

Daniel's Dream and Visions

📖 Daniel 7:1-15

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Q: Did Darius have faith?

A: In the OT period a Gentile was saved by faith. This faith is expressed by Isa 43:10-11 as having two aspects. First, monotheism. They had to believe there was but one God and that God was YHWH. Second, no idolatry. They had to abstain from idolatry. The question is whether Darius was a monotheist who rejected idolatry. From the information we can gather in 6:16 he made the interesting statement that Daniel's God could save Daniel. He does not claim that Daniel's God is his god. In verse 20 he says that Daniel is a servant of the living God. But again it is Daniel's God and not his god. After Daniel had been delivered from the power of the lions in verses 26-27 Darius makes a decree that men are to fear and tremble before Daniel's God, stating that this God is the living God and His kingdom will not be destroyed and that He delivers and does signs and wonders in heaven and earth. I think these statements are consistent with polytheism. He may have feared and trembled before Daniel's God but that does not mean he believed Daniel's God was the only God or that he abstained from idolatry. So I don't think we can conclude that he was a believer, though he may have been or he may have believed at a later time.

Q: What are the true definitions of and cultural significances between the Jewish temple and Jewish synagogue. Jesus was found in both.

A: This is related because Daniel prayed toward the Temple in Jerusalem. Of course the Temple had, by this time, been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and his armies in 586BC. The location was still significant because Jerusalem is where God put His name forever and the Temple was the divinely approved location of worship and sacrifice. After the Temple was destroyed the Jews began to build synagogues in local towns, interestingly, each was built facing Jerusalem in the same way that Daniel faced Jerusalem. Over time they began to worship in the synagogues on the Sabbath. This was a violation of the Law because Sabbath was a holy day where one would rest from his vocation and worship in the home. The Sabbath violations became a major controversy between Jesus and the Pharisees in the NT. The Pharisees accused Jesus of violating the Sabbath but it was they who had distorted the purpose of the Sabbath. Jesus was circumcised in the rebuilt and expanded Temple on the 8th day.

Jesus went to the Temple at least three times a year beginning at the age of 12 as required by the Law. In Nazareth, or nearby, Jesus would attend a local synagogue when it was permitted for reading and exposition of the Law and the Prophets. But the true place of worship and the only place of worship designated by God was the Temple in Jerusalem.

Today Daniel 7, this is the last chapter written in Aramaic and hence the last chapter of the chiasmic literary structure. In that structure the first message is Dan 2 and 7, the times of the Gentiles will involve four major Gentile kingdoms followed by the kingdom of God. The second message is Dan 3 and 6, the Jews will survive these four Gentile kingdoms by faith. The third message is Dan 4 and 5, the Gentile kings will tend toward arrogance against the Jews but by faith and blessing the Jews they can be blessed.

These chapters are a major key to prophetic revelation. I cannot overemphasize that this structure of four Gentile kingdoms on this earth, which is the times of the Gentiles, followed by God's kingdom that strikes and destroys these four Gentile kingdoms and replaces them on this earth, is the most basic structure for all of bible prophecy. Every other prophecy has to fit within this structure or it's simply a bogus idea. That's why we're building from Daniel. It's the key to prophetic revelation and the major contributing factor is this structure.

Daniel also teaches us how to interpret prophecy because much of what was predicted about these kingdoms by symbols was fulfilled in literal kingdoms with literal people. What we mean by literal is that the symbols have a literal referent, they're not just anything or some abstract spiritual idea. Take Dan 2, the head of gold in the statue has as its literal referent Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom of Babylon. The breast and arms of silver have as a literal referent the kingdom of Medo-Persia. This was fulfilled within Daniel's lifetime and it tells us how to interpret the latter symbols. The waist and thighs of bronze came in time to have as a literal referent Greece. The legs and feet of iron and iron mixed with clay have as a literal referent Rome in its historic form and will have as a literal referent a future Rome. The stone then must have a literal referent and that is the kingdom of God in the earth. This is staying consistent to the principles of interpretation embedded within Daniel and so any departure from this model has no biblical precedence and should be rejected outright. So another contribution of Daniel is it teaches us how to interpret prophecy, and it's not allegorically, it's not spiritually, it's literally. How past prophecy was fulfilled tells us how we should expect future prophecy to be fulfilled.

