

DANIEL

Please turn in your Bible this evening to Daniel chapter 7 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Keep in mind that the first six chapters of Daniel deal with the historical portion of the book, which we have covered. Now, from Daniel chapter 7 on through chapter 12 we are dealing with prophetic visions that were given to Daniel.

Now I am sure we are all familiar with Daniel in the lion's den, the three Hebrew men thrown into the fiery furnace, the steadfastness of Daniel and-so-on. But when it comes to prophecy, end times, dark days; many don't know anything about this. In fact, many pastors and teachers don't even teach of these things and yet God has given them to us to encourage us in the days we are living in showing us what will happen!

I am not sure how you can teach the book of Daniel without speaking on prophecy because the whole book is filled with prophecy. But I have heard that some have done this and to me, you are just giving a small portion of this book. You see, I believe that when you look at what God showed Daniel of future Kingdoms and how they came to pass and came to pass just as God's Word said, that encourages us that what God has said regarding future events will come to pass as well. We don't have to worry, we don't have to wonder, we place our faith in God who has promised these things and what God has promised He is more than faithful to bring to pass!

And why edit these prophecies out unless you don't believe them or they are not important to you. My feeling is that if they were important enough for God to put them in His Word then they are important enough for us to look at and we will that this evening.

There was an excerpt in U. S. News & World Report from a book by Kathleen Norris, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*. This is what was written in her book,

Preparing a sermon for a large Methodist Church on some of the Bible's more frightening apocalyptic texts like those in Daniel 7-12, I had to consider that many of the people in the church that morning would find the teachings hard to take.

- Kathleen Norris, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, p. 318

I guess God did not realize that we would be scared by these things! Sorry, sarcasm. Maybe God wants to scare some people to get them back on track or to draw them to Him. Do you really think Daniel chapters 7 through 12 are just filler or for those who like to be scared? Of course not and even Daniel was troubled by what he was told, what he saw. In Daniel 7:15 we are told, **“I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.”**

So I guess we are in good company and God's Word does afflict the comfortable and it comforts the afflicted so wherever you are, God's Word is ministering to you this evening! Remember what Paul wrote, **“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”** Romans 15:4.

So we are not going to ignore these chapters but we are going to go through them because as we do we see what God has planned for this world, what is coming and as we learn these things we can endure what is coming because our hope is in God and not this world!

As I have said, in Daniel chapter 7 we begin the “*apocalyptic or predictive*” section. Through a series of visions and revelations Daniel is shown the events of history that will unfold. Beginning with Belshazzar and the Babylonian Empire through the Medo-Persian Empire with Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian, Daniel is shown Gentile World Kingdoms and then how the nation of Israel will be affected by them.

We will also see Daniel tell us about the First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ in chapter 9. So the visions that are revealed to Daniel cover a large part of history that extends into the future still.

We will also see at the conclusion of chapter 7 that the text changes from the Aramaic language to the Hebrew language. The reason once again is that God is speaking to the Jewish people. The focus is on them, their coming Messiah and the trouble that these World Empires will have upon them. We will deal more regarding these issues over the next several weeks.

Also, keep in mind that the beasts we will be looking at here in Daniel chapter 7 are the same things that Nebuchadnezzar saw in Daniel chapter 2. Now in Daniel chapter 2 the King saw an awesome, beautiful multi-metallic image that represented Gentile World Kingdoms. There was the head of gold which represented the Babylonian Empire. There was the chest and arms of silver which represented the Medo-Persian Empire. There was the belly and thighs of bronze which represented the Grecian Empire. There were the legs of iron which represented the Roman Empire. And the feet of iron and clay which represent the last World Empire, the revived Roman Empire. But here in Daniel chapter 7 God sees these Kingdoms as wild beasts, and we will look at this a little closer as we move on.

But I think the idea here is that in Daniel chapter 2 we see a picture of World Kingdoms through the eyes of man and they are beautiful to them. But here in Daniel chapter 7 we see these World Kingdoms through the eyes of God and they are wild, grotesque beasts!

