

Daniel

"Thy Kingdom Come"

(Daniel 7:1-28)

A Chronological Order for the Book of Daniel:

Chap.	Event	Year	Daniel's Age
1	Daniel's Captivity	605	15
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	603	17
3	Fiery Furnace	-	-
4	Image of Nebuchadnezzar	-	-
7	Vision of the Four Beasts	553	67
8	Vision of the Ram and the He-Goat	550	69
5	Belshazzar's Feast – Conquest of Babylon	539	81
9	Vision of the Seventy Weeks	539	81
6	Daniel in the Lion's Den	537	83
10-12	Daniel's prayer and visions	536	84

	IMAGE – Chapter 2	BEASTS - Chapter 7	KINGDOMS
The Times of the Gentiles	Head of Gold	Winged Lion	Babylon
	Arms and Breast of Silver	Bear	Medo-Persia
	Belly and Thighs of Bronze	Winged Four-Headed Leopard	Greece
	Legs of Iron, Feet and Toes of Iron and Clay	Beast with Ten Horns and Little Horn	Rome
	Stone that becomes a great mountain	Messiah and Saints given a Kingdom	Kingdom of God

The Setting/Overview: It appears that Daniel arranged the material in his book such that the records of the dreams and visions of others came before the visions that God gave to him. King Nabonidus was the King of the Babylonian empire, and he made his son Belshazzar the co-regent over the city of Babylon. The first year of his reign was in 553 BC. This means that the events of Chapters 5 & 6 came after the events described in Chapters 7 & 8. We will see that the events of chapters 7-12 present the record of four different visions given to Daniel, during the later stages of his life which spans perhaps 15-20 years. We will also see that Daniel's vision of Chapter 7 parallels the dream that God gave to Nebuchadnezzar as recorded in Chapter 2. In Chapter 7 Daniel sees the same sequence of Gentile empires as those that he told Nebuchadnezzar in Chapter 2. Nebuchadnezzar saw a Gentile world dominion as it appears to rebellious man; therefore, it presented that dominion as a brilliant, glorious human image. Daniel 7 portrayed it as it appears to God; therefore, it presented Gentile dominion's true inward nature, that of wild voracious beasts.

The Outline:	A. Daniel's Dream (7:1-14) B. The Interpretation of Daniel's Dream (7:15-27) C. Daniel's Response to the Dream (7:28)
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Daniel's Dream – The Scenes	The Stirring of the Seas (2)
Four Beasts Emerge (3)	4 th Beast – Ten Horns & Little Horn (7-8)
1 st Beast – Lion w/Eagles Wings (4)	Heaven & The Ancient of Days (9-10)
2 nd Beast – Bear (5)	The Little Horn Speaks (11-12)
3 rd Beast – Leopard w/4 Wings/Heads (6)	The Coming Kingdom of God (13-14)

<p>Daniel Needed More (15-18):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel was troubled and asked for help from those there (15-16). • One there provided a <i>general</i> view (16). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The four beasts represented four earthly kings/kingdoms (17) ○ While they would rule for some time, eventually the people of God would receive the kingdom and possess it forever (18). 	<p>God's People will Rule:</p> <p>Three observations regarding God's people ruling the world:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's people are given rule of the earth when God's Kingdom is established. • The people of God will receive the Kingdom of God, not bring it in. • Only the people of God will enter the Kingdom of God, the unsaved living at the time will be judged.
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<p>Daniel Needed Still More (19-22):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel sought to understand the 4th beast, the ten horns and the little horn better (19-20). • He mentioned two things here not previously mentioned (21-22): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The little horn that emerged became greater than the ten horns. ○ The little horn waged war against the people of God and won, until God judged it. 	<p>The Stages of the 4th Beast (23-24):</p> <p>The one interpreting spoke of the three phases of the fourth beast throughout its history:</p> <p><u>Phase 1:</u> Beast or Conquering Stage - Historical</p> <p><u>Phase 2:</u> Ten Horn or Ten Kingdom Stage - Future</p> <p><u>Phase 3:</u> Little Horn or Antichrist Stage - Future</p>
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<p>What will Antichrist Do? (25):</p> <p>Antichrist will do three things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will blaspheme God. • He will wage war against the people of God (For a time, times and half a time). • He will attempt to make changes in the times and law. 	<p>The Coming Kingdom (26-27):</p> <p>The final part of the interpretation dealt with the coming of the Kingdom of God. After the Gentile Kingdoms are destroyed (26), the Kingdom of God will be given to the people of God forever. V13-14 indicates that this will occur through the Messiah.</p>
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Some Analysis: Two observations must be made regarding the coming of the Kingdom of God: (1) The dream and interpretation dealt with the events in chronological order. There was never a time when the Kingdom of God existed at the same time on the earth with one of the reigning Gentile Kingdoms. The 4th beast would be completely destroyed before the establishment of the Kingdom of God. (2) The language of Daniel 7 indicates that the coming Kingdom of God would be more than a spiritual Kingdom. The coming Kingdom of God is something that the people of God receive (18), possess (18 & 22) and are given (27). The people of God will be given the "greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven." The expression "under the whole heaven" throughout scripture refers to something that belongs to the earth (Genesis 6:17, Acts 2:5).

Daniel's Response: Daniel was alarmed and underwent physical changes. Regardless, he kept the matter to himself. He pondered and prayed about this in the days ahead.

Next Week: "Beasts, Angels and the End Times (Daniel 8:1-27)"