

# Daniel Chapter 7:1-14

## Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts

The first six chapters of Daniel are autobiographical history. That is, they speak mainly of the story of Daniel personally. The final six chapters of Daniel are not autobiographical history but incredible prophecy, for they deal with future events. At least in Daniel's day, they were future events. From our perspective, many of them have already come to pass.

In the first six chapters, generalities are revealed. In the last six chapters, specifics are given, such as the detailed end of the times of the Gentiles and the relationship of Israel to world history, with special reference to the time of great tribulation.

Also, there is sharp contrast between the vision given to Daniel in chapter 7 and the vision given to Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 2. On the one hand, in chapter 2, a wicked and heathen king is used as a vehicle of divine revelation which pictures world history as an imposing image in the form of a man. In chapter 7, the vision is given through the godly prophet, Daniel, and world history is depicted as four horrible beasts, the last of which almost defies description. In chapter 2, Daniel is the interpreter. In chapter 7, an angel is the interpreter. Chapter 2 considers world history from man's viewpoint as a glorious and imposing spectacle. Chapter 7 views world history from God's standpoint in its immorality, brutality, and depravity. In detail of prophecy, chapter 7 far exceeds chapter 2 and is in some sense the commentary on the earlier revelation.

In the interpretation of biblical prophecy, the seventh chapter of Daniel occupies a unique place. Daniel's vision provides the most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future events to be found anywhere in the Old Testament. Daniel traces the course of four great world empires — namely Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome — concluding in the climax of world history in the second coming of Jesus Christ, and the inauguration of the eternal kingdom of God represented as a fifth and final kingdom which is from heaven.

Why is this chapter so important?

Chapter 7 is one of the great prophecies of the Bible and the key to the entire program of God from Babylon to the second coming of Christ. Interpreted in this way, the chapter forms a major outline of future events to which additional details are given later in the book of Daniel and in the New Testament, especially in the book of Revelation. Such a panorama of future events is of great importance to the student of prophecy, as it provides a broad outline to which all other prophetic events may be related.

When did Daniel receive the vision?

Verse 1 says that the vision happened in the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon. The year was probably 553 B.C., fourteen years before the fall of Babylon. Nabonidus, the actual king of Babylon beginning in 556 B.C., had appointed Belshazzar as his coregent in control of Babylonia itself, while Nabonidus was warring or fighting in Arabia. Nebuchadnezzar had died in 562 B.C., nine years before Belshazzar began to reign, so it is clear that the event of chapter 7 occurred chronologically between chapters 4 (the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar) and 5 (Belshazzar's feast where we say the writing on the wall) of Daniel.

Looking ahead, the vision of chapter 8 is dated in Belshazzar's third year. According to Daniel 9:1–2, Daniel discovered the prophecy of Jeremiah concerning the seventy years of captivity in the first year of Darius the Mede and, later in the same chapter, had a third vision. The fourth vision of Daniel in chapters 10–12 occurred in the third year of Cyrus (10:1). So there is the timeline for the visions that Daniel received.

## ***Vision of the Four Beasts***

**7** In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. <sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. <sup>4</sup> The first *was* like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

<sup>5</sup> "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

<sup>6</sup> "After this I looked, and there was another, 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.

<sup>7</sup> "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup> I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

## ***Vision of the Ancient of Days***

<sup>9</sup> "I watched till thrones were put in place,  
And the Ancient of Days was seated;  
His garment *was* white as snow,  
And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool.  
His throne *was* a fiery flame,  
Its wheels a burning fire;

<sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued  
And came forth from before Him.  
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;  
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.  
The court was seated,  
And the books were opened.

<sup>11</sup> "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. <sup>12</sup> As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

<sup>13</sup> "I was watching in the night visions,  
And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,  
Coming with the clouds of heaven!  
He came to the Ancient of Days,  
And they brought Him near before Him.

<sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,  
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.  
His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,  
Which shall not pass away,  
And His kingdom *the one*  
Which shall not be destroyed.

