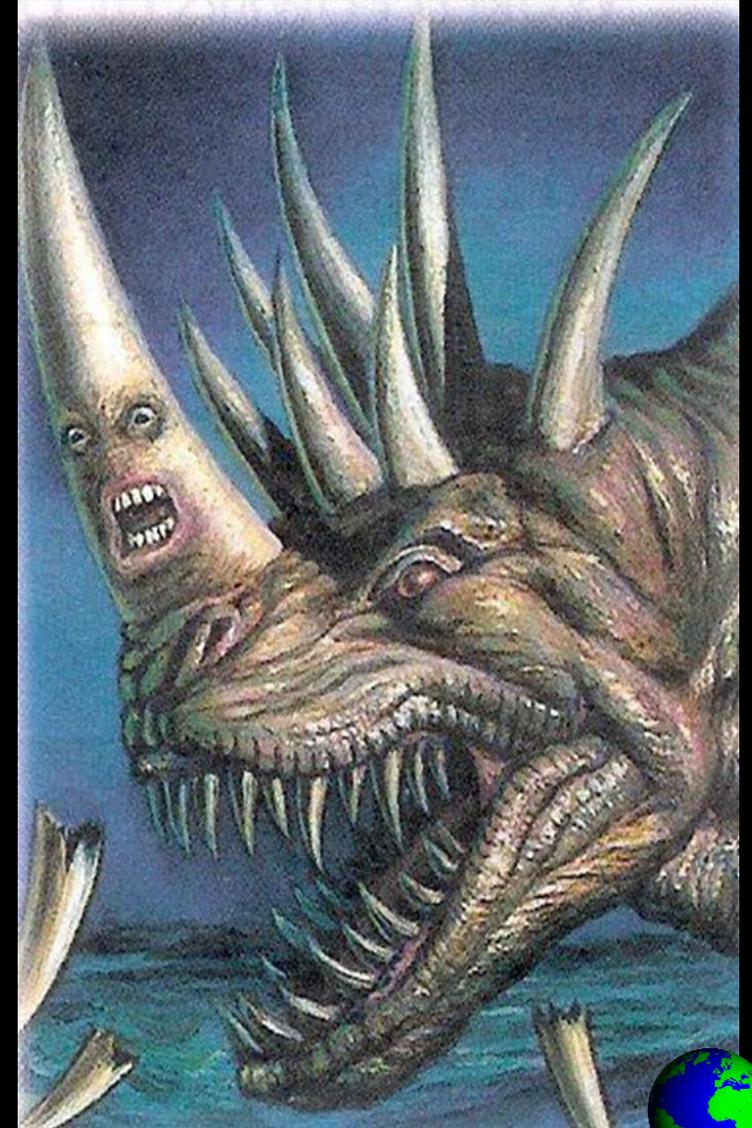
As portrayed in the vision, the fourth animal has ten horns, of which three horns were plucked out to make way for a little horn. This horn has human eyes and speaks “pompous words” (Daniel 7:8). It is clear that the little horn emerges from the entity represented by the terrible animal, which is pagan Rome. **In a way, the horn extends or continues some features of pagan Rome.** It is just a later stage of the same power.



A closer look at the little horn

There are at least eleven identifying characteristics in Daniel 7:

- 1) **The little horn arises from the fourth beast** (Daniel 7:8). The fourth beast represents Rome, so the little horn must be a Roman power.
- 2) **The little horn arises among the ten horns.** The ten horns are the divisions of Western Europe, so the little horn must arise in Western Europe (Daniel 7:8). **Notice that these first two characteristics restrict the geographical location of the little horn to Western Europe.**
- 3) **The little horn rises after the ten horns** (Daniel 7:24). According to historians, the ten horns were complete in the year 476 AD, so this must mean that the little horn was to arise to power sometime after 476 AD.
- 4) **The little horn was to pluck up three of the first [ten] horns by the roots** (Daniel 7:8). **This means that these three nations would be uprooted from history.** Daniel 7:20-21 explains that three of the first horns would fall before the little horn, and Daniel 7:24 tells us that the little horn would subdue three horns. **In other words, three of the first ten nations would disappear from history!!**



