

# The Golden-Headed Image, the Four Beasts and the Little Horn in Daniel

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## Can We Understand Daniel?

### DOES DANIEL CONTRADICT REVELATION?

- ❖ “Go, Daniel, because the words are made secret and **sealed up** until *the time of the end*” (*Dan. 12:9*)
- ❖ “**Do not seal up** the words of the prophecy of this scroll because *the appointed time is near*” (*Rev. 22:10*).

It seems strange that the very opposite to that which is stated in Revelation is said concerning the last vision in the book of Daniel. This is because the words in Daniel *concerned his people* for whom the meaning of that prophecy was to remain hidden “**until the time of the end.**” Yet for anyone, from the first century on who accepted Jesus as the Messiah the book of **Daniel became an unsealed book.** This is seen by Jesus’ words:

- ❖ “When you see the Abomination of Desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (*let the reader **understand***)...” (*Matt. 24:15*).

So from Jesus’ time the book of Daniel could be understood by those who followed him. In fact, Matthew 24/Luke 21; 2 Thessalonians and a large part of the book of Revelation are significant expositions on Daniel thereby unsealing the book at that time. Because the book of Revelation draws upon some of the details in Daniel it thereby unseals those details as part of an already unsealed book for Christians. So for Jews who have not accepted Jesus both these books remain sealed until *the time of the end*’ when the events described actually happen. Of course, many church systems have clouded the understanding with their allegorical and other faulty interpretive methods such as Preterism and Historicism.

## The Structure of the Book Of Daniel

*Understanding the language structure is the key to understanding the book.*

|                  |  |                          |
|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Chapter 1        | Historical introduction-----                   | In Hebrew for Jews.      |
| Chapter 2        | Vision of Gentile domination-----              | In Aramaic for Gentiles. |
| Chapters 3-6     | Historical kingdoms of the past-----           | In Aramaic for Gentiles. |
| Chapters 7:1-17  | as above.                                      |                          |
| Chapter 7:18-28. | The holy ones in conflict with antichrist----- | In Aramaic.              |
| Chapters 8 - 12  | Prophecies for Israel-----                     | In Hebrew for Jews.      |

## Daniel’s Five Visions

Daniel records five visions: These are found in:

- Chapter 2 — Nebuchadnezzar’s golden headed image including parts of silver, bronze, iron and clay.
- Chapter 7 — The four beast empires (lion, bear, leopard, and a fearsome beast), and the Little horn.
- Chapter 8 — The Ram, the Goat, and the Little Horn who removes the regular sacrifice for 2,300 days.
- Chapter 9 — The seventy “sevens”
- Chapters 10-12 — The kings of the North and the Kings of the South.

All of these five visions terminate with the end of the age, either with the establishment of God’s Kingdom or the demise of Antichrist as seen in the following verses:

1. Daniel 2: 44:
  - ❖ “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will **set up a kingdom** that shall never be destroyed...it shall break in pieces all these kingdoms...”
2. Daniel 7:25, 27:
  - ❖ “He [Little horn] shall wear down the saints for 3½ years ... His [God’s] kingdom will be **an everlasting kingdom** and all the dominions will serve and obey him.”

3. Daniel 8:13, 17:
  - ❖ “How long will the vision about regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror ... the vision pertains to **the time of the end.**”
4. Daniel 9:26, 27 NASB:
  - ❖ “70th week...and to the end there shall be war Abomination [shown by Jesus to be future] ... one who makes desolate...until the decreed **end is poured out on the desolator.**”
5. DANIEL CHAPTERS 10 to 12
  - ❖ 10:14: “...what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.”

This relates to what is described in chapters 11 and 12 where **the King of the North comes to his end** after the great tribulation. The following study looks at Visions 1,2, and 3.

