**Lesson 7 Danial 7:1-28**

**Daniel 7:1-28 (NASB)**
1  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.
2  Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.
3  "And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.
4  "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.
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!'
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.
7  "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.
8  "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.*
9  "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.
10  "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.
11  "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.
12  "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.
13  "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.
14  "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.

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15  "As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.
16  "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:
17  'These great beasts, which are four *in number,* are four kings *who* will arise from the earth.
18  'But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'
19  "Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, *and which* devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet,
20  and *the meaning* of the ten horns that *were* on its head and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three *of them* fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great *boasts* and which was larger in appearance than its associates.
21  "I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them
22  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.
23  "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.
24  'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.
25  'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.
26  'But the court will sit *for judgment,* and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.
27  '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.'
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."

**F. The vision of the four beasts (**[**chap. 7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7)**)**

**1. The Vision (**[**7:1-14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A1-14)**)**

**a. The four beasts (**[**7:1-8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A1-8)**)**

[7:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A1). The vision recorded by the Prophet **Daniel** in this chapter was revealed to him **in the first year of** Belshazzar's reign, 553 b.c., when **Belshazzar** was made coregent with Nabonidus. Daniel's dream predated by 14 years his experience in the lions' den ([chap. 6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6)) which occurred in or soon after 539. When the **dream** came Daniel was about 68 years of age, for he was taken captive (at about the age of 16) 52 years earlier in 605 b.c.

The revelation was given Daniel in **a dream** through **visions** (cf. [2:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2%3A28); [4:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A5), [10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A10)). In referring to the experience as "a dream" (sing.) Daniel was emphasizing the unity of the revelation and in referring to it as "visions" (pl.) he emphasized the successive stages in which the revelation was given. (Five times in [chap. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7) he said "looked" [[vv. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A2), [6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A6-7), [13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13)] and once "I kept looking" [[v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A11)].) The dream refers to his being asleep, and the visions refer to what he saw while dreaming. Sometimes, however, a person had a vision while he was awake (cf., e.g., [9:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A23)). Because of the great significance of Daniel's dream, he immediately **wrote down** a summary of it.

Daniel had been the interpreter of two dreams by Nebuchadnezzar ([chaps. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2); [4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4)). Then the prophet-statesman became the recipient of four dreams or visions ([chaps. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7); [8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8); [9:20-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A20-27); [10:1-12:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+10%3A1-12%3A5)).

[7:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A2). In the first six chapters, **Daniel** wrote in the third person; in the last six chapters he wrote in the first person. **In** his **vision** Daniel first saw **the great sea** churned by the action of **four winds.** The word translated "winds" may also be rendered "spirits," that is, angels. Elsewhere in Scripture this word is used to refer to God's providential actions in the affairs of men through angels ([Jer. 23:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+23%3A19); [49:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+49%3A36); [51:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+51%3A1); [Zech. 6:1-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+6%3A1-6); [7:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+7%3A14); [Rev. 7:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+7%3A1-3)). Throughout the Old Testament the Mediterranean Sea is referred to as the Great Sea ([Num. 34:6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+34%3A6-7); [Josh. 1:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+1%3A4); [9:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+9%3A1); [15:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+15%3A12), [47](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+15%3A47); [23:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+23%3A4); [Ezek. 47:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+47%3A10), [15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+47%3A15), [20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+47%3A20); [48:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+48%3A28)). This vision then related specifically to the Mediterranean world.

[7:3-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A3-4). The second thing Daniel saw in the vision was **four great beasts** emerging from **the** agitated **sea.** As explained to Daniel later ([v. 17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A17)) the four beasts represented four kingdoms. **The first** beast **was like a lion,** an animal symbolizing power and strength. This lion had eagle **wings,** which speak of swiftness. Interestingly the lion and eagle were both symbols of Babylon (cf. [Jer. 4:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+4%3A7), [13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+4%3A13); [Ezek. 17:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+17%3A3)). The violent wrenching of the **wings** from the lion would deprive it of its great mobility. This could refer to Nebuchadnezzar's insanity or to his empire's deterioration after his death. The lion's rising up on **two feet** (its hind legs) made it look more **like a man.** The fact that it got a man's **heart** suggests that the animal lost its beastly nature and showed compassion. The lion's rising on its hind legs and having a man's heart may refer to Nebuchadnezzar's humanitarian interests.

[7:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A5). The **second beast** was **like a bear,** an animal of formidable strength ([1 Sam. 17:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+17%3A34); [Amos 5:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Am+5%3A19); [Hosea 13:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Hos+13%3A8)). This represents Medo-Persia, the empire that followed Babylon. The Medo-Persian army was strong and fierce ([Isa. 13:15-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+13%3A15-18)). Unlike the grace of the man-like lion, the bear was ponderous and ungainly. It was evidently reclining with **one** side higher than the other. This suggests that though Persia rose later than Media, Persia soon overshadowed the Medes in their united kingdom. The **three ribs** in the bear's **mouth** may represent the kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon, which had preceded the empire represented by the bear. Or they may represent Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt, three nations conquered by the Medes and Persians. The bear **was told** to devour **flesh.** This command suggests that kingdoms operate by divine appointment, not their own authority. In devouring other kingdoms and extending its territory into a vast empire, the bear was fulfilling God's purpose.

[7:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A6). The third **beast** Daniel saw was **like a leopard,** an animal noted for its swiftness ([Hab. 1:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Hab+1%3A8)), cunning, and agility ([Jer. 5:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+5%3A6); [Hosea 13:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Hos+13%3A7)). This beast **had four wings like... a bird,** stressing a swiftness beyond its natural capacity. An additional feature of **this beast** is that it **had four heads.** Also **authority to rule** was **given** it. The kingdom that conquered Medo-Persia was Greece, which did so with great speed, conquering the entire empire between 334 and 330 b.c. A few years after Alexander died his kingdom was divided into four parts (cf. [Dan. 8:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A8), [22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A22)).

[7:7a](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A7). Daniel now described **a fourth beast.** Instead of likening it to some known animal Daniel simply called it a beast. Apparently it was a mongrel composed of parts of a lion, bear, and leopard (cf. the beast in [Rev. 13:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A2)). This fourth beast was more **terrifying** and **powerful** than the three preceding beasts, which were all ferocious and destructive. This beast **had large iron teeth** with which it was able to crush and devour its prey. The empire represented by this mongrel beast had **crushed** and assimilated into itself the three previous empires described by the lion, the bear, and the leopard (it **trampled underfoot whatever was left**; cf. [Dan. 7:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A19)).

[7:7b-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A7-8). A significant feature of this fourth and **different** beast was that **it had 10 horns.** According to [verse 24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A24) they represent 10 kings. As Daniel focused his attention on **the horns,** he saw **another horn** begin to emerge among the 10. This **little** horn had an insignificant beginning but in its growth it was able to uproot **three of the** existing **horns.** This little horn was noted for its intelligence (it had **the eyes of a man**) and its blasphemous claims (it had **a mouth that spoke boastfully**; cf. [vv. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A11), [20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A20), [25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A25)). (See [vv. 19-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A19-26) for [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00032067#links2175) on the identity of this fourth beast and its little horn.)

**b. The Ancient of Days (**[**7:9-12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A9-12)**)**

[7:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A9-10). In this portion ([vv. 9-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A9-12)) of the vision Daniel saw **thrones** of judgment **set** up. One throne was occupied by **the Ancient of Days.** This is the sovereign God (cf. [Isa. 43:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+43%3A13); [57:15a](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+57%3A15)) who exercises control over men and nations. His white **clothing** and **hair** speak of His holiness ([Rev. 1:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A14)). Daniel's description of the glory surrounding the One seated on the flaming **throne** with **wheels** recalls the description of the glory of God which Ezekiel saw ([Ezek. 1:4-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+1%3A4-28)). The **thousands** who surrounded the throne were God's servants, angels who execute His will. When Daniel saw God the Judge take His seat, **the court** (cf. [Dan. 7:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A26)) was convened, **and the books were opened.** (Interestingly, as stated earlier, Daniel's name means "God has judged" or "God is my Judge"; cf. [1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+1%3A7). Here Daniel saw God as the world's Judge.) In [Revelation 20:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A12) the opening of books refers to a review and judging of one's stewardship. Thus God, who assigns power to kingdoms, will judge those kingdoms.

[7:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A11-12). As Daniel was watching the little **horn** because of its boasting (cf. [v. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8)) he saw that the fourth **beast was slain** and consigned to **blazing fire.** This event will terminate "the times of the Gentiles" ([Luke 21:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+21%3A24), [27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+21%3A27)). The kingdoms represented by the three preceding **beasts had** already **been stripped of their** power by military conquest. But the fourth beast will be relieved of its power not by being conquered militarily, but by divine judgment (cf. [Dan. 9:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A27); [Rev. 11:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A15); [19:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A15)). Each of the three, however, had been **allowed to live for a** short **time.** This may mean that the cultures of each of the first three conquered empires were assimilated into the conquering nations.

**c. The Son of Man (**[**7:13-14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13-14)**)**

[7:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13-14). In the third major portion of this **vision** Daniel saw the **Son of Man** approaching **the Ancient of Days.** Jesus Christ, taking the title "Son of Man" from this prophecy, frequently used it to refer to Himself (as recorded in the Gospels; cf. comments on [Mark 8:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+8%3A31); and comments on [John 1:51](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A51)). When the Son of Man was brought **into** the **presence** of the Ancient of Days, all the **authority, glory, and sovereign power** that had been exercised by rulers in the four kingdoms over **all peoples, nations, and men of every language** (cf. [Dan. 3:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A4), [7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A7); [4:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A1); [5:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A19); [6:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6%3A25)) was conferred on Him and those peoples **worshiped Him.** This is in keeping with the Father's promise to the Son in [Psalm 2:6-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+2%3A6-9), and will be fulfilled at Christ's Second Advent ([Matt. 24:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A30); [25:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A31); [Rev. 11:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A15)).

The Son of Man will establish **an everlasting dominion** or kingdom (cf. [Dan. 4:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A34); [7:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A27)). That kingdom will **never be** conquered by another (cf. [6:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6%3A26)). His reign will be established on earth ([Rev. 20:1-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A1-6)). At the expiration of the 1,000 years of the Lord's millennial reign, He will surrender the kingdom to God the Father, after which Christ will be appointed as Ruler over God's eternal kingdom forever ([1 Cor. 15:24-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A24-28)).

Stop Here

**b. The Ancient of Days (**[**7:9-12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A9-12)**)**

[7:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A9-10). In this portion ([vv. 9-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A9-12)) of the vision Daniel saw **thrones** of judgment **set** up. One throne was occupied by **the Ancient of Days.** This is the sovereign God (cf. [Isa. 43:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+43%3A13); [57:15a](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+57%3A15)) who exercises control over men and nations. His white **clothing** and **hair** speak of His holiness ([Rev. 1:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A14)). Daniel's description of the glory surrounding the One seated on the flaming **throne** with **wheels** recalls the description of the glory of God which Ezekiel saw ([Ezek. 1:4-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+1%3A4-28)). The **thousands** who surrounded the throne were God's servants, angels who execute His will. When Daniel saw God the Judge take His seat, **the court** (cf. [Dan. 7:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A26)) was convened, **and the books were opened.** (Interestingly, as stated earlier, Daniel's name means "God has judged" or "God is my Judge"; cf. [1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+1%3A7). Here Daniel saw God as the world's Judge.) In [Revelation 20:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A12) the opening of books refers to a review and judging of one's stewardship. Thus God, who assigns power to kingdoms, will judge those kingdoms.

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**c. The Son of Man (**[**7:13-14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13-14)**)**

[7:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13-14). In the third major portion of this **vision** Daniel saw the **Son of Man** approaching **the Ancient of Days.** Jesus Christ, taking the title "Son of Man" from this prophecy, frequently used it to refer to Himself (as recorded in the Gospels; cf. comments on [Mark 8:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+8%3A31); and comments on [John 1:51](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+1%3A51)). When the Son of Man was brought **into** the **presence** of the Ancient of Days, all the **authority, glory, and sovereign power** that had been exercised by rulers in the four kingdoms over **all peoples, nations, and men of every language** (cf. [Dan. 3:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A4), [7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A7); [4:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A1); [5:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A19); [6:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6%3A25)) was conferred on Him and those peoples **worshiped Him.** This is in keeping with the Father's promise to the Son in [Psalm 2:6-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+2%3A6-9), and will be fulfilled at Christ's Second Advent ([Matt. 24:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A30); [25:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+25%3A31); [Rev. 11:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A15)).

The Son of Man will establish **an everlasting dominion** or kingdom (cf. [Dan. 4:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A34); [7:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A27)). That kingdom will **never be** conquered by another (cf. [6:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6%3A26)). His reign will be established on earth ([Rev. 20:1-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A1-6)). At the expiration of the 1,000 years of the Lord's millennial reign, He will surrender the kingdom to God the Father, after which Christ will be appointed as Ruler over God's eternal kingdom forever ([1 Cor. 15:24-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A24-28)).

##### **2. The Interpretation (**[**7:15-28**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A15-28)**)**

**a. The four beasts explained (**[**7:15-17**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A15-17)**)**

[7:15-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A15-17). Like Nebuchadnezzar before him (cf. [2:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2%3A1); [4:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A4-5)), **Daniel** was **disturbed** by his dream (cf. [7:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A28)). Though he had demonstrated the ability to interpret dreams on previous occasions ([chaps. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2); [4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4)), he could not interpret this one or his next one ([8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A15)). So he called on **one of those standing** nearby, apparently the angel later identified as Gabriel ([8:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A16); [9:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A21)), to interpret the vision to him. It was explained that **the four great beasts** represent **four kingdoms.** As stated earlier, the four kingdoms are Babylon, represented by the lion; Medo-Persia, represented by the bear raised up on one side; Greece, represented by the winged leopard with four heads; and Rome, represented by the mongrel beast. (See the maps of these four empires: [Babylonian](file:///C%3A%5CProgramData%5CWORDsearch%5CWORDsearch%2011%5CCache%5CLinked%5Cimages%5C1352a.png?caption=The%20Babylonian%20Empire), [Medo-Persian](file:///C%3A%5CProgramData%5CWORDsearch%5CWORDsearch%2011%5CCache%5CLinked%5Cimages%5C1352b.png?caption=The%20Medo-Persian%20Empire), [Greek](file:///C%3A%5CProgramData%5CWORDsearch%5CWORDsearch%2011%5CCache%5CLinked%5Cimages%5C1353a.png?caption=The%20Greek%20Empire) and [Roman](file:///C%3A%5CProgramData%5CWORDsearch%5CWORDsearch%2011%5CCache%5CLinked%5Cimages%5C1353b.png?caption=The%20Roman%20Empire)).

**b. The promise to Israel (**[**7:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A18)**)**

[7:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A18). After the destruction of the fourth beast at the Second Advent, **the saints of the Most High** (cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031808#links2169) on "the Most High" at [3:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A26)) **will receive the kingdom** (cf. [7:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A22), [27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A27)). The "saints" refer to the believing Jews (cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00032092#links2171) on [v. 25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A25)), not to believers of the Church Age. The existence of the church in the present Age was nowhere revealed in the Old Testament. The nation Israel has been set aside by divine discipline in the present "times of the Gentiles," which began with Nebuchadnezzar. During the "times of the Gentiles" four empires, Daniel was told, would rise and rule over the land and people of Israel. Yet God's covenant to David ([2 Sam. 7:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+7%3A16); [Ps. 89:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+89%3A1-4)) stands and will ultimately be fulfilled. The "saints" (believing Jews when Christ returns to earth) will enjoy the kingdom, the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

**c. The details of the fourth kingdom (**[**7:19-28**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A19-28)**)**

(1) The request.

[7:19-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A19-20). Daniel seems to have had no difficulty in interpreting the significance of the first three beasts. It was **the fourth beast** that caused him consternation, and he asked the angel (probably Gabriel; cf. [8:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A16); [9:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A21)) to interpret the **meaning** of **the beast** and its **10 horns** and **the other horn that came up** among the 10 and was so **imposing.** What is represented by the 10 horns and particularly the little **horn** is of great significance. For from this point on to the end of the prophecy, Daniel concerned himself with the revelation about the person and work of the individual represented by this little horn.

(2) The judgment on the beast.

[7:21-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A21-22). Several facts about **this** little **horn** had already been revealed to Daniel ([v. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8)): (1) It came after the 10 horns (kings; cf. [v. 24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A24)) were in existence and then was contemporaneous with them. (2) It uprooted 3 of the 10 horns (kings). (3) It was intelligent (it had the eyes of a man). (4) It was arrogant and boastful (cf. [v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A11)).

Now ([vv. 21-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A21-22)) three additional facts are given: (5) He will persecute **the saints of the Most High** (cf. [v. 25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A25); on "the Most High" see [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031808#links2169) on [3:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A26)). Obviously the horn represents a person. In [7:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A24) he is said to be a king. As in [verse 18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A18), **the saints** refer to the nation Israel. His persecution of Israel will take place in the Tribulation. (6) He will overcome (he **was defeating**) the nation Israel and will bring that nation under his authority ([Rev. 12:13-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+12%3A13-17); [17:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A7)). (7) He will be judged by God (cf. [Rev. 19:19-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A19-20)), and Israel, no longer under the rule of the little horn, will enter into her covenanted blessings in **the kingdom** (cf. [Dan. 7:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A18)).

(3) The scope of the beast's kingdom.

[7:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A23). Though historically the sphere of **the fourth beast,** though greater than the extent of each of the previous three kingdoms, was limited, the sphere of this coming ruler in the **fourth kingdom** will be worldwide. Daniel was told that this empire **will devour the whole earth** (cf. [Rev. 13:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A7)). And it will be a ferocious conquest, in which that kingdom will trample and crush those who oppose it. This anticipates a coming one-world government under a worldwide dictator.

(4) The ten horns and the little horn ([7:24-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A24-25)).

[7:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A24). The angel then interpreted the meaning of **the 10 horns,** stating that they **are 10 kings** in **this kingdom.** The fourth empire, in spite of its great power ([vv. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A7), [23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A23)), will be characterized by progressive weakness, deterioration, and division (cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031741#links2176) on [2:41-43](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2%3A41-43) on iron and clay in the fourth part of Nebuchadnezzar's image). When the hordes from the north conquered the Roman Empire in the fifth century a.d., they did not unite to form another empire. Instead individual nations emerged out of the old Roman Empire. Some of those nations and others stemming from them have continued till the present day. The present Age, then, is the 10-horned era of the fourth beast. (Other premillenarians, however, hold that the time of the 10 horns is yet future, that the present Church Age is not seen in this vision, and that 10 kings will coexist over a future revived [or realigned] Roman Empire.)

Sometime after the rise of the 10 horns—and no clue was given Daniel as to how much later—**another king** (the little horn, [7:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8), [20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A20)) **will arise.** In his rise to power **he will subdue 3 kings** (called 3 horns in [v. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8)), that is, he will bring 3 of the 10 nations under his authority in his initial rise to power.

[7:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A25). Besides several facts already given about this coming king (see [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00032076#links2177) on [vv. 21-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A21-22)), three additional ones are now revealed: (1) He will oppose God's authority. **He will speak against the Most High** (cf. [Rev. 13:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A6)). On "the Most High" see [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031808#links2169) on [Daniel 3:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A26). (2) He will **oppress His saints** (i.e., Israel; cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00032076#links2177) on [7:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A21)). (3) He will introduce an entirely new era in which he will abandon all previous **laws** and institute his own system. As in [9:27a](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A27), he will appear as Israel's friend, but will become Israel's persecutor (**the saints will be handed over to him**) and he will occupy Jerusalem as the capital of his empire ([11:45](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A45)) for three and one-half years ([Rev. 12:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+12%3A6); [13:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A5)). **A time, times, and half a time** (cf. [Dan. 12:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+12%3A7); [Rev. 12:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+12%3A14)) refer to the three and one-half years of the Great Tribulation, with "a time" meaning one year, "times" two years, and "half a time" six months. This equals the 1,260 days in [Revelation 12:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+12%3A6) and the 42 months in [Revelation 11:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A2); [13:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A5). (Cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031848#links2178) on "times" in [Dan. 4:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A16).)

(5) The promise to Israel.

[7:26-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A26-27). When the Judge, God the Father, convenes **the court** (cf. [v. 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A10)), that is, when He judges the little horn, his **power will be** removed and he will be **destroyed** (cf. [v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A11); [2 Thes. 2:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A8); [Rev. 19:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A20)). This will occur at the Second Advent of Christ. At the beginning of the Millennium the Son of Man will be given authority to rule (cf. [Dan. 7:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A14)), and He will rule over **the saints, the people of the Most High** (cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031808#links2169) on [3:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A26)), that is, the nation Israel (cf. [7:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A18), [22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A22)), which has been bound to God by God's covenant with Abraham ([Gen. 12:1-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1-6); [13:14-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+13%3A14-17); [15:18-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+15%3A18-21)). This **kingdom** will not be overthrown and superseded by another. It will continue in the Millennium and on forever (cf. [Dan. 4:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A34); [6:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6%3A26); [7:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A14)). **All** peoples and kings **will** **worship and obey Him.**

(6) The response of Daniel.

[7:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A28). This prophetic panorama of the times of the Gentiles was so awesome to **Daniel** that he **was deeply** moved. He did not share the vision with anyone at the time. But later when he wrote the prophecies that bear his name, he recorded what had been revealed to him in the vision.

One cannot escape the parallels between the truths revealed to Daniel on this occasion and what was revealed to Nebuchadnezzar early in his reign ([chap. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2)). Both cover the span of the times of the Gentiles. Both dreams indicate that Israel and her land will be ruled over by four successive world empires. The first was [Babylon](file:///C%3A%5CProgramData%5CWORDsearch%5CWORDsearch%2011%5CCache%5CLinked%5Cimages%5C1352a.png?caption=The%20Babylonian%20Empire), represented by the head of gold and the winged lion. The second was the [Medo-Persian Empire](file:///C%3A%5CProgramData%5CWORDsearch%5CWORDsearch%2011%5CCache%5CLinked%5Cimages%5C1352b.png?caption=The%20Medo-Persian%20Empire), represented by the chest and arms of silver and the bear raised up on one side. The third was the [Grecian Empire](file:///C%3A%5CProgramData%5CWORDsearch%5CWORDsearch%2011%5CCache%5CLinked%5Cimages%5C1353a.png?caption=The%20Greek%20Empire), represented by the belly and thighs of bronze and the four-headed winged leopard. The fourth was the [Roman Empire](file:///C%3A%5CProgramData%5CWORDsearch%5CWORDsearch%2011%5CCache%5CLinked%5Cimages%5C1353b.png?caption=The%20Roman%20Empire), represented by the legs of iron with feet mixed with clay and by the mongrel beast. The iron-like strength of the fourth empire is seen in the iron legs ([2:40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2%3A40)) and the beast's iron teeth ([7:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A7)). Sovereignty passed from Assyria to Babylon in 609 b.c., from Babylon to Persia in 539 b.c., from Persia to Greece in 330 b.c., and from Greece to Rome in the first century b.c.

Toward the end of the times of the Gentiles, worldwide authority will be exercised by one called "a little horn" who will seek to prevent Christ's rule on the earth by destroying God's covenant people. His short reign of seven years (see [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00032285#links2179) on "one 'seven'" in [9:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A27)) will be terminated by the Second Advent of Christ. At His coming Christ will establish His millennial kingdom on earth in fulfillment of God's covenant with Israel.

The amillenarian view that the "little horn" has already appeared sometime in the past (but since Christ's First Advent) is wrong because: (a) no such ruler has attained worldwide status ([7:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A23)), (b) no such ruler has subdued 3 of 10 kings who were ruling at once ([v. 24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A24)), (c) no such ruler has persecuted Israel ([v. 21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A21)) for three and one-half years ([v. 25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A25)), and (d) no such ruler has been destroyed forever ([v. 26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A26)) by Christ's return. Nor could this "little horn" be the Roman Catholic papacy because: (a) the "little horn" is a king, not a pope, (b) the papacy's power has not been limited to three and one-half years, (c) the papacy has not concentrated on persecuting the nation Israel, and (d) the papacy has not been destroyed by the return of Christ to the earth.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Open it**

1. What sort of monsters did you imagine when you were a child?
 **Nothing like the ones I found as an adult**

**Explore it**

2. What was the substance of Daniel’s vision? ([7:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A2-3))
 **The four winds of heaven and four great beasts coming from the sea, each different from the other**

3. What did three of the beasts look like? ([7:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A4-6))
 **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.  "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!' "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.**

4. How was the fourth beast different from the rest? ([7:7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A7-8))
 **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.***

5. How did Daniel describe the scene with the thrones? ([7:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A9-10))
 **"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.**

6. As Daniel watched, what happened to the fourth beast? ([7:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A11))
 **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.**

7. What had become of the other three beasts? ([7:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A12))
 **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.**

8. What occurred when the "son of man" was before the Ancient of Days? ([7:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A13-14))
 **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.**

Stop Here

9. How did Daniel respond to his dream? ([7:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A15))
 **As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.**

10. Who explained the vision to Daniel? ([7:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A16))
 **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:**

11. What did the four beasts represent? ([7:17-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A17-18))
 **'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.'**

12. What was the true meaning of the fourth beast? ([7:19-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A19-27))
  **"Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, *and which* devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet,  and *the meaning* of the ten horns that *were* on its head and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three *of them* fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great *boasts* and which was larger in appearance than its associates. "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. "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.  'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. '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.'**

13. How was Daniel affected by all that was revealed to him? ([7:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A28))
 **"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."**

**Get it**

14. God revealed Himself to Daniel through dreams and visions. How does God usually speak to us today?
 **Through his word in the bible**

15. How does Daniel’s vision portray God’s control in the affairs of the world?
 **God is in control over everything**

**Apply it**

16. How can the nations of the world become a part of your daily prayer life?
 **By starting with the US, add Ukraine, Israel and others as needed. Pray for their deliverance from the evil one**

17. What steps can you take to hand over your fears to the Lord?
 **Ask God to take them, and then follow through by giving them up and not thinking about them again. Hard to do as well.**