

Daniel Chapter Seven

- Chapter seven steps backward in time as Daniel had this dream and these visions 14 years before the handwriting on the wall incident of chapter five.
 - Belshazzar's co-regency with Nabonidus began in 553 B.C. and he was killed in 539 B.C.
 - It is not uncommon for an apocalyptic text to jump around in time like this.
- Daniel had a single dream and multiple visions [7:1].
- Daniel recorded his visions in summary form [7:1], but did not declare this revelation to anyone [7:28].
- This is the first of four very important visions that Daniel himself received.
 - Previously Daniel gave interpretations of dreams that Nebuchadnezzar had received.
 - His second vision came two years after this first vision [8:2-26].
 - His third vision came twelve years after the second vision [9:21-27].
 - His final vision came two years after the third vision [10:5 – 12:4].
- Daniel saw the great sea stirred up by the four winds of heaven [7:2].
 - The four winds from heaven are angels (רוּחַ, ruach) who mete out God's wrath [Jer 49:36; Zech 6:1-8] having control over the literal winds [Rev 7:1-3].
 - The sea is symbolic of Gentile nations [Mt 13:47].
- Daniel saw four beasts arise from the sea [7:3-7].
 - The first three: a lion with eagle's wings, a bear, and a leopard with 4 heads and 4 wings.
 - The fourth: a beast with ten horns and iron teeth.
- Another horn appeared on the fourth beast [7:8].
 - When this little horn arises three of the original ten horns are uprooted.
 - This is a boastful horn with eyes like a man.
- Daniel then saw a heavenly scene [7:9-10].
 - Thrones were set up, but there is no mention of anyone being seated on them [Rv 20:4].
 - The Ancient of Days is God the Father who takes His seat to pass judgment when the books are opened [see Rev 20:11-12], surrounded by angels [Rev 5:11].
- Daniel's attention was drawn to the beasts [7:11-12].
 - Daniel was looking at the little horn because of its continued boasting against God [Rev 13:5-6].
 - The fourth beast was destroyed.
 - The other three beasts were stripped of their dominion, but allowed to live for a period of time.
- Daniel's attention then returned to the heavenly scene [7:13-14].

- The Son of Man is presented [Rev 1:13; 5:6-7].
- The Son of Man is glorified [Heb 1:5-14].
- As with Nebuchadnezzar, this dream and these visions distressed Daniel [7:15].
- Daniel inquired of one who was “standing by” – an attending angel (see 8:16) – who provided an explanation of these visions to Daniel [7:16-18].
 - The four beasts are kings (kingdoms – see 7:23).
 - These kings (or kingdoms) will have dominion over the world, but will not rule over it forever because the saints of God will receive His kingdom on earth and possess it forever.
- Daniel likely understood how this interpretation agreed with the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s vision [2:36-45], but wanted to know more about the fourth beast with its horns [7:19-20].
- Daniel got another glimpse of the fourth beast and its boastful horn [7:21-22].
 - The boastful horn was waging war against God’s saints and overpowering them.
 - This comes to an end when God the Father passes judgment in favor of the saints.
- Daniel was given another explanation [7:23-26].
 - The fourth beast is a kingdom unlike the other kingdoms.
 - Out of this kingdom ten kings will arise (these are the ten toes of iron and clay – the Roman Empire).
 - Another king (the Antichrist) will arise from this kingdom and subdue three kings.
 - This king opposes God and His saints, tries to alter times and law, and enjoys a 3½ year reign of terror.
 - His dominion is taken away forever [Rev 19:20].
- Daniel had one more vision, this time he got a glimpse of God’s kingdom [7:27].
 - God’s kingdom will not be overthrown or superseded – it is an everlasting kingdom.
 - All other kings will be subject to the King of Kings who will rule over the kingdom on earth.
- Although Daniel was greatly alarmed by what he had seen and what he now understood from the interpretations of these visions, he did not speak with anyone about these matters [7:28].