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## VISION #1 Nebuchadnezzar’s Golden-Headed Image

### DANIEL 2:37-44:

- ❖ “You, O king [*Nebuchadnezzar*] ... —you are the head of gold. <sup>39</sup> Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. <sup>40</sup> And there shall be a **fourth kingdom**, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And *like iron* that crushes, it shall break and *crush all these*. <sup>41</sup> And as you saw **the feet and toes**, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a **divided kingdom**, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. <sup>42</sup> And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. <sup>44</sup> And **in the days of those kings** the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people.”

The *image* in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream shows empire from a worldly human perspective as strong and grand.

#### FOUR KINGDOMS AND ONE IS STRENGTHENED

1. Head of **gold** = The Babylonian kingdom headed by Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel gives this interpretation in 2:38.
2. Chest and arms of **silver** = The Medo-Persian kingdom headed by Darius and Cyrus. The two parts of the kingdom correspond to the two arms. Daniel interprets “the ram which had two horns” of 8:3-4 as being “the kings of Media and Persia” in 8:20, and lists 4 more Persian kings in 11:2.
3. Middle and thighs of **bronze** = The Greek Empire as “the goat” of 8:5, with Alexander the Great as the “conspicuous/large horn”—first king (8:5, 8, 21). This initially splits into 4 parts (8:8, 11:4). (these later consolidate into just two kingdoms—those of Seleucid Syria and Ptolemaic Egypt which are types of a future Syrian Kings of the North and Egyptian Kings of the South in Daniel 11). The statement that this kingdom will “rule over all the earth” (2:39) simply refers to the people in its full territory and not the entire planet, but with the potential to encompass the entire planet.
4. Lower legs of **iron** = The Middle-Eastern Empire of the future consisting of several kings of the North and the South. This interpretation can be gleaned from 11:6:20. This includes the Antichrist in his “little horn” stage (7:8; 8:9 and 11:21-28).
  - Feet and toes partly **iron/clay** = The extension to the fourth empire with the last King of the North — ***Antichrist in his final powerful stage*** with control over the 10 kings. This interpretation can be gleaned from 11:29-45. This extension to the fourth kingdom is indicated by the wording of **2:40, 41:**
    - ❖ “And there shall be a **fourth kingdom**, strong as iron...And **the feet and toes**, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a **divided kingdom**” (*Dan. 2:40, 41*).

The feet and toes in being “partly of iron and partly of clay” i.e. “a divided kingdom” must be something additional to the fourth kingdom which is a kingdom entirely of iron. Nevertheless this phase is an extension of

the ‘iron legs’ of the Middle-Eastern Empire of the future. The 10 toes parallel the 10 horns (Dan. 7:24) and represent the 10 final kings of antichrist’s empire (Rev. 17:12). This extension to the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom being partly iron (possibly Sharia Law?) and partly clay (possibly democratic) makes it a divided kingdom and involves end-time Middle-Eastern powers. So moving from top to bottom the image demonstrates:

- A progressive division of sovereignty in multiplication of the significant body parts from one head to ten toes.
- A progressive deterioration in the character of the authority of the ruler i.e. moving from gold down to iron and clay.
- A progressive hardening of the metals and their strength.
- A single centre of gravity so that all four empires radiate from the same central city of Babylon.

NOTE: It may seem strange that the two legs representing the fourth kingdom comprise powers, namely, the king of the North and the King of the South which war against each other. However, they are viewed as **one empire in their opposition to Israel** and in the destruction they cause to her. In the end time both powers will join forces on Israel’s land and cause significant damage:

- ❖ “On that day, Yahweh will whistle for the fly that *is* at the end of **the stream of Egypt** and the bee that *is* in **the land of Assyria**.<sup>19</sup> And all of them will come and settle in the rivers of the cliffs and in the clefts of the rocks and on all of the thornbushes and watering places.<sup>20</sup> On that day, the Lord will shave the head and the hair of the feet with a razor of the one hired from beyond *the river*—with the king of Assyria—and it will even take off the beard.<sup>21</sup> And this shall happen: on that day, a young man will keep a young cow of *the* herd and two sheep alive.<sup>22</sup> And this shall happen: because of the abundance of milk production, he will eat curds, for every one that is left in the midst of the land will eat curds and honey.<sup>23</sup> And this shall happen on that day: Every place where there are a thousand vines for a thousand silver *pieces* will become briers, and it will be thornbushes.<sup>24</sup> One will go there with arrows and bow, for all of the land will be briers and thornbushes.<sup>25</sup> And *as for* all of the hills that they hoed with the hoe, you will not go there, *for* fear of briers and thornbushes. And it will become like pastureland *for* cattle and overtrodden land *for* sheep” (*Isa. 7:18-25 LEB*).