Daniel 7 gives us one more look at the four great successive Gentile kingdoms and the kingdom of God as seen in Daniel 2 but there is a difference in how the kingdoms are depicted in Dan 7. Daniel 2 depicted them as a beautiful four metal statue. Daniel 7 depicts the same four kingdoms as four ugly beasts. Why the difference? Dan 2 signified the way that man views the four kingdoms. From the human view point, they are beautiful

accomplishments of man. Dan 7 signifies the way that God views the four kingdoms. From the divine view point, they are animal-like, sub-human in their rule. So the contrast is between what man thinks about these kingdoms versus what God thinks about these kingdoms. We are to adjust our way of thinking about them to God's thinking. We are to view all Gentile kingdoms as sub-human in their rule, corrupt and oppressive, not fit for humans to dwell within.

Finally, observe that Daniel 7 occurs in 553BC. This is out of sequence in the chronology of the chapters because Dan 5 was 539BC, Dan 6 was 538/7BC and Dan 7 jumps back to the earlier year of 553. This is the first year of Belshazzar's reign. He was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar and he ruled Babylon with his father Nabonidus until that fateful night in Dan 5 when the handwriting appeared on the wall and the Medes and Persians took Babylon without a fight. So the year is 553BC. For perspective, the parallel chapter, Daniel 2 occurred in 603BC. So the two pictures of the four successive Gentile kingdoms were both given within the first kingdom, Babylon, but they were given 50 years apart from one another.

Now this vision was given directly to Daniel whereas the earlier dream was given to Nebuchadnezzar and interpreted by Daniel. In this vision Daniel is going to receive additional details that complement the other one so that in the end we have a fuller picture. This is the way I think you interpret prophecy. You build progressively and let the pieces fall into place in the most natural fashion. Verse 1, **In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.** Apparently it was a single dream that had a series of visions within it. The difference between a dream and a vision is that in a dream you can't enter into the dream and participate but in a vision you can and later in the vision Daniel is going to interact with an angel trying to get the interpretation of what he sees. So it's called a dream and visions and I don't know everything that means but it seems he had a dream and multiple visions.

Notice Daniel says in verse 1 this is his **summary of** what he saw **in his mind**. It's not every detail of what he saw but the Hebrew word means he included all the essential elements of what he saw. Verse 2, and I think this is the key to the whole vision, I see two elements that connect the four beasts. What are they? The four winds and the great sea. People tend to focus on the four beasts but all four beasts arise out of the sea that is being stirred up by the four winds. **Daniel said, I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of the heaven were stirring up the great sea.** What's the **sea**? The **sea** is a symbol for the Gentile nations. Isaiah 17 captures the condition of nations, saying, the people roar like the roaring of the seas and the nation's rumble, they rush on like the rumbling of mighty waters. The reason is because water is fluid and easily stirred into dangerous chaos. What this is saying is that Gentile nations are easily stirred into chaos. This is what we have to live in and it's been this way ever since God gave Gentile kingdoms the right to rule. What are the **four winds**? They stir up the sea into this chaos. The **four winds** are a symbol of satanic and demonic influence. Wind influences surface water currents and since Satan and the demons are spirit beings, wind beings, then they are

the ones that are stirring up Gentile nations. So Gentile kingdoms are underneath the rule of Satan who is called the prince of the power of the air. Gentile rulers are in a large sense under the disturbing influence of Satan and demons. That is why passages like Isa 14 and Ezek 28 address a human king with language that can only apply to Satan who is behind the human king. Satan is the one stirring up the political pot, the economic pot, the religious pot. These are primary targets for introducing chaos. These are the topics covered by the media. Because Satan is in such control of these topics I wouldn't pay much attention to the media. I'd keep it on my radar so I am aware of what is going on, but I wouldn't be constantly watching the news because it's Satan's tool to create anxiety in people. Almost everything that comes through mainstream media is linguistically prejudiced to confuse and deceive the public. I don't think it's worth the time, energy or anxiety it creates.

So the **four winds** are stirring up the **sea** and in verse 3 you see four beasts coming up from the sea. These are all unnatural beasts and they symbolize four unnatural kingdoms. Note in v 4 it's not a lion but it's *like* a lion, in v 5 it's not a bear but it *resembles* a bear and so forth. It's saying these are unnatural animals and they have unnatural characteristics, and it gets more unnatural from beast to beast. But these unnatural features are symbolizing certain characteristics of the kingdoms they represent. This section is obviously highly symbolic and we'd classify this as apocalyptic literature. But we don't have to guess the interpretation of all these symbols because an angel is going to interpret them for us.

Verse 3, **And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. 4The first was like a lion**, not a lion but *like* a lion, lion-like, **and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.** This beast undergoes changes. It started as a winged lion. Depictions of winged lions were found on the gates of Babylon so it's very clear this represents the first great Gentile Kingdom of Babylon and corresponds to the head of gold in the statue of Dan 2. That's what Chart 6 tries to do, it tries to show the correspondences of the Daniel 2 prophecy with the Daniel 7 prophecy.

In Dan 2 the head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar who was the incarnation of Babylon. In Dan 7 Nebuchadnezzar is depicted as like a lion with wings. The lion is royalty and power and depicts his royal power. Wings give you speed and so they depict his rapid conquest. Indeed, Nebuchadnezzar was a great royal power that swiftly rose to defeat Assyria (Hab 1:5ff). But notice a development of this kingdom is indicated by the progression of the vision. **I kept looking until its wings were plucked;** I take it that is the time during which Nebuchadnezzar was walking around on all fours like a wild animal in Daniel 4. Then **it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.** That's when Nebuchadnezzar's reason returned to him toward the end of his reign and his kingdom was restored. So the man's career is sketched here in three phases; a phase of great royal power and swift conquests, a period of zoanthropy and a period of very humane rule. Remember, this man became a believer toward the end of his life. That changed the way he ruled and so this is a repeat of portions of Dan 1, 2, 3 and 4. Nebuchadnezzar is the winged lion.¹

Verse 5, the second kingdom, **And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat.'** The second beast also arises up out of the tumultuous sea of Gentiles being blown by satanic and demonic forces. This kingdom was not a **bear** but something like a **bear**, but it was strange because **it was raised up on one side**. So the kingdom has two sides and one side is raised up, so it's a lopsided bear. This is a very clear depiction of the two branches of the kingdom and that one branch would be stronger than the other branch. The kingdom is Medo-Persia and in time the Persian branch would prove stronger than the Median branch. So it corresponds to the arms and chest of silver in the statue of Dan 2 but it enhances our understanding because one side will be stronger than the other. Today historians hardly ever refer to the Medo-Persian Kingdom, just the Persian Kingdom. Why? Because the Persians overwhelmed the Medes. In the times of Esther there's no mention of the Medes, it's just the Persians. And notice the bear-like creature has **three ribs in its mouth**. Those **three ribs** refer to three most notable conquests because the text says, **Arise and devour much flesh**. So this kingdom would conquer and conquer and conquer and the **three** nations they conquered were Lydia, Egypt and Babylon. They are the three ribs.² Medo-Persia is the lopsided bear-like beast.