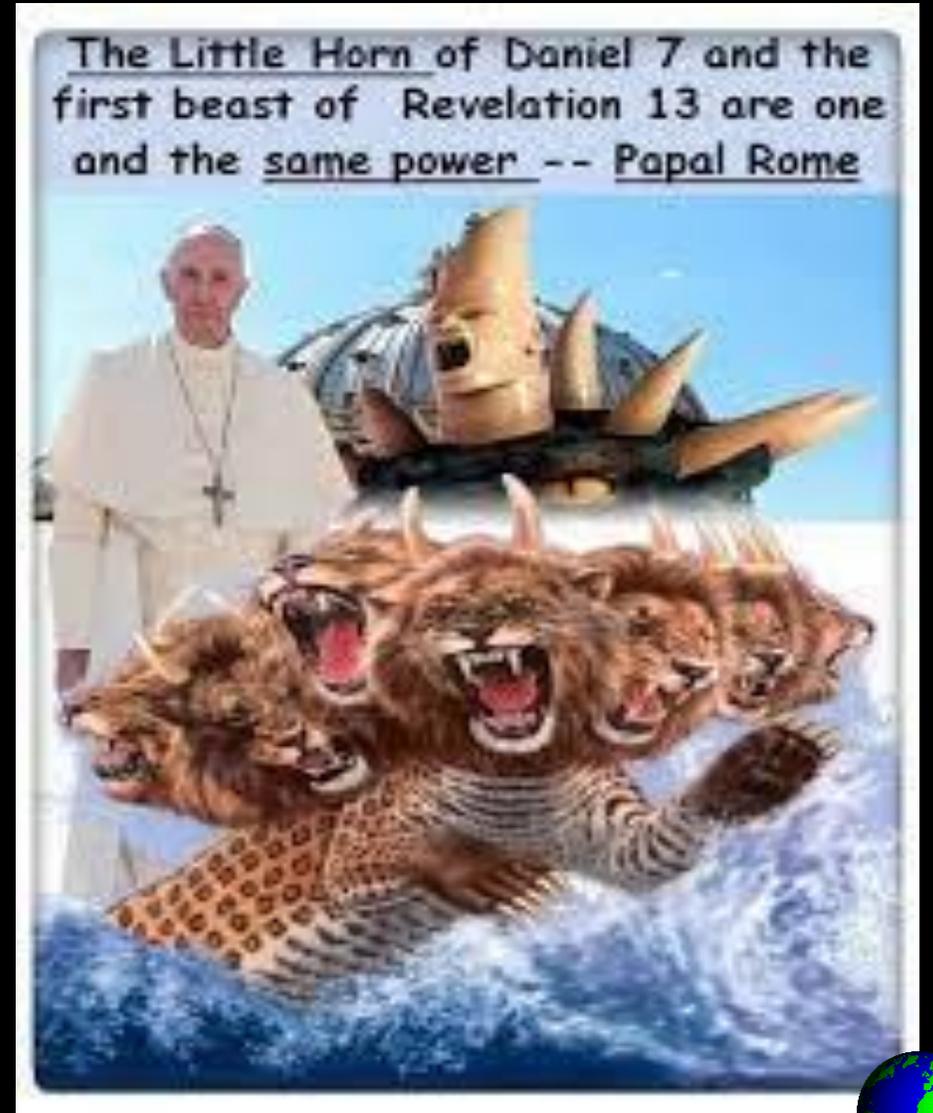
A closer look at the little horn (cont'd)

5) The little horn was to speak great words against the Most High (Daniel 7:21, 25). Revelation 13:5 explains what these words would be, namely, blasphemy. And, what is blasphemy according to the Bible? It is when a merely human power claims to be God on earth and when it thinks it can exercise the prerogatives and functions of God (see, John 10:30-33; Mark 2:7).

