

Daniel – Chapter 7

A new division

The first 6 chapters we studied are highlights and overview of the life of Daniel and the times and environment in which he lived. In the second half of the book Daniel tells us of a series of dreams or visions he had which he himself did not fully understand even after he asks for explanations.

• *Time the visions were given*

These visions were given to Daniel after the events of chapter 4, but before chapter 5. Nebuchadnezzar has died and Belshazzar is running Babylon.

• *Reading Homework*

To see again the divine engineering of scripture, review chapter two of Daniel and read Revelation 13 and 17 and note how these fit together with this chapter.

• *Gentile history*

Most prophecy in scripture is seen from the perspective of Israel, but Daniel 2 and 7 lay out history from the Gentile point of view.

• *Not in Hebrew*

To emphasize this, the Holy Spirit had Daniel, who was fluent in Hebrew and Aramaic, write chapters 2 through 7 in a Gentile language (Aramaic) in use there in Babylon, whereas the rest of Daniel is written in Hebrew.

• *Human viewpoint vs God's view*

Chapter two and seven present the same material. Chapter 2 pictures history in the eyes of man as a series of shiny metals albeit of decreasing value, while chapter 7 portrays history seen through God's eyes as a series of vicious beasts. From our perspective in history, which view is more in accordance with reality?

• *Daniel 67 years old*

Daniel 7:1 (NIV) In the first year of Belshazzar's reign over Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as

he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

Daniel 7:1 (KJV) 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.

Daniel was about 67 years old at this time and Nebuchadnezzar had died about nine years ago. The episode of the handwriting on the wall will occur about 14 years from this time.

• *Summary*

After the dream/vision Daniel writes down an essential summary of what he saw/dreamed. Only twice in my life have I ever had a dream so vivid and real that I remembered every detail of what I dreamed and only once did I write it down. It was a dream about the return of Jesus for His Church. This was the first vision/dream which was given directly to Daniel.

• *And I looked or was beholding*

Nine times Daniel writes that he looked and/or beheld a scene.

Daniel 7:2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea.

• *The four winds*

No one can control the wind except God and they can be seen as a picture of God's sovereignty. We see this in the astonishment of the disciples of Jesus when he calmed the wind and sea.

Matthew 8:26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Matthew 8:27 The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

• *The literal great sea*

This is a phrase that is used in the physical sense of the Mediterranean Sea. All the empires and lands Daniel knew about bordered on the Mediterranean.

• *The symbolism of the sea*

Isaiah 17:12 Oh, the raging of many nations-- they rage like the raging sea! Oh, the uproar of the peoples-- they roar like the roaring of great waters!

Isaiah 17:13 Although the peoples roar like the roar of surging waters, when he rebukes them they flee far away, driven before the wind like chaff on the hills, like tumbleweed before a gale.

Isaiah 57:20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud.

Revelation 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

It is evident that symbolically the sea represents the Gentile nations of the earth out of which the beasts which are the rulers over them come.

• *Emphasis on the difference*

Daniel 7:3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

In chapter two the main differences between the empires of history, as seen by man, is primarily in the value and beauty of the four metals as pictured in the statue. Here in chapter 7, in God's view, there are the lion, bear and leopard, three distinct real animals and a fourth so terrible and different that Daniel can find no real animal to compare it to.

• *Regal Creatures*

Daniel 7:4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

The lion is commonly regarded as the king of the animals that walk upon the earth and the eagle is regarded as the most noble of the winged creatures. The gates of Babylon had pictures of winged lions.

• *The heart of a man*

The wings were torn off and the change of heart are echoes of chapter 4 where we studied the humiliation and repentance of Nebuchadnezzar as the head of the Babylonian empire.

• *Powerful and ponderous beast*

Daniel 7:5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

This beast being representative of the Medo-Persian empire is represented by a bear, a less regal yet very powerful animal. Xerxes had an army of 2.5 million men, which is huge, even by today's standards and represents awesome military might used to mercilessly subdue the opposition.

Isaiah 13:17 See, I will stir up against them the Medes, who do not care for silver and have no delight in gold.

Isaiah 13:18 Their bows will strike down the young men; they will have no mercy on infants nor will they look with compassion on children.

• *Three ribs*

There were three primary victories that solidified the Persian rule. They were over Babylon, Egypt and Lydia.

