

Daniel



Lesson 12-God's Prophetic Timeline

Focus: Daniel 7:1-28

- ❖ **In the “first year of Belshazzar” (King of Babylon) Daniel was given a dream from God (v.1-3)**
 - *The first year of Belshazzar would have been around 555 BC. (or 553 BC by some)*
 - *Daniel wrote down for us the summary of what he saw (v.1).*
 - **What does the “sea” represent in Bible prophecy? (Revelation 17:15)** _____
Winds stirring up the sea would represent strife or war among the peoples.
 - **What does a “Beast” symbolize in Bible Prophecy? (Daniel 7:17, 23)** _____
Remember, we should always let the Bible interpret its own symbols!!
- ❖ **Daniel sees four Beasts rising up which were to represent four great world Empires (v.4-7)**
These were going to rise during the course of human history. The time period covered by these nations and the remaining symbols would take us right down to the close of sinful human history at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ!!
 - *Note: You cannot apply modern symbols to these nations. You must apply the biblical and ancient symbols. For example, England uses a Lion as its symbol today, but you cannot apply that modern symbol to these ancient nations.*
 - **A Lion with wings:** _____ (this was a common symbol in ancient Babylon—artifacts from this old kingdom show many lions with wings.)
 - **A Bear with three ribs in its mouth:** _____ (this bear is standing on one side. It's a two sided kingdom—the Medes and the Persians. But, one side was stronger than the other—the Persians. History tells us they devoured three whole nations; Babylon, Lidia, and Egypt. This is also similar to the two arms of the image in Daniel 2—the right arm being more dominant than the left)
 - **The Leopard with four heads/wings:** _____ (This is a quick animal. Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire in a short time—only ten years. He did it quickly. Then, when he died, the Greek Empire broke up into four parts; the four generals of Alexander divided up his Kingdom; Lysimachus, Cassandar, Ptolemy, and Seleucus)
 - **Fourth Beast:** _____ (this Beast had great “iron” teeth just like the iron legs of Daniel two's image—Dan. 2:40. It was an Iron spear that pierced the side of Jesus on that cross. And it was iron nails that held him there as he died for you and me)
 - **Ten horns:** _____ (these are the Divided nations of Europe that we saw in Daniel two—just like the Ten toes on the image. These nations came out of the Divided Roman Empire as it crumbled into insignificance) **What do horns represent in Prophecy?** _____ (v.24)

- ❖ **Daniel sees two additional details in the Prophetic Timeline (v.8-10)** *These are details that were not given in Daniel 2. The Bible uses the principle of “Repeat and Enlarge.” It repeats the pattern of Daniel two, and then enlarges our understanding by adding more details!*
 - 1. _____ (v.8)
 - 2. _____ (v.9,10) *Daniel sees this “judgment” taking place before God’s throne which means that **it is happening in Heaven**. The “books” are being investigated. **This particular event takes place in Heaven** (a glimpse into heaven was given) **while the other events in this chapter were clearly taking place on earth**. The same sequence of final events is repeated two more times in this chapter of Daniel: Little Horn, the Heavenly Judgment, then, God’s Kingdom (see v.21,22 and v.25-27).*
- ❖ **Daniel sees the rise and fall of these nations, then he sees Christ coming before his Father during the time of the Judgment (v.11-14)**
- ❖ **Daniel desires to know particularly the details of the events towards the end of this vision (v.15-22)** *v.19 points out how the fourth Empire has bits and pieces of the bronze Empire made up into it. History tells of how the Roman Empire adopted many elements of the Greek culture.*
- ❖ **Read the rest of the chapter and let’s gather details to identify the “Little Horn” (v.23-28)**
 - The Little Horn will rise out of the fourth beast—Rome. (Roman roots.) (**Dan. 7:7, 8, 23, 24**)
 - The Little Horn would arise “AMONG” the ten horns. (comes up in Europe) (**Dan. 7:8**)
 - This Little Horn would overthrow THREE European kingdoms as it came to power: “pluck up three by the roots” (**v. 8, 20, 24**) *Note: this has already happened. Only 7 of the original 10 nations still exist today.*

<i>Heruli—no longer exist</i>	Suevi—Portugal
<i>Vandals—no longer exist</i>	Alemanni—Germany
<i>Ostrogoths—no longer exist.</i>	Burgundians—Switzerland
Franks—France	Lombards—Italy
Visigoths—Spain	Anglo-Saxons—England
 - It has eyes of a man and a mouth that speaks—there is a man at its head who both sees and speaks for it. (**Dan. 7:8**) (a “seer” or prophet got their directions from God-1 Samuel 9:9—but not this power)
 - According to **Dan. 7:24** this power comes up “after” the ten nations of Europe did—476 AD. BUT it had to come up by 538 AD—the year the Ostrogoths were finally destroyed. *FACT: The Little Horn came to full power in 538 AD.*
 - He is “diverse” (*different*) from other nations of Europe. (**v.24**)
 - He would make *war* w/God’s true followers and overpower them—showing *religious intolerance* and persecution after 538 AD. (**Dan. 7:21, 25**)
 - He would speak “great words against the Most High” (**v.25**)
 - He would “think to change” God’s “times and laws” (**v.25**)
 - He would reign for “a time, times, and half a time” (3 ½ prophetic years) (**v.25**)
 - **How many months is that?** (42) **Days?** (1260) **“each day for a year”** (Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6) (538-1798 AD)

Question (s) for the Heart: God tells us things before they ever happen. One reason is so we can learn to trust him. Another is so that we know the time in which we are living. A third reason is so that we can avoid falling into Satan’s traps. **Are you glad that Jesus reveals the future? Do you want to put your trust in Him?** _____