

THE ANCIENT OF DAYS, THE HORN, AND THE KINGDOM

(Dan 7:9-14) 03/25/20

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[Grace Bible Gillette Study Notes](#)

OUTLINE OF DANIEL 7:3-8

- A. Four Great Beasts (3)
- B. Lion - Babylonian Kingdom (4) - Lion - The lion symbolizes ferocious power and strength of the Babylonian kingdom under Nebuchadnezzar. Eagle's Wings - swiftness. Plucked Off - God humbled him and "plucked off his wings." Mind of Man - **mind as a man** returned.
- C. Bear - Medo-Persian Kingdom (5) - Bear - A **bear** is an animal with formidable strength. It represented the Medes and Persians which had united by the time of Daniel's prophecy. Raised on One Side - Being "**raised on one side**" depicts the Persians who were stronger in the united kingdom.
- D. Leopard - Greek Kingdom (6) - Leopard - The **leopard** was known for its speed, cunning, and agility (Jer 5:6; Hos 13:7). The Grecian Empire was dominated by Alexander the Great, who "conquered the world" of the Medes, Persians, and Greece. Four Heads - After Alexander's death (323 B.C. age 32), his empire was divided into four parts under four of his generals ("**four heads**"), Cassander (Macedonia and Greece), Lysimachus (Asia Minor and Thrace), Seleucus (Syria, Upper Asia, Babylon, and the East), and Ptolemy (Egypt, Palestine, and Arabia).
- E. Dreadful Beast - Roman Kingdom (7a) - Dreadful Beast - This was an animal with which Daniel was unfamiliar. Nevertheless, it was **dreadful** and **terrible** and **exceedingly strong**. It illustrated the Roman Empire. Iron Teeth - The "iron" **teeth** are compared to the "iron" **legs** of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan 2:33a). In its zenith the Roman Empire ruled with an iron hand (Dan 2:40).
- F. Little Horn - Revived Roman Kingdom (7b-8) - Ten Horns - Then Daniel noticed the **ten horns**. These refer to the Antichrist's future Revived Roman Empire. The ten horns correspond with Nebuchadnezzar's dream of ten toes" (Dan 2:33b, 41-43) of a divided kingdom. The ten horns are later identified as "ten kings" (Dan 7:24).
- I. VISION OF ANCIENT OF DAYS (9-10)
 - A. Throne of the Ancient of Days (9)
 1. Thrones
 - a. God's Courtroom - Daniel viewed **thrones** in heaven as they were "**set up**" (*rimah - cast, throw, KJV - "cast down"*) in the form of a courtroom for God's judgment.
 - b. Similar to John's Vision - The Ancient of Days Himself took a seat. It does not specify if anyone was sitting on the other thrones. But the scene is very similar to John's vision of such a heavenly vision. In John's vision in Rev 4-5 the thrones around His throne were the twenty-four elders (Rev 4:4), i.e. the church (1Co 6:2-3; Rev 17:14; 19:14-16, 19).
 2. Ancient of Days
 - a. By Daniel - The expression "**Ancient of Days**" is only used in Dan 7:9, 13, 22.
 - b. God the Father - The "Ancient of Days" is probably best identified as God the Father. In Dan 7:13, One like a Son of Man (Christ) was presented before the Ancient of Days (Father).
 3. Description
 - a. White Snow Vesture - The "**white snow**" garments probably reflect imagery of holiness and purity. Christ was similarly described in John's vision (Rev 1:14-15)
 - b. Pure Wool Hair - The **pure wool** hair would symbolize God's perfect and eternal wisdom. It was similar to John's vision of Christ (Rev 1:14).
 - c. Blazing Throne - A "**throne ablaze**" along with the context, symbolizes judgment specifically against the fourth king, the beast. Christ's eyes were like a flame of fire signifying penetrating judgment (Rev 1:14-15).

d. Wheels - **Wheels** could symbolize that God's judgment can go anywhere and that there is no escape from it.

B. Books Were Opened (10)

1. River of Fire - The **flowing river of fire** instructs us that judgment proceeds from the throne of God Himself. Because of God's holiness, He is a "consuming fire" (Heb 12:29).

2. Thousands Attending Him - John also gave a calculation of **myriads of myriads** of angels surrounding the throne of God. Both men and angels were probably surrounding the throne (cf. Rev 5:11).

3. Opened Books

a. Complete Judgment - The **opening** of divine **books** speaks of God's accurate and omniscient judgment. God does not need the opening of these books to jog His memory. But the symbolism of complete judgment is for the sake of men.

b. Great White Throne - In a similar fashion, Rev 20:12 records that the dead (unrepentant sinners) will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment from the things written in the books.

