

THE PROPHETIC BEASTS

DANIEL 7:1-8, 17-25

(Outline # 20)

INTRODUCTION: This study is the beginning of a series of revelation on the history, present and future of the world through the study of prophetic beasts. This first presentation covers the periods from Babylon through Papal Rome.

1. **Read and Review Daniel 7: 1-3**

- a. Four winds blew upon the sea.
- b. Four Beasts came up out of the sea.

2. **What Is the Meaning of the Sea?**

- a. Water often represents people (See Revelation 17:15; Isa. 17:12)
- b. The sea, specifically, is the storehouse of all waters. Since water represents people, the sea is the storehouse of all waters, it would represent the storehouse of all peoples - the old world. (See also *GC* 440)
- c. Thus, the Beasts represent something that originates from the old world - Europe, Middle East and Asia.

3. **What Do the Beasts Represent?**

Read: Daniel 7:17

- a. Beasts represent kingdoms or powers.
- b. Thus these four beasts represent four great powers that arose from the Old World.

4. **What Do the Winds Represent?**

- a. Winds represent trouble, strife, etc.
- b. These winds, however, specifically represent "the terrible scenes of conquest by which nations attained to power" (*GC* 440) - wars.
- c. The turbulent sea therefore, reveals the wars and battles out of which came **four** universal powers.
- d. It is well understood and accepted that the four Ancient world powers were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome.

5. **The First Beast —The Lion**

Read: Daniel 7: 4

- a. The Lion, the king of Beasts must represent the first Great Universal Empire —Babylon from 2400 BC to 538 BC.

6. **Wings Do Not Represent Speed**

Normally, *wings are said to represent speed*, but that could *not* be because:

- a. Note, that the next beast (verse 5) the Bear (Medo-Persia)

conquered Babylon in one night (See Dan. 5:25-31), and he does not have wings; yet the Lion (Babylon) took well over 1,600 years to conquer the then-known world and has wings.

- b. In Daniel 8:5-6 the he goat (Greece – Daniel 8:21) flew through the air; showing the speed with which Greece conquered Medo-Persia (The Ram – Dan. 8:3-4)
- c. Thus the wings must represent something else.

7. **Wings Represent Periods of Time**

- a. Since wings cannot symbolize Speed, they must represent periods of time - "time flies" - so to speak.
- b. This is further proven with the Lion, Bear and Leopard. The Lion has two wings, the bear three ribs and the Leopard, four wings (Daniel 7:6) —obviously, God is counting.
- c. This shows that the Lion is the second from something, the bear is the third, the Leopard, the fourth. This means there must have been a world before. In other words, it shows that the Lion (Babylon) although the first world empire after the flood, it was the second from the beginning - from the antediluvian world. The Bear has three ribs because although the Medo-Persia was the second world power after the Flood, it was the third from the beginning. Likewise with the Leopard —third after the Flood — fourth from the antediluvian world.

Note: God did not represent the world before the flood as beasts of prey because the world then was of one language and not divided as nations. (Gen. 11:1). The birth of peoples, languages and kindred took place at the tower of Babel. (Gen. 11:6-9). In other words, mankind could not then accurately described as "beasts of prey" (GC 440).

8. **Wings Being Plucked**

- a. The Lion's wings being plucked would mean that its "time" was up. It tells us that Babylon fell. This took place in 538 AD, when Cyrus the great general for Medo-Persia conquered Babylon. (Dan. 5: 25-31).

9. **Made to Stand Like a Man with a Man's Heart**

- a. The Lion becoming like a man with a man's heart, reveals a change in the nation of Babylon after its fall. It became (spiritually speaking) more man-like as compared to a beast. In other words, becoming more like a man, shows more intelligence in the things of God compared to a beast or animal. It is similar to when we say that, someone had a "change of heart" —a change in thinking. Thus the nation underwent a spiritual conversion for the better.
- b. A heart of a nation is its king or leadership - its government. Thus Babylon after its fall to the Medes and Persians, became a more godly nation than its predecessor. It is a well-known fact that the Medes and Persians kings were more spiritually inclined to the

true God than the Babylonians —i.e., Cyrus was a believer in the true God. (Ezra 1:1-3) and allowed God's people to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem. Darius II completed the temple (Ezra 6:8-12). Artaxerxes Longimanus made the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and beautify the temple, which began the 2,300 days. Esther married Ahasuerus the Great (Esther 8).

