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A Wonderful Prophecy



Daniel 7

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The seventh chapter of Daniel is in many respects a wonderful prophecy. IT COVERS THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD FROM THE DAYS OF BABYLON TO THE END OF THE WORLD.

The prophet saw four beasts arise one by one from the sea. Then the angel of the Lord came to him and explained the symbols as follows: *“These great beasts which are four, are FOUR KINGS which shall arise out of the earth. . . . The fourth beast shall be the FOURTH KINGDOM.”* **Daniel 7:17, 23.**

The first beast was like a lion and had eagle's wings. The prophet beheld until the wings

were plucked and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand upon the feet as a man; and a man's heart was given to it.

This was the second time Daniel had been given a prophetic view of these four kingdoms. In the SECOND CHAPTER OF DANIEL they were presented to him in the form of a GREAT IMAGE, and he was plainly told that THE FIRST WAS BABYLON, over which Nebuchadnezzar reigned.

About forty years before this Jeremiah had written, *“Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away; first the king of Assyria hath devoured him, and last this Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, hath broken his bones.”* **Jeremiah 50:17.**

Daniel was familiar with the writings of Jeremiah and would have no difficulty in recognizing the lion as a symbol of Babylon. This power at the time the vision was given, was rapidly nearing the time when it was to lose its lionlike dominion. Jeremiah, as he beheld in vision the time of the overthrow of Babylon, said: *“The mighty men of Babylon have foreborn to fight; . . . their might hath failed: they became as women.”* **Jeremiah. 51:30.** This was truly fulfilled when the men of Babylon depended on the strength of the walls of the city, rather than the strength of their arms.

In 538 B.C. Babylon was taken by Cyrus, the leader of the armies of the MEDES AND PERSIANS, entering the city through the bed of the river Euphrates. Babylon had become so exalted that she had said in her heart,

“I am and none else beside me.” **Isaiah 47:10** [margin]. Then God gave the power into the hands of the Medes and Persians, fitly represented by the cruel, rapacious bear, which Daniel saw coming up out of the waters with three ribs in its mouth, and it was told to *“arise and devour much flesh.”* **Daniel 7:5.**

Over one hundred and fifty years before this, the prophet Isaiah in prophetic vision saw this nation dashing little children to pieces, slaying women, and having no pity. **Isaiah 13:16, 17.** Daniel would have no difficulty in recognizing the Medo-Persian power which ruled the world from the overthrow of Babylon in 538 to the rise of the Grecian power in 331 B.C.

The GRECIAN KINGDOM was represented by a leopard, *“which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads, and dominion was given to it.”* **Daniel 7:6.** In **Daniel 11:1-4** we are told that the kingdom following Medo-Persia was divided into four divisions; but *“not to his posterity.”* The Grecian kingdom which followed the Medo-Persian nation, was, after a few years of turmoil, divided between the four leading generals of Alexander the Great, which was symbolized by the four heads: while the rapid conquests of Alexander were well represented by the four wings on the back of the quick moving leopard. The name of this third kingdom is said by the angel to be Grecia. **Daniel 8:21, 22.** The fourth beast was *“dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly, and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and break in pieces and stamped*

the residue with the feet of it; and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” Daniel 7:7.

In reply to Daniel's question, the angel told him that the ten horns out of this kingdom were ten kings that should arise. **Daniel 7:24.**

The name of the fourth universal kingdom is not given in the Old Testament; but in the New Testament we are told that in the time of Christ, the ROMAN NATION, under Caesar Augustus, had power to tax all the world. **Luke 2:1, 2.** Rome, this fourth universal kingdom, was divided into ten kingdoms many of which are still represented by the leading nations of Europe.

While Daniel was considering the ten horns on the beast, “*behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots; and behold in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*” **Daniel 7:8.** The angel sent to explain the vision to Daniel said, that from among the horns, or kingdoms, there would a power arise with the following characteristics:-

1. It would arise after the ten.
2. It would be diverse [*different*] from the ten.
3. It would subdue three of the ten.

4. This power would speak great words against the Most High.

5. It would wear out the saints of the Most High.

6. It would think to change the times and laws of the Most High.

7. The power to do these things would be given into his hand until a time, times, and the dividing of time.

The above characteristics are given in **Daniel 7:24, 25**, and have been fulfilled in their order.

1. After Rome was divided, the ecclesiastical [a church] power known as PAPAL ROME

arose and bore as powerful a sway as any political nation had ever borne.

2. It was diverse [*different*] from the others in that it was ecclesiastical, and they were political.

3. In order to make way for the papacy, three of the divisions of Rome, the Heruli, Ostrogoths, and the Vandals, were set aside.

4. In the DECREE OF INFALLIBILITY [*not capable of making mistakes*] issued in 1870, surely this power spoke great words against God.

5. The FIFTY MILLIONS OF MARTYRS [*One who suffers death in defense of a cause.*] witness to the fact that this power wore out the saints of the Most High.

6. The fact that the majority of the Christian world keep the first day of the week as the Sabbath, when the fourth commandment of the law of God says that *“the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work;”* is evidence that some one has thought to change the law of God. **Exodus 20:8-11.** And the Catholic church in its catechisms boasts of the fact that it has changed the Sabbath.

See. Catholic Christian Instructor; also, Abridgment of Christian Doctrine, p. 57.

7. The power to persecute the saints and change the law would be given into his hands for a time (one year, **Daniel 11:13**, margin) times, (plural, two years) and dividing of times, or half a year (**Daniel 12:7**), making three and one-half years. AS THE NATIONS ARE REPRESENTED BY SYMBOLS, SO THE

TIME IS SYMBOLIC. This same period is spoken of as forty-two months (**Revelation 13:5**), which is the same as three and a half years. Forty-two months contain 1,260 days, and this same period is spoken of as 1,260 days in **Revelation 12:6**. A DAY IN SYMBOLIC PROPHECY REPRESENTS A YEAR. **Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6**. In the year 538 A.D. the DECREE OF JUSTINIAN went into effect, which declared the pope of Rome to be head over all the churches.

This power was to continue until a time, times, and half a time, or 1,260 years. 1,260 years added to 538 brings us to 1798 A.D., when BERTHIER, the FRENCH GENERAL, took POPE PIUS VI prisoner, and the papacy received the deadly wound. Another pope was elected two years later, but the wound has never as yet been fully healed.

After all this view of strife and bloodshed, the prophet saw the entire dominion given to the saints of God, and peace and joy filling the whole earth. **Daniel 7:27.**

[Original Emphasis underlined. Other emphasis added by Lightindarkness.site]

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