

The Fourth Beast Of Daniel

Daniel 7:23-28

Introduction

In Daniel chapters 7-8 Daniel receives two visions of the unfolding of world Gentile powers. These visions take place in the first and third years of the reigns of the Babylonian king Belshazzar. In the beginning of the chapter Daniel sees in a vision four beast like creatures. The first was like a lion with wings (vv.1-4). The second was like a bear with bloody ribs in the beasts' mouth (v.5). The third was a leopard like creature with four heads and four sets of wings (vv.7-8). And the final creature, terrifying and dreadful had ten horns; an emerging horn with three horns ripped out by the ever growing emerging horn. Daniel then sees a vision of the Ancient of Days and the Son of man (vv.9-10). The Ancient of Days was seated on a fiery throne and a river of fire flowed from His throne and He was attended by innumerable angels and tens of millions awaited judgment and the fourth beast was cast into a burning lake of fire (vv.11-12). This information was followed by an explanation and interpretation of the four beasts (vv.15-18). We discover the four beasts represent four kings and four kingdoms. These will be replaced by an eternal kingdom; secured by God; given to the Son of Man (v.14). Daniel desires more information about this fourth beast; he wants to understand how this cruel creature is able to conquer and consume the earth. He wants to know more about this little horn that plays such a prominent role in the future world and the final conflict that will include the Jewish people (vv. 19-22). An angelic creature reveals three facts about this future fourth beast. The Beast will devour the whole earth (vv.23-24). It will defy the Most High (v.25). It will be destroyed by the Most High (vv.26-27).

The Bible teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ will one day return in glory. Many of you are familiar with the teachings of Jesus concerning the rapture of the church and the coming of Christ. But some of you may be hearing about all these things for the first time. Perhaps you are curious about what the Bible says about the events leading up to this final future moment. The kingdoms of the earth will come to an end and the Kingdom of God established forever. We are told know one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return; but the Bible gives unmistakable clues about the unfolding future. Three even four kingdoms have come and gone. But Daniel sees a fourth kingdom in the far future that is global; hostile to God and to God's people; and destined to be destroyed by the Coming of Jesus Christ Himself.

The Fourth Beast Devours The Earth (vv.23-24)

Daniel 7:23–24 (NKJV) 23 “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.

24 The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.

The Fourth Beast Of Daniel

Daniel 7:23-28

The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that features a most unusual king. Daniel is told this kingdom is different from the other three. In what way? Different in scope. Different in power. Different in the distribution of that power.

The ten horns are ten kings who arise or emerge from this kingdom (Rome). And another shall arise after them (the ten kings and their kingdoms) and shall subdue three kings.

The fourth kingdom appears in the past as the Roman Empire and in the future in what seems like like a revived Roman Empire.

Daniel points out “And another shall rise after them”(v.24) that is the creation and coalition of the ten kings. The rise of the antichrist figure takes place after the rise of the ten kings and the ten kingdoms. “*He shall be different from the first ones*”; in what way will this king be different? He will have more intelligence, more power, more arrogance (see The New American Commentary; Daniel vol.18; by Stephen R. Miller p.213).

The little horn (vv.8,11,20-22)—previously identified as a person is now identified as a king.

What does it mean that he will subdue three kings? It would appear that not all the nations in the confederation are on board with the New World Agenda. Three will resist the Antichrist’s power and agenda and will be subdued by force. It would appear that the other nations will then submit to the Antichrist’s agenda and control.

The Fourth Beast Defies The Most High God (v.25)

25He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

The antichrist figure speaks against the Most High. He is aggressive in his anti-God rhetoric. Once again we are informed of the Antichrist’s blasphemies. In the Book of Revelation 13:5-6 John writes; “*And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (6) Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.*”

Daniel does not detail the blasphemies but John’s Revelation seems to give us more information about the exact nature of those blasphemies. The antichrist figure demands personal worship; which in effect is blasphemy against God.

The antichrist figure hates God and expresses that hatred in his intense persecution of God’s people. He is anti-Jew and anti-Christian. The antichrist figure will seek specific ways to persecute and then destroy them.

The Fourth Beast Of Daniel

Daniel 7:23-28

The word translated *persecute* means *oppress* and translates the Aramaic word *yeballe*; *literally wear away or wear out* much like you would wear out a garment.

We are given a picture of torment, harassment; ever increasing punishment for the people of God. **Religious freedom is at first diminished and then abolished (see 9:27).**

The revelation is given that the antichrist will attempt (try) to change times (calendars) and law (moral expectations). The attempt will be made to destroy any historical or calendar references or traditional customs that remind us of God's work in human history.

Some scholars suggest that the law here is the same thing as religion. Daniel's vision of the future requires an ever increasing attack and the final elimination of religious freedom.

The antichrist knows human beings are hard wired to worship. And so he will help fabricate a system of worship that makes himself and his agenda the object of universal desire.

Why does the antichrist figure hate the saints and persecute the saints? **The people of God will oppose his tactics and agenda. The antichrist figure is inspired by Satan, energized by Satan, and loves what Satan loves; and hates what Satan hates.**

How long will he prevail against the saints? A time, times, half a time. In Revelation John gives him 42 months (3 and 1/2 years). Keil argues the phrase is symbolic of an indeterminate or indefinite time. Why is this more likely a period of three and one half years? John paints a picture of the same person and tells us it is 42 months. In Daniel 12:14 the duration is given as 1260 days or 3 and one half years. The period of 3 and one half years is used in Daniel 9:27—where a covenant is made in the middle of the seventieth “heptad” or seven. Religious activities are suspended or arrested in the middle of Daniel's seventieth .

We are not told when the antichrist's rise to power takes place; but it appears to take place with the emergence of this ten nation confederation; and the growing influence of this figure; a resistance movement that is smashed; and the last part of this Antichrist's doomed career will include 3 and one half years of intense terror and persecution against the Saints of the Most High God. This three and one half year period coincides with the judgments against the earth that are detailed in Revelation 14-19.

The Fourth Beast Destroyed By The Most High God (vv.26-28)

The Fourth Beast Of Daniel
Daniel 7:23-28

26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.

27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

28 "This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."

CONCLUSION