

# **A Vision of the Past, Present & Future**

**Daniel 7:1-28**

# Introduction

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- ① **The last six chapters of the book describe four visions given to Daniel.**
- ② **These primarily emphasize prophetic truth, just as the first six chapters of the book primarily deal with historical matters.**

# Introduction

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- **The final six chapters deal with the four revelations received by Daniel and introduced in 7:1; 8:1–2; 9:20–21; and 10:1.**
- **Since these come to Daniel, he generally writes these chapters in the first person.**

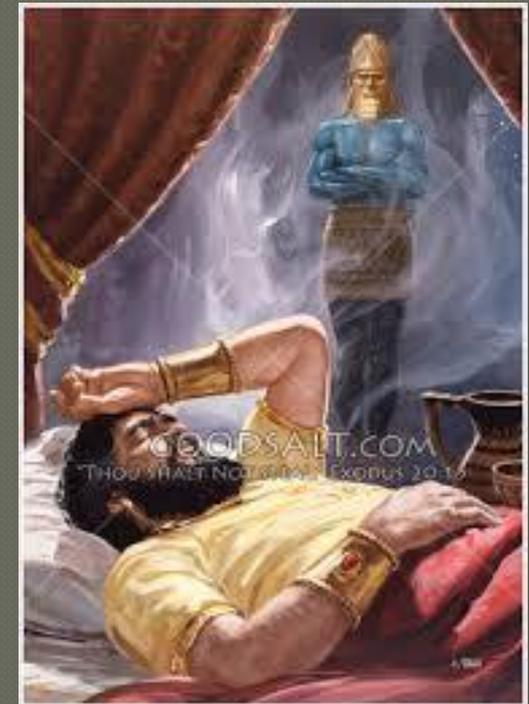
# Introduction

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- **The events in c. 7 occur during the early reign of Belshazzar, before the events in c. 5–6.**
- **Chapter 8 is also out of chronological order.**
- **The order of the book according to time would be chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 5, 6, 9, 10–12.**

# Man's View

- Chapter 2 presents the external, the human side of the four great world kingdoms.
- This is Nebuchadnezzar's vision, given to a heathen king, and naturally emphasizes what man would see.



# God's View

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- ◉ **Chapter 7 presents the internal, the beast-like nature of the kingdoms.**
- ◉ **This is Daniel's vision, given to a godly prophet, and more naturally stresses what God sees, the character of the kingdoms.**

# 2 Visions, 1 Message

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- These visions vary in important details, but they are overlapping and make roughly the same points. They tell us that **God is in control of history**, that human kingdoms will succeed human kingdoms until the coming of the Lord's Anointed, the Messiah, but that **in the end it is his kingdom that will fill the whole earth.**

- J M Boice

# I. The Kingdoms of Mankind

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- ① The first vision of Daniel 7 is the foundation for what follows.
- ① Daniel saw **four wild animals** that later we are told represent “four kingdoms that will rise from the earth” (v. 17).

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# I. The Kingdoms of Mankind

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**Sea** (or waters) often represent **mankind** in the Bible (e.g., Isa. 8:7; 48:1; Jer. 46:7–8; 47:2; Rev. 17:1, 15).

The phrase “**four winds**” represents the **four primary directions**.

In the OT, “**beasts**” often represent **nations**.

# **I. The Kingdoms of Mankind**

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**The lion with eagle's wings symbolizes Babylon under the leadership of king Nebuchadnezzar.**

**The plucking of the wings followed by its standing as a man probably indicates the madness and restoration of Nebuchadnezzar.**

# I. The Kingdoms of Mankind

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- ⦿ The second beast is similar to a **bear**.
- ⦿ There is general agreement among conservative authors that **this represents the Medo-Persian Empire** (cf. 8:20).
- ⦿ One side of the bear was raised higher than the other, a symbol of Persia's dominance in the alliance.

# I. The Kingdoms of Mankind

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- ◎ **The leopard-like third beast** has four wings on its “back” (better “sides”) and it also has four heads.
- ◎ The beast with its four heads **represents Greece** under Alexander the Great, who was followed by four generals (cf. 8:8, 21–22).

# I. The Kingdoms of Mankind

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- ① The **fourth beast** differs from the other three.
- ① The symbolism is so “dreadful and terrible” that no beast suitably portrays it (cf. Rev. 13:1–2).

# I. The Kingdoms of Mankind

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- ⦿ This beast differs from the earlier beasts in that it has **ten horns**, indicating that it comprises **ten kings**.
- ⦿ These ten kingdoms exist at the same time in **the final form of the Roman Empire**.

# I. The Kingdoms of Mankind

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- ◎ Another **“little horn”** arises after them and overcomes three of the original horns.
- ◎ The **“little horn”** of this chapter comes out of the Roman Empire and refers to **Antichrist**.

# **I. The Kingdoms of Mankind**

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- ◎ **The speech of the “little horn” captures Daniel’s attention.**
- ◎ **Daniel continues to watch him “because of” (lit. “from”) the beginning of his arrogant speech until God sends judgment upon him.**

## **II. The Kingdom of Messiah**

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**A new scene appears to Daniel. He watches until “the thrones were cast down [better ‘were set up’].”**

**The “Ancient of days,” the Eternal God, enters to conduct the judgment.**

## **II. The Kingdom of Messiah**

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**The “Ancient of days” wears white clothing, a suggestion of His personal purity and fitness to carry out the judgment (cf. Ps. 51:7; Isa. 1:18).**

**His white hair suggests His maturity and ability to judge wisely (cf. Rev. 1:14).**

## **II. The Kingdom of Messiah**

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- ⦿ **The phrase “the judgment was set” is better translated “the court was set,” i.e., everything is now ready for the judicial proceedings.**
- ⦿ **The “books” are the books in which God keeps the record of man’s works (cf. Rev. 20:12).**

## **II. The Kingdom of Messiah**

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- ◎ **The end here is complete as God brings the empire under the absolute authority of Jesus Christ in His reign over the earth.**
- ◎ **Christ is presented as the Son of Man who will receive “dominion, glory and a kingdom” from the Ancient of Days.**

## II. The Kingdom of Messiah

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- **The Bible teaches that the saints will rule with the Lord** (Matt. 19:28; 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:10–12; Rev. 1:6; 2:26; 3:21; 5:10; 20:6).
- **They will possess the kingdom “for ever and ever” (v.18).**

# Challenge

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- ① **Are you ready for God's impending judgement on this evil world?**
- ② **In view of the fact that the saints will rule with Christ in his coming kingdom, how shall we then live?**

# Titus 2:11-15

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<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

<sup>12</sup> Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

<sup>13</sup> Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

<sup>14</sup> Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

<sup>15</sup> These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.