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Daniel chapter 7 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

DANIEL 7

VERSE 1

1. Daniel tells us that the time frame in which these visions occurred was during the first year of Belshazzar's reign as King. Historical records tell us that Belshazzar was made to co-reign with his father in 553 B. C. Now to put this into a chronological setting, this event took place between Daniel chapters 4 and 5, before the fall of Babylon. Thus, Daniel was around 69 years old at this time, taken captive around the age of 16 in 606 B. C.

Now as Daniel received this vision he woke-up and wrote down what he saw in this vision, the things that God was showing him during the first year of Belshazzar's reign. And he was told just to give the "**main facts**" not all the details. I think God is giving to us just what we need and we will see that as we read on.

VERSES 2-3

1. Before we look at these four beasts I think it is interesting to see where they come from! First of all the "**four winds**" speak of the heavenly powers in which God sets in motion His prophetic plan. It is the sovereign power of God in which the nations of the world are set in motion.

I am amused at the arrogance and pride of leaders from throughout the world. They deny God and they feel they are doing what they want to do and yet, it is all according to the plan of God and we see that here!

Now these winds or forces are moving upon the Great Sea causing them to burst forth and as that happens four great beasts come out of the sea. Now what does this “**Great Sea**” mean, what is it speaking of? I think it is important to look at this because it is out of this “**Great Sea**” we see these beasts arise!

First of all some say that the “**Great Sea**” speaks of or symbolizes fallen humanity and thus out of fallen humanity these four beasts will arise. In Revelation 13:1-2 we see this spoken of as we are told, “**Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.**”

Also, in Revelation chapter 17:15 we read “**... ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’**” So the “**Great Sea**” is representative of humanity and specifically Gentile nations!

But it can also mean something more specific. You see, the interpretation of this phrase, “**Great Sea**” was one that Daniel was used to seeing in the Old Testament, especially in the first five books of Moses or the Pentateuch. And it spoke of the Mediterranean Sea.

In Numbers 34:6-7 we read **“As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea for a border; this shall be your western border. And this shall be your northern border: From the Great Sea you shall mark out your border line to Mount Hor.”** Here we see the boundaries of the Promised Land given to Israel, and the Great Sea is the Mediterranean Sea. So the **“Great Sea”** is it symbolic or real? I think both apply and let me show you what I mean.

John Walvoord puts it like this as he wrote, “The fact that the beast rises out of the sea is taken by many to indicate that he comes from the great mass of humanity, namely the Gentile powers of the world. Others take it as a reference to the Mediterranean, namely, that the beast will arise from the Mediterranean area. Probably both are true in that the beast is a Gentile and does come from the Mediterranean scene.”

I think that he is right, that both are represented as where the beast comes from, a sea of humanity or these Gentile nations and more specifically these four beasts will arise out of the Mediterranean area and not the United States!

2. We also need to keep in mind that Daniel chapter 7 corresponds to the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had in chapter 2. The King saw these Empires through the eyes of man. This multi-metallic image was beautiful, magnificent. These kingdoms were mighty and glorious in the eyes of man.

But, like I have said, here in Daniel chapter 7 we see how God looks upon these Kingdoms. He sees them as wild, ferocious, ravenous beasts. The destruction, the inhumanity that came forth from these beasts! You see, God sees them as they truly are. He sees them as destructive in their actions. I wonder what we see as beautiful and what God sees them as? It is interesting.

3. Now let's begin looking at these beasts and see what we can glean from this portion of Scripture. And we will begin with this lion that had eagle's wings.

VERSE 4

1. As I have said, this first beast is described as a lion with eagle's wings and this corresponds to the head of gold of multi-metallic image found in Daniel chapter 2. And if you remember, this head of gold represented the Babylonian Empire. Interestingly enough, both the lion and the eagle were symbols of Babylon in the Bible.