6) The little horn was to be a persecuting power against God's people. This is stated in Daniel 7:21 and repeated in verse 25.

7) The little horn would think it could change God's 'times', that is to say, God's timetable of prophetic events. (Daniel 2:21). We shall see that the little horn invented false systems of prophetic interpretation to rival historicism.

8) The little horn would even have the audacity to THINK that it could change God's holy law. (Daniel 7:25).



A closer look at the little horn (cont'd)

9) The little horn would be different from the ten horns. It would be an amalgamation of church and state (Daniel 7:24).

10) This power would govern for a time, times and half a time (Daniel 7:25). This comes out to 42 months or 1260 days (see, Revelation 13:5-6; 12:6, 13-15). In Bible prophecy, literal days are symbolic of years, so this power was to govern for 1260 years (we will study the year/day principle later on in this material).

11) The little horn had eyes like a man. In Bible Prophecy, eyes are symbolic of wisdom (see, Ephesians 1:18; Revelation 5:6). Even today, an owl is a symbol of wisdom because of its large eyes. In other words, this power was to depend on human wisdom.



The Visions in Daniel Chapter Eight –
Rome and the “little horn”- 8:9-12



The Papacy



Characteristics of the Little Horn

- (a) It comes forth from the fourth beast
- (b) In the beginning it is small.
- (c) It grows and surpasses the other horns.
- (d) Three horns are plucked out before it.
- (e) It is different from the other horns.
- (f) It has human-like eyes.
- (g) With its mouth it speaks great things and blasphemes God.
- (h) It changes times and the law of God
- (i) The saints are attacked by it and defeated.
- (j) They are in its hand for three and one half times.
- (k) The little horn will be judged by God.
- (l) It will be destroyed.



The Rise of the Little Horn

- (a) Out of the pagan Roman empire arose papal Rome.
- (b) In the beginning this church was small and persecuted.
- (c) Today it is by far the largest denomination. In the Medieval Ages the pope was not only the religious ruler but also quite often the top political ruler in Europe. The power of the Roman Catholic Church was also extended to other continents.
- (d) Herulians, Vandals, and Ostrogoths were tribes that supported Arian Christianity—that is, they denied the doctrine of the Trinity. As such they were rivals of the bishop of Rome who was about to become the pope. In 493 AD, the Herulians were defeated by the Ostrogoths who then ruled in Rome. The Vandals were defeated by general Belisarius in 534 AD, and the Ostrogoths had to withdraw from Rome 538 AD due to Belisarius and were eradicated later.
- (e) The papacy is a religious-political power, not just a political entity.
- (f) The eyes point to insight, intelligence, and foresight.



The Rise of the Little Horn (cont'd)

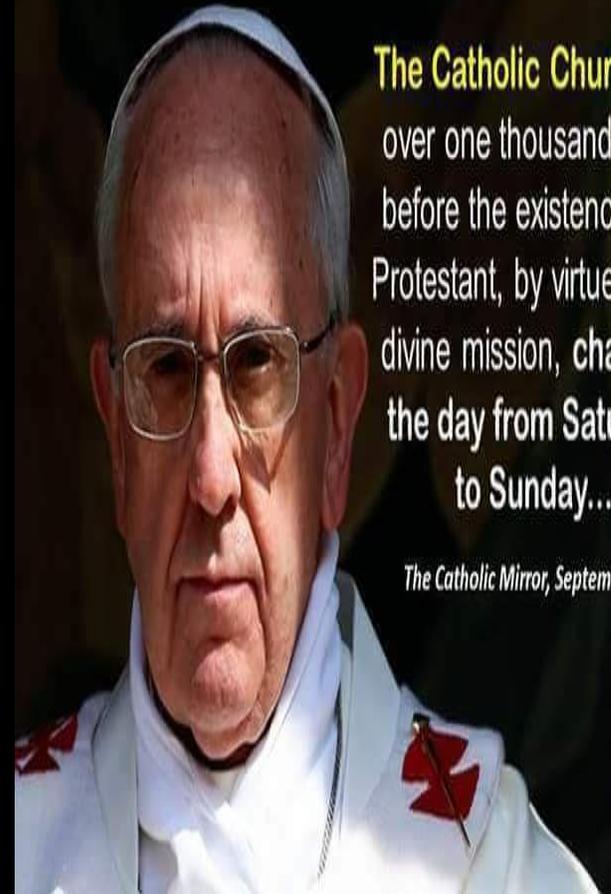
(g) Blasphemy of God happens, for example, through doctrines that limit the work of Christ, such as the veneration of Mary as the mother of God, the veneration of saints, the ministry of earthly priests, etc. Some papal claims sound like blasphemy:

The Pope is crowned with a threefold crown as the king of heaven, earth, and the underworld. . . . The Pope is like God on earth. . . . The Pope has such great authority and power that he even can change, explain or interpret divine laws. (L. Ferraris, "Papa II" in *Prompta Bibliotheca*, vol. VI, p. 25–29)

(h) **The context requires understanding the law as the law of God.** The second of the Ten Commandments was eliminated (prohibition of venerating images) and the fourth commandment, the Sabbath commandment, was changed into Sunday observance.

(i) **The saints are the people of God in general, not special pious people who should be venerated and can intervene for those living on earth** (Exodus 19:6; Philippians 1:1). **The persecution of the saints happened, for instance, through having them tried and executed as witches and heretics** (Example: the Waldenses and Huguenots)

Who Changed the Sabbath?



The Catholic Church, for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday...

The Catholic Mirror, September 23, 1893



Summary

Daniel's vision occurs during the first empire of the book, the **Babylonian Empire**, but under its last king. The visions of **Daniel 8–9** follow the vision of **Daniel 7**. Daniel will receive them later.

The four animals represent four world empires that begin with the first in the time of Daniel (v. 17). The sea represents the peoples on earth (**Revelation 17:15**) from which the empires arise. The winds may stand for political events that bring about revolutions, wars, and other problems (**Revelation 7:1**).

In number and character these empires remind us of those in **Daniel 2**.

The lion with eagle wings as king of land animals and king of birds is the same as the golden head in **Daniel 2**—**Nebuchadnezzar and the Neo-Babylonian Empire**.

The imagery is found in Babylonian art. However, under Nebuchadnezzar's successors the empire began to lose some of its lion-like characteristics such as boldness and strength.

The bear raised up on one side represents the empire of the **Medes and Persians** (see **Daniel 8:3, 20**).

The three ribs stand for Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt, which were devoured by the new empire.



Summary (cont'd)

The leopard with four wings and four heads is a very fast animal. The Greeks under Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire with unprecedented speed. But Alexander's kingdom was divided in four, and later three, parts after his premature death (see Dan 8:8, 21–22).

The fourth animal is indefinable. It corresponds to the fourth empire of Daniel 2 (see Daniel 2:40). In both cases iron is mentioned. **It is the Roman Empire.**

The ten horns are smaller kingdoms, which conquered Rome and came forth from it. **Historically, Rome was captured by the Germanic tribes of Western Europe. Some have identified them as the Alemanni, the Anglo-Saxons, the Burgundians, the Franks, the Herulians, the Lombards, the Ostrogoths, the Sueves, the Vandals, and the Visigoths.**



Conclusion

The Scriptures, pointing forward to [the second coming of Christ], declare that Satan will work with all power and “with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. His working is plainly revealed by the rapidly increasing darkness, the multitudinous errors, heresies, and delusions of these last days. Not only is Satan leading the world captive, but his deceptions are leavening the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great apostasy will develop into darkness deep as midnight. To God’s people it will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth’s sake. But out of that night of darkness God’s light will shine.— Prophets and Kings, p. 717.

