



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

The World Empires Predicted

MAY 1-3, 2024

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Daniel 7:1-8 *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. 2) Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3) And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 4) 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. 5) 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!’ 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. 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 and 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. 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.” (NKJV)

“THIS IMAGE’S HEAD WAS OF FINE GOLD, ITS CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER, ITS BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRONZE, ITS LEGS OF IRON, ITS FEET PARTLY OF IRON AND PARTLY OF CLAY.” DANIEL 2:32-33

What was significant about the first year of Belshazzar? Which sea was this that the four winds were stirring up? How are these beasts totally different from one another? Is one of these beasts already history for Daniel? How does the first one become like a man? Were all these beasts evil in their desire to devour others? How was the last beast different from the rest?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 8-10: DANIEL 7:9-12 *THE ANCIENT OF DAYS REVEALED*
- MAY 15-17: DANIEL 7:13-18 *THE KINGDOM OF THE SAINTS*

The latter part of King Nebuchadnezzar’s reign in Babylon would have not only been ideal for Daniel, but also for his people, as the king now served the God of Israel and encouraged everyone else to do the same (Daniel 4). This would have been the best times for everyone throughout the empire, because instead of a harsh dominion over the empire, there was a more just and merciful rule by the emperor, governed much more by the Law of God. Daniel would have been in his mid-fifties when Nebuchadnezzar died and the empire begins to decline. Within eight years Nabonidus has taken the throne by murder and by marrying one of the wives of Nebuchadnezzar. The year is likely 555 BC and Belshazzar, a son of Nebuchadnezzar, has been placed on the throne as a co-regent in his father’s absence. Daniel likely had already been retired by a previous king,

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 14490 SMOKETOWN RD.
& 2:00 PM FAIRFAX – DENNY’S, 10473 FAIRFAX BLVD.

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY’S, HULL & COURTHOUSE & 11:30 AM – LYNCHBURG – PANERA BREAD, 3901 OLD FOREST RD.

FRIDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – CHICK-FIL-A, 6212 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

Virginia

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and now Belshazzar is running the empire and is much more committed to the false gods of the Babylonians, so the Jews are concerned about how he will treat them.

COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD, TRUST ALSO IN HIM, AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS. PSALM 37:5

I. THE TIMES

DANIEL 7:1-3

Israel had forsaken her covenant with God and had been taken into captivity with Daniel and his friends being the first deported to serve the king of Babylon. Thus, the “*times of the Gentiles*” (Lk. 21:24) were introduced and will continue until the coming of the King of Kings when all of His people will reign with Him forever (Daniel 2:44-45). These would have been tumultuous times for these Jewish slaves, forbidden to return to their homeland. Their leaders, especially Daniel, were removed from their high positions and this new young king only tolerates them because of the decrees of his father. It was at this time that God revealed to Daniel again the future kingdoms of this world, but more revelation and detail characterize this dream of Daniel. Suddenly Daniel saw something he had never seen before, the wind blowing from all four directions and meeting in a turbulence that enraged “*the Great Sea,*” the Mediterranean. From the midst of crashing, tsunami sized waves, emerged “*four great beasts,*” picturing the different empires of the Gentiles rising from the restless sea of humanity.

ALAS, THE UPROAR OF MANY PEOPLES, WHO ROAR LIKE THE ROARING OF THE SEAS. ISAIAH 17:12 (LSB)

II. THE TEETH

DANIEL 7:4-6

All four of these formidable creatures have the dangerous teeth of predators. The first beast is like a combination of two majestic predators, the lion, king of the beasts and

the eagle, king of the birds, picturing Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian Empire. But suddenly this proud predator is transformed when its wings are plucked and it is given the posture and mind of a man. This must be the grace of God to the king proclaimed in Daniel four. The second beast is like a bear, but raised up on one side, likely picturing the dominance of the Persians in the Medo-Persian Empire. It also has three ribs in its mouth, revealing their conquering of Babylon, Lydia and Egypt. This predator devoured many nations, greatly expanding their empire. The third beast, a four winged leopard, is like an apex predator who can very swiftly take down much larger beasts than itself. Alexander the Great, with his Macedonian military of no more than 35,000 was known to eliminate armies of over 800,000 at lightning speed. At the young age of 33, Alexander had conquered his world and wept that there was no more to conquer. Truly, “*dominion had been given*” to him. But he soon died and his empire was divided among his four generals. The next beast is such a violent predator its without parallel.

THERE IS A GENERATION WHOSE TEETH ARE AS SWORDS, AND THEIR JAW TEETH AS KNIVES, TO DEVOUR THE POOR FROM OFF THE EARTH, AND THE NEEDY FROM AMONG MEN. PROVERBS 30:14

III. THE TERROR

DANIEL 7:7-8

Daniel is astonished at the fourth beast and only describes its depravity. “*Dreadful, terrible, exceeding strong ... huge iron teeth, devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet.*” The Roman Empire, it kills for the sake of killing; it wants to reduce the population. When compared to the dream in Daniel 2, it becomes apparent that the “*ten horns*” are parallel to the “*ten toes*” at the very end of this empire soon to be judged and destroyed. But this vision adds “*another horn, a little one,*” removing three others, emphasizing “*eyes,*” surveillance and “*words,*” media, whom God judges, then His Son reigns forever!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) When your heart is filled with fear, do you turn to the Lord and trust in Him?
- 2) Have you been transformed with a new heart given by God or do you pursue the predatory?
- 3) Are your decisions characterized by depravity or do you long for true justice and the coming of Jesus Christ?