• *Four headed leopard*

Daniel 7:6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

The lion devours, the bear crushes but the leopard springs on its unsuspecting prey. A young man by the name of Alexander conquers the known world and at the age of 29 it was said that he cried tears because there was nothing left for him to conquer. The Germans under Hitler were said to have made "Blitzkrieg" - - lightning war, but in terms of real estate conquered in a short time, Alexander's armies were truly like leopards and conquered much more territory at lightning speed.

• *Four heads*

When Alexander was upon his deathbed, he was asked who should be his successor to take over the empire. He replied "Give it to the strong". Therefore the four principal military generals upon Alexander's death at only 33 divided up the empire among themselves.

Cassander took Greece & Macedonia.

Lysimachus took Thrace & Bithynia (Asia Minor)

Seleucus took Syria, Babylonia which included most of India

Ptolemy took Egypt, Palestine & Arabia

Soon the rivalry between them, especially between Seleucus and Ptolemy led to warfare, details of which is told in advance by Daniel in chapter 11.

• *A most terrible beast*

Daniel 7:7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast-terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

Unlike the previous beasts, Daniel could find no animal to compare this fourth beast to. In predicting judgment on wayward Israel, the Holy Spirit also uses the same picture of four beasts, the fourth again not likened to a real animal, but just called a wild beast. Note that this beast has iron teeth, a material not found that way in normal animals and this links it to the statue of iron legs.

Hosea 13:7 So I will come upon them like a lion, like a leopard I will lurk by the path.

Hosea 13:8 Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open. Like a lion I will devour them; a wild animal will tear them apart.

Notice also that in the first three real animals the Lord associates himself with the action "I will", but not in the fourth.

• *The dragon*

Revelation 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

The picture of these animals arises again in the accounts of the end of mankind's history. Here John sees a composite beast having the attributes of beastly power energized by the dragon who is Satan. With these pictures of the successive increasingly awful kingdoms of man, God given us first as the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, then here in chapter 7 and finally in the book that chronicles the end of the rule on Earth of man and the beginning of the rule of God. Behind all of man's rule is the rule of Satan.

• *Ten horns*

The ten horns are ten kings arising out of the final iron fisted government which historically is the Roman empire which was never conquered by anyone but its culture was divided into an eastern and western part and those pieces are still with us today. The ten toes of the statue in chapter 2 are here portrayed as ten horns and we are explicitly told that these are ten kingdoms.

Daniel 7:17 'The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.

The countries around the Mediterranean Sea at one time all belonged to Rome. Rome's reach was at its peak about 110-120AD and slowly started to decline as the imperial government became more corrupt and its influence diminished, especially in the outlying parts of the empire. Rome lost Britain in 407AD and Rome was sacked by the Visigoths a member of the Germanic tribes, but it was not until 1453 that the last Roman ruler was killed in battle (western part) and Mohammed II conquered (eastern part) Constantinople.

• *Fourth empire remains*

From the Biblical perspective the fourth empire remains until it replaced by the Kingdom of God. In our previous study of Daniel 2 we learned that it is in the days of these kings, that God will establish His kingdom.

Daniel 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

We encounter the beast with the ten horns again in:

Revelation 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.

• *An almost unnoticed horn*

Daniel 7:8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

The power or authority of an animal in the middle eastern cultures was seen in the size and extent of its horns. This little horn was inconspicuous at first, but is characterized by a big boastful mouth. The word uprooted or plucked up carries with it the idea of gradual displacement by rendering ineffectual over time or useless rather than a sudden tearing out. Could this be a reference to what is happening today in our own time, where the Judeo-Christian background and culture of the West is being slowly invaded by and possibly replaced by Islam?

• *10 Kingdoms, 10 Kings*

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This horn and the 10 others symbolize simultaneously existing kings at this specific time rather than a succession of kingdom through time. The eyes and mouth indicate that this is a person.

• *33 and 13 titles in Old Testament and New respectively*

We generally call this person, this blasphemer "The Antichrist" which is somewhat of a misnomer for a coming world leader with the boastful mouth. The term Antichrist is used by John in his letters, but not in Revelation, where he uses several other descriptive titles.

• *A scripturally negative view*

In God's view, this person is painted in highly negative terms, but in the world's view this person will be a very able and successful leader who will be seen as the savior of the world out of its increasingly seeming insurmountable and vexing problems.

• *Just like Satan*

We have a similar view from scripture of Satan as a sinister evil being, which of course he is, but we are also told:

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

which is how those who refuse to accept God's word see him even by denying that he even exists. He is the one who energizes this successful coming world ruler.