## Why Rome Is Not the Fourth Kingdom

### *A KINGDOM CONTROLLING THE CITY OF BABYLON*

- **Nebuchadnezzar** made Babylon the centre of the first kingdom of prophecy.
- **Cyrus** made Babylon the centre of the second kingdom of prophecy.
- **Alexander** made Babylon the centre of the third kingdom of prophecy.
- The future Middle-Eastern Empire comprising the **Kings of the North and South** will therefore, also have Babylon as their empire’s centre. This empire will occupy all of the territories of the previous three, with **Antichrist** eventually being the final **King of the North** and leading this final Babylonian kingdom.

The common factor for the first three kingdoms was having control over the city of Babylon. This therefore means that the traditional interpretation that the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom is Rome is incorrect, because the Roman Empire never had any control over the City of Babylon. Furthermore, there are no notable prophecies concerning Rome in the Scriptures. It is only assumed from history that Rome was the 4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom even though it never crushed Babylon or Medo-Persia as the fourth kingdom is described as doing. Just as the histories of those first three Kingdoms prior to Nebuchadnezzar’s, Cyrus’ and Alexander’s rulerships from Babylon were of little concern in the Bible, so too is the early history of the fourth kingdom. This rules out all attempts to fit subsequent history into the legs of the image until the fourth kingdom - the Islamic Empire of the future appears on the scene.

Therefore the 2 legs could not be the Eastern and Western divisions of the Roman Empire as in the standard interpretation. Otherwise the image would have to stand on one leg for the time represented after the end of the western empire in AD 476 until the fall of the Eastern Byzantine Roman Empire which fell to Muslim Turks in 1453. Furthermore, being made of iron indicates government by a religious, hard, inflexible and cold system of law such as exists with Islamic law. Nevertheless, the last kingdom before “the Kingdom of God” is that of Antichrist. Because Antichrist arises in the Middle-East could Antichrist be Muslim? The focus is on the feet/toes. The clay of the feet may represent the weakening effect of democracy in the Islamic world.

### *BABYLON’S DESTRUCTION STILL FUTURE*

The Babylon of Biblical prophecy is not the ancient City that was rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar:

- ❖ “And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be **as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah**. It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will **the Arab** pitch his tent there,” (*Isa. 13:19-20*).

In contrast to this unfulfilled prophecy ancient Babylon declined over a very long period of time.

### Final Fulfilment Involves the Entire Image

- ❖ “As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. <sup>35</sup>Then the iron, the clay, *the bronze, the silver, and the gold*, **all together were broken in pieces**, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that **not a trace of them could be found**. But the stone [*Messiah*] that struck the image became a great mountain [*God's Kingdom*] and filled the whole earth.” (*Dan. 2:34, 35*).

Combined with the statement in verse 44 that: “*in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom*” the fact about these kingdoms that “**all together were broken in pieces**” must mean that in the final fulfilment, i.e. when the stone (the Messiah) crashes into the feet of the image, it will destroy all the modern-day kingdoms in the territories occupied by the ancient kingdoms—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greek Seleucids, the Islamic/Antichrist Empire. Today all of these territories in the Middle-East are Islamic. So from an end-times perspective the kingdoms described in the image are modern-day Islamic powers finally linked with Babylon.