In verse 6 the bear is gone, Daniel says, **After this I kept looking**, remember this is a dream and it's sequential what he is seeing, **and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it**. So this one is leopard-like, not a leopard, but leopard-like, it has four wings and four heads, so a four-winged, four-headed, leopard-like creature, it just gets more and more unnatural as you move from kingdom to kingdom. The **leopard** is a very sleek, very fast animal and with **four wings of a bird** on the back it depicts lightning fast speed. And if you know your history Alexander the Great was well-known for his lightning fast military campaigns. So this represents Greece and corresponds to the waist and thighs of bronze in the statue of Dan 2. Alexander started his conquests at age 21, conquered Persia within a matter of months, continued to conquer and conquer and conquer and then one day some of his men saw him crying and they asked him what he was crying about and he said he overheard how many worlds there were and yet he hadn't even conquered one! This man had conquered more than any human general in the history of the world and suddenly got sick at Babylon and died at the young age of 33. Then the text says **the leopard-like beast had four heads**. What happened was Alexander died and his kingdom was so vast that no one ruler could rule it so it went into a period of unrest and was eventually divided amongst his four generals, they are the **four heads**; Casander over Greece and Macedonia; Lysimachus over Thrace and Asia Minor; Seleucus over Syria and the Middle East; and Ptolemy over Egypt. So Greece is the four-winged, four-headed, leopard-like beast.

Then that beast sunk into the sea and Daniel saw a fourth beast, verse 7, **After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8While I was contemplating the horns, behold,**

another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

Observe first of all that there is much more attention given to the fourth beast than the first, second or third. We saw the same thing in Daniel 2, much more material given to the legs of iron and feet and toes of iron and clay. So why is this in both cases? Probably for several reasons, let me suggest first of all that the fourth kingdom, the kingdom of Rome is more complex. This kingdom does not come and go off the scene in the way that Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece will do. Rome will come on the scene, fade into the background and then reform. So there are actually two phases or forms of the Roman Empire, from our day there is historic Rome and there is future Rome. A second reason I suggest is because Israel will not be restored during the first, second or third kingdom, but the fourth kingdom, so that may be a contributing reason why the majority of attention is directed toward that fourth kingdom.

Notice verses 7 and 8 Rome is depicted as having two phases or stages. As for historic Rome, verse 7 says **a dreadful, terrifying, extremely strong beast** that had **large iron teeth**, note the iron because the statue in Dan 2 depicted this stage of Rome with iron legs. There's a connection with the iron. **It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet;** the **remainder** being the prior kingdoms, **and it was different from all the beasts that went before it.** I could take you on an aside to Rev 13:2 and you'd see a beast coming out of the sea much like this one. It is described as having a body like a leopard, feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion. I take it this fourth beast is a composite of the three prior beasts. They sunk into the sea and combined such that when the fourth rose it was an amalgam of the prior three. In other words, the three prior kingdoms made a contribution to the kingdom building activities of man and those contributions were absorbed into Rome. Babylon contributed the fractional reserve banking system; Medo-Persia inherited fractional reserve banking and contributed globalism; Greece inherit both fractional reserve banking and globalism and added human rationalism; Rome inherited all three of these and added military might. That is why this fourth kingdom is so unnatural. It is Rome that is the worst of all because it's combining all the contributions of the prior kingdoms under great military might. That's why it's the most dreadful. As you can see from Daniel's description, ancient Rome was extremely powerful, they crushed and terrified everyone, when they defeated you they didn't form loose confederations, they consolidated you into their kingdom permanently. And for 500 years Rome ruled without rival, a statistic unparalleled by any other kingdom in the history of the world. So this beast was far more fearful to Daniel than any of the others. It was awesomely ferocious.