We see this idea of a lion regarding Babylon in Jeremiah 4:7 and as an eagle in Ezekiel chapter 17 verses 3 and 12. And winged lions were practically the national symbol of ancient Babylon. They had huge winged lions at the entrances of their royal palaces. And you can go to the British museum today and see Babylon's winged lions!

2. Now when you think of a lion you think of power, strength and majesty, and that is exactly what the Babylonian Empire was like. Also, the wings of eagles speak of its swiftness. This is illustrated to us as the Babylonian Empire was on the rise. The fall of Nineveh and the end of the Assyrian Empire occurred in 612 B. C. and Egypt along with Pharaoh Necho were defeated at the battle of Carchemish in 606 B. C.

What is interesting here is that we see this vision of Daniel change. This lion with wings is changed; its wings are plucked off. Then this beast stood on two feet like a man and he was given a man's heart. What is that all about?

Remember the story of King Nebuchadnezzar and how he went insane for several seasons or years and acting like an animal. Thus, what we are seeing here is the transformation of this King taking place, from a beast into a man.

Pride brought him down until he came to realize that “**the Most High rules!**” Then this beast was changed into a man. His Kingdom was restored to him. His heart was changed to that of a man’s. This once tyrant leader, this beastly ruler was humbled and changed by God.

Make no mistake about it; this is not a onetime incident. God continues to work in the hearts and lives of men and women today. God desires to change our beastly hearts to hearts of God, sensitive hearts. You see, as the King found out, you can either walk in humility towards God or you will crawl in humiliation before Him.

But God does not force anyone, the choice is yours. But understand that God wants to give you a heart transplant, to make you alive again, spiritually speaking, in Christ!

VERSE 5

1. The second beast, which is distinct from the first, is that of a bear and it corresponds to the chest and arms of silver in Daniel chapter 2. This represented the Medo-Persian Empire. The bear illustrates for us a formidable strength and a sort of lumbering, rumbling gait. This Empire won its battles by its massive numbers of men that overtook its enemies. They had an army of two and one-half million men that Xerxes led in their battle against Greece! Thus, it was a very slow moving army because of its numbers and yet it was very fierce in battle.

Clarke reminds us of how ruthless they were as he wrote, “The Medes and Persians are compared to a bear on account of their cruelty and thirst after blood, a bear being a most voracious and cruel animal.” And Ironside added this, “The command to arise and devour much flesh indicates the extreme cruelties often practiced by the Persians, and the wide extent of their conquests.”

2. Now one of the things that seem strange is that this bear is raised up on one side and it is not speaking of this bear standing on its hind legs. Keep in mind that this was a united kingdom with the Medes and the Persians and even though the Medes rose first the Persian army out-shadowed them in this united kingdom.

3. Not only is this bear raised up on one side but it has three ribs in its mouth and it is told to **“Arise and devour much flesh!”** I believe that these three ribs represent the conquests this Kingdom had made over other nations and specifically Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.

Cyrus, the Persian King and his son Cambyses conquered the Lydian Kingdom and King Croesus that was located in Asia Minor in 546 B. C.

Then they defeated Nabonidus and Belshazzar and the Babylonians in 539 B. C.

And finally Psamtik III and the Egyptians fell to Cambyses in 525 B. C. This Kingdom did arise and devour much flesh!

VERSE 6

1. The next beast to come on the scene was like a leopard. This beast corresponds to the belly and thighs of bronze in Daniel chapter 2 and it represents the Grecian Empire. The leopard illustrates to us the idea of agility, very cunning, swiftness and an insatiable thirst for blood which was manifested by this Kingdom. But then we see this beast having 4 wings on its back which illustrates to us a swiftness that goes far beyond a natural capability.

Daniel is speaking of Alexander the Great and the Grecian Empire that conquered the whole world very quickly and thus we see the leopard with 4 wings on its back. It speaks of the tremendous speed in which Alexander the Great accomplished this feat. In fact, by the time Alexander the Great reached the age of 32, just 12 years of doing battle, he had conquered the whole known world.

