

“Four Great Beasts”



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"I saw in my vision by night.....four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other..... The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings.... a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth.... and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads.... and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth... and it had ten horns. 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.

'Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.'

Daniel 7:2-8,17



Often in Bible Prophecy, we find that God covers the same time periods using different symbols. This is a common theme that we see running throughout the two key books of end time prophecy, **Daniel & Revelation**.

In **Daniel 7**, we see that God repeats to Daniel the same prophecy that we see in **Daniel 2**, which Nebuchadnezzar received, this time, God revealed it to Daniel using different symbols- Beasts. There is a constant theme of "repetition and enlargement" throughout Daniel and Revelation, and this example can be seen when we compare Daniel 2 & 7 for example.

God gives Daniel a panoramic sweep of history from his time right unto the 2nd Coming of Christ, which much more detail than we saw in Daniel 2.

Lets take a brief look.



Babylonian Empire
Lion with Eagles wings
605-539 BC

Instead of Babylon being represented by the head of gold as seen in Daniel 2, Babylon this time is symbolised by a lion with eagle's wings, symbolic of its pride, its boldness and the speed with which it conquered the then known world.

Read the below chapters which also further confirm the point that Babylon was referred to as a Lion in other parts of Scripture:

Deuteronomy 28:49; Lamentations 4:19; Jeremiah 4:7-10

History also shows us that the national seal for the kingdom of Babylon was a lion with the wings of an eagle.



Medo-Persian Empire

Bear with 3 Ribs

539-331 BC

The Kingdom of the Medes and the Persians, rather than being represented by the chest and arms of silver is here represented as a bear, with 3 ribs in its mouth and was raised up on one side. The rising of the bear on one side represents the fact that out of the 2 nations, the Persians were the dominant nation and most of the kings from this Empire came from the Persian line and not the Medes.

The three ribs represent the three nations that the Medo Persians overthrew before it came to power, the Egyptians, the Lydians and the Babylonians.

Read Isaiah 13:17-19



Greek Empire

4 headed leopard with 4 wings

331-168 BC

The Grecian kingdom, rather than being expressed as the belly and thighs of bronze, is now shown to Daniel as a leopard with 4 heads and 4 wings.

Interestingly enough, when Alexander the Great died, his empire was divided amongst his 4 generals, as he had no heir. These generals were, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, Seleucus & Cassander.

Notice: Daniel 8:5-9,20-22



Roman Empire

Fearsome beast with 10 horns

168 BC-476 AD

Rome is here seen as a fearsome beast, having 10 horns and iron teeth, as opposed to the legs of iron as seen in **Daniel 2**. When Rome eventually fell, especially the Western portion of Rome, it eventually split into 10 nations, which were the predecessors of **Modern Europe** today, represented by the 10 horns in **Daniel 7** and 10 toes in **Daniel 2**. However, now we see that Daniel is given more detail, than was Nebuchadnezzar, because now he sees a smaller horn (nation) rise up amongst the 10 and plucks up or destroys 3 of the other horns.



Papal Roman Empire

Little horn

538 AD-1798 AD

History shows us that after the fall of the western Roman Empire in 476 AD, a small power was on the rise that would eventually rise to prominence throughout Europe. This little horn power, uprooted, 3 of the other horns, the Vandals, the Ostrogoths and the Heruli. By 538 AD this little horn, by the power given to it by Emperor Justinian of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, went on to rule in Western Europe, with all the kings subject to its authority. The Papacy then went on to rule in absolute power for another 1,260 years, ending in the year 1798 but prophecy shows us that this power will yet again rule the entire world until the 2nd Coming of Christ.



For a more detailed study on Daniel 2 and Daniel 7, click the link in the bio and check out our study guides to learn more!



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