

## Daniel's Vision of Future World History (553n BC)

### Daniel 7

#### Setting of the Vision

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind *as he lay* on his bed; then he wrote the dream down *and* related the *following* summary of it.

#### The Four Beasts

2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

4 The first *was* like a lion and had *the* wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

5 And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs *were* in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'

6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, 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.

7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

#### The Little Horn

8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great *boasts*.

#### The Destruction of the Fourth Beast

9 "I kept looking  
Until thrones were set up,  
And the Ancient of Days took *His* seat;  
His vesture *was* like white snow  
And the hair of His head like pure wool.  
His throne *was* ablaze with flames,  
Its wheels *were* a burning fire.

10 "A river of fire was flowing  
And coming out from before Him;  
Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,  
And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;  
The court sat,  
And the books were opened.

11 Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.

12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

#### The Kingdom of Christ

13 "I kept looking in the night visions,  
And behold, with the clouds of heaven

One like a Son of Man was coming,  
 And He came up to the Ancient of Days  
 And was presented before Him. [[Matt 16:27; 24:30; 26:64; Mark 13:26; 14:62; Luke 21:27; Rev 1:7](#)]

- 14 “And to Him was given dominion,  
 Glory and a kingdom,  
 That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language  
 Might serve Him.  
 His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
 Which will not pass away;  
 And His kingdom is one  
 Which will not be destroyed.

### The Interpretation of the Vision

- 15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.  
 16 I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:  
 17 ‘These great beasts, which are four *in number*, are four kings *who* will arise from the earth.  
 18 But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’  
 19 “Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, *and which* devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet,  
 20 and *the meaning* of the ten horns that *were* on its head and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three *of them* fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great *boasts* and which was larger in appearance than its associates.  
 21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them  
 22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.  
 23 “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.  
 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.  
 25 He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.  
 26 But the court will sit *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.  
 27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’  
 28 “At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”

## Daniel's Vision of the Ram and the Goat (551n BC)

Daniel 8

### Setting of the Vision

1 In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously.

2 I looked in the vision, and while I was looking I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself was beside the Ulai Canal.

### **The Ram (Media/Persia)**

3 Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns was standing in front of the canal. Now the two horns *were* long, but one *was* longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last.  
4 I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no *other* beasts could stand before him nor was there anyone to rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified *himself*.

### **The Goat (Greece)**

5 While I was observing, behold, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground; and the goat *had* a conspicuous horn between his eyes.  
6 He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath.  
7 I saw him come beside the ram, and he was enraged at him; and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and there was none to rescue the ram from his power.  
8 Then the male goat magnified *himself* exceedingly. But as soon as he was mighty, the large horn was broken; and in its place there came up four conspicuous *horns* toward the four winds of heaven.

### **The Little Horn (Antiochus IV Epiphanes)**

9 Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful *Land*.  
10 It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down.  
11 It even magnified *itself* to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down.  
12 And on account of transgression the host will be given over *to the horn* along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform *its will* and prosper.  
13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, "How long will the vision *about* the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to be trampled?"  
14 He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings *and* mornings; then the holy place will be properly restored."

### **Gabriel Sent to Interpret the Vision**

15 When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man.  
16 And I heard the voice of a man between *the banks of Ulai*, and he called out and said, "Gabriel, give this *man* an understanding of the vision."  
17 So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end."  
18 Now while he was talking with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand upright.

### **The Interpretation of the Vision**

19 He said, "Behold, I am going to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for *it* pertains to the appointed time of the end.  
20 The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

- 21 The shaggy goat *represents* the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that is between his eyes is the first king.
- 22 The broken *horn* and the four *horns that arose* in its place *represent* four kingdoms *which* will arise from *his* nation, although not with his power.
- 23 “In the latter period of their rule,  
When the transgressors have run *their course*,  
A king will arise,  
Insolent and skilled in intrigue.
- 24 “His power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power,  
And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree  
And prosper and perform *his will*;  
He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.
- 25 “And through his shrewdness  
He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence;  
And he will magnify *himself* in his heart,  
And he will destroy many while *they are* at ease.  
He will even oppose the Prince of princes,  
But he will be broken without human agency.
- 26 “The vision of the evenings and mornings  
Which has been told is true;  
But keep the vision secret,  
For *it* pertains to many days *in the future*.”
- 27 Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up *again* and carried on the king’s business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain *it*.

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