• *Mr. Bigmouth*

One characteristic of this person is his big mouth, or as the world will see him as a great orator as well as political leader. Adolf Hitler gave us a sneak preview of this ability to sway the masses through great speechmaking. God tells us the nature and objects of his blasphemous speeches.

Revelation 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

Revelation 13:6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Notice that he speaks of God and His name, dwelling place and interestingly, those who dwell in heaven. Who are those who dwell in heaven?

• *Thrones of Judgment*

Daniel 7:9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

• *The word set or placed*

The word placed or set in place is a quick action type of word often translated cast or thrown.

Notice that there are thrones - plural-- and here in Daniel we are not told how many nor who if anyone is seated on these, but in Revelation we are given a further insight. It is another example of the scriptural hologram where different sections augment and explain one another.

Revelation 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 4:4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty- four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

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Revelation 11:16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

• *Identity of the elders*

Who are these elders on these thrones? We are give a clue in:

Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four [and] twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

• *The word us*

2248 hemas {hay-mas'}

accusative case plural of 1473;

AV - us 148, we 25, our 2, us-ward + 1519 2, not tr 1; 178

1) us, we, our etc.

There has been some controversy over the word US and some translations use the word men which is incorrect. In Rev 1:6 the same word IS correctly translated as US.

• *Both Kings and Priests*

There is only one group of people who are both kings and priests and that are the members of the church whose head is Jesus, who is the chief King and Priest. In the Old Testament, the office of king and priest could not be held by a single person, they had to have different ancestry, The priests belonged to the tribe of Levi and the kingly line was from the tribe of Judah.

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

Revelation 1:6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

John was writing to the church and as members of the church we are kings and priests. So these elders then are members of the church, a distinct and separate subgroup of the larger category of saints.

• *Ancient of days*

This word construct is used 3 times! in this chapter in verses 9,13 and 22. This phrase, "Ancient of days -- literally the eternal timeless one -- usually, as here, in reference to the Father but also used of the son being eternal with the Father, such as in the well known verse in Isaiah:

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

• *A river of fire*

Daniel 7:10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

Fire is used as a symbol of judgment of sin and sinners and also as a means of purification. Here in Daniel we have it used as a picture of judgment flowing forth from the throne of God.

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Isaiah 66:15 See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

Isaiah 66:16 For with fire and with his sword the LORD will execute judgment upon all men, and many will be those slain by the LORD.

The judgment by fire is given in many places, the above being an example in the context of our study here in Daniel. Other places are in Ezekiel 1:4-5; Rev 15:2 and the destruction of Sodom etc.

• *The open books*

There are a number of different kinds of books mentioned in scripture, such as:

The book of the law (Ex 32:32)
The book of the wars of the Lord (Num21:14)
The book of payback for evil deeds (Isa 65:6)
The book of life (Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5; 13:8; 17:8)

• *The book of remembrance*

Malechi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard [it], and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

There is nothing you or I can do to get included in the book of life, that was accomplished by Jesus for us once and for all and our name gets written there upon our acceptance by faith of the finished work done on the cross. There is however this book of remembrance that is being written where entries on

your behalf are done every time you think reverently on His name. It appears that there is a record made every time you pray or praise Him all throughout life.

• *The beast is destroyed*

Daniel 7:11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.

Daniel's vision shifts again from what is happening in the heavenly dimension back down to Earth. John the apostle also records this interplay between heaven and earth and how events in heaven affect what takes place on the earth, but also happenings on Earth are reflected in heaven.

Revelation 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

Revelation 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

• *Heaven and Earth connected*

We are given numerous indication in scripture that what we do here on Earth has an effect in Heaven, such as our prayers for example. We are told to gather treasure in heaven by certain actions we can do here on Earth.

Revelation 8:4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.

Luke 12:33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

• *The Son is given authority to rule*

The world's last kingdoms, this fourth final empire declare war on the returning Messiah who destroys them.

Daniel 7:12 (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

Daniel 7:13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

Daniel 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

• *No afterthought*

This taking over of the world by the God-Man Jesus is no afterthought, but was discussed and decided within the council of the tri-unity of God long before either Daniel or John were shown some of the details of the implementation.

Psalms 2:1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

Psalms 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Psalms 2:3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." Psalms 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Psalms 2:5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, Psalms 2:6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Psalms 2:7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son ; today I have become your Father.