Clarke put it like this, “Nothing in the history of the world, was equal to the conquests of Alexander, who ran through all the countries from Illycium and the Adriatic Sea to the Indian Ocean and the River Ganges; and in *twelve* years subdued part of Europe, and all Asia.”

Another writer put it like this regarding the accomplishments of Alexander the Great and the Grecian Empire. He wrote,

Under Alexander the Great, Greece conquered the known world faster than any other ancient power. Alexander had the fastest moving army known. In eight years time the Greeks marched and conquered more than 11,000 miles of territory from Greece in the west to India in the east.

- Renald E. Showers, A Commentary on the Book of Daniel, The Most High God, p. 76

2. Now what happened after the death of Alexander the Great? We will see as we read on in Daniel that after the death of Alexander the Great his Kingdom was divided and given to his four generals and not to his family. Keep in mind that this was written long before the Greeks were in power and yet the details are amazing. That is why the liberal critics of the Bible say it had to be written after the fact, but God knows the beginning from the end and He has told us what will transpire.

Also, keep in mind that this leopard has four heads and I think they are representing these four leaders. The kingdom was divided as follows: Cassander was over Greece and Macedonia. Lysimachus was over Thrace and a large part of Asia Minor. Seleucus was over Syria and the Middle East. And Ptolemy was over Egypt. Like I have said, we will come across these men in more detail in future chapters and the focus will be the Seleucid Empire and the Ptolemy Empire because as they do battle guess who is in the middle, ***ISRAEL!***

VERSES 7-8

1. We have seen with the three previous beasts that they had creatures, animals, as bizarre as they were representing them. We had the lion, the bear and the leopard. But now here comes a fourth beast which corresponds to the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay that we see back in Daniel chapter 2.

But this beast was so terrifying and ferocious that there was not living animal to represent it! It is the Roman Empire that is spoken of here. And here in chapter 7, as in chapter 2, it is seen as one kingdom and not two. The legs of iron represent the Roman Empire and the feet and toes of iron and clay represent the revived Roman Empire.

Now you might think that this is a strange way to look at this Kingdom since over 1500 years has separated the beginning of the Roman Empire and its revived format. But remember that the Roman Empire was never really defeated but just broke in pieces. Now those different pieces never became a World Empire by themselves, but they did have a try at it. But the fact remains that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world empire. But as we see today, those pieces are quickly coming together.

2. We have talked about this back in Daniel chapter 2 but as I look at what is going on I see that the Roman Empire is more than just the European Community. I do think they will be the power behind this last Empire but I believe that the world will be divided up into ten kingdoms or regions like the Club of Rome has already divided it up. That fits with the ten horns or ten leaders over these regions or kingdoms.

We see that in Daniel 7:24, **“The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.”** We will talk more about this when we get to that verse later tonight but just a quick overview because we are talking about this horn that will rise up and this is the Antichrist.

It is during the time of these Kings that another will arise and he will subdue three of these Kings, maybe because they refuse to submit to his authority. And this leader will have insight; intelligence and what will flow from his mouth will be pompous words. He will exalt self and put down the Most High God. And like I have said, we will look more closely at this King and what he is all about as we conclude this chapter, but keep in mind, he is the Antichrist!

VERSES 9-10

1. Here we fast forward to the Tribulation Period and all the way to the end of the Tribulation Period were the “**Ancient of Days**” or God the Father is seated upon the throne and judgment is going to be issued forth. You can read Revelation and see the judgments of God being poured out. And what we are seeing here is the courts of heaven being opened up and the judgment of God about to be issued forth. This is a judgment of God against a Christ rejecting world.

Turn to Psalm 97 and let’s read about the Lord who reigns and executes His righteous judgment against the wicked. Beginning in verse 1 of Psalm 97 we are told, “**The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad! Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. His lightnings light the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory. Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, O LORD. For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; he delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.**” Psalm 97:1-12.

