

Handout: Daniel Lesson 5

A review of the five succeeding kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream from Chapter 2:

1. The empire of the golden head is Babylon.
2. The empire of the chest and arms of silver is the Medo-Persian Empire.
3. The empire of the bronze belly and thighs is the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great.
4. The empire of the legs of iron and feet of part iron and tile/clay is the Roman Empire and its provinces.
5. The empire of the everlasting Kingdom is Jesus Christ’s Kingdom of the Church.

**CORRELATION OF DREAMS AND VISIONS IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL**

	Image from Chapter 2	Beasts from Chapter 7	Beasts from Chapter 8	World Kingdoms
T I M E  of the  G E N T I L E S  Final Days/ Final Age	Head of gold	Like a lion with eagle’s wings		Babylon 606/5-539 BC
	Chest and arms of silver	Like a bear	Ram with two horns	Medo-Persia 539-331 BC
	Belly and thighs of bronze	Like a leopard with four wings and four heads	Male goat with one great horn, four horns, and a little horn	Alexander the Great & four Greece kingdoms 332-146 BC
	Legs of iron, feet of iron and clay	Incomparable beast with ten horns and a little horn		Rome and the domination of the Province Judea beginning in 63 BC
	The stone that becomes a great mountain	Messiah and Saints receive the Kingdom of God		5 <sup>th</sup> Kingdom = Kingdom of Jesus Christ*

\* THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

Chapter 7 is the beginning of the second half of the three major divisions in the book:

- I. Daniel’s captivity and exile in Babylon in service to pagan rulers (1:1-6:29)
- II. Daniel’s visions and God’s plan for the time of the Gentile nations (7:1-12:13)
- III. Appendix (13:1-14:42)

This part of the book continues to record Daniel’s experiences during the reigns of pagan kings (counting as the ancients counted years):

Chapters 7-8 concerns events during the first and third years when Belshazzar was co-ruler in 550 and 548 BC.

Chapter 9 returns to the first year of Darius the Mede in 539 BC.

Chapter 10 concerns events in the third year King Cyrus ruled Babylon in 537 BC.

➔ over

Chapter 7:1-28 is the end of the part of the Book of Daniel written in Aramaic that began in Chapter 2. The chapter is two parts:

1. Daniel’s dream/vision of the four beasts, the “Ancient of Days,” and the “Son of Man” (verses 1-14).
2. The interpretation of the dream/vision (verses 15-28).

Unlike Chapters 2-6 where Daniel has been the interpreter of the dreams and visions of pagan kings, now his dreams and visions are interpreted for him by an angelic being. The angel sent by Yahweh will explain:

1. Daniel’s dreams and visions in Chapters 7-8.
2. The meaning of Scripture in Chapter 9.
3. Daniel’s last vision concerning the man clothed in linen and ‘final times in Chapters 10-12.

In 2:28, Daniel announced to King Nebuchadnezzar that God in Heaven has shown the king the “final days” as part of the interpretation of the king’s dream. The second part of the book tells Daniel when those “final days” will take place (see 12:5-12). He uses his wisdom from God to comprehend the revelation concerning the unfolding of human history and its meaning.

There are two scenes in the vision in Chapter 7:

1. The four beasts coming out of the sea (verses 2-8).
2. The heavenly court rendering judgment (verses 9-14).

The four beasts are described as:

1. A beast like a lion with eagle’s wings (verse 4).
2. A beast like a bear standing with three ribs in its mouth (verse 5).
3. A beast like a leopard with four bird’s wings and four heads (verse 6).
4. A fearful beast, different from the others with iron teeth and ten horns (verse 7).

The Church Fathers identify the four beasts as the succeeding empires of the Babylonians, Persians, Greek, and Romans in agreement with the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s composite statue in Chapter 2.

#### Parallels Between Daniel’s Visions in Chapter 7 and St. John’s Visions in the Book of Revelation

The Vision	Book of Daniel	Book of Revelation
The Lion, the Bear, and the Leopard	Chapter 7:4-6	Chapter 13:2
The ten horns	Chapter 7:8	Chapters 12:3, 13:1; 17:3, 8
The Beast mouthing boasting and blasphemies	Chapter 7:8,11	Chapter 13:5
The Son of Man coming on the Glory-Cloud	Chapter 7:13	Chapter 1:7 & 14:14
The war against the Saints	Chapter 7:21	Chapter 13:7

Chapters 8-12 are in Hebrew. The vision in Chapter 8 takes place in the third year of the reign of Belshazzar (548 BC) when Daniel is transported spiritually to the city of Susa in the Babylonian province of Elam. The vision is in three parts:

1. The ram with two great horns (verses 1-4).
2. The he-goat with a great horn on its forehead (verses 5-12).
3. The angelic beings and Gabriel who explains the vision (verses 13-27).

COMPARISON OF THE VISIONS OF THE LITTLE HORNS OF CHAPTERS 7 and 8

<u>LITTLE HORN OF CHAPTER 7</u>	<u>LITTLE HORN OF CHAPTER 8</u>
Comes from (Rome) the 4th kingdom	Comes from (Greece) the 3 <sup>rd</sup> kingdom
Will root up 3 of 10 horns	Will be a 5 <sup>th</sup> horn, coming out of 1 of 4
Persecutes God's people for 3 ½ years	Persecutes God's people for 1,150 evenings and mornings, or over 3 years

Daniel's prophecy of the ram, the goat, and the horns has been historically fulfilled. After Alexander the Great's death in 323 BC, four of his generals divided his empire:

1. Macedonia & Greece = Antipater & Cassander
2. Thrace & Asia Minor = Lysimachus
3. Syria = Seleucus
4. Samaria, Judah & Egypt = Ptolemy\*

\*Egypt dominated Judah only until the Battle of Panim in 198 BC when Egypt lost the Levant to the Seleucids of Syria.

The 10 toes of the fourth beast may represent 10 Roman rulers, but there were also 10 Roman provinces ruled by Roman vassals; in either case, the references are to Rome. From Julius Caesar's death in 44 BC, the ascension of his great-nephew as the first Roman Emperor in 29 BC, and until the rule of Vespasian in AD 68 and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in AD 70 AD (during Vespasian's reign) there were 10 Roman rulers:

Julius Caesar  
 Caesar Augustus  
 Augustus  
 Tiberius  
 Gaius Caligula  
 Claudius  
 Nero  
 Galba  
 Otho  
 Vitellius  
 Vespasian