### VISION #2

#### Daniel's Vision of the *Lion*, the *Bear*, the *Leopard* and the *Terrifying Beast*

##### DANIEL 7: 2-8:

- ❖ “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up *the great sea*. <sup>3</sup>And **four great beasts came up**, different from one another. <sup>4</sup>The **first was like a lion** and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. <sup>5</sup>And behold, another beast, **a second one, like a bear**. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' <sup>6</sup>After this I looked, and behold, another, **like a leopard**, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had **four heads**, and dominion was given to it. <sup>7</sup>After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, **a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong**. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was *different from all the beasts that were before it*, and **it had ten horns**. <sup>8</sup>I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them **another horn, a little one**, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

##### TO WHAT DOES “THE SEA” REFER?

No doubt, in the vision that Daniel actually sees, this is a reference to the Mediterranean Sea which was always called “the Great Sea” biblically. However, because we later learn in Daniel 7:17 that, “*the four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth*” it is evident that in this apocalyptic the sea must be viewed symbolically as representing the wicked of mankind:

- ❖ “...the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud.” (*Isa. 57:20*).

##### 1. THE LION

Lions are exceptionally strong      ‘*Given a man's heart*’ = humanizing which creates weakness.  
 ‘*Eagles wings*’ = swift.              ‘*Wings will be plucked*’ = loses its swiftness.

##### 2. THE BEAR

Bears are terribly destructive.  
 ‘*It raised up on one side*’ = ready to pounce on its prey.  
 ‘*Three ribs in mouth*’ = had just seized 3 lands, but not yet incorporated them into its empire.

##### 3. THE LEOPARD

Leopards are cruel.              ‘*4 wings*’ = swift.  
    ‘*4 Heads*’ = arrives as a confederacy of Mediterranean powers.

Because this is a yet future power it has nothing to do with ancient Greece and therefore the 4 heads are not the same as 4 conspicuous horns from Alexander (the broken great horn) of chapter 8. These three Mediterranean beasts may well involve Turkey, Egypt and Libya.

#### 4. THE FUTURE TERRIFYING BEAST

This corresponds to the legs, feet and toes of the *image*. It is the coming final world empire in the hands of Antichrist and pictures the full development of human evil:

*'Terrifying and strong'* = ruthless terrorizing with ample resources.

*'Large iron teeth'* = tearing to pieces and annihilating, intolerant.

*'Devouring the whole earth'* = consumes everything in its path.

*'Crushes and tramples down'* = as in threshing.

*'Claws of bronze'* = as emphasizing its destructive power.

*'10 Horns'* = the 10 toes of the image = the 10 nations that ally themselves with the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast.

After the 4th beast is "*slain and its body destroyed*" the remaining beasts are given "*an extension of life for a...period*" (7:12). This cannot, therefore, refer to the *ancient* empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece or Rome, but refers to modern-day kingdoms swallowed up by the various kings of the North and South. So this vision reveals the inner, essentially beastlike character of final human rule from God's viewpoint. Rather than being a mere repetition of the empires of the Daniel 2 image, these beasts show the political movements of the end-times kingdoms. The only parallel concerns the 4<sup>th</sup> beast and the fourth kingdom of the image and its feet and 10 toes, the 10 toes being the same as the 10 horns of the fourth Beast i.e. 10 particular nations that eventually come under the authority of Antichrist. So just as the 10 toes grow out of the feet of the image so the 10 horns come out of the fourth kingdom (verse 24) and correspond to the 10 toes.

#### WHY THE FIRST THREE BEASTS DO NOT PARALLEL THE KINGDOMS OF THE IMAGE IN CHAPTER 2

- Because, in the vision, the beasts all come out of the Mediterranean (*The Great Sea*) successively but at one tempestuous time (7:2) and exist contemporaneously, this is unlike the image of chapter 2 which maintains its downward continuity and whose ancient kingdoms did not all arise in a tempestuous time.
- If two of the beasts were the same as the image there would be the problem of mixed images with ancient Medo-Persia as being both a ram and a bear, and ancient Greece as being both a he-goat and a leopard.
- Additionally, *the image* is destroyed in one go, but after the destruction of the fourth beast "the 3 remaining beasts are granted an extension of life" (7:12).
- In contrast with the original kingdoms of the image, this vision is totally in the future because verse 17 says: "**4 kings will arise.**" However:
  1. Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon existed at the time of the vision and was close to its demise.
  2. The bear does not have to be a dual power (Medo-Persia) because in the phrase "raised up on one side", '*on one side*' is not in the Hebrew text. It could be "raised up one dominion."
  3. The leopard cannot be the Greece of Alexander's time because it arrives complete with its four heads, whereas the four generals only came to power after Alexander's death.

