

Part 12 — “The Son of Man & the Saints of the Most High” — 21 August 2022

Introduction

The visions of Daniel 7 are central to the message of the book as a whole, linking the Aramaic and Hebrew sections and giving insight into the plans and purposes of the Most High God:

- * The true nature and character of the gentile kingdoms seen in Nebuchadnezzar’s vision is revealed.
- * The reality of an end-time antagonist (Antichrist) becomes clear.
- * The sovereignty of God over the kingdoms of the earth is demonstrated and the coming of one who will rule over God’s people is shown.

Main Point: The ultimate hope for God’s people is that our _____ is bound up with that of the Son of Man and therefore we can live with hope even in the midst of persecution because His future will be our future.

The Interpretation of Daniel’s First Vision—Daniel 7:15-28

The Interpretation Summarized (7:15-18)

Observations

1. The vision had clearly troubled Daniel.
2. Daniel sought to understand the vision with the help of one of the angelic beings.
 - ⇒ In portions of Scripture that are both apocalyptic and prophetic, angelic beings are often present to both mediate and interpret visions which are received (Rev. 22:6).
3. The angel then gave a summary interpretation of the vision:
 - “the four great beasts”*
 - “the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom”*
 - ⇒ The term “saints” (*qaddis* - Ar./*qados* Heb. and *hagios* - Gk.) is used here of God’s people (Psa. 34:9; 145:10). Throughout the OT, Israel is often referred to as a “holy nation/people” (Exod. 19:6; Deut. 26:19).

Key Point: The initial reaction of Daniel to the vision and its subsequent interpretation reveal that God’s people have cause for both _____ and _____ for the future.

Further Insight Concerning the Fourth Beast (7:19-28)

Observations

1. Although the description of the fourth beast was similar to that which is in 7:7-8, Daniel saw more of the vision concerning the actions of the “little horn.”
 - * Although the horn was “little,” it appeared more _____ than all of the other horns (7:20)
 - * The true _____ of the little horn is revealed as it makes war on the saints and conquers them (7:21)
 - “made war...and prevailed over”*
 - * The Ancient of Days then rendered judgment _____ the little horn and _____ the saints of the Most High (7:22)
 - “the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.”*

Key Point: Although God’s people will undergo a season of intense _____, God remains sovereign and He will ultimately judge their enemies and _____ them.

2. The angel then gave an interpretation of what Daniel had just seen.
 - * The fourth kingdom will exercise unique _____ influence throughout the entire world (7:23)
 - * The “little horn” is a king who will arise and who will _____ three of the other ten kings or rulers associated with this end-time empire (7:24)
 - “The term [“put down”] can have the idea of bringing low or overthrowing militarily. This suggests that there is some type of action on his part to assert his military power and subdue them.” —J. Paul Tanner*

- * This end-time king will be a great _____ of God and antagonist to His people (7:25)
“speak words against”
“wear out the saints of the Most High”
“and shall think to change the times and the law”
- * This end-time king will be permitted to have authority to persecute God’s people for a period of 3 1/2 years. (7:25b)
- * In the end, however, he will be judged and his kingdom destroyed by the coming of the Son of Man (7:26-27)

3. Although Daniel remained alarmed, he trusted the Lord with the matter.

Key Point: Although the future for God’s people is in many ways _____ because of the end-time persecution, they can trust in God’s faithful presence and in His sovereign power to bring His Kingdom.

Implications for Biblical Theology & Eschatology (Future Events)

