

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 10: Four Animals Never Seen In A Zoo
Daniel 7:1 – 8
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Isaiah 55:11

11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2 Timothy 3:16

16 **All** scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

ALL Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation is the inspired by God. God breathed HIS TRUTH in this LIVING BOOK.

Proverbs 30:5

5 **Every word** of God is **pure**: he is a **shield** unto them that put their **trust in him**.

Matthew 4:4

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man **shall not live by bread alone**, but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Is your faith in Every WORD? Does your actions match the evidence of your faith? We are living in the last days! Jesus is coming again. Are you preparing?

Remember, Bible prophecy is the WORD of God. Jesus says that He will come again! This is a promise and He told us to watch and study His prophecies to know how soon He is coming!

Matthew 24:32-33

32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, **even at the doors**.

Do you have a more sure word of prophecy?

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The only way to have a more sure word of prophecy you HAVE to study it thoroughly especially the books of Daniel and Revelation because they both reveal a lot about the last days. We must let the Bible interpret Bible prophecy! No human being on this planet has the qualifications to interpret scriptures. It is a witness by itself. It is unified from Genesis to Revelation.

In Daniel chapters 1 – 6 we studied about the characters we must have in order to make it to the kingdom of God. All these lessons were powerful for us who are living in the last days. **We gathered from these studies**

that we must reflect the righteous character of Jesus. We must be faithful, loving, courageous, undefiled, holy, pure, and a witness for the glory of God.

Where does God reveal his “secrets”?

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

What are the six general rules of studying and understanding Bible prophecy?

1. Pray for understanding and clarity before every study

1 John 5:20

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Your sincere prayer:

Psalms 25:4-5

4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

The teacher is The Holy Spirit of Truth

John 16:13

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

2. No private interpretation. Let the Bible interpret itself (2 Peter 1:21)

3. Must be diligent in study with urgency and hunger for TRUTH without worldly distractions

John 5:39

39 **Search** [Greek: “investigate”] the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly** dividing the word of truth.

“Study” (Greek) spoudazō [*spoo-dad'-zo*]

From [G4710](#); to **use speed**, that is, to **make effort**, *be prompt* or *earnest*: - do (give) diligence, be **diligent** (forward), endeavour, labour, study. -Strong's Definition

If you want to understand the things that are spiritual you MUST let go of the things that please the flesh. You will NEVER have clarity and understanding of the deep spiritual things of God by holding on to those things that are worldly. For example: If you had Bible study then turn on the Netflix or watch your favorite team run a ball to a line, everything you studied in the WORD that day is lost! “Every WORD” is still ONLY theory in your mind with no real application. Remember your actions reveal what you truly believe. Professions with no action are intentions that have no merit in the kingdom of Heaven.

4. Prophecies of Daniel move forward in time starting with the Babylonian Empire until the end of time.

Daniel 2:28-29

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the **latter days**. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass **hereafter**: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

5. Compare prophetic outline with prophetic outline.**Isaiah 28:10**

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.

Daniel 2 is the prophetic outline and foundation of prophecies revealed in Daniel 7 – 12. All other prophetic outlines in the prophecies of Daniel can be compared to Daniel 2.

(Repeat and Enlarge): The prophecies in Daniel 7 – 12 repeat some of the same kingdoms in Daniel 2 but with more details. Also they give us details of the fifth, sixth, and seventh empire.

God paints symbolic pictures to understand prophetic reality!**What is the prophetic outline of Daniel 2?**

Head of Gold – Babylon [605 B.C. to 539 B.C.]

Arms & Chest of Silver - Mede and Persian kingdom [539 B.C. to 331 B.C.]

Belly & Thighs of Brass - Greece [331 B.C. to 168 B.C.]

Legs of iron represent - Roman kingdom [168 B.C. to 476 B.C.]

Part iron & clay feet with 10 Toes – Divided Europe [476 B.C. to present]

Stone cut with hand – God establishes his everlasting kingdom [Are you ready?]

What is the general theme of Daniel 2 and the prophecies of Daniel 7 – 12?

The four metal sections of the statue symbolizes the rise and fall of four literal world kingdoms or superpowers that had a direct impact on God's people in the past and will have a direct impact on God's people in the future. The theme of the rise and fall of kingdoms is also the theme in Daniel 7 – 12. At the end of all these earthly kingdoms Jesus WILL set up His everlasting kingdom! This is what we are preparing for now. Do you believe it?

When did Daniel's vision in chapter 7 take place and who was the king of Babylon at the time?**Daniel 7:1**

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Daniel had the dream of Daniel 7 in the first year of King Belshazzar who was co-king with his father in Babylon. Yes, this is the same Belshazzar who later openly rebelled against God and saw the handwriting on the wall. Daniel wrote this dream and told every thing that he saw. **King Belshazzar had to be aware of this dream and its interpretation. He had NO excuse! The dream confirms His grandfather's dream that Babylon will NOT last forever and that it will be conquered by an inferior kingdom.**

What does Daniel see in the first part of his vision in Daniel chapter 7?**Daniel 7:2-7**

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

What were the four beast that came out the stormy sea?

- 1) Lion with eagles' wings – wings plucked given a man's heart
- 2) Bear raised up on one side with three ribs in his mouth
- 3) Leopard with four heads and four wings of a bird
- 4) Dreadful beast with iron teeth

Have you seen animals like these in the zoo? Do they exist in reality? No.