#### THE FOURTH - THE TERRIFYING BEAST

- ❖ "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong**. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was *different from all the beasts that were before it*, and **it had ten horns**. It is dreadful and terrifying."
  - It is extremely strong.
  - It has large iron teeth.
  - It devours and crushes and tramples the remainder.
  - It is different from all the beasts.
  - It devours the whole earth (verse 23).

*WHY THE LOWER LEGS OF THE IMAGE ARE THE SAME KINGDOM AS THE 4<sup>th</sup> BEAST*

- ❖ “And there shall be a **fourth kingdom**, *strong as iron*, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And *like iron* that crushes, it shall break and *crush all these*. <sup>41</sup>And as you saw **the feet and toes**, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a **divided kingdom**, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. <sup>42</sup>And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle” (*Dan. 2:40-42*).

There appear to be enough similarities here with the description of the fourth beast such that the reference is to one and the same kingdom, namely, the Empire of the kings of the North and South. Whereas the extension to this fourth kingdom in Daniel 2 is that of the feet and 10 toes, the extension to the 4<sup>th</sup> beast kingdom is its 10 horns out of which an eleventh springs up.

*SEVEN HEADS*

Because the third—the leopard—beast has four heads, when added to the single heads of the other three beasts we have a total of 7 heads as with the composite beast in Revelation 13.

*THE 10 HORNS*

These 10 horns represent the same as do the 10 toes of the image, namely, 10 kings. These rule over the 10 last kingdoms which, in confederacy, represent the fourth beast and which come into existence before “the little horn” i.e. before the Antichrist appears. This is the final stage of worldly empire – a strengthened Islamic Empire under the control of the Antichrist:

- ❖ “And the **ten horns** that you saw are **ten kings** who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. <sup>13</sup>These are of one mind, and *they hand over their power and authority to the beast ...* <sup>16</sup>And **the ten horns** that you saw, they **and the beast** will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, <sup>17</sup>for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled” (*Rev. 17:12, 13; 16, 17*).

*THE LITTLE HORN – THE 11<sup>th</sup> = ANTICHRIST*

- ❖ “I considered **the horns**, and behold, there came up among them **another horn, a little one**, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.” (*Dan. 7:8*).

These three horns are subjected to *little horn* but are still part of the 10 as seen in Revelation 17:16. This is part of the first seal of Revelation 6 which says that: “*he went out conquering and to conquer.*” As this ‘*little horn*’ comes up among the 10 this makes him an 11<sup>th</sup> horn.

*DETAILS FROM REVELATION*

- ❖ “And I saw **a beast rising out of the sea**, with *ten horns and seven heads*, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. <sup>2</sup>And the beast that I saw was like a **leopard**; its feet were like a **bear’s**, and its mouth was like a **lion’s** mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup>**One of its heads** seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marvelled as they followed the beast. <sup>4</sup>And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?” <sup>5</sup>And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise **authority for forty-two months**. <sup>6</sup>It opened its mouth to utter *blasphemies* against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup>Also it was allowed to make **war on the saints** and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup>and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain” (*Rev. 13:1-7*).

Here Charles Ozanne comments:

The same four beasts reappear as one composite beast in Revelation 13:1, 2. There can be little doubt that the same four kingdoms are meant, except that in Daniel they appear in their initial stage at the time of Antichrist’s rise to power as an ordinary man, whereas in Revelation it is in their final stage that they are seen. The Antichrist, in his first appearing, is represented as a little horn which shoots up among the ten horns of the fourth beast—that is, among the ten kings which characterize the fourth kingdom of Daniel 7. In

his second and superhuman appearing, he is represented as undisputed master of all four kingdoms, so much so that to the apostle John they all appear as one composite beast indistinguishable from the Antichrist himself. *The Fourth Gentile Kingdom*, p. 34

This beast from the sea (Rev. 13) is a composite of Daniel's 4<sup>th</sup> beast + characteristics of the 3 other beasts. This beast has 7 heads and 10 horns with 10 diadems on the horns. The heads are simply to associate him with the Empire corporate. The horns are diademed because at the end of the age it is not the 7 heads but the 10 kings that will rule. In this scene the Beast and the 10 kings are shown as already ruling. This picture derives from Daniel 7:2-7, where the four beasts, whose characteristics John combines, represent worldly empires. One of its seven heads is *as if* it had been slain, and his **fatal wound was healed** = The beast is now seen as an antichrist system with the slain head as antichrist himself. His wound should have been fatal but he survives it. During the early part of the second half of the 70<sup>th</sup> 'seven' the antichrist appears as slain. It is a mimicking of Christ's death and resurrection, Satan being the one to make it appear that he has brought his son from the dead.

### The Investiture of the Son of Man Daniel 7:9-14, 26, 27

- ❖ “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat ... the **court sat in judgement**, and the books were opened. "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for **the rest of the beasts**, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”  
26 But **the court shall sit in judgement**, and his [*the 1<sup>st</sup> king*] dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them”

This vision runs parallel to the vision in Revelation 4 and 5 where the Lamb is given the 7 sealed scroll. The vision in Daniel was not fulfilled when Jesus ascended to God's right hand but rather is a future event. This is evident for the following reasons:

*The time of the visions does not harmonize with the 1<sup>st</sup> century ascension.*

- The vision of Revelation 4 and 5 was given in c.96 A.D., long after Jesus had ascended.
- The court sits in judgment when the antichrist—the 11<sup>th</sup> king—has his yet future dominion removed (Dan. 7:26).
- Psalm 110:1 places Jesus' rulership as beginning after an interval of his sitting at God's right hand so that he did not receive the kingdom at his ascension.
- Hebrews 10:13 quotes Psalm 110 to show Jesus “waiting” so that the rulership is to be granted long after the ascension.
- In both Daniel 7 and Revelation 5 Jesus is not on a throne but “came to the Ancient of Days” and was standing in front of “him who was seated on the throne.” This moves us to a time when Jesus is no longer sitting at God's right hand.

*The throne to which Christ ascended in the 1<sup>st</sup> century is not the throne of these visions.*

When Jesus ascended he “passed through the heavens” (Heb. 4:14). “He also ascended far above all the heavens” (Eph. 4:10). God's throne is even above “the heaven of heavens” (1 Kings 8:27). So this is God's permanent, eternal throne. However, when Jesus is given a kingdom he has his own throne (Matt. 25:31; Luke 1:32; Rev. 3:21)—one that never previously existed.

*The present position and service of Christ is not that which is disclosed in the visions.*

- Jesus' present work in heaven is that of intercession as advocate and high priest (John 17:9; 1 John 2:1, 2; Heb. 4:14). He ministers to the needs of the seven churches and not to the world. His work includes judging those of “the household of God” (1 Pet. 4:16, 17).

- However, the moment Jesus is standing and takes the seven sealed scroll (Rev. 5:8) **a change occurs** so that the priestly service on behalf of “the holy ones”—the Christians—is now rendered by the 24 elders (vs. 9).
- However, once Jesus takes the scroll his attention is focussed on the world scene as portrayed in the scroll and leading to his pouring out of the wrath of God. So his role changes as he breaks each of the seals of the scroll. He now becomes the executioner of the judgments on mankind as stated in the scrolls so that he now has the dominion that is detailed in Daniel 7.