2. And so as Jesus comes back to set up His Kingdom He first needs to do some cleaning. The judgment of the nations is a judgment that is issued out on those who have survived the Great Tribulation Period. Jesus continues on this subject in Matthew 25:31-46.

But let's just look at verses 31-33 to get the flavor of what is going on here. We read, **“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.”**

This judgment is to determine who will enter the Millennial Reign with Christ and who will be excluded from His Kingdom. So this occurs at the end of the Tribulation Period as the Lord is setting up His Kingdom here on the earth. This judgment of the nations is for those that have made it through the Tribulation Period and not for believers who have died before the Tribulation Period has started or those who have been raptured up to be with the Lord prior to the start of the Tribulation Period.

So here we see the books opened and judgment is going to be issued. And what about this horn that arose out of this Kingdom, the Antichrist? What happens to this man who gets the world to follow after him? We don't have to guess because we are told as we read on.

VERSES 11-12

1. With all the pompous, arrogant words that this man spoke, he is destroyed and cast into the Lake of Fire. It is that simple and that quick! We see this played out for us in Revelation 19:20, **“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.”** So not only will the Antichrist be cast into the Lake of Fire but so too will the False Prophet at the end of the Tribulation Period!

2. So with the destruction of this man we will see the termination of **“the times of the Gentiles”** spoken of in Luke 21:24, 27. We are told of this time, **“. . . And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. . . . Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”** It is then the Lord will set up His Kingdom on the earth and rule and reign for 1,000 years!

3. Now what does it mean when it says in verse 12 of Daniel chapter 7, **“As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.”**? Does that mean that these Kingdoms will exist during the Kingdom Age? Some think so but I don’t believe that is what this text is saying. And if you think about it, it makes no sense. There is no way that will happen. Listen carefully because this explains it well. We are told,

When each of the first three Gentile world kingdoms (represented by the first three beasts) fell, they were not totally destroyed. They were absorbed into the next world kingdom which conquered them and continued to exist as part of the new expression of Gentile world dominion. In that sense Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece would continue to live for the entire period of time that God appointed for Gentile world dominion. By contrast, the fourth kingdom (the Roman Empire) would be totally destroyed in its fall. It would not be made part of the kingdom that would succeed it.

Since Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece continued to exist as part of the Roman Empire, the judgment of Rome would be their judgment as well. Thus, God's total destruction of Antichrist's Roman Empire would also be God's total destruction of Gentile world dominion. Never again would it dominate the world. . . .

- Renald E. Showers, A Commentary on the Book of Daniel, The Most High God, p. 79

I think that is correct and we see this destruction spoken of in Daniel chapter 2 where we are told beginning in verse 44, **“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold - the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”** Daniel 2:44-45.

When Jesus, the Stone not cut with hands comes He shall destroy all these Kingdoms and He will establish His Kingdom on the earth! We will see Jesus in the next few verses as He deals with judging the earth when He returns. We have seen the “**Ancient of Days**” or God the Father seated upon the throne and judgment being issued forth and now we will see the Son of Man, Jesus coming forth and establishing His Kingdom on earth!

VERSES 13-14

1. The phrase “**Son of Man**” is a title for the Messiah and it is used of Jesus some 80 times in the New Testament. And in Hebrews chapter 10, speaking of Jesus, Paul tells us, “**But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.**” Hebrews 10:12-13.

Jesus Christ is the Stone not cut with hands of Daniel chapter 2 as I have said. And this stone strikes this mighty image, the Gentile Kingdoms to the ground and crushed them to pieces and they were blown away like the chaff from the summer threshing floor. Then this stone grew into a mighty mountain filling the whole earth. It is Jesus Christ who then will rule and reign with righteousness. All the previous world governments will be destroyed by the Son of Man, and His Kingdom will last forever!

There is coming another judgment at the end of the Millennial Reign and it is called the Great White Throne judgment and this is the final judgment where the unsaved will be judged for all the wrong they have done and be cast into the Lake of Fire with the Devil. They are cast into Hell for rejecting Jesus Christ and they will be punished according to their works! Right now they are in Hades or Hell awaiting this final judgment that comes at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ! Remember that the Antichrist and the False Prophet have been cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Tribulation Period!

VERSES 15-18

1. As you can imagine, Daniel was grieved by what he saw and unsure what it all meant. But who is this person that makes known to Daniel this vision he had? It could be the angel Gabriel and I will show you why I feel that way. And keep in mind that the angel Gabriel seems to be the angel in charge of announcements for Israel. We also see Michael who is the warrior angel for the nation of Israel.

In Daniel chapter 8, during another vision that Daniel had, we see in verses 15 and 16, this point illustrated for us. It says, **“Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, ‘Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.’”**

And the one that seals it for me is found in Daniel 9:21 where we read, **“yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man *Gabriel*, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.”** So I feel that this man in chapter 7 is none other than the angel Gabriel making known to Daniel what this vision was all about. Is it a big deal? Not really but when you compare Scripture it does seem to point to the angel Gabriel.

2. Now as troubled as Daniel was over this vision. As troubled as we can be as we look at the things that are happening in this world and in this country, God has comforting words for us. He is not only putting things into perspective for Daniel but also for us.

The angel Gabriel tells Daniel that these beasts that come out of the earth or the sea of humanity, these Kings will not have a Kingdom that lasts forever. But those that are the **“saints of the Most High”** will not only enter the kingdom of God but will inhabit it forever. It is what we are praying for, **“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**

That should give us great comfort no matter how bad it gets.

3. But now Daniel’s interest is focused on this last Gentile World Kingdom and he inquires to know more about this from Gabriel in verse 19.

VERSES 19-27

1. Notice again how this Empire mutilates and pulverizes the inhabitants of the earth. When I think about this verse it reminds me of one of those horror flicks with the grotesque monsters ravaging the earth. How hideous they can make them. And yet there is one big difference between those horror flick monsters and this Empire that will emerge. The horror flicks are not real; they are made up in the minds of men. But this Empire is real and its power is suffocating - it will have control over the whole earth, at least for a time.

2. This little horn comes up after the 10 horns and as we said earlier he uproots three of these horns. This horn is described as the Antichrist, though the Bible calls him the beast and the son of perdition. This Antichrist will come on the scene as a man of peace for the first 3½ years of the Tribulation Period, and then for the last 3½ years all hell will break lose on the earth as his true colors are seen. What are some of the characteristics and workings of this beast? We are told of several here in Daniel.

- **EYES OF A MAN:** It speaks of his intelligence. Revelation tells us that he comes on the scene as the man of peace, very similar to the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, but he comes **“conquering and to conquer.”**

As you can see, don't count on him being a man of peace. What is this man able to do? We are told in II Thessalonians 2:9-10a that, **“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish. . .”**

- **BOASTFUL:** Again in II Thessalonians chapter 2 we read **“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”** II Thessalonians 2:3-4.

Also, in Revelation 13:5-6 we read **“And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.”**

- **CHARISMATIC:** This man will have the ability to charm the socks off the people of this world. He will have the world eating out of his hand, and the world will worship him! And people today are looking for a man like this, one to solve the problems of the world and unite us together!
- **PERSECUTING THE SAINTS:** These are the Jewish and Gentile believers who have come to Christ during the Tribulation Period. It is as Revelation 13:7 says, **“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.”**
- **ISRAEL WILL BE UNDER HIS CONTROL:** In Zechariah chapter 13 we read in verse 8 of the Jewish people, **“And it shall come to pass in all the land,’ says the LORD, ‘That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it.”**

And in Zechariah 14:2 we are told, **“For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”** This persecution will continue on for the last 3½ years of the Tribulation Period.