As for future Rome, the end of verse 7 says **it had ten horns.** This is the concrete form Rome will take in the future and correspond to the ten toes on the statue in Dan 2. **Horns** symbolize power and represent kings in Scripture. So it refers to ten kings that will rule contemporaneously just as the ten toes depicted ten contemporaneous kings. What is happening in the world right now is future Rome is developing so that ten kings come to reign contemporaneously. We're not there yet. Some refer to this as a ten-nation confederation and in modern times have identified it as the UN, the European Union or some modification of one of those

organizations. They are limiting it to Europe because of the ancient borders of Rome. But I see future Roman as a global empire and so the ten divisions are global and divide naturally along the continents with some additional divisions for the larger continents. What we're looking for today is nations to merge politically, economically and legally, those would be signs that the stage is being set for the ten kings.

When this occurs verse 8 describes developments that will quickly take place. **While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it;** note the strange eleventh horn, it starts off small in comparison to the others, it's also a king but apparently it will start off insignificant, no one will even think about it, but it will rise quickly to significance and then **three of the first horns** will be **pulled out by the roots**. The **little** horn will defeat militarily three of the ten kings so that the **little** horn is no longer little and it subdues three of the ten kings. Then there will be seven of the ten remaining and the little horn which will be an eighth. And this little **horn** it says, **possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. Eyes like the eyes of a man** indicate great intelligence, we don't only see with our eyes, we perceive in the mind, so this man is a super genius. He also utters **great boasts**, he has a big mouth and he spouts it off and you probably guessed who this is. Who is it? This is the anti-Christ. The preposition *anti-* can mean "against" or "instead of" and there is a sense in which both are true. The *anti*-Christ will be against Christ and he will be a *counterfeit* Christ and so he'll counterfeit the miracles of Christ and deceive people into thinking he's Christ. And what he's doing here, wagging his big mouth, introduces the interruption of verse 9.

But I'm going to jump ahead to Rev 17 for a moment, the rise of this individual can be traced from an insignificant beginning Rev 17:13 when the ten kings give their power and authority to him, he puts down three of the kings and so he becomes an eighth and a final ruler of a one world government. At that point he starts uttering boasts, he goes in the temple, makes himself out to be God and this gets him into big trouble with God in the same way that Belshazzar took the vessels from the temple of God and praised the gods of gold, silver, wood and stone. This is the pattern of Gentile rulers and when they cross the line what does God do? He cuts them down to size.

So the placement of verse 9 is significant because it's when this little horn starts uttering great boasts that God moves in to shut it. It's a decisive move into human history to end the times of the Gentiles and begin the kingdom of God. That's why this heavenly scene is so significant as it breaks into the vision of the little horn. **I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. 10A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.** It's a courtroom scene, there are thrones set up, we don't know who will occupy them, maybe the twenty-four elders of Revelation will sit as witnesses in the case. The one presiding is the **Ancient of Days**. He is

apparently the Father because the Son of Man comes up to Him later in verse 13 to receive the kingdom. The Father's **vesture was like white snow** signifying holiness **and His head like pure wool** signifying wisdom. And notice his **throne was ablaze with flames, it's wheels were a burning fire**. Fire signifies judgment, the wheels signify omniscience. The court is preparing to sit as the Father in holy wisdom is preparing to judge out of His omniscience.

Attending to him are **thousands upon thousands...And myriads upon myriads**, an uncountable number of angels ready at His beck and call to execute His judgments and you might think of Revelation at this time and how angels carry out the judgments. **The court sat, And the books were opened**. So there are books containing a record of men's lives, men's works, all judgments are based on works and so **the books were opened** at this time and apparently the books related to the fourth kingdom and especially the little horn who we're going to learn more and more about in the later chapters of Daniel and in the Revelation.

Verse 11, **Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire**. Daniel kept watching the Antichrist mouth off and then it didn't take long to take care of him, **the beast was slain**, the anti-Christ is a **beast** who is easily slain and his **body was destroyed and given to the burning fire**. Peeking ahead to the Revelation, he'll be thrown into the lake of fire along with the false prophet for the thousand years.

