

Hope for Today

Who Hijacked the Faith?

Daniel 7 answers the question that the Exiles in Babylon were asking, **“Where is God?”** To all appearances God had abandoned them. Think about it 1) Exiled from their Homeland, 2) the temple is in ruins, 3) a pagan king gets visions from God, and 4) Babylon has a king, Belshazzar, who has no respect for God!

There are 7 Key segments in Daniel Chapter 7

1. Vision of 4 beasts
2. 10 Horns and the “Little Horn”
3. Focus on a Heavenly Judgment
4. Focus on the “Little Horn”
5. Focus on Heaven and Son of Man
6. The “Little Horn’s” war against the saints
7. The Saints victory & dominion

5 Issues to deal with in Daniel 7

1. What are the beasts symbols of?
2. Who or what is the Little Horn?
3. Where does the Judgment take place?
4. When does the judgment take place?
5. What is this period of 1,260 days?

Daniel 7:2 begins by telling us that Daniel had a vision “... In my vision by night I was looking: and behold, the four winds of heavens were stirring up the Great Sea.” What would this “stirring of the sea” have meant to Daniel? Just maybe he thought of the words of Isaiah.

Isaiah 17:12 “Ah, the roar of **nations**; they roar like the roaring of **mighty waters**!” **Isaiah 57:20** “But the **wicked** are the **tossing sea**: for it cannot be quiet.” So it is quite possible that he would have already begun to get the image of nations and people. And to help us living today, John, the Revelator told us what the symbol of water in prophecy can mean.

Revelation 17:15 “.... The waters which you saw ...are people and multitudes and nations and tongues.”

So in prophecy the Sea represents Nations and Populated parts of the world, especially around the Mediterranean!

Let’s continue with Daniel’s dream. **Daniel 7:3** “And four great beasts came up from the sea, and different from one another.” Watch as the angel interprets what these beasts stand for.

Daniel 7:17 “These four great beasts are four kings (*kingdoms*) who shall arise out of the sea.”

God had said in Hosea 13:7-8 “So I am to them like a lion, like a leopard I will lurk beside the way, I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs” Not only were they kingdoms, but there is even a hint of judgment here.

Preliminary observations

Out of the struggles and war, would rise 4 major empires that would rule the then-known world!

Is this just a coincidence? 4 Metals in chapter 7 which represent 4 Empires. Now we have 4 Animals! No, ! Do not believe this is a coincidence. They are the same 4 world Empires!

Daniel 7:4 “The first was like a lion and had eagle’s wings. I watched until its wings were plucked, and lifted up from the earth and made to stand on its feet like a man, And a man’s heart was given to it.”

If we are tracking the same 4 world empires seen in chapter 2 then this is Babylon (605-539 BC)

And **Daniel 7:5** continues with another empire “And behold another beast, a second, like a bear. And it raised itself up on one side, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said to it ‘Arise, eat up much flesh!’

This would then be Medo-Persia (539-331 BC), who defeated Babylon (see chapter 5 of Daniel)

And then Daniel sees a 3rd empire come into view. **Daniel 7:6** “:After I saw, and lo, another like a leopard, which had four wings of a bird on its back. The beast also had four heads; and rulership was given to it.”

Notice the similarity to **Daniel 8:22** “... four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation....”

And history shows how that after many wars, because Alexander had not appointed someone to succeed him, eventually 4 Generals of Alexander’s Army divided the kingdom

1. Cassander/ 2. Lysimachus/ 3. Ptolemy/ 4. Seleucus

Alexander the Great p494 – Theodor Mounson

“Each one whetted the sword against the other and the empire went down in a tangle of strife.”

History of Rome Book 3, Chapter 10

“On June 22, 168 BC..., at the Battle of Pydna, perished the Empire of Alexander the Great, 144 years after his death.”

So the 3rd empire (as confirmed by Daniel 8) would be Greece (331-168BC)

Daniel 7:7 “And after this I looked in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, frightening, and terrifying, and very strong. And it had great iron teeth: it devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the rest with its feet. And it was different from all the beats before it: and it had ten horns.”

ROME (168BC – 476AD) now comes onto the stage of history, symbolised by the 4th terrible beast

Look at the characteristics. **Daniel 7:7** “....And it was different from all the beats before it: and it had ten horns.” And **Daniel 7:24** “... ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise....”

The 10 toes represent 10 kingdoms that would come out of the break-up of Rome (476AD onward)

Church History p173 confirms this

“When the last wave of barbarian invasions had spent its force, the face of Europe had been transformed. Independent Germanic kingdoms had been established on the ruins of the Roman Empire.”

