

Corresponds to Programs 93-95

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

Daniel 7 – Parts 1-3 STUDY GUIDE

DANIEL 7 – PART 1

Daniel 7:1-8

Here we have a second dream or vision. It corresponds with the vision given to Nebuchadnezzar of the four earthly kingdoms leading down to God's everlasting kingdom. How do we know that this corresponds with Daniel 2, since the imagery here is different?

Daniel 7:17, 23

An angel helps Daniel (and us) understand that these beasts represent earthly kingdoms and kings. The various characteristics of these beasts tell us something about the type of kingdoms they were. For example, the third beast or earthly kings and kingdoms correlating with Daniel 2 is the leopard with eagle's wings, the wings denoting speed. This would represent Greece, which conquered the world very quickly under Alexander the Great. The bear lifted up on one side is the second beast or earthly power, representing the Medes and Persians, who were one power. The Persians were stronger than the Medes, which explains one side lifted higher (verse 5). Let's consider further evidence that links the two visions.

Parallels and correlations between Daniel 2 and 7:

- Four kingdoms in Daniel 2 / Four beasts in Daniel 7
- 10 toes in Daniel 2 / 10 horns in Daniel 7
- Iron and clay in Daniel 2 / Little horn in Daniel 7
- Fourth kingdom of iron in Daniel 2 / Fourth beast has iron teeth in Daniel 7

- God's kingdom follows the fourth in Daniel 2 / God's kingdom follows the fourth in Daniel 7

One way to remember the connection between Daniel 2 and 7:

- The golden lion
- The silver bear
- The brass leopard
- The iron terrible beast
- The feet of iron and clay
- The little horn



“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong....” **DANIEL 7:7**

Daniel 7:9-14

These verses add to the four kingdoms God's day of final judgment. Thousands of heavenly beings are present, thrones are set up, the Ancient of Days is seated, and the books are opened. The little horn is judged and judgement is executed upon him. The Son of God is given dominion, glory, and a kingdom that shall not be destroyed.

In Daniel 2 and Daniel 7, the kingdom of God follows the four earthly kingdoms and will endure forever. This is the same basic outline we find in Daniel 2, but with different imagery. This second vision adds more details than the first, specifically about God's kingdom. It is ushered in following a judgment that is

executed on the little horn power. What about the other kingdoms? Their dominion is taken away, but their lives are prolonged for a time. What does this mean? The life of a nation is in its culture, language, and traditions. That means that while these nations lose worldwide political and military dominion, they live on through their culture, traditions, and language, passed on for generations to come. This is why the composite beast or earthly kingdom in Revelation 13:1 has characteristics of the lion, bear, leopard, and dragon. The culture of these

KEY SCRIPTURES

Daniel 7:3 FOUR GREAT BEASTS CAME UP

Daniel 7:9 THE ANCIENT OF DAYS WAS SEATED

Daniel 7:17 FOUR KINGS WHICH ARISE OUT OF THE EARTH

Daniel 7:25 SHALL INTEND TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAW

previous kingdoms continues on to some extent in the fourth kingdom. This is especially the case in spiritual Babylon, as it illustrates the culture and traditions of ancient Babylon alive to the very end of time.

Daniel 7:15, 16

Have you ever had trouble trying to understand Bible prophecy? Welcome to the “Daniel Club.” This is not the last time Daniel will have a difficult time comprehending what he was shown. Fortunately, God is in the business of helping us to understand His Word, including His prophetic Word. God has sent His Word, He has blessed His Word and He stands ready to help us to understand His Word. When we learn to seek God and trust Him to deliver us in little times of trouble, we gain the experience to trust Him to deliver us in the big times of trouble (Daniel 12:1).

Daniel 7:17

Now Daniel is told that these beasts represent kingdoms. This is not a foreign idea to our world, even today. America is represented by an eagle, China a dragon, England a lion, Russia a bear. This Biblical symbolism foretold the very same symbols we use to identify earthly powers today.

DANIEL 7 - PART 2

Daniel 7:5

The lion-like beast or earthly power representing Babylon is followed by a bear-like beast that is lifted up on one side and has three ribs in its mouth. This represents the kingdom of Medo-Persia that conquered Babylon. History, as well as Bible prophecy, confirms this as noted in our study on Daniel 5. The three ribs represent the three main territories under the Babylonian empire: Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt. The bear being lifted up on one side signifies that, although a united empire, the Persians were stronger than the Medes.

