

DANIEL PROPHECY —

THE FOUR BEASTS

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We covered Daniel Chapter 4 and 5 last week. They are set side-by-side because they share a common theme.

Two kings of Babylon ... two visions from God ... two times that Daniel interpreted — though different outcomes.

It looks (to me!) ... that Nebuchadnezzar may have repented ... been reconciled to God ... whereas Belshazzar died the same night. He was the last king of Babylon.

King Cyrus of Persia conquered the Empire of Babylon. Although thought to be impregnable — he diverted the River Euphrates several miles upstream and his soldiers marched through the lower water level and through the protective river gates that “someone” had left open.

Babylon was captured in one night — with very little bloodshed.

It was prophesied 200 years earlier — before the event had taken place!

Isaiah 44:24, 28, 45:1-5

24 **Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer,**

And He who formed you from the womb:

“I am the LORD, who makes all things,

Who stretches out the heavens all alone,

Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;

28 **Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd,**

And he shall perform all My pleasure,

Saying to Jerusalem, “You shall be built,”

And to the temple, “Your foundation shall be laid.” ’

Isaiah 45:1-5

1 **“Thus says the LORD to His anointed,**

To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held —

To subdue nations before him

**And loose the armour of kings,
To open before him the double doors,
So that the gates will not be shut:**

**2 'I will go before you
And make the crooked places straight;
I will break in pieces the gates of bronze
And cut the bars of iron.**

**3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
And hidden riches of secret places,
That you may know that I, the LORD,
Who call you by your name,
Am the God of Israel.**

**4 For Jacob My servant's sake,
And Israel My elect,
I have even called you by your name;
I have named you, though you have not known Me.**

**5 I am the LORD, and there is no other;
There is no God besides Me.**

I will gird you, though you have not known Me,

Isaiah prophesied around 740 BC!

This is why many liberal Biblical scholars won't accept this as a genuine prophecy. They believe that Isaiah and Daniel wrote centuries later!

Daniel 6:1-5

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; (*Darius was related to Cyrus*)

2 and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

4 So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God."

Daniel's character is well known. Faithful. A man of integrity.
Compare that to today's politicians and leaders!

Daniel 6:6-9

6 So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever!

7 **All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counsellors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.** *(They were lying. Daniel was one of the governors and he hadn't agreed to this)*

8 **Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."**

9 **Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.**

Conspiracy ... deceit (like the Jewish leaders against Jesus).

Daniel 6:10-11

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. **And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times daily, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.**

11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel continued to pray — in his "upper room" = private prayer.

In some countries today (used to be so in China ... North Korea... etc) — believers put their lives at risk as they gather for prayer. We have it pretty easy today.

How might we fare in the end-time — if there is opposition?

Daniel 6:11-17

11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 **And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree:** "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

13 **So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."**

14 **And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.**

15 Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

16 **So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."**

17 Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

The king is upset — with himself. He knew he'd been tricked!

Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.

It isn't always plain sailing for those who choose to go God's way.

Shadrach ... Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace. Daniel into the lions' den.

The Apostle Paul explained it well.

Acts 14:19-22

19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.**

20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. **And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.**

21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,

22 **strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith,** and saying, **“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”**

We must through many tribulations enter the Kingdom of God.

I assume that includes us? And it's not referring to the unpleasant consequences of our own poor decisions! This is external — because we're “of the light”!!

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 **Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;**

13 **but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.**

A fiery trial? Rejoice!

Back to Daniel.

Daniel 6:18-23

18 Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.

19 **Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.**

20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, **“Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”**

21 **Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever!”**

22 **My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."**

23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. **So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.**

Daniel is delivered!

Daniel 6:24-28

24 **And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.** *(Punishment for the evil plotters ... and their families.)*

25 Then King Darius wrote:

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

26 **I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.**

For He is the living God,

And steadfast forever;

His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed,

And His dominion shall endure to the end.

27 **He delivers and rescues,**

And He works signs and wonders

In heaven and on earth,

Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Yet another king writes to all the world (in Aramaic) — to praise and extol The Most High God.

Daniel was a man of God. He had more yet to do.

In the end-times ... all of us can expect to be preserved till we have run our course — finished our mission.

