

DANIEL

CHAPTER 7

In chapter 7, Daniel traces the course of four great world empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome; followed by the climax of World History in the return of Jesus Christ and the inauguration of the Eternal Kingdom of God.

Historical Notes

A. The First Year of Belshazzar – 553 BC

1. Nabonidus, the actual king of Babylon, began his reign in 556 BC.
2. In 553 BC he appointed Belshazzar as his Co-Regent and he left for Arabia to fight.
3. Nebuchadnezzar had died in 562 BC, 9 years before the beginning of Belshazzar's reign.
4. Therefore, the events of chapter 7 occurred chronologically between chapters 4 and 5 of Daniel.

B. Timing of the Remaining Events of Daniel

1. Daniel's vision of chapter 8 occurred in the 3rd year of Belshazzar's reign. 8:1
2. Daniel discovered the prophecy of Jeremiah concerning the 70 Years of Captivity in the 1st year of Darius the Mede. Dan 9:1-2

The angel, Gabriel, delivers the 70 Weeks Prophecy to Daniel in verses 9:20-27

3. The fourth vision of Daniel occurred in the 3rd year of Cyrus. Dan 10:1
4. Chapter 11 covers events of an earlier activity at the time of Darius the Mede's 1st year of reign. Dan 11:1

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Verses 1-3 For the first time in the book, Daniel receives a Vision.
This vision is said to come to Daniel while he is dreaming.

Vs 2 Four Winds...stirring up the great sea – the masses
of humanity or the nations of the world.

Matt 13:47-50; Rev 13:1; Isa 8:5-8

The Four Kingdoms will rise out of the nations.

These Four Consecutive Empires rise as a result of the
“Winds of Heaven” stirring them.

Vs 4 The First Beast – Babylon
The lion represents royal power.
Solomon had 12 lions lining the approach to his throne.
1 Kg 10:19-20

Winged lions guarded the gates of the royal palaces of
the Babylonians.

Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest Babylonian king and
his wings were clipped. Dan 4:20-26

Isa 13:1-22; Rev 18; Jer ch 50-52

Vs 5 The Second Beast – Medo-Persia
There can be no doubt that the second Beast is the
Medo-Persian Empire because Daniel 6:8,12,15 identifies
it as such.

The Bear is powerful but less majestic or swift than the
lion. It raises up on one side – Persia was far greater and

more powerful and had actually absorbed the Medes. This Beast is told to devour much meat. This Empire continued for over 200 years, until the time of Alexander the Great in 336 B

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Vs 6 The Third Beast – Greece
Greece was a fast moving conqueror with Four Heads. Alexander the Great conquered most of the civilized world, from Macedonia to Africa and Eastward to India. He died very young and his empire was broken up between his four generals:

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

Vs 7-8 The Fourth Beast – Rome

Rome (Italy) began its domination with the occupation of Sicily in 241 BC.

Spain, Carthage, and North Africa came under their control by the beginning of the 2nd Century BC; Macedonia, Greece, Asia Minor and then Jerusalem in 63 BC.

Later, Southern Britain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, and parts of Germany fell.

It reached its greatest size in AD 117. A slow decline began in the 3rd Century and in 1453 AD, Constantinople fell to the Muslims.

Rome reigned for around 1700 years, making it the Greatest of all Empires of History!

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Daniel describes the Roman Empire as dreadful and terrifying; extremely strong, which tramples down the previous three empires. This empire is different!

This empire will still function at the time of Christ's Return.

Apparently, the final form will involve the Uniting of 10 separate nations (10 horns).

One ruler will come forth as head of this "Revived Roman Empire" and he will destroy 3 of the nations that have united.

Rev 13:1-10

Vs 9-10

The Vision of the Ancient of Days

Look Forward – Verses 9-14

1. Daniel receives a vision of Heaven. vs9,10
2. The little horn represents the final ruler over the Gentile nations who is destroyed along with his empire. vs 11,12
3. There is to be a Fifth Kingdom, the Kingdom of Christ, which brings in the Everlasting Reign of God.