## Introduction or big picture before we dig in.

### THE VISION OF THE FOUR BEASTS By Chuck Smith

Back in Chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that was interpreted by Daniel. In his dream, he saw a large statue, with a head of gold, a chest and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay. This statue represented what would happen in the future concerning Nebuchadnezzar's empire. The head of gold represented the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. The silver arms and chest represented the Medo-Persian Empire. The belly of bronze foretold the Grecian Empire, and the legs of iron predicted the rise of the Roman Empire. The feet of iron and clay represented the revived Roman Empire, during the Great Tribulation.

Here in chapter 7, these four beasts of Daniel's dream probably represent these same kingdoms. The lion represented the Babylonian Empire of Nebuchadnezzar. The reference to a man's heart being given to the beast may have been a reference to the change in Nebuchadnezzar after he was delivered from his insanity, and he seemed to honour God. The bear would represent the Medo-Persian Empire, raising up on one side signifying the eventual dominance of the Medes by the Persians. The three ribs in its mouth were perhaps a reference to the three major kingdoms they conquered. The leopard would represent the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great, who conquered the world so swiftly. It had four heads because after Alexander died the Empire was divided among four generals. The fourth beast would represent Rome. Its teeth were iron, and the Roman Empire had been depicted by iron in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

The ten horns correspond to the ten toes in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which represent the ten-nation confederacy that will exist on the earth during the Tribulation, possibly connected with the European Union. Daniel goes on to describe the little horn with the big mouth (the Antichrist) and predicts his fiery demise. All of this is described in more detail in the book of Revelation, as the Antichrist rises on the scene and is ultimately cast into the lake of fire.

It's amazing that God could make the same predictions through a Babylonian king, a Hebrew prophet, and a New Testament apostle over a course of more than six hundred years. But it isn't difficult for a God who exists outside of time.

## Chapter 7

### Daniel 7:1

**In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.**

Chapters 7 and 8 actually take place between chapters 4 and 5. In chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar was humbled for seven years before he was restored. In chapter 5, the kingdom was taken from Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, Belshazzar. Here, however, Belshazzar had just come into power and it was at this time that Daniel had another vision...

**V1 Daniel had a dream and visions:** This first vision—one of four described between Daniel 7 through 12—was the most comprehensive. The other three visions go into greater detail within the general framework of this first vision.

**V1 Telling the main facts:** Daniel *could have* given us more detail but the Holy Spirit only wanted him to write the **main facts**. We may wish that Daniel went into greater detail, but he didn't.

### Daniel 7:2

**Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.**

Revelation 17:15 tells us the “great sea” refers to the nations of the world. Thus, out of the nations of the world four beasts or world dominating kingdoms will arise.

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

## **V2 the four winds of heaven...**

The prophetic meaning may be the sovereign power of God in conflict with sinful man. Of more than 120 references in the Bible to wind (more than 90 in the O.T. and about 30 in the N.T.), well over half are related to events and ideas which reflect the sovereignty and power of God. In Daniel, wind is consistently used to represent the sovereign power of God, which is the viewpoint of the book. The history of the Gentiles is the record of God striving with the nations and ultimately bringing them into subjection when Christ returns to reign (Psalm 2).

### **Daniel 7:3, 4 (a)**

**<sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.**

**<sup>4</sup> The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings.**

The lion with eagles’ wings speaks of the Babylonians,

A little later (Daniel 7:17) Daniel tells us that these four beasts are four kingdoms ruling over the earth. The first kingdom is the Babylonian Empire, represented by a **lion** and an **eagle**, and synonymous with the head of gold in chapter 2. This fits in well with the majesty and authority of Nebuchadnezzar in his reign over the empire of Babylon.

Also, Jeremiah used both the lion and the eagle as pictures of Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 49:19–22). It is also confirmed by archeology, with Babylon’s winged lions on display at the British Museum today.