Below we have a table showing the roughly 10 tribes that would form the basis of present-day Europe.

Anglo-Saxons	British
Franks	France
Alamanni	Germans
Lombards	Polish
Ostrogoths	
Burgundies’	
Heruli	
Visigoths	
Vandals	
Suevi	Spanish

Daniel 7:8 “I was thinking about the horns, and behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom three of the first horns were uprooted....in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man and a mouth speaking great things.”

The Little Horn

The eyes in the Little Horn indicate “intelligence” and can show pride and arrogance!

Daniel 7:24 “another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.”

What is possibly “different” about this “Little Horn”?

What he does indicates that the Little Horn was involved in more than political and military matters.

Here is a list of the Characteristics of the Little Horn

1. Arose from the 4th Beast
2. Arose amongst the 10 horns
3. Arose after the 10 horns
4. Uprooted 3 of the horns
5. Starts small - grows great
6. Has 1260 days

And here is a summary list of the Activities of the Little Horn

1. Its a blasphemous power
2. It is a persecuting power
3. Wants to change God’s Laws
4. It is prominent for 1260 days

A preliminary thought would be that the little Horn is born during the Roman Empire, overthrows 3 kingdoms after Rome, becomes powerful & is involved in religion, but persecutes.

Daniel 7:9 “I beheld till the thrones were **cast down**, and the Ancient of days did sit.” (KJV)

Daniel – Wisdom to the Wise p261 – Zdravko Stefanovic

“In that case, (if thrones were cast down) this verse serves as a summary statement of the whole vision of divine judgment with Daniel saying “As I looked the thrones of beasts were overthrown because the Ancient of days took His seat.”

Daniel 7:9 “His raiment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool; His throne was fiery flames,”

Daniel 7:10 “....thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The judgment **was set, and the books were opened.**”

Daniel 7:26 “But the court shall seat in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away.”

Secrets of Daniel p112 – Jacques Doukhan

“The Bible, however sees judgment from the viewpoint of the oppressed, the suffering victim, and thus places it in context of salvation and victory over the oppressor and evil.... the Psalms describe God as both Saviour and Avenger.”

Daniel 7:11 “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking, and as I looked the beast was killed”

From this verse both the Beast (Roman Empire) and the “Little Horn” have a time when they are alive at the same time!

The Little Horn has a *spiritual agenda* as well as a political one, as it blasphemes and attacks the saints

But according to verse 25 it has a limited time-span. **Daniel 7:25** "And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and one-half time."

What are we to make of this time period? Symbolic or literal? The famous scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, who loved to study prophecy, reminded us of a principle of prophetic interpretation of time prophecies.

Ezekiel 4:6 "....I have laid on you a day for each year."

In Bible apocalyptic (end-time) prophecy, involving unreal animals etc, one prophetic day equals one literal year. We can also see this in Numbers 14:34. So when we take this period of 3,5 times, we see that in the book of Daniel that a "time" is a year (see Daniel 4, where Nebuchadnezzar was warned of 7 times or years of insanity) So 3 and a half years would be 3,5 x 360 days (a Jewish month had 30 days x 12, gives 360 days in a year). So 3,5 years equals 1 260 days. **A PERIOD MENTIONED 7 TIMES IN DANIEL & REVELATION! In 3 different ways; 3,5 years/42 months/1260 days.**

If my reading of history is correct, then the Little Horn would have emerged in the early centuries, not at the end of time.

Look at the Earthly and Heavenly Sequence in Daniel 7:8-14

- Little Horn on earth (vs8)
 - **Judgment set up in Heaven (vs9-10)**
- Little Horn continues on earth (vs 11-12)
 - **Son of Man receives dominion (vs 13-14)**

Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him."

There is extremely good news in this middle section of Daniel 7. The Son of man appears. But who is this Son of Man?

Listen to Matthew 26:64 "... from this time you shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of the heavens."

Term "Son of Man" is used 40 times in the New Testament to speak of Jesus. It was His favourite title for Himself.

The original language speaks either of:

- **Child of Humanity**
- **A humanlike being**
- **Human One**

So as we visualize this scene, we see God the Father beginning the judgment in Heaven , while the Little Horn is doing his terrible work on earth.

Daniel 7:15 "I Daniel was distressed in my spirit and the visions of my head troubled me."

Who or what is the Little Horn a symbol of? Has he already appeared or is He/it in the future? We will take up that examination in our next session.

But here is the good news found in Daniel 7:26 "But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away." What the Horn fought for , Christ receives; dominion! **God wins in the end!**