

Lesson IV
Part IIb
Daniel's 70th Week

Introduction:

1. We have looked at Matthew 24 and Luke 21 as an introduction to Daniel's 70th week.
2. We are now looking at Part 2 of Daniel's 70th week, and the "A" part of this lesson dealt with "The Purpose of Daniel's prayers."

II. Daniel's prophecy concerning his 70th week.

B. Now, let us look at the visions and dreams in Daniel

Note: Much of the understanding of Revelations can be found in Daniel, especially concerning the antichrist.

1. Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2:31-35
- 31) Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

- a. v32...The image's head was of fine gold,
- b. v32...The breast and arms of silver,
- c. v32...The belly and thighs of brass,
- d. v33...The legs were of iron and the feet part of iron and part of clay.

Note: The image that the king saw represented kingdoms of man that was and was to come, and in verses 34-35, he saw that the kingdom of God would destroy man's kingdoms.

- i. The kingdoms of man became more unstable through the generations
- ii. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was an absolute autocratic kingdom for the Scripture says this about Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 5:18-19 when Daniel was speaking to Belshazzar.

18) O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: 19) And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

- iii. Nebuchadnezzar had absolute authority and control, but in the Medo-Persian empire, the Emperor was bound by the laws of the Medes and Persians which is demonstrated when Darius tried to find a way to keep Daniel out of the lion's den in Daniel 6:8-15 and Esther 8:1-17 when a law was given to counteract a previous signed law.
- iv. The Grecian empire was a Monarchy supported by a Military Aristocracy which weakened the authority of the Monarch.
- v. The Roman emperors were nominally elected by the people, but the people could not legislate to them, so they ruled with a hand of iron as represented by the iron in the image.
- vi. Look at the feet and toes which are a mixture of iron and clay which represents Imperialism mixed with democracy which means that the world empires went from an absolute autocracy to a democratic monarchy where the masses swayed by politicians and demagogues who think only of themselves control the government.
 - 1) This is where we are now.
 - 2) Watch for ten federated nations represented by the 10 toes over which a roman emperor will rule.
 - 3) The Beast in Revelations that is ridden by the Great Whore is symbolic of a leader influenced by a religious system that has enabled him to rise to power, but he hates the religious system and desires to destroy her.
 - e. v34-35...He saw the kingdom of God
- 34) Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35) Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.
 - i. The end of the kingdoms of this world will be the 2nd return of Christ to establish His kingdom.
 - ii. The Stone is not Christians nor the church, but Christ returning to destroy the kingdoms of this world while established His kingdom of righteousness.
 - iii. All the previous kingdoms are represented in the present kingdom, so the antichrist kingdom will be representative of all these kingdoms which fall before Christ.

iv. Look at Revelations 13:1-2

1) And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2) And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

- 1) Leopard is representative of the Grecian with its swiftness
- 2) Feet like a bear is representative the Medo-Persian empire
- 3) Mouth like a lion is representative of Babylon
- 4) Seven heads and ten horns is representative of Rome
- 5) This beast is a composite beast representative the revived Roman Empire which will be a composite Empire composed of Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece and Rome.

2. Daniel's visions in Daniel 7

- a. Daniel had three visions in chapter 7.
 - i. The Vision of the Four Wild Beasts
 - ii. The vision of a Judgment Scene
 - iii. The vision of the Son of Man receiving the Kingdom
 - iv. These three dreams or visions are interwoven so they occurred at the same time
- b. Notice that v1 tells us who had the vision and when he had it.

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

- i. Daniel had this vision in the 1st year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, which occurred before chapters five and six, for in chapter 5 Belshazzar is slain and in chapter 6 Darius is king.
- ii. Daniel wrote down the sum or gist of what the dreams.
- c. Look at verses 2-3

2) Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3) And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Note this information for study the Bible.

- i. Winds in symbolic passages denotes war, strife, and judgments from God.
- ii. Seas is a symbolic passage representing people
- iii. Beasts is a symbolic passage representing kings
 - i. The “Great Sea” is an Old Testament term for the Mediterranean Sea
 - ii. By identifying the Great Sea as the location, Daniel is being told that these nations represented by the four great beast are going to be in that geographical area and, as in the case of the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empire, they owed their wealth and power to their Mediterranean coast land which they had conquered.
 - iii. Four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.
 - 1) Sea is a word used to speak of nations and people

Note Revelations 17:15

And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

- 2) The tumultuous sea demonstrated the unrest of the nations
- 3) The four winds of heaven
 - a) Four shows that the winds com from east, west, north, south
 - b) These winds represents the “powers of the air,” the forces of the “evil one” as the writer of Ephesians 6:12 identifies.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- c) Winds are symbolic of satan using his powers to cause unrest among the nations of the earth.
- d. These four beasts correspond with the four metals of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream

- i. We have a repeat of the same revelation to show the difference of how men and God view the nations.
- ii. Men view nations by looking at their wealth, majesty and power which is the image of Nebuchadnezzar

Note: Isn't it amazing that as time passes, the nations go from gold, to silver, to brass, to iron, to iron mixed with clay showing the actual decline of their worth and power.

- iii. God sees the nations as
 - 1) Greedy, grasping wild beasts devouring one another.
 - 2) As being bestial in character
 - 3) As maintaining their supremacy by brute force
- iv. Consider beastly nature of these nations
 - 1) The lion devours
 - 2) The Bear crushes
 - 3) The Leopard springs upon its victim and sucks its blood
 - 4) The character of the fourth wild beast is of such that no beast in nature can be compared to it, and it has the characteristics of these other nations

Note: Notice that unconsciously the nations affirm their beastly character by their national emblems.

- i. British Lion
- ii. Russian Bear
- iii. American Eagle
- iv. Chinese Dragon
- v. Persian Ram
- vi. Macedonian Goat
- e. Let us look at these four beasts
 - i. The first beast was like a lion

4) The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

ii. The second beast was like a bear with three ribs in it mouth

5) And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

iii. The third beast was like a leopard

6) After this I beheld, and lo another, like 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.

iv. The fourth beast was terrible with 10 horns

7) After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake 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.

v. One little horn uproots three of the horns

8) I considered the horns, and, 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.

vi. The kingdom of the Son of man in verses 13-14

9) I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. 10) A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 11) I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. 12) As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. 13) I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14) And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

3. Daniel's vision of the ram and He goat in chapter 8:3-9

a. Ram with two horns in verse 3

3) Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. 4) I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

b. The he goat in verse 5

5) And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. 6) And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. 7) And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

i. Four horns in the place of one horn in v8

8) Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.

ii. One little horn comes from one of the four horns in v9

9) And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.