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By Dan Maines

## **Daniel 7**

### **Daniel 7:1-2**

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea."

† Daniel's vision begins during Belshazzar's reign, showing God's revelation before Babylon's fall.

† Historically, turbulent seas symbolized the nations in chaos under human rule.

† Prophetically, this introduces the transition from earthly kingdoms to God's everlasting one.

† Jerome identified the "four winds" as the forces by which God stirs nations to fulfill His purpose.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, Christ calms the chaos of the nations through His eternal peace.

### **Daniel 7:3-4**

And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

† The lion with eagle's wings represents Babylon, symbolizing strength and swiftness in conquest.

† Historically, winged lions adorned Babylonian palaces, marking its power.

† Prophetically, the plucking of wings points to Nebuchadnezzar's humbling and restoration.

† Hippolytus taught that the transformation to a man prefigured repentance and divine mercy.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, all prideful rulers are humbled before the King of heaven.

### **Daniel 7:5**

And behold, another beast, a second one resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, "Arise, devour much meat!"

† The bear represents the Medo-Persian Empire, raised on one side to show Persia's dominance over Media.

† Historically, its three ribs symbolize Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt, which Persia conquered.

† Prophetically, this empire prepared the way for Israel's return and temple restoration.

† Josephus confirmed Persia's dual nature under Darius and Cyrus.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, God uses even earthly powers to accomplish His redemptive plan.

### **Daniel 7:6**

After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, 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.

† The leopard signifies Greece, swift in conquest under Alexander the Great.

† Historically, the four heads represent the division of his empire among his generals.

† Prophetically, this shows how rapid expansion led to fragmentation and decline.

† Jerome wrote that divine sovereignty "gave" dominion, proving no empire rises apart from God's will.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, dominion belongs permanently to Christ alone.

### **Daniel 7:7-8**

After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

† The fourth beast represents Rome, unmatched in power, cruelty, and scope.

† Historically, its ten horns symbolize the governors and client

kings under Roman authority.

† Prophetically, the little horn refers to the Caesars who exalted themselves as gods.

† Eusebius linked the "boastful mouth" to Nero's blasphemous persecution of the saints.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, Christ judged Rome's arrogance through His completed reign.

### **Daniel 7:9-10**

I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened.

† The Ancient of Days represents God's eternal judgment and holiness.

† Historically, imagery of divine fire symbolized purity and judgment in Jewish apocalyptic thought.

† Prophetically, this describes the heavenly court convening for covenantal judgment in AD 70.

† Hippolytus wrote that the opening of the books revealed the record of the nations' deeds.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, Christ reigns from this fiery throne as Judge and Redeemer.

### **Daniel 7:11-12**

Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

† The destruction of the fourth beast represents the end of Rome's persecuting power.

† Historically, this occurred as the empire declined and Jerusalem's judgment was fulfilled.

† Prophetically, the burning of the beast reflects the covenantal end of the old age.

† Jerome said the "extension of life" refers to nations continuing under God's temporal rule.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the true dominion remains forever in Christ's hands.

### **Daniel 7:13-14**

"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed."

† The Son of Man is Christ, receiving His kingdom after His ascension.

† Historically, Jesus applied this verse to Himself before the Sanhedrin (Matthew 26:64).

† Prophetically, this marks the transfer of dominion from earthly empires to Christ's eternal reign.

† Eusebius proclaimed this as the fulfillment seen in the destruction of Jerusalem and Rome's submission.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, all nations serve the Son of Man, whose rule never ends.

### **Daniel 7:15-18**

"As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 'These great beasts, which are

four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come."

† Daniel's distress shows the weight of revelation concerning earthly turmoil and divine sovereignty.

† Historically, the four kingdoms correspond to Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

† Prophetically, the saints' possession of the kingdom points to the church inheriting spiritual dominion.

† Clement affirmed that the saints now reign with Christ in the fulfilled kingdom.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, believers live in the eternal reality Christ established.

### **Daniel 7:19-22**

Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast... I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

† The persecution of the saints refers to Nero's brutal campaign against believers.

† Historically, this ended with the fall of Jerusalem and the death of the persecutors.

† Prophetically, the judgment in favor of the saints marks the vindication of the faithful in AD 70.

† Hippolytus viewed this as the moment the church inherited Christ's everlasting dominion.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, judgment has been rendered, and the saints reign with Christ.

### **Daniel 7:23-27**

"Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth... He will speak out against the Most High and wear down

the saints of the Highest One... But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him."

† The fourth beast is Rome, the blasphemous horn its Caesar persecutors.

† Historically, Nero and his successors fulfilled this prophecy through their war on the saints.

† Prophetically, this declares the final transfer of all authority to Christ and His saints.

† Jerome and Eusebius identified this as the establishment of Christ's universal dominion.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, all rule is under Christ, and His people reign in spiritual victory.

### **Daniel 7:28**

"At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

† Daniel's fear shows the gravity of the vision, yet its fulfillment brings us peace.

† Historically, the vision spanned centuries until Christ's completed work.

† Prophetically, the fulfillment of these visions confirms God's absolute sovereignty.

† Theodotion wrote that Daniel's silence prefigured the mystery revealed later through Christ.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the mystery once hidden is now fully revealed in Christ's eternal reign.

### **How it applies to us today**

† Daniel 7 proves that Christ reigns now as the Son of Man with everlasting dominion.

† The saints already possess the kingdom, living in its spiritual reality.

† The beasts represent temporary empires, all replaced by the eternal rule of Christ.

† We live in the peace and authority of that fulfilled kingdom.

† Every earthly power bows before the unshakable kingdom of God.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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### **Source Index**

† The Holy Bible, NASB

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 10

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 9

† Tertullian, Against Marcion, Book 4

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement

† Jerome, Commentary on Daniel

† Theodotion, Greek Version of Daniel

† Hippolytus, Commentary on Daniel

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