

Intro. As we look at Daniel 7, v2-8 shows us that Daniel had a dream and visions of the sea of humanity, being churned up by 4 evil spirits; And out of humanity, 4 world empires arose, which history shows represent Babylon, Persia, Greece, and then Rome.

* Then in vs 8-9 Daniel saw a court room scene in heaven where "the Ancient of Days" was dressed in white, surrounded by angels, and was seated on His fiery throne, showing that after these Empires, God would bring judgment on a sinful world.

* Last week we looked at v13-14- (read). Here, Daniel saw someone important coming into heaven's throne room, and he noticed 6 things about this Person.

1st- This Person looked like "a Son of Man". (13b) which is exactly what Jesus called Himself when speaking to His disciples and the religious leaders, about His 2nd coming to earth.

2nd- Daniel noticed this Person came- "with the clouds of heaven" (13a) which the bible shows, was God's usual way of displaying His presence on earth, and later when John wrote of Christ's 2nd coming he said- "He is coming with clouds".

3rd- This Person was led by the angels into the presence of the Ancient of Days (13c) This pictured God the Father having His Son brought before His throne in heaven, to commission the Lord Jesus to take full ownership of the earth, at the end of world history.

4th- The Lord was then given authority- (14a) which refers to the complete and absolute right to rule over all things.

- The OT the prophets wrote of this, Jesus taught it, and Paul and John wrote that when Christ returns, there will be nothing in existence in humanity or creation, that will be outside of Christ's full, unhindered, perfect, righteous control.

@ We left off there, so as Daniel finished describing his dream, he saw that the Lord Jesus received 2 more things. Along with receiving authority--- (14)

5. "The Lord Jesus " was given - GLORY. (14a)

- This word for "glory" literally refers to- 'honor", which is different from the absolute Authority He received first.
- Authority involves the Lord's power over what men do, 'honor' involves His rightful place in regard to what men think and feel.
- **During Jesus' ministry**, His teaching and constant miracles, should have brought Him full and genuine honor from the people and the religious leaders.
- During that time the people swarmed Him everywhere He went, but their honor of Him proved to be shallow and selfish, and the religious leaders attention on Him was only sinister.
- As time progressed, Christ was only genuinely honored by a small number of people.
- Those in Nazareth dishonored Him by saying He was only a man who grew up in their town.
- And it wasn't long the religious leaders claimed He did miracles by Satan's power.

- **In His last week**, as He approached Jerusalem at Passover, He fulfilled Zech. 9:9 by presenting Himself to the nation, by riding into town on a baby donkey.
- The people cried out "Hosanna to the Son of David!", but this parade happened every year.
- Once He entered the city they only referred to Him as- "Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth".
- And 4 days later, they and their leaders, stood before Pilate and cried out for His crucifixion.

- ** **At His first coming**, Christ was predominately dishonored by God's nation Israel.
John wrote - "He came to His own, but they did not receive Him". (Jn 1)
- * And in history in general, no leader was ever truly honored in the hearts of **all** their people.
- But Daniel saw that as Christ was being sent from heaven to earth-- "all peoples, nations and men of every language **worshipped** him." ('reverent devotion and service').
- What the Lord receives at His 2nd coming, will not be the mindless selfish phony honor given to Him at His 1st coming, it will be genuine adoration and devotion for who He really is, given to Him by all those living in His earthly kingdom.

* **The final thing Daniel saw given to Christ was--**

6. "The Lord Jesus was given "sovereign power". (14a)

b. Christ's kingdom will literally cover the whole world. (14b, 18)

, Those ancient kingdoms were called 'world kingdoms' because they ruled most of the 'then-known-world', which was thought to have any value or significant population.

(At that time, they didn't know of the western hemisphere, Australia, etc)

, But Christ's kingdom will literally be over all the earth. Again- Vs 14 says- "all peoples, nations and men of every language *will worship and serve Him*".

, This will be true because v18 tells us--
it's the Saints of the Most High who receive the kingdom.

, These will be OT saints who looked to God as their Savior and anticipated Messiah's coming in the future to save them, and the saints who from Christ's death forward, looked backward in time, to Christ's death and resurrection for their salvation.

c. Finally, in v14c-- In Christ's kingdom, He will rule with "everlasting Dominion" in a kingdom that.. "will never be destroyed."

, In the past, when the world's kingdoms grew to great size and strength,,, while they ruled, they thought they were invincible.

, But sooner or later, another empire rose to power and took them over, and their kings lost their authority to rule, and their kingdom was abolished.

, But Christ will rule forever, first, for 1000 years on THIS earth, then afterward, in a new universe on a new earth, where He will continue to rule for eternity.

(Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:11-13, Rev 21:1-3)

Sum- These are the main details of what Daniel saw in his dream about the coming Christ.

* Humanity in constant turmoil from Satan, 4 godless world empires that ruled history, God ready to judge the world at history's end---

-- and the Lord being commissioned by His heavenly Father to return and carry out God's perfect will on earth, as He is given complete authority and genuine honor, to rule a real kingdom of true righteousness on this earth, at history's end.

@ Now in the rest of the chapter Daniel writes about ----

II. THE ANGEL EXPLAINING THE VISION. (16-27)

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* Once Daniel saw the details of his dream, 2 things happened in v15-16 **(read)**

1st- Daniel was troubled and disturbed.

- Notice that even though the last details of his vision were about God and the coming Christ, many things he saw looked awful and threatening, which Daniel couldn't understand.

2nd- At this point in vs 16, it seems that Daniel actually saw himself in the vision, so he approached 1 of the angels in the heavenly scene, and asked him what it all meant.

* Then from vs 17 on --- the angel explained 4 things to him.

1. The general truth of the vision, 2. The 4th beast which was more terrible than the others, 3. The 10 horns on the head of the 4th beast, 4. The little horn that became prominent.

* This reveals more details than kg. Neb saw, of what happens just before Christ returns.

A. THE GENERAL TRUTH OF THE VISION. (17-18- read)

* Here, the angel explained that the 4 beasts are 4 world kingdoms that arise from the earth.

* These kingdoms were identified to Daniel when he interpreted Kg. Neb's statue in ch. 2, but Daniel didn't see 4 beautiful parts of a statue made of various precious metals--- , (rvw)
-- he saw 4 ferocious beasts that were strange and threatening, so it's no wonder he's upset, because this meant these empires would harm many of those they conquered.

* Also, remember that 3 out of 4 of these world Empires will come in Daniel's future.

* Daniel was living in the first Empire on the list, which is Babylon, and at this time, Babylon was a declining mess, because it was ruled by foolish king Belshazzar. (ch 5)

* So Daniel probably thought it wouldn't be long before the next kingdom would sweep in and take over Babylon, which would cause him fear.

* But notice that the angel encouraged Daniel in v18 by showing him that those coming kingdoms would not last, but God's eternal kingdom would come to the saints in the end.

* This information, as well as vs 9-14 about the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man, was meant to reassure Daniel, but at the end of the chapter, he was still troubled.

APP- Like us, we know the truth, yet we still fear how things may go in the world and our life.

@ The next thing Daniel asked the angel about was---

B. THE 4TH BEAST. (19, 23- read) (this beast is the 4th and final world kingdom)

- * This matches what Daniel learned from king Neb.'s dream, where the final part of Neb's large statue was the lower legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay (ceramic).
- * What Daniel saw and what the angel said about this 4th beast, perfectly describes the Roman Empire which would come some 400 yrs in Daniel's future.
- @ In these 2 verses Daniel received 3 main details that match what the Roman Empire was.

1. In v19, this empire had "iron teeth.. and crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left."

- Rome was far more powerful, destructive, and feared- than any of the previous empires, and was well known to completely devastate and destroy anyone who stood in their way.

2. Daniel saw that this empire "had bronze claws". (v19) (this is strange)

- In Neb's dream, bronze was the part of the statue that described Greece (waist- thighs), so why does this 4th Empire of iron have bronze claws? (it reflects history)
- Rome controlled its vast population 2 ways. 1st mostly with strong military power. (iron)
- But 2nd- they also encouraged the social and religious culture of the Greeks that dominated the empire, so they could gain favor and influence with the populace. (patriotism)