### **Daniel 7:4 (b)**

**I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.**

The wings were plucked off of the lion and it was given the heart of a man. This speaks of what happened to Nebuchadnezzar. Because of the pride of his heart, God humbled him and he became beastly. When he turned to the Lord, however, he was given a new heart and he stood on his feet once again.

In spite of the power indicated in the symbolism of the lion with eagle’s wings, Daniel in his vision sees the wings plucked and the lion made to stand upon his feet as a man, with a man’s heart given to it. This is most commonly interpreted as the symbolic representation of Nebuchadnezzar’s experience in chapter 4 when he was humbled before God and made to realise that, even though he was a great ruler, he was only a man. His lion-like character, or royal power, was his only at God’s pleasure. The symbolism is accurate and corresponds to the historical facts.

### **Daniel 7:5 (a)**

**“And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear.**

The bear speaks of the Medo-Persian empire, synonymous with the arms of silver in chapter 2. With an army of two and a half million men, the Medes and Persians lumbered along like a bear.

V5 **A second, like a bear**: The second beast didn't have the majestic bearing of either the lion or the eagle. A **bear** is slower, stronger, and more crushing than a lion—and this bear had a voracious appetite for conquest (**Arise, devour much flesh!**).

i. The slow, crushing armies of the Medo-Persian Empire were well known. They simply overwhelmed their opponents with superior size and strength. “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.” (Clarke)

ii. **Arise, devour much flesh**: “The command to arise and devour much flesh indicates the extreme cruelties often practiced by the Persians, and the wide extent of their conquests.” (Ironsides) They were the ones who invented crucifixion.

#### **Daniel 7:5 (b)**

**It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’**

The **bear** represented the Medo-Persian Empire, succeeding the Babylonian Empire. In this partnership between the Medes and the Persians, the Persians dominated the relationship. Most think the **three ribs** represent their three great military conquests: Babylon, Egypt and Lydia.

#### **Daniel 7:6**

**“After this I looked, and there was another, 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.**

The leopard speaks of the Greeks and is synonymous with the belly of brass in chapter 2. With only 35,000 troops, Alexander could strike quickly and was brilliant in strategy. The four heads represent the four generals who took over his empire after his death. Alexander the Great quickly conquered the civilised world by age 28. “Nothing in the history of the world, was equal to the conquests of Alexander, who ran through all the countries from Illyricum (Modern Turkey) and the Adriatic Sea to the Indian Ocean and the River Ganges; and in *twelve* years subdued part of Europe, and all Asia.” (Clarke)

The Babylonian Empire dominated in Daniel's day. One might have guessed—especially in the reign of Belshazzar—that the next empire would be the Medo-Persian Empire. But how could Daniel know that the next world empire would be like a leopard in its rise and prominence, and that it would be divided into four parts? This shows a plain principle: God knows the future, and reveals certain details of the future through His prophets. It shows that God lives outside our time domain and can see the future as well as the past. He sees the whole parade of human history, not just the part passing in front of a single spectator. The proof of fulfilled prophecy is exceptionally persuasive. No wonder Peter says:

2 Peter 1:19 *We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.*

#### **Daniel 7:7**

**“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.**

The fourth beast speaks of the Roman Empire and is synonymous with the legs of iron in chapter 2. It was the largest, strongest, most unified and enduring of them all. Out of it, we see ten horns, synonymous or corresponding to the ten toes of Daniel 2. The 10 horns and 10 toes speak of a confederation of ten nations coming out of the old Roman Empire. This will come to pass during the 7 year tribulation period as we will see later.

**V7 It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet.**

Alexander conquered by the rapidity of his troop movements and seldom crushed the people whom he conquered. By contrast, the Roman empire was ruthless in its destruction of civilisations and peoples, killing captives by the thousands and selling them into slavery by the hundreds of thousands.

**Daniel 7:8**

**I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.**

Who is the little horn?