Psalms 91:1-2

- 1 **He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.**
- 2 **I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."**

Psalms 91:9-16

- 9 **Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,**
- 10 **No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;**
- 11 **For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.**
- 12 **In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**
- 13 **You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.**
- 14 **"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.**
- 15 **He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him.**
- 16 **With long life I will satisfy him,
And show him My salvation."**

This does require us TO WALK BY FAITH. We may seem to be in a lions' den even now on occasions. **But the real lions' den lies ahead!**

Daniel 7:1-8

- 1 **In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.**
- 2 **Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.**
- 3 **And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.**

4 **The first was like a lion**, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

5 "And suddenly **another beast, a second, like a bear**. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

6 "After this I looked, and there was **another, like a leopard**, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and **dominion was given to it.** *(4 heads — 4 controlling minds)*

7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, **a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong**. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

8 **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.** And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

The Vision of the 4 Beasts.

Daniel 7:11-12

11 "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; **I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.**

12 **As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.**

The 4th Beast was slain.

Daniel 7:15-17

15 "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

16 **I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:**

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

Four kings which arise.

Chapter 7 is the final chapter of “Aramaic Daniel”.

Verse 17 suggests the 4 kings are all future — “shall arise”.

KJV: Four kings which shall arise

NASB: Four kings who will arise

NIV: Four kings that will arise

Some people believe that the 4 Beasts in Daniel 7 is just another description of the 4 Empires in the statue of Daniel 2.

So ... just as the statue in Daniel 2 showed all the kingdoms from Nebuchadnezzar’s day down to the Kingdom of God — a period of 2,600 years ... so they believe that Daniel Chapter 7 gives us the same story.

Yet ... we’re told that **the 4 Beasts of Daniel 7 WILL ARISE — FUTURE!** It can’t include ancient Babylon. Belshazzar was the last king and would be dead in about 3 years.

It is most likely that Daniel Chapter 7 is describing the same 4 Empires as Daniel Chapter 2 — but their end-time fulfillment. The 4 Beasts relate to our day ... today.

LION = BABYLON IN THE END-TIME = IRAQ

BEAR = PERSIA = IRAN IN THE END-TIME

LEOPARD = GREECE/JAVAN = ASIA MINOR — especially TURKEY

4 HEADS = COALITION OF 4 COUNTRIES (POSSIBLY) : TURKEY ... EGYPT ... SYRIA ... ALBANIA

All of the above are Muslim countries.

The 4th Beast: Islamic Empire in the end-time with 10 nations in coalition.

Plus a little horn — speaking pompous ... boastful and arrogant words.
A real BIG-MOUTH!

The 4th Empire is hugely destructive!!

Daniel 7:17-18

17 **‘Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which will arise out of the earth.**

18 **But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.’**

The 4 kings take us right up to God’s Kingdom.

Daniel 7:19-25

19 **“Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;**

20 **and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words,** whose appearance was greater than his fellows.

21 **“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,**

22 **until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High,** and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

23 **“Thus he said:**

**‘The fourth beast shall be
A fourth kingdom on earth,
Which shall be different from all other kingdoms.
And shall devour the whole earth,
Trample it and break it in pieces.**

24 **The ten horns are ten kings
Who shall arise from this kingdom.
And another shall rise after them;
He shall be different from the first ones,
And shall subdue three kings.**

25 **He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.** (*Into Sharia laws?*)

**Then they *(the times and the law)* shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.**

The 4th Kingdom is different. Not just a nation going to war — but **a religious empire.**

10 Islamic nations in a coalition. In the WCG days ... we'd imagine 10 consecutive horns — each a “resurrection” of the Roman Empire (such as Justinian ... Charlemagne ... Napoleon ... Hitler... and so) ... with one more resurrection yet to come. I don't believe the scriptures say that.

As I've said many times ... I believe prophecy points to Islamic nations in the Middle East as the main players in the end-time — not Europe and the Vatican.

Looking at this particular Beast — it **“Breaks in pieces” = DEQAQ = to shatter ... pulverise.**

Verse 21: it makes war against the saints. There will be martyrdom. The authority extends to “time ... times ... half-a-time” — about 3½ years.

Verse 23: “The whole earth”? In context — THE REGION OF THE PROPHECY ... as in Nebuchadnezzar's statue. Not necessarily the entire globe?

So ... Daniel Chapter 7 seems to show us the soon future of Iraq ... Iran ... Turkey and the final Islamic Empire of 10 nations. Some people think that verse 4 — “Lion/Iraq” — has already happened in the last 20 —25 years — the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein replaced by the first-ever “shaky” democracy.

If so ... the “Bear/Iran” is next. Which ties in with details of Daniel Chapter 8 — the Ram and He-Goat. It makes Iran one to keep an eye on!

To be continued next week.