3. This Empire was much larger than all the others. (23- "it devoured the whole earth")

- The Romans conquered more area than all the others- occupying all of Europe, England, northern Africa, Palestine, and surrounding the Med. Sea, and most of the Black Sea.
- Yet, this wasn't literally "the whole earth", **but note**-- as king Neb's dream showed, this Empire has 2 forms, shown by the legs of iron, and then the feet of iron and clay.
- The 1st Roman Empire existed during NT times (lower legs of iron) but the feet of iron and clay with 10 toes, comes later in the final form of this empire, at the end of history.
- Prophecy shows this final form rising out of the original Roman Empire, and it will be antichrist's empire that literally rules the whole earth during the tribulation. (more later)
- * And in antichrist's final form of this Empire, once he takes full control, he will also demand full allegiance, and destroy any people who stand in his way (Israel, Christians)

@ Next Daniel asks about ----

C. DANIEL ASKED ABOUT THE TEN HORNS ON THE BEAST'S HEAD. (20a, 24a- read)

*** Several facts help us know what these horns are.

1. In bible prophecy, horns represent leadership authority.

These horns are ten kings, which is what the angel told Daniel in v24a.

2. These 10 horns (kings) are on the head of the 4th beast representing the Roman Empire.

3. King Neb's dream showed this 4th and final world Empire would have 2 parts.

The lower legs of iron are the 1st part, and feet of iron and clay are the 2nd part.

4. Also, in Neb's dream, the iron and clay feet are specifically said to have 10 toes.

(Dan. 2:41) * This seems obvious-- all feet have 10 toes, so why mention it? ----

- Because Neb's ten toes match the ten horns on this 4th beast in Dan. 7.

- Both visions show the final form of the Roman Empire, will be organized around 10 kings.

5. This is what the angel showed John in REV 13:1. He saw a vision of a beast with 10 horns with crowns on them, which are said to be 10 kings who rule with the final world leader called the beast. (antichrist) (In Rev 17:12-13, 17- They give their authority to the beast)

Explanation. We spoke of this final form of the Roman Empire in Ch 2.

* When will it come? Here are facts to consider about this final form of the Roman Empire, and these 10 rulers.

1. As we said, Neb's Daniel 2 statue showed this Empire would have 2 parts,

the past ancient Roman Empire (lower legs), and a final form at history's end. (feet - toes)

- And both in Neb's dream of ch. 2, and Daniel's dream here, this final form of the Roman Empire will be destroyed by Christ when He comes to set up His kingdom.

2. The old Roman Empire was never conquered by another Empire.

- The political part of it, just declined as a world-power, and faded into weakness over hundreds of years, and slowly transformed into all the European countries.

- But the religious part of it continued to hold sway over most all those European countries in the form of the "Roman Catholic church". (Europe- 48% Catholic, 32% Orthodox)

(Which has worked for decades to bring all religions together into a one world church)

3. In Modern times, Europe has revived and reunited into 1 political entity.

- In 1957- nine European nations came together in “The Treaty of Rome”, which developed into the European Economic Community, which formed a parliament in 1973.
- In the 1990’s they became the European Union, with no more passports between countries, and in 2002 they established a single currency called the Euro dollar.
- Today they are a full-blown political entity, governed by a democracy, where each nation is represented in their parliament, as they cooperate as 1 government.
- They have 27 member nations today, all of which were part of the ancient Roman Empire, and are part of Europe today, with 450 million people (6% of the world’s population).

4. Among the EU's 27 member nations, not all are large and influential.

- Prophecy scholars believe, 10 of their prominent nations who have most of the influence in the EU, may arise to become the 10 kings that dominate the final Roman Empire.
- And in Rev. 13 and 17 John saw these same 10 horns rising from the revived Roman Empire, to lead the world, alongside the antichrist.

5. Decades ago, the 1 world government organizations (UN, World Economic Forum) divided the world into 10 regions for future world rulership.

- Mark Hitchcock writes that its probable, as these ten rulers arise to control the EU, the antichrist will rise up to lead them. (the little horn)
- And finally, Rev 17:12-13, 17 shows that God will motivate these 10 leaders to give their full authority to the antichrist, as He expands His rulership all over the world.

Summary- From what we see in history and our modern time, most prophecy experts agree that it’s probable this revived Roman Empire in Daniel, is what has developed in the EU today.

- * And the EU and many of its nations, have been cooperating with the one-world organizations, to bring in a 1-world government, financial system, and religion.

(want to know more about one-world-ism? Ask for the Ch. 2 notes)

Sum- The last point Daniel wonders about in v20, is the little horn (the little king), which becomes the one main ruler over the other ten kings.