The fact that the horn has eyes and a mouth identifies the human characteristics. The little horn is synonymous with antichrist, as we will see later and over the next weeks. Although there will be some kind of power struggle, he takes control of the ten-nation confederation and in effect rules the world. How? From a human perspective, he will be incredible. With the intellect of Thomas Jefferson, the leadership skills of Lincoln, the global strategy of Nixon, the oratorical skills of Churchill, the iron fist of Josef Stalin, the charisma of a Kennedy, he will be humanly impressive.

In other words, when Antichrist shows up, he won't be wearing a black cape and twirling his moustache. He will draw people to him like a magnet. Seven of the nations will immediately say, "Lead us." Three will resist initially, but they will be overtaken ultimately.

**Daniel 7:9 (a)**

**"I watched till thrones were put in place,  
And the Ancient of Days was seated;**

Time for judgement...

**V9 I watched till thrones were put in place:** The King James Version poorly translates this as *thrones were cast down*. The New King James Version corrected this and indicates that the **thrones** were established. Why? This is the establishment, not the destruction of a throne in heaven. The scene as a whole corresponds to what John saw and recorded in Revelation chapters 4–5. The Ancient of Days seems to correspond to God the Father, as distinct from God the Son who is introduced in Daniel 7:13 as Son of man.

When the Apostle John saw heaven, he also saw **thrones**, but he also saw those who sat on those thrones—the 24 elders described in Revelation 4:4. Daniel made no mention of these elders, perhaps because the 24 elders represent the church, and the church was an unrevealed mystery to Old Testament saints (Ephesians 3:1–7).

Ephesians 3:3b, 6

<sup>3</sup> how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery ... <sup>5</sup> which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: <sup>6</sup> that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.

Another example of a "mystery", or a truth revealed only in the NT, is Christ in us.

Colossians 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

So it makes sense that the church was not revealed to Daniel at this time, or at least is not recorded (just the main facts).

**Daniel 7:9 (b)**

**His garment was white as snow,  
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.**

and the white garments and white hair stress the eternal character of God the Father.

**Daniel 7:9 (c) His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;  
V10 (a) A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him.**

**V9 His throne was a fiery flame:** This was a brilliant manifestation of God's splendour and the fierce heat of His judgment. There seems to be something lava-like in the stream of fire pouring from the throne; it was a river of vast destructive power.

Isaiah 66:15–16 describes the judgment of God in terms of fire:

For behold, the Lord will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by His sword the Lord will judge all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many.

Psalm 97:2-3 tell us that "righteousness and judgment are the foundation of his throne" (v. 2), and "A fire goes before him, and burns up his enemies round about" (v. 3).

**V9 Its wheels a burning fire:** Many commentators say that in the ancient eastern world royal thrones were often on wheels. Yet it is just as likely that they represent the endless activity of God.

**Daniel 7:10 (b)**

**A thousand thousands ministered to Him;  
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.**

**A thousand thousands ministered to Him:** This describes the innumerable company of angels surrounding the throne of God.

**Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him:** This describes humanity standing before God in judgment.

**Daniel 7:10 (c)**

**The court was seated, And the books were opened.**

**Court was seated, and the books were opened:** The Bible describes several books before God, and any of these or combination of these could be meant.

- The book of the living (Psalm 69:28).
- The book of remembrance (Malachi 3:16).
- The Book of Life (Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27 and 22:19).

Revelation 20:12, 15

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The first people to go there were the Antichrist and the false prophet as described in Revelation 19 and in the next verse.

But the judgement also refers to the judgement on the nations, which include all the judgements described in Revelation chapters 6-18.

### **Daniel 7:11**

**“I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.**

The antichrist will be cast alive into the lake of fire along with the false prophet at the end of the 7 year tribulation period. The rest of the unbelieving dead will go there at the great white throne judgement at the end of the Millennial period, the thousand year rule and reign of Jesus. As I said before, Revelation really gives a lot more detail. It's worth reading the entire section that describes this verse so you can see the obvious parallels and how revelation is simply adding detail to the basic prophetic outline given in Daniel.

Revelation 19:11-20:15 (Read along in your bibles)

This happens at the end of the 7 year tribulation period. The first part describes the battle of Armageddon.

### ***Christ on a White Horse***

<sup>11</sup> Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

### ***The Beast and His Armies Defeated***

<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, <sup>18</sup> that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.”

<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

### ***Satan Bound 1000 Years***

**20** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

## ***The Saints Reign with Christ 1000 Years***

<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

## ***Satanic Rebellion Crushed***

<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

## ***The Great White Throne Judgment***

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Back to Daniel 7:11

**The sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking:** Here the “little horn” of the fourth beast again speaks **pompous words**. The final human dictator we commonly call the Antichrist will be characterized by his boastful, blasphemous speech

Revelation 13:5–6

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

**Daniel 7:12**

**As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.**

Christ will rule, but it appears that the nations will remain intact during the 1,000 year rule and reign of Christ, the millennial reign. The faithful Christians among us will be the ones helping Jesus rule the nations with a rod of iron. Notice that the nations are again referred to as “beasts”. We may look up to our government as a source of power and stability, but really, when compared to God, they are evil and corrupt.

**V12 They had their dominion taken away:** This great passage describes the transition from *human* dominion on earth to *divine* dominion. This happens as **the Son of Man** comes and exercises dominion over the earth. The **Son of Man** succeeds the reign of the fourth beast - specifically the ten kings or toes or horns of the Roman empire. In Chapter 2, this was graphically

displayed as a rock being cut without hands and striking the image on the 10 toes and completely destroying it. It then become a huge mountain that covered the whole earth.

Daniel 2:43-44

As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. <sup>44</sup> **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.

Notice that the ten toes are specifically referred to as 10 kings. Also, it is specific in saying that it will be in the days of **these (10) kings** that God will set up His kingdom. This comforting truth, that Christ will eventually come back to claim the victory already won, is repeated here in chapter 7.

<sup>13</sup> **“I was watching in the night visions,  
And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,  
Coming with the clouds of heaven!**

V13 **One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven:** The title **Son of Man** was a favourite self-designation of Jesus used more than 80 times in the four Gospels. He receives all dominion previously held by the beasts (nations or earthly kingdoms) and His reign will be permanent.

**He came to the Ancient of Days,  
And they brought Him near before Him.**

<sup>14</sup> **Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,  
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.  
His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,  
Which shall not pass away,  
And His kingdom *the one*  
Which shall not be destroyed.**

It is clear that the Son of Man is Jesus and the Ancient of days refers to the Father.

V14 **His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away:** The reign of Jesus does not last 1,000 years—it is permanent. However, Jesus will rule over this earth before it is re-made, with Satan bound for 1,000 years. Jesus’ kingdom is the rock in chapter 2 that fills the whole earth.

Daniel 2:34-35

<sup>34</sup> You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Other scriptures that refer to Jesus ruling and reigning over the nations include:

Psalms 2:6-9

<sup>6</sup> “Yet I have set My King  
On My holy hill of Zion.”

<sup>7</sup> “I will declare the decree:  
The Lord has said to Me,  
‘You *are* My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give *You*  
The nations *for* Your inheritance,

And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

- 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;  
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' ”

#### Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

- 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
- 3 His delight *is* in the fear of the Lord,  
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,  
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
- 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,  
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,  
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,  
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.
- 6 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;  
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.
- 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
As the waters cover the sea.
- 10 “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,  
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;  
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,  
And His resting place shall be glorious.”

As Christians, we have hope. We don't see Jesus ruling and reigning right now, but by faith we believe that Jesus defeated Satan when He died on the cross. We experience that victory internally now. But one day, Jesus will come back and claim the victory that He has already won, and we will be with Him.

The application for us is that we should not lose hope, but should instead hold fast, no matter what our situation or circumstances.

#### Hebrews 10:23-25

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. <sup>24</sup> Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup> And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Next week we will finish the chapter as we look at the angelic interpretation which gives us more detail and insight.