II. VISION OF HORN AND BEASTS (11-12)

A. Boastful Words of Beast (11)

1. Boastful Words - The **boastful** (blasphemous) **words** caught Daniel's attention. Scripture is repetitious in characterizing the Antichrist with boastful and blasphemous speech. He is boastful in declaring to be God (Dan 7:8; 11:36; 2Th 2:3-4) and he is blasphemous in rejecting the true God (Dan 7:25; Rev 13:1, 5, 6; 17:3).

2. The Horn - The activities of the little horn are described in Daniel and Revelation.

a. "**The horn**" is the same as the "little horn" (Dan 7:8).

b. The "ten horns" are ten kings (Dan 7:7 cf. Dan 7:24 cf. Rev 17:3, 12).

c. The "little horn" represents the "beast (Antichrist - Rev 13:1) who is accompanied by a "second beast" (False Prophet - Rev 13:11).

d. The "little horn" will replace three of the ten horns (Dan 7:8, 20, 24).

e. The "little horn" will wage war on the saints (Dan 7:21; Rev 13:7).

3. Beast Slain - Though the **beast** ("the horn") will have a fake resurrection (Rev 13:3), he will be **slain, destroyed**, and given to **burning fire** at the Second Coming of Christ (Dan 2:34-35, 45; 7:9-10, 13, 26 cf. Rev 19:20)

B. Remainder of Beasts (12)

1. Dominion Taken Away

a. Three Empires - The previous three empires ("**rest of the beasts**," i.e. Lion-Babylon, Bear-Medo-Persian, and Leopard-Greek, Dan 7:4-6) had their **dominion taken away** when each of them were defeated and replaced by their successors.

b. Quote - *These are the 3 earlier beasts (empires of chaps. 2, 7). Each successively lost its chief dominance when it was conquered in history [MSB].*

2. Extension of Life

a. Future Descendants - Nevertheless, each of those three empires **have an extension of life** (will live vicariously) through their future descendants. Though the fourth empire (Roman) also was diminished, but it will be revived in the future by the horn ("little horn," i.e. Antichrist). All of them will experience authority for an **appointed period of time** until Christ returns.

b. Quote - *Yet each was amalgamated into the empire that gained ascendancy, and survived in its descendants. As the second advent draws near, all 3 empires in their descendants will be a part of the Roman phase in its final form (Rev. 13:2). Survival will not be possible for the final and revived phase of the fourth empire after Christ's second coming...[MSB].*

III. VISION OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM (13-14)

A. Son of Man (13)

1. Christ - The phrase "Son of Man" in the NT almost always refers to Christ (Mat 8:20; 17:9; 26:45; Joh 3:14; 8:28;). The phrase does not deny His deity but emphasizes His perfect

humanity. The book of Revelation also refers to Christ as the “Son of Man” (Rev 1:13; 14:14).

2. Coming on Clouds - The phrase is often connected with Christ’s Second Coming (Mat 24: 44; 25:31; Luk 12:40), especially with reference to the **clouds** (Mat 24:30; 26:64; Joh 1:51).









3. Ancient of Days - Here we see that the “Son of Man” is a separate person from the Ancient of Days and is presented before Him.

B. Glorious Kingdom (14)

1. Millennial Kingdom - After Christ’s (Son of Man) Second Coming and destruction of the beast, The Father (Ancient of Days) will give **dominion, Glory** and a **kingdom** (Millennial) to His Son.

2. Peoples and Nations - Christ’s Millennial Kingdom will include believing Jews (Rev 7:4) and believing Gentiles from all tribes and nations (Rev 5:9; 7:9; 15:3-4)

3. Everlasting Kingdom - Christ’s Millennial Kingdom will be an **everlasting** kingdom (Dan 7:18, 27; Rev 11:15; 20:4) described throughout the OT.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S IMAGE (Dan 2:37-45)			7:1-8
	GOLD	BABYLONIAN (605 - 539 B.C.) (Dan 2:32, 37-38; 7:4)	
	SILVER	MEDO-PERSIAN (539 - 331 B.C.) (Dan 2:32, 39a; 5:31; 6:28; 7:5)	
	BRONZE	GREEK (331 - 63 B.C.) (Dan 2:32, 39b; 7:6)	
	IRON	ROMAN (63 B.C. – A.D. 476) (Dan 2:33, 40; 7:7a)	
	IRON /CLAY	REVIVED EMPIRE OF 10 KINGS (Dan 2:33, 41-43; 7:7b-8,11, 19-21, 24-25; 9:26; Rev 12:3; 13:1)	
	STONE	CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (Dan 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:9-10, 13-14, 18, 22, 26-27; Rev 20:4)	

THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE 6-7TH CENTURY B.C.

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