

DANIEL PROPHECY —

IRAN IN THE END TIMES

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Last week we were in Daniel Chapter 7 — the Vision of the 4 Beasts. The vision deals with the same kingdoms as in Daniel Chapter 2 — but with an end-time perspective. **They are 4 kingdoms “WHICH WILL ARISE!”**

The first 3 are modern-day Iraq ... Iran and Asia Minor (a coalition of 4 nations). All are Muslim today.

The dreadful 4th Beast I believe to be the Islamic Realm ... composed of 10 nations (10 horns). It is different from the first 3 (it's not a single nation like them).

Then there's a pompous horn — almost certainly the Antichrist? Comes out of the 4th Beast — hence Islamic. He makes war on the saints and overcomes them. Continues until Jesus returns — so — end-time!

Some reason to believe that the “Lion Prophecy” has already been fulfilled? Iraq is now a democracy ... rather than a dictatorship. In which case ... next in line is the Bear — Iran — which ties into Daniel Chapter 8 and much of today's news!

Daniel Chapter 7 is perhaps the most explicit reference to the coming Kingdom of God?

Daniel 7:9-10

9 **“I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;**

His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;
10 A fiery stream issued
And came forth from before Him.
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;

Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.

The court was seated,
And the books were opened.

In Heaven: the court sits. A great judgment from the Ancient of Days (God The Father) ... is about to be made.

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.**

Daniel sees the judgment of this 4th Beast. This court scene takes place during the 4th Beast’s rule — **the Beast is judged and destroyed.**

Daniel 7:13-14

13 “**I was watching in the night visions,**
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!

He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.

14 **Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,**

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

Which shall not pass away,

And His kingdom the one

Which shall not be destroyed.

The “Son of Man” is given His glorious ... everlasting Kingdom over the whole world.

Jesus is inaugurated as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

This is our hope — and the hope for all of the world.

One of the greatest occasions in eternity!

And the believers — saints are involved in this once-in-eternity event too!
But I'll leave that until next week!

Daniel 7:25-28

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.** (*Islamic times and sharia laws?*)

**Then the saints shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.**

26 **'But the court shall be seated,
And they shall take away his dominion,** (*the 4th Beast*)
To consume and destroy it forever.

27 **Then the kingdom and dominion,
And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole
heaven,
Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'**

28 "This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."

The Kingdom of God — given to the saints of the Most High.

OUR FUTURE!

We are all very familiar with the fact that Jesus will return as King over the whole earth. That ... as resurrected saints we will reign with Him — for eternity!

Yet there are very few scriptures that reveal such a future. There are "hints" here and there. But **Daniel Chapter 7 is the clearest exposition of the Gospel —in the whole Bible!**

Jesus referenced it many times.

Daniel 7:13

13 "I was watching in the night visions,

And behold, **One like the Son of Man**,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days.
And they brought Him near before Him.

“One like the Son of Man” — an easy phrase to overlook?

It was Jesus’ favourite description of Himself — by far.

- Jesus was the “Son of David”. He used this term once.
- Jesus was the “Son of God”. Used 5 times.
- Jesus was the “Christ (Messiah)”. Used 11 times.

- But as the “Son of Man” — used 78 times.

And every time Jesus used that title ... He was identifying Himself as the **DIVINE BEING** who was with The Ancient of Days — the one to rule and be over the everlasting Kingdom.

There were lots of “Sons of God” and “Messiahs/Christs” in Jesus’ day. Open to ambiguity. But “Son of Man” was clear ... explicit — and well understood.

The next time you read through any of the Gospels — look out for Jesus’ usage of this title. It’s everywhere!

And claiming this title was the final reason that Jesus was condemned to death.

Matthew 26:2

2 “You know that after two days is the Passover, **and the Son of Man** will be delivered up to be crucified.”

Matthew 26:23-24

23 He answered and said, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.

24 **The Son of Man** indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom **the Son of Man** is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

Matthew 26:45

45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? **Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.**

Matthew 26:62-66

62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?”

63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: **Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!**”

64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. **Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.**”

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!

66 What do you think?”

They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.”

Luke 17:22-30

22 Then He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.

23 And they will say to you, ‘Look here!’ or ‘Look there!’ Do not go after them or follow them.

24 For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

25 But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

It may help if you “mark-up” your gospels? Then you will see how often it appears — and be reminded of Daniel Chapter 7!

Not only is Daniel the Book with some of the clearest prophecies of the end-times ahead of us — it’s also the most explicit of the Gospel Message of the Kingdom of God and His saints ... and of **the Great Divine Being who rules forever — the “Son of Man”**.

Quite a brilliant book!

Let’s move on to Daniel Chapter 8. It may be next to be fulfilled!

Daniel 8:1-7

1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.

2 I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.

3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. *(2 horns = 2 sources of authority — the supreme leader and the IRGC)*

4 I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.

5 And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

6 Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.

7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.

A great battle in the Middle East.

- The Ram rushes out first. West ... North ... South.
- Then the He-Goat battles back. He conquers and defeats the Ram.

Daniel 8:20

20 **The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia.**

The Ram is Persia = Iran.

Daniel 8:21

21 **And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece.** (*Hebrew: Javan — Asia Minor*) **The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.**

The He-Goat is “Greece” = Javan = Asia Minor — primarily Turkey.

Why might this interest us? Because — it’s end-time!

Daniel 8:16-19

16 And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, “**Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.**”

17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, “**Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.**” (*Our time*)

18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.

19 And he said, “**Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.**”

The time of the end.

Verse 19: “... for it (*the vision*) refers to the appointed time of the end” (ESV and others).

Daniel 8:26

26 “And the vision of the evenings and mornings

Which was told is true;

Therefore seal up the vision.

For it refers to many days in the future.”

You will come across **lots of commentaries** explaining how Daniel Chapter 8 is ancient history. How the “**notable horn**” of the Goat was **Alexander The Great**.

Yet the scripture repeatedly refers to “**the time of the end**”? Which in Daniel Chapter 12 is said to be **the time of the resurrection of the dead!**

In a WCG Bible Study circa 1974 ... the minister went through Daniel Chapter 8 and acknowledged it was the end-time. But ... he couldn't see how a little country like Greece could have a part to play in end-time prophecy! He was closer than most people I've heard!

What we're looking at appears to be Iran launching an attack across the Middle East? West ... North ... South — includes Iraq ... Syria ... Lebanon — maybe Eastern Turkey ... Saudi Arabia ... and perhaps Persian Gulf countries.

Why would they want to attack fellow Muslims?

Because Iran is not Arab. They are Persians. And they are Shia Muslims (Shia are 15% of all Muslims). Shia Muslims believe they are Allah's true followers — destined to bring pure Islam to the world. They don't mind getting rid of the Sunni Muslims.

This appears to be the next major event in prophecy?

It ties in with the Bear of Daniel Chapter 7 — the second Beast.

At some point ... the He-Goat retaliates. Turkey crushes Iran. This ties in with the Leopard of Daniel Chapter 7 — which indicates that Turkey leads a coalition of 4 Islamic countries.

“Global Firepower Index” assesses the military strength of nations. Of the top 10 in the Middle East and Africa — Turkey is number 1. Iran is 4th. They are very powerful militarily.

The key question for us. Where is the USA at this time? We might expect their involvement??

Recent events in the US war against Iran throw some possible light?

Colonel Douglas McGregor (a retired US Veteran ... served in the Gulf War ... Defence Advisor in the first Trump term) — said this week that the US has only 2 options in Iran:

1. Put 1 million — 2 million troops on the ground (that won't happen!!)
2. Or — end the hostilities and walk away from the Middle East. It is difficult for Trump's ego ... but the only sensible course.

If the US leaves Iran and the Middle East ... that would explain Daniel 8:4 — no one can stop the Ram's attacks? I don't think that has been fulfilled yet.

To be continued!