

DANIEL SEVEN

Daniel seven begins a new direction in the book. Up to this point, most of the book has been historical narrative with a couple of dreams from Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel interpreted. Now, Daniel has visions and an angel will give him the meaning.



The Visionary Section

- **Ch 7: four beasts**
- **Ch 8: ram & goat**
- **Ch 9: 70 weeks**
- **Ch 10-12: final vision**

1. The chapter begins by going back in time to Belshazzar's first year of reign (7:1)
 - Belshazzar was killed at the end of chapter 5 and the Medes took over

Historical Timetable

- 7:1 Belshazzar's 1st year
- 8:1 Belshazzar's 3rd year
- 9:1 Darius's 1st year
- 10:1 Cyrus' 3rd year
- 11:1 Darius' 1st year

A. Daniel has a vision at night (2-12)

- He kept looking at the vision (2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 21)
- He wrote down what he saw (1)
- This vision distressed him (17, 28)
- Daniel had to have help in understanding what the vision meant (16)

B. The vision is of fierce beasts—one after the other

- the animals are like nature but unlike nature as well (lion and leopard with wings)
- the fourth animal is not named other than a dreaded beast
- although this seems to be a parallel to Nebuchadnezzar's statue dream, no specific identifying kingdom is named (in chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar was told that he was the head of gold—that was a starting point)

Comparisons between the dream and the vision (ch 2 & ch 7)

Dream of Chapter 2

Head of Gold
Chest/arm of Silver
Belly/thigh of Bronze
Legs of iron/feet of clay
Rock becomes mountain

Babylon
Medes
Greeks
Rome
Eternal kingdom

Vision of chapter 7

Lion with eagles wings
Bear eating 3 ribs
Leopard with wings
Beast with iron teeth/10 horns
Eternal kingdom of God

Three Things To Remember About Visionary Interpretations:

- Numbers, colors, images are symbolic
- Many details are hard for us to understand
- There are strong parallels to Revelation

1. The beasts come one after the other
2. The fourth beast "devoured and crushed" the others (7)
3. The "horns" of the fourth beast represent ruling and power (some suggest actual kings)
 - the little horn waged war with the saints (21, 25)
 - it is slain and thrown into the fire (11)

C. The emphasis is not upon the different beasts but the Son of Man who is given authority by God (13-14)

1. "Son of Man" is an expression that Jesus used to refer to Himself (Mt 8:20; 9:6)
 - Mt 28:18 (Rom 13:1)
 - the dominion and kingdom of the Lord endures forever (14, 27; Heb 12:28)
 - the expression "time, times and a half" (25) is repeated five times in Revelation

Conclusions:

- God's enemies are limited
- God's divine will is accomplished
- Christ is more powerful than other kingdoms

The Theme Verse:

"These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings (kingdoms) who will arise from the earth. But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come" (7:17-18)