*The details of Daniel are distinctly against a 1<sup>st</sup> century fulfilment.*

Whatever view one takes of the timing for the arrival of the four beasts in Daniel 7 it is evident that the 10 horns on the fourth beast and “the little horn” did not arise before the ascension of Jesus. Yet in Daniel 7 these events do occur before the investiture of the Son of man.

## The Inauguration of the Kingdom

7:18: The saints of the Highest One will receive the Kingdom—for all ages to come.

7:27: The dominion of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the saints.

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### VISION #3

### The Ram, the Goat, and the Little Horn

#### DANIEL 8:

#### *THE RAM*

Daniel interprets “the ram which had two horns” of 8:3-4 as being “the kings of Media and Persia” in 8:20, and lists 4 more Persian kings in 11:2. The longer horn represents the Persian part of the Empire which became the more prominent.

#### *THE GOAT*

The Greek Empire as “the goat” of 8:5, with Alexander the Great as the “conspicuous/large horn” - first king (8:5, 8, 21). This initially splits into 4 parts (8:8, 11:4). (These later consolidate into just two kingdoms – those of Seleucid Syria and Ptolemaic Egypt which are types of a future Syrian Kings of the North and Egyptian Kings of the South in Daniel 11).

#### *THE FOUR CONSPICUOUS HORNS*

These are the four generals of Alexander the Great who took power after Alexander’s death in 323 BC so that “his kingdom will be broken up and divided to the four winds of heaven. It won’t be inherited by his descendants, and it won’t be ruled with the power he had, because his kingship will be uprooted and will pass to others than his own posterity” (Dan. 11:4). These four generals were:

Cassander ruling Macedonia/Greece

Lysimachus ruling Asia Minor/Thrace

Seleucus 1 Nicator ruling Syria/Mesopotamia

Ptolemy Lagus ruling Egypt/Palestine

## Who Is the “Little Horn” of 8:9?

Although commentators generally interpret this “little horn” of 8:9 as being Antiochus Epiphanes, they do so by distinguishing him from the “little horn” of 7:8, 24 who came up from the 10 horns, namely, the Antichrist as is recognized by most scholars. Yet Daniel interprets these events in chapter 8 as being in the “time of the end” “at the final period of the indignation” (*Dan. 8:17, 19*). Therefore, “little horn” of 8:9 is the same as the “little horn” of 7:8, 24 namely, the Antichrist. Daniel further describes the Antichrist as “A king...insolent and skilled in intrigue.” This means that there is, once more, a gap in time after 8:8 so that 8:9 concerns the end-times.

The location of antichrist in his “little horn” phase can be ascertained from 8:9, because he comes “out of one of...the four conspicuous horns,” but does not come from the south, the east or “the beautiful land” of Israel. In relation to Israel he cannot come from the west because that is the Mediterranean Sea. This leaves the north, which fits with many other titles/descriptions of Antichrist. And so he comes out of the area of the ancient Seleucid kingdom i.e. Syria/Mesopotamia and he fits the pattern of the final “King of the north” of 11:21-45.



*WHO ARE THE HEAVENLY ARMY AND THE STARS IN 8:10?*

Most commentators take this to refer to faithful Jews or God's faithful people in general. This view seems to be likely according to the description that they are "trampled down." However, in the sense that God's angels have responsibilities for God's people it could be a double reference to both the angels and those they are responsible for, namely, God's holy people.

*WHO IS "THE COMMANDER OF HEAVENS ARMY" IN 8:11?*

Some versions of the Bible render this as "the Prince of the host." Nevertheless He is the same person as "the Prince of princes" in 8:25, because this is the interpretation given of the vision. The description in verse 11 shows this person to be God Himself because the "little horn" "removed the sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down." In Jewish terms it is only God who has a sanctuary and has sacrifices offered to him.