- **WORLD WIDE DICTATOR:** We have discussed this already, but in Daniel 7:23 we are told, **“... and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.”** And in Revelation 13 we are told, **“... And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.”** Revelation 13:7.

- **CHANGE THE TIMES AND THE LAW:** We are told in Daniel 2:21 that God **“changes the times and the seasons.”** But here we see the Antichrist attempt to do this. Again, trying to be like God. And whatever he is going to do, be it changing the moral laws or whatever, it is an attempt to mimic God and to rule the world as God.

3. Now as great as he thinks he is, listen to how this plays out. In Daniel 7:26-27 we are told, **“But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”**

The Judge will enter the court room and pronounce His righteous judgment upon the beast. And this Kingdom will come to an end very quickly and it will never be revived again. It is amazing how man thinks he is so strong, so powerful, that nothing can stop him but God steps in and that power is gone and man is nothing. Man apart from God will not stand!

VERSE 28

1. Daniel kept this matter to himself at this point but today, we know what this means and we are to be speaking about the Lord’s return. Spurgeon wrote,

If we believe that the Lord Jesus has come the first time, we believe also that He will come the second time; but are these equally assured truths to us? Have we with equal firmness grasped the thought that He comes again? Do we say to each other, as we meet in happy fellowship, “Yes, our Lord cometh”?

It should be to us not only a prophecy assuredly believed among us, but a scene pictured in our souls, and anticipated in our hearts. My imagination has often set forth that dread scene: but better still, my faith has realized it. I have heard the chariot-wheels of the Lord's approach, and I have endeavored to set my house in order for His reception. I have felt the shadow of that great cloud which shall attend Him, damping the ardor [passion] of my worldliness. I hear even now in spirit the sound of the last trumpet, whose tremendous blast startles my soul to serious action, and puts force into my life. Would God that I lived more completely under the influence of that august [majestic] event!

- Spurgeon's Sermons on the Second Coming, p. 110

I think many have lost that joy, that hope that the Lord is coming back and they are consumed with the things of this world instead. Paul reminds us in Titus 2:13, "**looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**"

Our hope is in the Lord and not in this world or the things of this world. Think about it for a minute. You buy a new car and it is a great car, one you have wanted to get for years and now you have it. It is the right color, it is sleek, sporty, it is beautiful. And you drive it around and you are proud of this car.

Then, before you get it home from the dealership a truck in front of you shoots a rock from its bed and scratches your god, I mean car! That joy is gone, now you are angry. You do get it fixed but every time you look at that god, I mean car you still know that there is a dent and a scratch in it! The things of this world are wearing down, they are falling apart, they are decaying, they will come to nothing.

But the Lord will remain the same because He is unchanging. And His promise to us is that He is coming back and He will establish His Kingdom on this earth where righteousness will flow. The thing we need to remember is that it will get darker and darker before Jesus returns. So don't focus on the things of this world, focus on the Lord, our blessed hope that He is coming back!

2. So as I close this evening, this is the end of this vision that Daniel had during the first year of the reign of Belshazzar, which was around 553 B. C. And like I have said, Daniel was troubled by what he saw and yet not fully sure of what it was all about. We have the ability to look at the majority of this account from hindsight, but for Daniel it was mostly future.

So he just kept the information in his heart and waited to see what would come to pass. And many times we too must do the same. God's Word points to the events that will be taking place but many times we must be patient, and wait to see how God is going to do what He has said in His Word. You see, the victory was already won at Calvary and the Lord is coming to take back what He already purchased with His blood and to set up His righteous Kingdom on this earth. As John said, I think we all echo, "**. . . Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**" Revelation 22:20.



**DANIEL
CHAPTER 7**



**Babylonian Empire
606BC -536BC**



**Persian Empire
536BC to 332BC**



**Grecian Empire
332BC to 63BC**



**Roman Empire
63BC till
Christ Returns**