Psalms 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. Psalms 2:9 You will rule them with an iron scepter ; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Psalms 2:10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Psalms 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

The psalmist is allowed to listen as the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit have a conversation. When in the scale of time this took place we are not told, but it encompasses the past tense, (v6) as an act done previously, the present (v7) and the future (v8-9). This scripture gives another glimpse into the eternality, the timeless nature of God. As an exercise, try to determine who is saying what to whom.

• *Troubled? No kidding!*

If you or I saw visions like Daniel, we too would very likely be troubled also. The word 'troubled' is the word for alarmed or frightened.

Daniel 7:15 (NIV) "I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me.

Daniel 7:15 (KJV) I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of [my] body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

The word translated 'body' in the KJV is the word for sheath, as the thing a sword is placed into, telling us that the spirit is in the body somewhat like a sword is in its sheath.

• *Explanation please*

Daniel 7:16 I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this. "So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things:

Daniel 7:17 'The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.

Daniel 7:18 But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever--yes, for ever and ever.'

Daniel 7:19 "Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws--the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left.

Of the four beasts, Daniel asked explicitly about the fourth and about the horns that came out of it. He

was of course familiar with the first beast, the empire of Babylon and by extension he could see similarities to the next two by describing them in terms of animals he and his readers were familiar with. However, for the fourth and final beast there exists no animal he could liken it to.

Daniel 7:20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell--the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

He especially inquired about the loudmouthed boaster with eyes, as a person would have eyes and a mouth.

• *Defeating the saints?*

Daniel 7:21 As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them,

Here we have a disturbing verse -- can the saints be defeated? John tells us the same thing. The word defeated or conquer (yek-ale') means can or having the ability to conquer or prevailing against. John also speaks of the overcoming of the saints by this person.

Revelation 13:7 (NIV) He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

Revelation 13:7 (KJV) And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

• *The word --> overcome*

In the Greek the word overcome here is:

3528 nikao {nik-ah'-o}
AV - overcome 24, conquer 2, prevail 1, get the victory 1; 28 1) to conquer

1a) to carry off the victory, come off victorious
1a1) of Christ, victorious over all His foes
1a2) of Christians, that hold fast their faith even unto death

against the power of their foes, and temptations and persecutions
1a3) when one is arraigned or goes to law, to win the case,

maintain one's cause

• *A contradiction?*

Matthew 16:18 (NIV) And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:18 (KJV) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Daniel and John both tell us of saints being overcome by, conquered, prevailed against, by the forces of evil as personified by this person arising out of the fourth kingdom, but Jesus tells us that against the church, the forces of evil will not prevail.

• *The word --> prevail*

2729 katischuo {kat-is-khoo'-o}
AV - prevail against 1, prevail 1; 2
1) to be strong to another's detriment, to prevail against 2) to be superior in strength
3) to overcome
4) to prevail

A different word is used in Matthew, but the meaning is quite similar and this word is used only one other time in

Luke 23:23 (NIV) But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed.

Luke 23:23 (KJV) And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.

• *Groups of saints*

To understand this on the surface seeming contradiction, we must realize that there are different groups of saints. All members of the church are saints, but not all saints are members of the church. There are the saints of the Old Testament, the saints of the church and the saints that come out of the great tribulation. Jesus specifically said that the **church** would not be prevailed against.

Revelation 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

Revelation 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

Revelation 6:11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

As an aside, notice that no rebuke is issued on account of their call for vengeance, such as occurs in

Luke 9:52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;

Luke 9:53 but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

Luke 9:54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"

Luke 9:55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them,

• *War against the Lord himself*

This blasphemous boaster will not only make war against the saints of the Most High, but against the Lord Himself, who of course cannot be overcome.

Revelation 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

Revelation 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

• *A limited time*

Daniel 7:22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

Whenever there is what I like to call a corner word such as **until**, **but**, **therefore** etc. it is good to pay more careful attention to what comes next. Here we see that this war will only last until the Lord shows up and as detailed in other scriptures personally makes an end of the war and its instigator.

• *Emphatically different*

Daniel 7:23 "He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.'

Daniel 7:24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

Again and again the different nature of both the beast and the horn are stressed, as here in the answer given to Daniel's inquiry.