THE MAN OF SIN – THE SON OF PERDITION

that is, the one whose coming coming is
in accord with the activity of ...

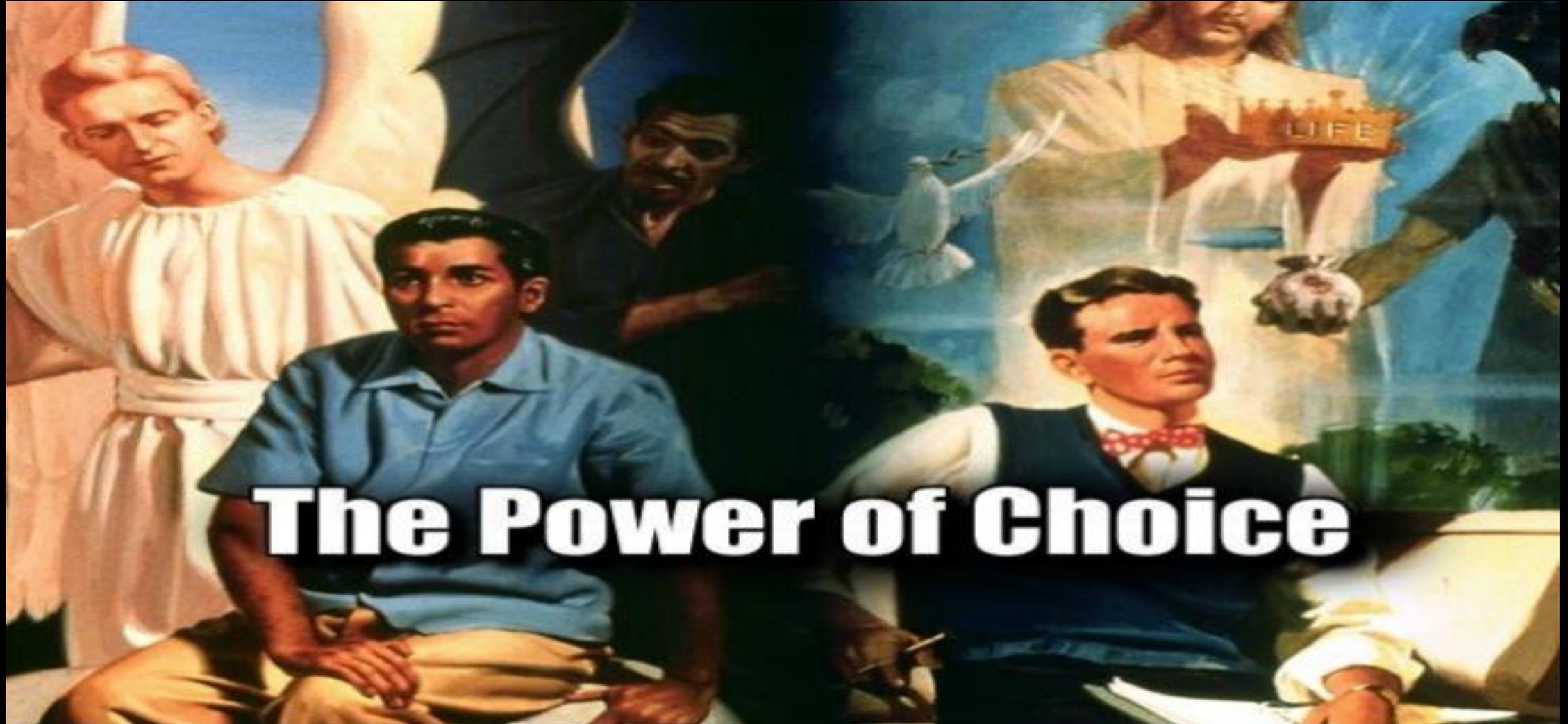
Satan

with all power
and signs and
false wonders