Verse 12, **As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time**. That's the lion, the bear and the leopard; Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece, and the point is not to say that these three kingdoms outlast Rome, but to say that they were **granted an extension of life** in that they were combined into future Rome and share its demise. This is parallel to when the Dan 2 statue was pulverized by the stone all at one time.

Then verse 13 and 14 and this flows perfectly, if verse 12 is the end of the times of the Gentiles, what time follows? The kingdom of God. So here we have the kingdom follow and it's governed by the **Son of Man**. Before we look at this title observe the striking contrast between the four beastly kingdoms and the fifth human kingdom. What's the difference? The four Gentile kingdoms are sub-human but the Son of Man kingdom is human. When the Son of Man comes He will rule with true honor, true nobility. It will be a wonderful time to live, so wonderful these former kingdoms will be forgotten. Verse 13, **I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven, in great majesty, One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom. That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed**.

The title **Son of Man** is very significant. It's the title Jesus mostly commonly used to refer to Himself. What is the significance of the Son of Man title? The idea of Man emphasizes He is true humanity. He is the Son related to

mankind by the incarnation. But note that he is *like* a Son of Man. So He is not mere man. He is also true divinity. The Son of Man title means that He is God and man. The rule is given to a God-man. Why man? Because of the original creation mandate that God gave man. Genesis 1:28, I want man to rule the earth, to have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky and every living thing. The original mandate was given to Adam. Adam failed. He handed the creation over to Satan. That is why Satan is consistently viewed through Scripture as the god of this world and the prince of the power of the air. He is the one stirring up the nations. Psalm 8 asks the question, "What is man that you take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty. You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet." So man is to rule the creation for God. Is this happening yet? Is the kingdom now? Hebrews 2 says "But now we do not yet see all things subjected to" Jesus. So no, there is no kingdom now. The kingdom is in the future after Jesus Christ shuts the big mouth of the anti-Christ. Jesus Christ will fulfill God's purpose for man to have dominion over all things. He's the last Adam. But He's also God. He is the God-man. This is the theme of the **Son of Man**. He is the one who will break into history and fulfill the dominion mandate of Gen 1:28. Amillennialists say Nero was the anti-Christ and Jesus did this in AD70. Give me a break. We do not now see Jesus ruling over all things. But He will in the future.

And where does the Son of Man get His authority? In Dan 7:13 He marches up to the Father and **was presented before Him And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom**. In Psalm 2 the Father says "Ask of Me, I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession." The Son of Man is asking for it. He is the heir of the kingdom and we are heirs of the kingdom with Him. The Father gives Him the scepter. Verse 14, **That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed**. This is an eternal kingdom and it's a very important picture. The kingdom is an earthly kingdom that once established is everlasting and will not be destroyed, just like Dan 2 the stone. It is subsequent to the four prior kingdoms, it does not overlap them, the prior four are totally destroyed and then it comes and remains forever.

Now if we could summarize what Daniel saw when he laid down to sleep that night - suddenly a great sea and wind from every direction stirring up the sea into a giant storm, then a winged lion-like beast rose up out of the sea, a huge monstrous thing, it's wings were plucked out, it was lifted up and made to stand on two feet like a man and a human mind was given to it. Then a lopsided bear-like creature came up out of the tumultuous sea raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth. Then a four-winged, four-headed leopard-like creature came up and it ruled. Then, a very strange beast, a composite of the other three beasts rose up out of the stormy sea, it was extremely wicked and destructive, it had ten horns, then an eleventh horn came up, a little one and it pulled out three of the horns by the roots and this horn had eyes on it and a big mouth, it was making a big noise. Then a heavenly courtroom was prepared with the Ancient of Days presiding, judgment was being cast against this little horn and his kingdom. The little horn was defeated and cast in the burning fire and all Gentile kingdoms

were destroyed simultaneously. Finally, the Son of Man was presented before the Ancient of Days and dominion was given to Him to rule an eternal kingdom in fulfillment of God's original purpose for man. That's the dream and visions that Daniel saw and it's an outline of the times of the Gentiles as dominated by animal-like rule followed by the times of the Jews dominated by the Son of Man rule which is the only kingdom fit for human life.