• *A very different world today*

Indeed, our modern world is fundamentally different in many ways from all the centuries of man's existence before. We live in a "global village" where travel and communications have never been as they are today. When I first came to San Francisco as a young boy, television was first beginning, with only three television stations on the air a few hours each day. We have seen on Sept 11 2001 how a few individuals from far away places some of us have never heard of can radically change how we live. The ascendancy and rise of Islam is part of this fundamental change. Islam is the only culture and religion on earth which is not willing to live side-by-side with other religions and cultures. The word "Islam" means submission. Anyone who is not willing to submit is executed at worst, or at best relegated as a "dhimmi" to second-class citizenship. It appears that the world at this time will be controlled and dominated by the Islamic religion and culture.

• *Changing the time?*

Daniel 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

The phrase change the **times** has given rise to much speculation. The same word is used by Daniel in: 2:16, 2:21, 3:7, 4:36, 6:10, 6:13, 7:12, 7:22. Ever since the time of Christ, the calendar has been divided into BC (before Christ) and AD (anno

domini - the year of our Lord) and some have suggested that this last world ruler will try to change the calendar such as to eliminate any reference to the Lord. Islam has its own calendar. Therefore it is not inconceivable that they force the entire world to adopt the Islamic calendar.

• *Change the laws?*

Man has always ignored or rebelled against God's laws but this personification of evil will try, as the head of a global regime, to officially nullify God's laws and substitute his own. The same word **law** is used by Daniel in: 2:9, 2:13, 2:15, 6:5, 6:8, 6:12, 6:15. Ezra is the other writer that uses this word in: 7:12, 7:14, 7:21, 7:25, 7:26. Everywhere that Muslims have gone and come to political power, they have instituted or at least tried to institute sharia law, which is diametrically opposed to our present Judeo-Christian heritage and law.

• *Timing detail of 3 1/2 years given*

We are told that this incredible evil one will only last three and a half years. The Holy Spirit has given us this specific time duration here and more emphatically to John in Revelation who fills in more detail in connection to events taking place at this time and for this same length of time

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Revelation 12:6 The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

It is important to keep in mind that the Biblical calendar year is 360 days. It is interesting that all the ancient calendar records accord 360 days to a year until the time of Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:10), when suddenly the calendar records change. God tells us this is a very literal specific time span of judgment and definitely not open to some symbolic interpretation.

• *3 1/2 days*

In Revelation the 3 1/2 figure comes up again in connection with judgment and fear, but lasting only days instead of years.

Revelation 11:9 For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

Revelation 11:10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

Revelation 11:11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.

• *3 1/2 – A time span of judgment*

Luke and James write about the judgment of famine God decreed because of Israel's sins in Elijah's day which lasted 3 1/2 years.

Luke 4:25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land.

James 5:17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

When we study chapter 9 we will look at this time period again in connection with what is sometimes referred to as the 70th week of Daniel

• *The verdict is handed down*

The supreme court of the universe has entered the judgment of guilty for the personified evil one often called the antichrist and meted out the well deserved sentence of destruction.

Daniel 7:26 "But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.

• *Saints and the Lord will rule together*

Daniel 7:27 Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.

With the evil one judged the ruler-ship of our planet will be given to the saints, that is **all** saints from all of time. The word 'saint' incorporates the idea of holy and separated by God for His purpose. We as part of the church group of saints will be partakers of His rule.

• *Faithfulness here determines responsibility then*

Jesus tells us that if we are faithful in fulfilling the tasks He has given us here right now, we will be given greater honor and responsibility at that time. We ought to be faithful now because of our love for Him and our faithfulness makes Him happy now and eager to share His happiness with us then.

Matthew 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

• *Color me shocked pale*

Daniel 7:28 "This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

Daniel was emotionally upset by what he saw to the point that it affected his appearance. The word translated "face in the NIV and countenance in the KJV is in Aramaic which literally means brightness and is translated as such in Dan 2:31 and Dan 4:36. Fortunately Daniel didn't keep these things to himself forever. Aren't we glad he did write them down for us?

• *End of Aramaic section*

Here at the end of chapter seven ends the section of the book of Daniel written in Aramaic, the common language of the land where Daniel lived. The first chapter and all chapters after this one are written in Hebrew. This has prompted some liberal doubting critics to assert that the book of Daniel was written by several authors and that the extremely accurate fulfilled prophecies concerning Messiah's first coming we will be looking at soon were written after the fact. However all those critics can be swept aside by the fact that the entire Taanach, (Old Testament)

including Daniel, was translated into Greek from the Hebrew and Aramaic by 70 scholars working in Egypt during the rule of Alexander, over two centuries before Jesus was born. This translation is known as the Septuagint (70) and is always the scripture quoted by the writers of the New Testament.