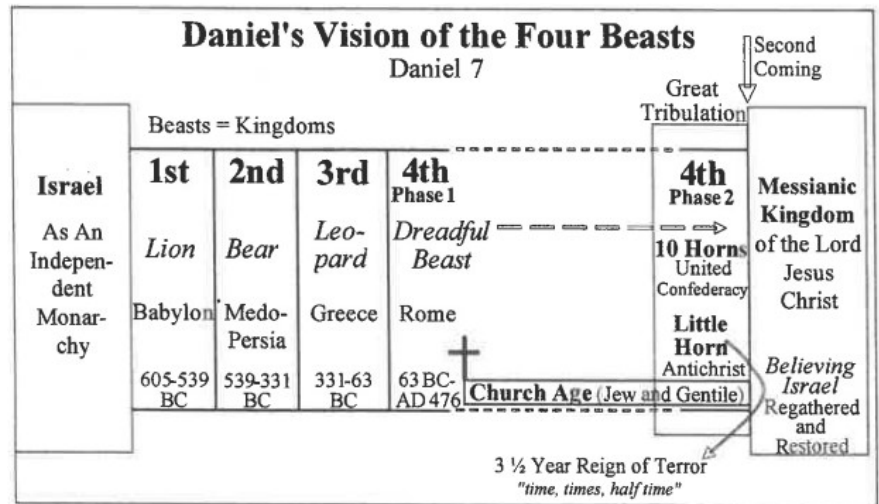
- The textual links between the Son of Man and the saints demonstrate the reality of _____.
 The “little horn” → The Son of Man →
Gen. 3:15—15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
- The vision has major implications for the end-times (“latter days”) which are further described in Revelation.

The 10 Kingdom Confederation —Rev. 13:1-2

The Blasphemous End-Time Antagonist (Antichrist) and his reign of terror —Rev. 13:5-8

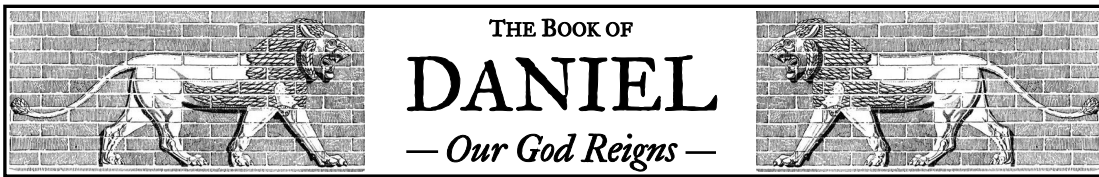
The judgment of the End-Time Antagonist (Antichrist) —Rev. 19:19-20)

The Coming of the Son of Man to bring His Kingdom—Rev. 20:4



Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- Our Savior Jesus as secured for us that which we were _____ of.
Rom. 5:18-19—¹⁸ So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹ For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.
- We can patiently _____ as we recognize the rule and reign of Jesus even in the midst of tribulation and persecution.
Rev. 1:9—I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus,



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Implications for Biblical Theology & Eschatology (Future Events)

- The textual links between the Son of Man and the saints demonstrate the reality of Corporate Solidarity.

The “little horn” →

The Son of Man →

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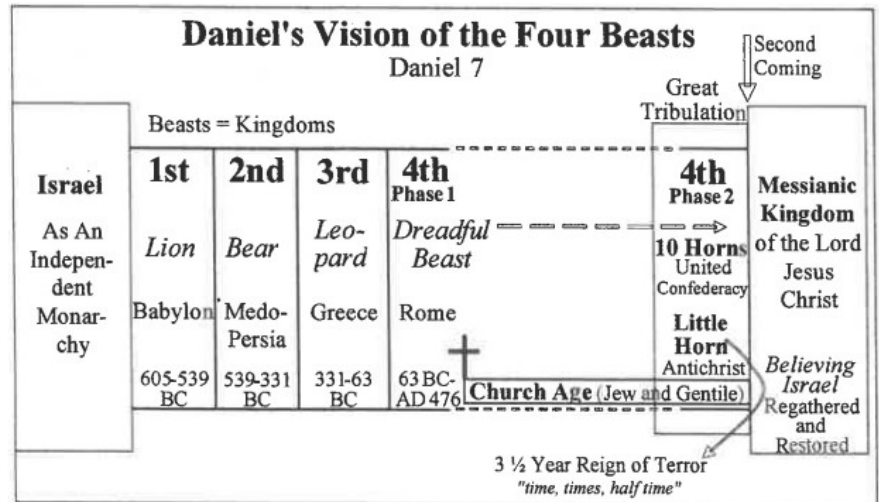
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Rev. 1:5b-6—To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- We can patiently _____ as we recognize the rule and reign of Jesus even in the midst of tribulation and persecution.

Rev. 1:9—I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus,