

DANIEL
CHAPTER

7

1. Chronologically this chapter takes place before chapter five. Daniel chapters I through 6 describe the life and times of Daniel. Chapters 7 through 12 describe visions Daniel had. In order of events, the vision described in Daniel 7 took place during the time between Daniel chapters 4 and 5. Daniel 6 shines a spotlight on God's ability to care for those who humbly follow him. Chapters 7-12 present the kingdoms of the world from Babylon to God's final divine kingdom. Read Daniel 7 at least twice before beginning, so you will be familiar with the sequence of events.
2. Daniel was probably in his late sixties when he received the vision described in this chapter. Remember Daniel was a young man, probably still a teen, when he was taken into captivity. Nebuchadnezzar was King of Babylon for 43 years, then a couple of other short-term kings reigned after him. Now, we see Belshazzar is King of Babylon. We have placed the entire chapter on the Biblical Reference page, so you can highlight and mark key words to better see the details. (You might also like to mark these in your Bible so you will have it for future study)

Read Daniel 7:1-7 again. While you read, highlight the introduction of each beast and underline any details you see about each beast. When did Daniel receive this vision?

3. God does not want to leave people unaware and afraid. In verse 2, Daniel said the vision came to him while lying on his bed.

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the _____ of _____ churning up the _____."

4. The "four winds" encompass all directions, north, south, east, and west. Read Jeremiah 49:36; Matthew 24:31. Different translations give slightly different renderings. One might be translated "the four winds of heaven," and another "the four spirits of heaven." This is understandable since the Aramaic word Ruwach can be translated "wind or spirit."

Read Isaiah 17:12-13 and Revelation 17:15
What do you believe the great sea represents?

5. What does Daniel see rising out of the great sea?
6. What thoughts and feelings might be going through Daniel's mind and heart as he is writing down this vision?

What would you be thinking if you saw a vision like this?

7. Write Daniel's description of each beast.

Daniel 7:4

Daniel 7:5

Daniel 7:6

Daniel 7:7

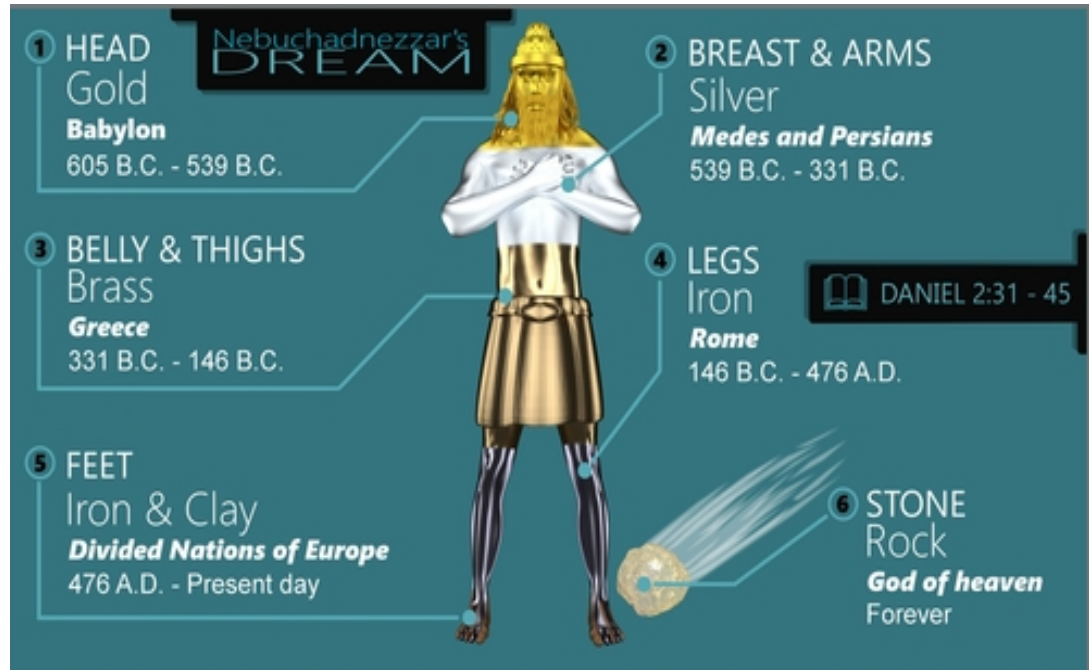


8. As noted, Daniel 7 is a prophetic chapter. God is stirring up the peoples of the earth from every possible direction by his power and according to his divine plan. Out of the great sea of humanity these four beasts will arise.

Highlight Daniel 7:17 in your Bible or on the Biblical Reference page. This is a key verse.
What do these four beasts represent?

9. I'm sure you will recall, we studied King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, in Daniel 2. Daniel interpreted the King's dream by stating each section of the statue represented an earthly kingdom.

Out to the side of the diagram below, label the parts of the statue with the beast you believe it represents.



10. Daniel 2 pictures these kingdoms from a pagan king's perspective. Men often like to view their achievements through self-aggrandizing glasses. Each of the kingdoms represented in the statue picture their worth, power and strength from a human perspective. In Daniel 7, we see the same kingdoms but now it is from God's perspective, viewing their treatment of God's people. What do we know about a lion, a bear, and a leopard?

What are these animals like?

Lion-

Bear-

Leopard-

How would you say God views these kingdoms?

- II. Daniel describes the first beast, "like a lion, and had eagle's wings." A lion is often referred to as the king of the jungle. Why do you believe lions are referred to in this way?

How did they get this reputation?

12. What do you know about eagles?

Most people find the eagle a fascinating bird to study. Eagles are one of the strongest and most majestic of all birds. The wingspan can reach a width of eight feet tip to tip. Their primary feathers can be twenty inches long. One report stated, there were over twelve hundred feathers on one wing. When gliding through the air they can reach speeds of 100 mph and it is not uncommon for eagles to soar at altitudes of 10,000 feet. Yet, in just a matter of seconds, they can dive down and snatch up their prey before it even realizes it is in danger. Is it any wonder that the eagle is referred to as the king of the sky?

With these facts in mind, does that make this first beast even more ominous?

13. There are two interesting facts given in verse 4.
What happened to the wings?

What ability was he given?
14. Keep in mind that these beasts represent empires. The first beast is the same as the head of gold we looked at in Daniel 2. Read Daniel 2:38.
Unfortunately, King Nebuchadnezzar was not a humble king. Daniel 4:4 tells us the king was contented and prosperous. In chapter 4, we also saw the One True God as he dealt with the heart of this Babylonian king. God spoke to him through a vision of a tree. Daniel revealed to the king the meaning, *“your Majesty, you are that tree!”* Then God patiently gave the king a full year to acknowledge the goodness of God. Read Daniel 4:30. Even with all that time, what did the king say about his success?
15. Read Daniel 4:31-33. Now look back to Daniel 7:4, do you believe the plucked-off wings could represent the King’s time of madness?
16. The second beast looked like a bear. His stance is described as raised up on one side. In the Bible, arms are often symbolic of strength.
Read Psalms 89:13. In this chapter, the Psalmist is describing the awesomeness of our God.
How is God described in this verse from Psalms?
17. It has been said, *“You can’t escape the strong arm of the law.”* They are referring to the tenacity and power of our police to search for and capture criminals. What is your impression of this second beast?
18. This is a kingdom of two powers. It is the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians.
What do you believe this is implying about one of the two in this combined kingdom?
19. The bear is seen with three ribs in his mouth.
What do you believe these three ribs symbolize?
20. What was this second beast given permission to do?
21. The third beast “looked like a leopard.” The claws of a leopard are indeed a fierce weapon, but they most often kill with their teeth. One quick and deadly bite to the throat often ends the fight with their prey. While their speed is similar to other cats of the jungle, leopards have incredible acceleration; and once they pounce, they kill. Leopards have one of the strongest bites in the animal kingdom, so they can take down prey that is many times their size.
What did this leopard have that would make him even more swift than a normal leopard?
22. This beast that looked like a leopard had four heads, what advantage would this give him?

What do you believe these facts imply about this third beast/kingdom?
23. Now, let’s look at the fourth beast mentioned in Daniel 7:7-8. How is it described?
24. Why do you believe Daniel did not compare this beast to a specific animal?
25. This fourth beast has 10 horns. Did any of the other beasts have horns?
26. In Daniel 7:24, what do these horns symbolize?

27. Read Daniel 7:7 How did this fourth beast treat its victims?

What other havoc did it bring down on anything that remained?

Try to picture this terrible beast. What do you believe Daniel might have been thinking as he pondered this beast?

28. In verse 8, Daniel describes what he saw while he was looking at the horns of this fourth beast. What did he say happened?

29. What was Daniel's description of this little horn that came up?

What type of words did Daniel say this horn was speaking?

Remember, Daniel 7 is the beginning of Daniel's prophetic message concerning things to come.

30. Next Daniel speaks of the "Ancient of Days." Write out the description given in Daniel 7:9-10.

Who do you believe these verses are describing?

31. In Daniel 7:10, he sees a crowd that is impossible to number gathered before the throne. Who are these who number thousands upon thousands and attend the One seated on the throne? (see Revelation 5:11-12)

32. The court is seated, which means the proceedings are about to begin. What is the last event mentioned in Daniel 7:10?

33. Did you notice it is "books" (plural) that are opened?

There will be many books in heaven. The Old Testament alludes to these books in several places.

Read Exodus 32:32-33, Psalm 56:8, Malachi 3:16-18

Jot down just a few things you learn from these verses.

The scripture tells us God is keeping a permanent record of all those who follow him. In the New Testament, the emphasis shifts to heavenly and eternal realities.

One book contains the names of all who have placed their faith in Christ. The other is a series of books which contain the deeds done by those who refuse to humbly repent and accept Christ's finished work on their behalf. This will ensure perfect judgment for every person on the day of God's Great White Throne Judgment.

The Old and the New Testament both agree on one thing. Read Nahum 1:7 and 2 Timothy 2:19.

What is one thing we can be sure of?

34. Read Revelation 21:27. Who will be in the new heaven?

35. We often make the mistake of comparing ourselves to other people which can give a false sense of reality. We can always find someone who will make us look good or someone who makes us feel inferior. However, others are not the standard by which God will judge.

Read I Peter 1:15. What is one word that defines God's standard?

The Bible teaches that God is holy. The idea behind the concept of holiness is "separation." It comes from a word meaning "to separate or cut off." God is separate, or cut off, from everything that is sinful and evil.

After looking at these verses and Daniel 7:10 concerning the books that will be opened, why do you think it will take so many books? Read Matthew 12:35-37 to help with your answer.



36. Can you imagine how ridiculous it would sound if you told an officer who had pulled you over for speeding, *“There are many people driving on Germany’s Autobahn who are driving much faster than I was driving.”* He would quickly remind you German laws do not apply here. Germany is not our sovereign. American laws govern driving here. By that same train of logic, God is the Creator and he is Sovereign over all. Only those who follow his holy plan can be redeemed. Redemption is the most beautiful of all gifts ever given. Romans 5:8 tells us, *“While we were sinners, Christ died for us.”* Christ died once for all. He bore the sins of all mankind when he hung on the cross. Just before he died, he declared, *“It is finished.”* Our debt of sin was paid in full. There is nothing left for us to do to be saved.

Read Acts 4:12 and John 14:6, Romans 10:9-10. Sum up what these verses teach:

37. This is the most important decision of our lifetime. I have said it before, heaven is too sweet to miss and eternity is too long to be wrong. I heard someone say, *“We must choose our king carefully while the choice is available to us.”* Since we do not know the number of our days, if we say, *“I don’t want to make that decision today.”* What are we saying? By choosing to postpone, what choice is one actually making?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:2. When is the right time to accept Christ as your personal Savior?

If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, does he reign as king on the throne of your heart? Is his will truly your will? If you say, *“I’m not sure,”* look back on some of the choices you have made this year. Who is seated on the throne of your heart making the final decision as to what you will say and do?

38. Back to Daniel 7:11-12. We see the beast has not stopped. He continues to speak boastful words. While he is boasting, bragging, and mocking; what happened?

39. Daniel 7:13-14. What did Daniel see next? List all the details you see in verse 14?

Clouds in the Bible can be associated with God’s presence. An example would be the pillar of cloud leading the children of Israel in their wilderness wandering.

40. In verse 14, we see, ‘He approached the Ancient of Days’ and was given _____,
_____ and _____.

This verse is very similar to Jesus words in Matthew 28:18 and the words of Paul in Philippians 2:9-11. What do these verses tell us about Jesus?

Jesus’ future kingdom is described in Daniel 7:14b.

“His dominion is an _____ dominion that will _____ pass away, and his kingdom is one that will _____ be destroyed.” We simply cannot miss this truth!!!

41. Daniel 7:15-28 is the interpretation of all Daniel saw. Let’s look through these verses.


Verse 17, the four great beasts are _____.

Verse 18, the saints of the Most High will receive _____
_____-yes, for ever and ever.

Verse 23, the fourth beast is _____.

Verse 24, the ten horns are _____.

After them another king will arise, _____ from the earlier ones; he will
_____ three kings.



Verse 25, he will speak against the _____ and _____ the his holy people and try to change the _____ and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his _____, times and half a time.

42. I find it very comforting to know this time of persecution will not go on indefinitely. God has set the time of judgment and it cannot be changed.
Do you think Satan knows this?
- Do you think he feels time running out?
- How do most people respond when they feel the pressure of a time constraint?
43. Daniel 7:26 tells us exactly what will happen to Satan.
What is his looming fate (Revelation 20:10)?
44. What is the good news Daniel shares in Dan 7:27?
45. This was no easy vision for Daniel to take in. The scripture says he was troubled by it and kept the matter to himself. Sometimes the news we receive is difficult to put into words. It can be hard news to hear and understand. Just like Mary, the mother of Jesus, there are some things we must think about and ponder for a while before sharing them. Luke 2:19 says that Mary treasured these things and pondered them in her heart.
Are there some things you have seen this week that you need to ponder for a while?
The definition of ponder is to think or consider carefully, quietly, soberly, and deeply.
What will you ponder carefully and prayerfully?
46. One of the main purposes for studying God's word should always be to get to know our God in a deeper and fuller way.
Are you walking away from Daniel 7 with a greater understanding of the character of God?
- What aspects of his character did you see in Daniel 7?
47. The events of this world can feel as if they are spinning out of control at times, especially if we spend too much time listening to the news. Let me ask you, do you feel informed or insightful after most news broadcasts?
Do you hear more problems or solutions?
- Do you know who might be behind the scenes coordinating all of this?
- If you say, I don't know, let me ask you; after watching the news, do you feel comforted and at peace or do you feel anxious and worried about where things are going?
- Read Matthew 6:27. Does being anxious help you?
- Read Psalm 119:165. What should give us great peace?
Read Philippians 4:5-9. As followers of Christ, what is our mind to be set on?
48. I agree we must stay informed., However, if we are not part of the problem or the solution, does listening help or hurt us?
- What should we be doing in light of all that is going on?
49. Anxiety is the act of experiencing fears and worries. Knowing God's character and his word will help us experience true peace that passes all understanding.
Read Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 121:1-2; Jeremiah 29:11-12 and I Peter 5:7.
Using the truth found in these verses, write a prayer to God.

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