- c. Thus, Babylon, under the rulership of Medo-Persia had a change of heart and became more knowledgeable about God and His word.

10. **The Bear —Medo-Persia**

Read: verse 5

- a. Medo-Persia was the second universal empire after the flood. (538-328 BC)
- b. Through Cyrus the Great it conquered Babylon.

11. **One Side Higher Than The Other**

Read: verse 5

- a. One side was higher or raised because the Persians who were united with the Medes, became stronger. (Compare with Dan. 8:3)
- b. History tells us that the Persians became stronger when Cyrus defeated Astages of the Medes in 553 or 550 BC. Eventually the whole Kingdom became known as Persia.

12. **"Arise Devour Much Flesh"**

- a. The three ribs denote the third kingdom from the very beginning.
- b. The ribs speaking to the bear, telling it to devour much flesh — describe the opening of the way for the numerous imperial wars that followed. Thus, the words: Arise devour much flesh.

Note: The ribs could not symbolize nations, as some thought, for nations are symbolized by horns not ribs. Neither could they be certain provinces that Medo-Persia did not conquer, for they are in the bear's mouth - which would show control - not the opposite.

13. **The Leopard Beast —Greece**

- a. The Leopard must be the Third Universal power after the Flood, which was Greece. (From 328 BC to 63 BC).

14. **What Is The Meaning Of The Four Heads?**

- a. The heads reveal the four Generals to whom the Kingdom of Grecia was divided after Alexander the Great's untimely death in 323 BC. (Compare with Dan. 8:8)
- b. They are: Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, Ptolemy.

Note: Heads normally represent religious entities —churches. However, there is an exception with the Leopard. Here the heads are clearly civil. However, note, that the heads do not appear with horns. When horns and heads appear together, they are positively symbolic

of religious entities. But by themselves they may not.

15. **The Non- Descript Beast - Pagan**

Rome

Read: verse 7

- a. This fourth beast has to be Pagan Rome who conquered Greece and became the Fourth Universal World Power. (63 BC- 476 AD)
- b. Pagan Rome was strong (like iron – see Dan. 2:40; Dan. 7:7) and fierce —“stamped” upon its opponents.

16. **Non- Descript Beast - Papal Rome**

Read: Verse 8,19-25

- a. This verse revealed Rome’s transformation from paganism to so-called Christianity. It is identified as such because:
 - i. A little horn came up with eyes and a mouth which blasphemed God, and persecuted His people (verse 8, 25). This clearly points to the Popes (Papacy).
 - ii. It thought to change Laws (like the Sabbath), and doctrines (like the Sanctuary, etc.).
 - iii. It was allowed to do this for a time (one year), times (two years) and dividing of time (half year) - a total of three and half years or 1260 days or years, (a day for a year - Ezek. 4:6) 538 -1798 AD
- b. All of this clearly points to the papacy and its rule from 538-1798 AD as the “little horn” (verse 8).
- c. It is further proven because the “little horn” uprooted three other horns —the Herulis, Ostrogoths, and the Vandals – so-called Barbarian nations who supported Arianism, the most formidable rival of Catholicism.

Note: By the time of the rise of the Papacy, Rome had been divided into Eastern and Western Empires. In 476 AD, the West fell to Barbarians tribes. The East had been preserved by its embracing “Christianity” - a process which began with Constantine the great’s so-called conversion and his Edict of Tolerance which seemed to have halted the persecution of Christians (for a short time) making Christianity the State Religion.

- d. Thus, the Fourth beast covers the period of both Pagan and Papal Rome, the time of Christ, and through the Dark Ages.

Summary: Daniel Seven reveals the rise and decline of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The rise of Papal Rome- who has impacted our Modern World more than any other power, and prepared the way for Present -Day Civilization.

**Education Department
Davidic Levitical Institute
Mt. Carmel Center
Mountain Dale, New York 12763**