2 Thessalonians 2:9

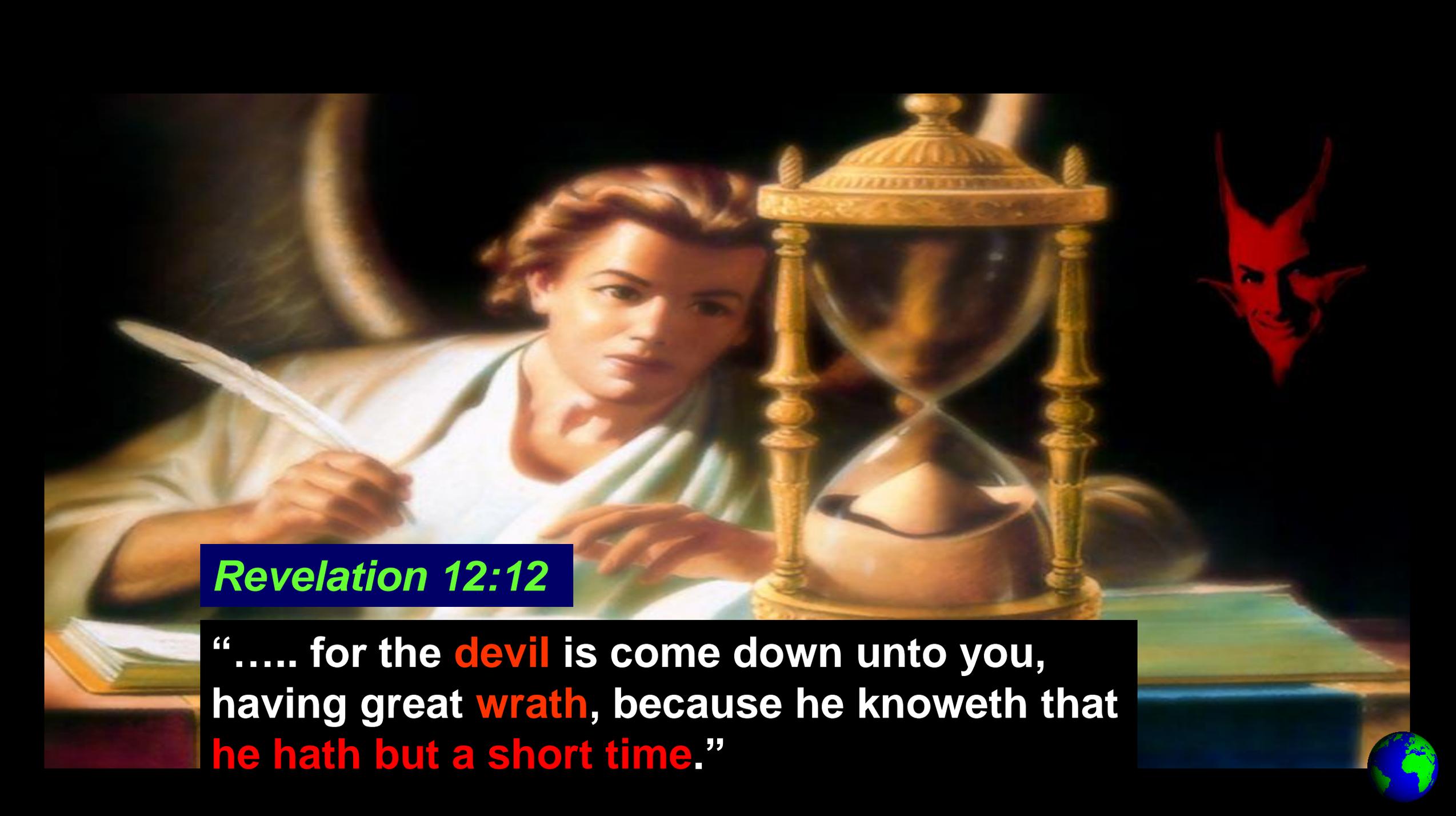


God has given all:



The Power of Choice



An angel with wings is shown writing in a book. Next to the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?