Vs 9 The Ancient of Days (God the Father) vs 9,13 establishes the Son of Man (God the Son) vs 13. See Rev 4 and 5.

The Father sits on a Throne with wheels, both burning.

Ezk 1:13-21

Thrones (plural) may indicate that all three of the Godhead have a Throne.???

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Vs 10 Who are those who attend Him?
Heb 12:22-24; Rev 5:11; Jude 8-15 with Gen 5:18-32;
Zech 14:1-6

Books were opened.

Rev 20:12-13

In them are written, not names, but deeds of men,
the basis for their judgment.

Matt 25:31-46

The judgment of Matthew 25 will determine who will
enter the 1000 year Kingdom.

Vs 11-12 The Destruction of the Beast
The horn declares himself to be God.
Matt 24:15; Rev 13:5

At the end of the Tribulation he is judged and
thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Rev 20:10

All power and authority other than Christ's is ended!

Rev 19:11-21

No one else is thrown into the Lake of Fire for another thousand years.
Rev 20: 7-ff

Vs 13-14 The Fifth Kingdom – Jesus Christ’s!
This is what all of history was for!
This is God’s will – satisfied!
A worldwide kingdom involving all people, nations and languages, an everlasting kingdom.

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As to the “Son of Man”

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. He is given a kingdom | Ps 2:6-12; Isa 11 |
| 2. With the “clouds of Heaven” | |
| He comes | Acts 1:9-1; Rev 1:7; |
| 3. The world is made subject to Him | Mt 24:29-31
1 Cor 15:27-28 |

Vs 15-16 The Effect that this Vision had on Daniel
Angelic beings communicated God’s plan to Daniel!
Dan 8:15-19; 10:5-14; Heb 1:14

It would appear that the angelic realm is aware of God’s overall plan for mankind.

Vs 17-18 The angels’ explanation parallels the revelation already received and yet to be received.

Vs 19-22 Daniel has focused on the Fourth Beast, having been overwhelmed by it.

He restates the parts of the vision that were his

special focus.

These are the events leading up to the establishment of the Eternal Kingdom.

(The world political situation will be so dramatic that Daniel's focus is on it rather than the Eternal Kingdom – Called an exceedingly dreadful beast).

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Also Note: Daniel is writing this book by God's inspiration.

Three verses are given to say all that is to be said about the first three kingdoms. Twenty-one verses are given to describe and discuss the Fourth Kingdom.

The additional facts contained in these verses:

1. Nails of Bronze
2. The Little Horn is larger than the others
3. The Little Horn makes war with God's saints and prevails against them. Rev 11:7; 13:7
4. Judgment comes to the world because of what it has done to God's people.

Vs 24-25 The Little Horn who will rule the world will reign for three and a half years as the Supreme Ruler. Prior to this, he will be part of the final Gentile world system, but will not take the place as the only one. Rev chapter 12

Note: The Ruler of the Fourth Kingdom receives as much attention as the Fourth Kingdom itself.

He will:

1. Subdue Three kings
2. Speak out against the Most High God
3. Wear down the saints
4. Change the times of the worship of the God of Israel
(Temple will be functioning again)
5. Change the law of God
6. The above will be under his control for 3-1/2 yrs
Dan 9:27, or 42 months Rev 11:2; 13:5 or
1260 days Rev 11:3; 12:3-6 (Lunar Calendar).

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Vs 26-28 The end of the Fourth Kingdom's rule will result in the establishment of the Saints of the Most High being given the earth as a kingdom. (Saints/Saved during the Tribulation)

Persecution will be replaced with reigning.

His Kingdom (Son of Man vs 13) will be shared with all believers of all ages – His entire family!

1. An Everlasting Kingdom – without end
1 Cor 15:27-28
2. His Will will be the only one!
3. He will be served and obeyed.

Vs 28 Daniel adds a postscript to the Vision.