Verse 15, **As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.** Daniel got scared to death when he saw the course history would take. It was very alarming to realize what his nation Israel had to go through to get to the promised kingdom.

Alright, what can we learn from the first 15 verses of Daniel 7? First, Gentile kingdoms are greatly influenced by Satanic powers. All four Gentile kingdoms are depicted as arising out of an agitated sea, indicating they are highly influenced by satanic powers. The media is the propagators of deception by linguistic prejudicial bias. They will lead you into deception and create anxiety in your soul if you let them. So understand the powers at work and don't be taken unawares. Second, this prophecy spans over 2,650 years predicting remarkable details of the course of Gentile history. It portrays Nebuchadnezzar as a royal lion with wings who swept upon the world stage very rapidly and then went through a period of inability to conquer but at last was restored and ruled humanely.³ It depicts Medo-Persia as a lopsided bear predicting that the Persian element would eventually dominate the second kingdom. The three ribs in its mouth predicted Persia's three major conquests of Lydia, Egypt and Babylonia. It predicts Greece as a lightning fast leopard that would conquer the world with remarkable speed depicting Alexander the Great's military conquests with awesome precision. It had four heads to predict that his kingdom would be divided among his four generals at his death; Casander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy. It predicts historic Rome as a dreadful, extremely strong empire that would crush with its teeth of iron and trample with its claws of brass exactly as it did for over 500 years. It predicts a future Rome that will form having ten contemporaneous kings and an eleventh little king that will rise with extreme intelligence who will defeat three of the ten kings and utter great boasts against the God of heaven. At that time the heavenly court will sit and the Ancient of Days will take His seat, open the books and judge this little horn as well as future Rome. In place of this kingdom He will give a kingdom to the Son of Man whose kingdom will be over all the earth and eternally fulfill the dominion mandate of Gen 1. Third, premillennialism is the proper outline of eschatology. What premillennialism means is that the Second Coming of Christ is required to establish the Messianic Kingdom. Amillennialism says that the Messianic Kingdom was established at Christ's First Coming. This would require that the Messianic Kingdom overlap with the Roman Kingdom. But the vision depicts the Messianic Kingdom not coming until the Roman Kingdom and its final ruler, the little horn, are destroyed along with every other Gentile kingdom. So then we are premillennial.⁴ Fifth, the four Gentile kingdoms are depicted as beastly in nature over and against the Messiah's kingdom which is depicted as human in nature. Only the kingdom of the Son of Man is governed in such a way that is befitting the nature of humans, respecting human dignity and their noble position as the only creature made in the image of God. The world has never seen rule

that is truly fitting of who we are as the image-bearers of God. Every government to date has been sub-human. Finally, this vision of Daniel 7 is foundational to later things in Daniel and the Book of Revelation. Without a good understanding of this vision later prophetic revelation can't be understood. So you need to be able to think very clearly through Daniel 7 before you study later prophecy. And we'll be doing more of that next week, connecting these things with later revelation.

¹ When Daniel saw this vision the winged lion was historical. The precision of the symbols depicting this historical kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar therefore give an interpretive precedent for the interpretation of the symbolic depictions of the future kingdoms of Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome contained herein.

² The Persian Empire extended from the Indus River on the east of Egypt to the Aegean on the west. (cf Wood, p 183)

³ See endnote 1.

⁴ To the objection by Amillennialists that the ten kings and the Antichrist have already come and been destroyed in the 1st century AD, it is replied that the ten kings are depicted in the vision as contemporaneous and not successive. The eleventh arises among them while they are contemporaneously ruling and defeats three of them. There is no historical period in Rome when these things occurred. Therefore, they must still be future and the Messianic Kingdom must thereby also be future.