### The 2,300 Evening and Mornings = 2,300 Days Daniel 8:9-14 (NLT)

- ❖ "Then from one of the prominent horns came a *small horn* whose power grew very great. It extended toward the south and the east and toward the glorious land of Israel. <sup>10</sup> Its power reached to the heavens, where it attacked the heavenly army, throwing some of the heavenly beings and some of the stars to the ground and trampling them. <sup>11</sup> It even challenged the Commander of heaven's army by **cancelling the daily sacrifices** offered to him and by destroying his Temple. <sup>12</sup> The army of heaven was restrained from responding to this rebellion. So the daily sacrifice was halted, and truth was overthrown. The horn succeeded in everything it did. <sup>13</sup> Then I heard two holy ones talking to each other. One of them asked, "How long will the events of this vision last? **How long will the rebellion that causes desecration stop the daily sacrifices? How long will the Temple and heaven's army be trampled on?**" <sup>14</sup> The other replied, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the Temple will be made right again."

*The New American Commentary on Daniel* explains that:

Keil argues quite convincingly that the 2,300 evenings and mornings represent a total of 2,300 days, and many scholars follow this view. First, Keil points out that in the Hebrew text the phrase is literally "until evening morning, 2,300." He then demonstrates that in Old Testament usage an evening and a morning specified a day (e.g., Gen 1). Second he shows that when the Hebrews wished to make a distinction between the two parts of the day, the number of both was given, for example, "forty days and forty nights" (Gen 7:4,12) ... S.J.Schwantes presents additional problems with the 1,150-day view. (1) "Daily sacrifice" (*tamid*) does not appear in v.14 at all. It is found in 8:13 and is simply assumed to be the meaning of the "evenings and mornings" in this verse. (2) The term encompassed both sacrifices offered in the morning and evening (cf. Exod 29:38-42). The word *tamid*, therefore, represents one entity, not two. Thus "2,300 evenings and mornings" denotes 2,300 days with both a morning and an evening offering. (3) When the two daily sacrifices of the *tamid* are specified in the Old Testament is always morning and evening. Therefore Schwantes concludes with Keil that the expression reflects usage in Gen 1 and must represent 2,300 full days. p. 229.

This therefore is a period of 6 years and almost four months and begins at the same time as the 1290 days:

- ❖ "How long will it be until the end of these wonders?... **a time, times, and half a time**; as soon as they finish **shattering the power of the holy people**, all these events will be completed...my lord, what will be the outcome of these events?...these words are sealed up until the end-time...From the time that the **regular sacrifice is abolished** and the **Abomination of Desolation** is set up, there will be **1,290 days**"  
(Daniel 12:6-12).

### A King Skilled in Intrigue Daniel 8:23-25 (NIV)

"In the latter part of their reign, when **rebels** have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking **king, a master of intrigue**, will arise. <sup>24</sup> He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy

people. 25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.”

“*In the latter part of their reign*” reflects back to verse 17: “*the vision pertains to the time of the end*” and verse 19: “*the appointed time of the end*” and so is in the distant future from the original Kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great.

The “*rebels*” here are evidently those Jews who have forsaken God.

The “*fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue*” is the Antichrist.

## Conclusion

- To the extent that Christians today can understand the prophecies in the book of Revelation, they can also understand the prophecies in the book of Daniel.
- Although it is commonly held that the four beasts parallel the four parts of the image, the details preclude this and present three end-time kingdoms as precursors to the final Antichrist’s kingdom.
- The commonly held view that the legs of the image represent Rome is inappropriate because Rome is never mentioned in Bible prophecy. The legs represent the fourth empire consisting of the Kings of the North and the Kings of the South which extend into the feet and toes as representing the final Antichrist Empire the centre of which will be a rebuilt city of Babylon.
- The future final evil kingdom is depicted not only by the legs, feet and toes of the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream (Chapter 2) but also by the fourth terrifying beast (chapter 7).
- After the future investiture of Jesus as king of God’s kingdom he will destroy the 4<sup>th</sup> beast—Antichrist’s Kingdom, but the other three kingdoms continue their existence for a while.
- The little horn mentioned in Daniel 7 and Daniel 8 is one and the same person—the final Antichrist.
- The temple is brought into its rightful condition after 2,300 days which began when the 1,290 days began at the setting up of the Abomination of Desolation.

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