

## DANIEL CHAPTER 7—VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS

### 1. Introduction

- All the visions occur after death of Nebuchadnezzar—when Daniel was over 65 years of age
- Daniel writes in the first person
- Prophecies mostly of Israel's future
- v.1---first year of Belshazzar-553 B.C. (explanation of 3<sup>rd</sup> ruler of the Kingdom)
- The Four Winds of Heaven
  - i.e. the heavenly forces (demonic?) by which God sets the world in commotion
  - blowing each way—calamity
  - symbol of totality
- The Great Sea
  - Symbol of Humanity
  - Lk. 21:25
  - Rev. 17:15; 13:9

### 2. The Four Beasts—Dan. 7:3-8

- There is a traditional interpretation which I will give first, with which many agree
- Then, and in accord with recent historical events and exegesis there is a good alternative view equally accepted by many. I shall give it—you decide—each is powerful, each has problems

#### a) The Traditional View

- five similarities between this view and the vision of chapter 2
  - i) same arrangement of symbols—4 earthly; 1 heavenly
  - ii) progressive inferiority of first 4
  - iii) same duality in 2
  - iv) same ten-fold division in 4<sup>th</sup>
  - v) same interpretation given for both series of symbols—kings of kingdoms

#### b) The Beasts

- The First Beast
  - v. 4—like a lion and had eagle's wings
  - description of Nebuchadnezzar
  - Jer. 4:7—Nebuchadnezzar called a lion
  - Man's heart given to it—a description of Nebuchadnezzar's experience
- The Second Beast
  - v. 5—like a bear—Medo-Persia
  - heavy, ungainly, cumbersome
  - “raised on one side”—Persian ascendancy over Media (not mentioned in ch. 2)
  - three ribs in its mouth between its teeth—kingdoms devoured by Medo-Persia
    - i) Lydia—first kingdom conquered 547 B.C.
    - ii) Babylonia—second kingdom conquered 539 B.C.
    - iii) Egypt—third kingdom conquered 529 B.C.
- The Third Beast
  - v. 6—like a leopard...four wings of a bird
  - wings—phenomenal speed e.g. Alexander the Great
  - four heads—cf. 8:22—Syria, Egypt, Thrace, Macedonia

- The Fourth Beast
  - v.7—Ferocious
  - cf 2:40-43
- The Little Horn—v. 8
  - The Antichrist who becomes the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast
  - All agree it is the Antichrist
  - He comes to world power, militarily victorious
  - At first a little horn
  - Eyes—intelligence
  - Mouth—arrogant

### 3. The Vision of God—Dan. 7:9-14

- v.9—“one that was ancient of days did sit”
  - only place where God the Father symbolized as a Man
  - cf. 13 “... son came even to Ancient of Days (Father)
  - cf. Rev. 1:14—Lord Jesus—same description—Eternal
- v. 9—“the wheels thereof burning fire”
  - Ezek. 1:16—vision of wheels
  - Symbol of God’s omnipresence; final divine judgment
- v. 10—“ten thousand times then thousand stood before him”-- (100,000,000)
  - cf. Rev. 5:11—“ten thousand times ten thousand”
  - these in Rev. are described as angels
  - cf. Rev. 9:16—armies of heaven—two times ten thousand times ten thousand
- v. 13—“there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man”
  - finally fulfilled in Rev. 5:
  - Christ appealed to this verse when High Priest challenged Him at His trial-Mt. 26:64
  - “Son of Man”—Christ often used this identifying Himself with the Son of Man in Daniel
  - therefore He is God in human flesh—claim to deity
- v. 14—“his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away”
  - Christ granted theocratic kingdom which will be manifest on earth at Millennium
  - According to Old Testament prophecy Millennium never ends

### 4. Interpretation of the Vision—Dan. 7:15-28

- v. 24—“out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise”
  - first half of 70<sup>th</sup> week
  - the 10 kings are the final stage of the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom
  - identical with 10 toes of Daniel 2
  - identical with 10 horns of Rev. 17:12
- v.24—“and another shall arise after them”
  - Antichrist
  - this is with one of v.8—really contemporary with him

- v. 24—“and he shall be diverse from the former”
  - cf. v. 20
  - diverse—“look more stout (terrifying) than its fellows”
- v. 24—“and he shall put down three kings”
  - cf. v. 8—three of the first 10 horns plucked up by roots
  - cf. also v. 20—“before him 3 fell”
- v. 25—“And he shall speak words against the Most High”
  - cf. v. 8, 20—mouth...great things—Blasphemer  
   --- eyes.....symbol of tremendous intelligence
- v. 25—“and shall wear out the saints of the Most High”
  - saints—Israel, Jewish and Christian saints in Great Tribulation
- v. 25—“and he shall think to change the times and the law”
  - times—prophetic times (will realize his 1260 days—Jews will remind him)
  - law—God’s law
- v. 25—“until a time and times and half a time”
  - cf. Rev. 12:14 with Rev. 12:6
  - cf. Rev. 11:2 with Rev. 13:5 } Prove meaning of above
  - Rev. 12:14—time, times and half nourished=Rev. 12:6—1260 days
  - Time=1 year
  - Times=2 years
  - Half a time=half a year
  - 42 months=3 ½ years

5. **The Court**—Dan. 7:26

- judgment of the Antichrist—quick end
- the millennial kingdom