Daniel 7:6

This verse’s leopard-like beast represents the earthly kingdom of Greece, historically confirmed as the conqueror of Medo-Persia. The leopard is known for its speed and the four wings would multiply that speed, becoming a perfect fit for Alexander the Great and the amazing speed by which he conquered the nations of his day. The four heads represent Alexander’s four generals, who divided the kingdom among themselves when Alexander died at the early age of 33. Eventually, these four divisions became two: Seleucus in the northern kingdoms, and Ptolemy in the southern kingdoms of Egypt. These two Alexandrian generals became later known as the kings of the north and of the south, respectively.

Daniel 7:7

This beast represents Pagan Rome, who conquered Greece and the nations of the then-known world. It was “strong ex-

ceedingly,” which denotes length of time in the original language. This earthly kingdom would reign longer than any of the preceding kingdoms. It was denoted as an iron kingdom and one that would persecute God’s people. Finally, in its place, would arise ten horns or smaller powers and another little horn plucking up three. So, we have Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, but who or what is represented by the little horn that comes up among the ten horns?

Daniel 7:19-25

Daniel wants to know more about this fourth beast, and especially more about the little horn, so he asks the angel to help him. The angel gives Daniel specific characteristics that will help us to identify this little horn power.

The ten horns symbolize “ten kings that shall arise” (verse 24). Due to repeated invasions into the empire by barbarian Germanic tribes, a number of divisions developed. Eventually, there were ten separate mini-monarchies, established to form what we recognize today as the foundational nations of modern Europe:

1. The Franks (modern France)
2. The Anglo-Saxons (England)
3. The Alemanni (Germany)
4. The Lombards (Italy)
5. The Visigoths (Spain)
6. The Suevi (Portugal)
7. The Burgundians (Switzerland)
8. The Heruli (extinct)
9. The Vandals (extinct)
10. The Ostrogoths (extinct)

THE LITTLE HORN

Daniel’s vision of earthly kingdoms did not end with Pagan Rome. The fourth empire was never conquered by another politico-military force. Rather it was absorbed into a rising religious force, whose dominion would be even more lengthy and cruel. It is this power that Daniel sees arising from the head of the fourth kingdom.

The little horn power arises out of the divided Roman Empire, just like the Bible indicated. All we really need to do is consult the history books in order to identify the “little horn” power, asking one simple question: what kingdom inherited the authority of the Roman Empire as it ebbed away off the stage of history? The annals of antiquity give one clear answer: the Papal Roman Church-State.

Although the “little horn” is not that easily interpreted, Bible prophecy goes to great lengths to fasten this vital nail in its sure place. There are at least nine unmistakable, identifying characteristics given in Daniel 7 to pinpoint Papal Rome as the “little horn:”

1. **Geographic Location:** Daniel is told that the “little horn” comes to power “among” the ten horns that existed before it. As we have already noted, the Pagan Roman Empire fragmented into ten European kingdoms. Here, then, we have the geographic location for the emergence of the little horn. It would arise out of the rubble of divided Rome, among the Western European nations.
2. **Time of Ascendancy:** The second characteristic is the logical counterpart to geographic location. Since the little horn arose out of the crumbling Pagan Roman Empire, it would emerge after Pagan Rome falls (Daniel 7:24). This gives us not only a geographical location, but also a timeline. Imperial Rome reigned from about 168 B.C. to 476 A.D.
3. **Destroys Three Kingdoms as It Rises to Power:** Daniel was shown that three of the ten horns were “plucked up by the roots” as the little horn amassed its empire. Later, in chapter seven, Daniel says the angel told him this means that the little horn “shall subdue three kings” (verse 24). Previously in this study, we listed the ten horns by name. You may want to check that list again at this juncture. Notice that while seven are still in existence to this day, three of them are identified as extinct. The Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths were, indeed, “plucked up by the roots.”
4. **A Human Authority to Dictate Its Belief System:** “In this horn,” Daniel says, “were eyes like the eyes of a man” (Daniel 7:8). In the Bible, eyes symbolize understanding. Paul prayed that “the eyes of your understanding” might be “enlightened” (Ephesians 1:18). The little horn is under human guidance. A human figure occupies a very lofty position as arbiter of “truth.”
5. **Pompous Words:** Verses 8 and 25 warn that the little horn will use its authority to speak great words against God Himself.
6. **A Persecuting Power:** Daniel was shown as this powerful kingdom employed its influence and “made war with the saints and prevailed against them” (Daniel 7:21, 25).
7. **A Different Kind of Power:** The little horn kingdom would be “diverse” or different from those that reigned before it (Daniel 7:24). All the previous powers brought to view were primarily political kingdoms worshipping pagan gods.
8. **Attempts to Change God’s Law:** The most shocking characteristic of the little horn is its audacious effort to tamper with the very laws of God. Daniel 7:25 reads: “And he shall speak great words against the most High,

