

### 8 – THE DREAM OF THE FOUR BEASTS (DANIEL 7:1-28)

#### I. The Timing of the Dream (7:1)

- Daniel has a dream in the first year of Belshazzar's reign, 553 B.C.
- He had the dream while he was sleeping and recorded the main facts of the dream.

#### II. The Dream (7:2-14)

##### A. The great sea stirred (7:2)

- Daniel saw the four winds of heaven stir the Great Sea.
- The word translated "wind" is also translated spirits.
- Throughout the Old Testament the Great Sea refers to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Daniel's dream relates to the Mediterranean world.

##### B. The four beasts (7:3)

- He saw four great beasts come out of the sea that were different from each other.



##### C. The lion-like beast (7:4)

- The first beast was like a lion and had eagle's wings.
- The beast's wings were plucked off and made to stand like a man.

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- A man's heart was given to it.

## D. The bear-like beast (7:5)

- The second beast was like a bear and had three ribs in its mouth.
- The beast was told to rise up and devour much flesh.

## E. The leopard-like beast (7:6)

- The third beast was like a leopard with four wings and four heads.
- Dominion was given to this beast.

## F. The terrible beast (7:7)

- The fourth beast was terrible in appearance and strong.
- It was different than the other beasts and had ten horns.

## G. The little horn (7:8)

- A little horn emerged from the midst of the ten horns.
- The little horn plucked out three of the ten horns.
- The little horn had a mouth speaking pompous words.

## H. The Ancient of Days (7:9-10)

- Daniel saw the Ancient of Days seated.
- He was clothed in white and his hair was pure wool.

## I. The judgment of the beasts (7:11-12)

- Daniel saw a huge multitude ministering before the Ancient of Days.
- Daniel saw the beast slain and destroyed.

## J. The Son of Man (7:13-14)

- He saw one like the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven.
- He came to the Ancient of Days.
- He was given dominion and an everlasting kingdom.

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## III. Daniel's Dismay (7:15-16)

- The dream caused Daniel to react with fear and confusion.
- Daniel looked to one of those who stood by to help him to understand.
- Those who were standing by were angels.
- The angel tells Daniel that he will make known the interpretation of these things.

## IV. The Interpretation (7:17-27)



### A. Four kings (7:17)

- The four great beasts are four great kings that arise out of the earth.
- The four kingdoms are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

### B. The possession of the saints (7:18)

- The angel states that the saints of Most High will receive an everlasting kingdom.

### C. Daniel seeks to understand the fourth beast (7:19-20)

- Daniel wanted to know more about the fourth beast which was terrible.
- Daniel also wanted to know about the ten horns.

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- He wanted to know about the little horn that fell three of the horns.
- What is the meaning of the horn with a pompous mouth and greater appearance?

## D. The war against the saints (7:21)

- Daniel saw the little horn make war against the saints of God.
- The little horn prevailed against them.

## E. The victory of the Ancient of Days (7:22)

- Daniel saw the Ancient of Days judge the beast and give the kingdom to the saints.

## F. The interpretation of the fourth beast (7:23-27)

### 1. A world kingdom (7:23)

- The fourth kingdom will be an earthly kingdom unlike any kingdom before it.
- This kingdom will subdue and dominate the whole earth.

### 2. The ten kings (7:24a)

- The ten horns are ten kings that arise out of this kingdom.

### 3. The little horn (7:24b-25)

- The little horn is a king who will arise out of these ten kings.
- This king will subdue three of the kings.
- This king will speak blasphemous things against the Most High God.
- This king will persecute the saints of the Most High God.

### 4. The destruction of the little horn (7:26)

- The little horn will be judged and his kingdom will be destroyed.

### 5. The kingdom of the saints (7:27)

- All of the greatness of the earthly kingdoms will be given to the saints.
- The kingdom of the Most High will be everlasting and all will serve him.

## V. Daniel Changed (7:28)

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- The nature of the dream and interpretation bothered Daniel and changed him.
- However, he kept the matter of the dream to himself.