and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws...” (More on this later in the study).

9. **To Reign for a Period of 1,260 Years:** The final identifying characteristic of the little horn is the length of time it would exercise its authority over God’s people. Daniel says, “and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time” (Daniel 7:25). The Revised Standard Version describes the period as “a time, two times, and half a time.”

The same language occurs in Daniel 4:16, 23, 25, and 32, where Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom is taken from him “till seven times pass over him.” Here “seven times” is undoubtedly seven years. “A time, two times, and a half a time” is then three and a half years.

Parallel prophecies in the New Testament book of Revelation call our attention to the same time period. In Revelation 12:14, we again read of “a time, and times, and half a time.” In verse 6, the period is calculated as “one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” In chapter 11:2-3, “forty-two months” is equated with “one thousand two hundred and sixty days.”

Therefore, three and a half times is another way of saying three and a half years, or 42 months, which is also equal to 1,260 days (360 in a year, biblically). 1,260 days divided by 42 leads us to the conclusion that a prophetic month is 30 days and a prophetic year is 360 days.

We conclude, then, that the period of time Daniel describes as “a time, two times and a half a time” is 42 months, or 1,260 days. But we must go one step further to define this symbolism. In Bible prophecy, a day is often equal to a year. To the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord said, “...I have appointed thee each day for a year” (Ezekiel 4:6). Therefore, we should expect the little horn of Daniel 7 to rule for a period of 1,260 years.

There we have it, nine identifying characteristics. According to them, we are looking for a power that rose among the nations of Europe after 476 A.D. That was not primarily a military power, yet persecuted God’s people for 1,260 years, with a man at its head who spoke great words against God, assuming the authority to change God’s times and law. The answer is crystal clear. Only one power can fit all the characteristics and that power is Papal Rome.

DANIEL 7 - PART 3

Daniel 7:25

God foresaw and declared in prophecy the attempt of this little horn power to change times and law. The fourth commandment fits this prophecy perfectly because it is a law that involves time, the time that we are called to rest from our labors as God did from His (Hebrews 4:10).

God has called us to work six days and rest from our labors on the day that He has blessed, made holy, and sanctified (Genesis 2:1-3). The seventh-day Sabbath is the only day in seven that contains the blessing from God to keep it holy. That means that Sabbath is the one day we must keep holy. Only God's blessing can make something holy, and God has not blessed any other day for rest and worship but the Sabbath day.

The bottom line is not a day, but loyalty. Keeping the day that God has called us to rest and worship on is an indicator of Who has our heart. God's day points to God as Lord and Savior of our lives. Any other day indicates disloyalty to God.

Daniel 7:9

Daniel sees the little horn in power until the judgment is set and the books are opened. At the time of judgment, the little

horn is unmasked, so to speak. Then the cleansing of God's people takes place as it relates to the sanctuary and the final eradication of sin. Then the beast is judged for turning the focus of people away from Christ and His salvation.

Summary

"Remember the Sabbath day" is the only commandment that points to something we have forgotten because it has been changed by the little horn. God is identifying the little horn as a representative of Lucifer, who sought to change God's law in heaven, uprooted one-third of the angels, and speaks blasphemous words against the Most High. May each one of us give our loyalty to God alone. In Jesus' name, amen. ★