All these beasts are symbolic that point to prophetic reality for God's people.

Who do these four GREAT beast represent?

Daniel 7:16-17, 23

16 I came near, unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

17 These great beasts, which are four, are **four kings**, which shall arise out of the earth.

23 Thus he said, The **fourth beast** shall be the **fourth kingdom** upon earth, which shall be diverse from **all kingdoms**, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

Beast represent kingdoms. Remember in Daniel 2 the metals on the statue in Nebuchadnezzar also represented kingdoms.

What does the four winds represent as each beast comes out of the sea?

Jeremiah 49:34-38

34 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying,

35 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might.

36 And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come.

37 For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies, and before them that seek their life: and I will bring evil upon them, even my fierce anger, saith the LORD; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them:

38 And I will set my throne in Elam, and will destroy from thence the king and the princes, saith the LORD.

Verse 36 is describing war and strife from every side, the four winds, north, south, east, and west. Winds in Bible prophecy symbolize war and conflict which may be caused by military action or political disorder that shapes world history.

The first four kingdoms from Babylon to the Roman Empire were conquered through war. Media-Persia conquered Babylon through war. Greece conquered Media-Persia through war. Rome conquered Greece through war.

Four winds represent war and strife from every side north, south, east, and west by four kingdoms representing the four beast.

What does sea or waters represent in Bible prophecy?

Let's go to Revelation 17:15, it is also referring to a beast or kingdom.

Revelation 17:15

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Seas or waters in Bible prophecy commonly symbolize people, multitudes, nations, and languages in highly populated area of the world. "Sea of people."

What do the four beasts in Daniel 7 have in common?

1. All come up out of water (symbolically – multitudes of people – highly populated area of the world – Middle East and European part of the world where it was largely populated – many cities and villages)
2. In the midst of a windy storm "winds" - Came to power from strife & war
3. "Diverse" or different characteristics from one another (Daniel 7:3)

Comparing prophetic outline with prophetic outline (Daniel 2 and 7)

Same Kingdoms in Daniel 2 & 7 (Repeat and Enlarge)

The same four world kingdoms that were represented in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 are the exact same four world kingdoms represented in Daniel 7.

Why is Daniel given a dream of the rise and fall of the same exact kingdoms mentioned in Daniel 2 [Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome]?

In Daniel 2 we are given a general summary of the rise and fall of these four kingdoms and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom. In Daniel 7 we will see, that God gives us added details, characteristics, and facts so that no one can misinterpret the prophecies given in Daniel 2 and 7 when historical world events are applied to those prophecies. Most importantly Daniel 7 gives some critical details and characteristics about the fourth kingdom that was divided – Rome that directly impacts God's people today. Symbolically the true character of each kingdom is seen by the description of each beast in Daniel 7.

Who does the first beast represent that Daniel saw come out of the water in his vision?

Daniel 7:4

4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

The first beast coming out of the sea in Daniel's vision is a lion with eagle's wings. Now who does this lion with eagle's wings symbolize? Again, the same four kingdoms that were represented in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 are repeated in the same order in Daniel chapter 7 but is symbolically given in the form of animals or beasts.

Babylon was described in Daniel 2 as being gold, the best of all of the metals, because of its enormous wealth. No world kingdom after them exceeded them in their wealth. The lion with eagle's wings fit the characteristics of the Babylonian kingdom because as a lion, known as the king of the jungle, it had great strength. Eagles are usually known for their swiftness and deadly accuracy when they capture their prey. Babylon was also known for swift or rapid conquest of nations under King Nebuchadnezzar. Also, did you know that recently archeologists have discovered that the Babylonians used the lion with eagle's wings as one of its national symbols of their might and domination. **Usually it was a depiction of a human head and torso with a lion's body and wings of an eagle. [show picture]. Babylon was known to worship amalgamation gods who were part animal and human.**

Many of the "superhero" movies are also the worship amalgamation gods that are part human and animal such as black panther, wolverine, spiderman, and batman, etc... These are like the amalgamation gods that Babylon worshiped and many other pagan nations. This is an abomination to the only TRUE God in Heaven.

At the end of verse 4 it says that the wings of Babylon would be "plucked" and that they would be given a heart [attitude or emotion] of a man. History reveals that Babylon lost their ability to rush on its prey like an eagle and they lost their boldness, awareness, and strength of a lion's heart. Babylon became too drunk with her wealth and luxury. King Belshazzar was partying while they were surrounded by the Medes and Persians! The night of the handwriting on the wall, Babylon was plucked up and destroyed.

What was the second beast that Daniel saw in his vision and who does it represent?

Daniel 7:5

5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

Remember in Daniel 2 as we went down the statue starting from the head of gold, the value of the metal of each section decreased. **Notice that as each beast is identified in order in Daniel's vision that they become inferior or less prestigious. For example, the bear representing the second kingdom is inferior to the lion. The bear is a powerful animal, but it is not known for the might and power of a lion.** The second beast with three ribs coming out of its mouth, represents the second kingdom [arms and chest of silver] that was described in Daniel 2 in which the Median and Persian kingdom conquered Babylon. This symbolic bear gives us more details and facts about the Median and Persian kingdom.

Bear "raised up itself on one side - In Daniel chapter 2 the Median-Persian kingdom was a partnership of two nationalities, the Medes and the Persians represented as TWO arms on the statue. According to historical accounts, the Persian division of the kingdom of Medo-Persia became more dominant and influential than the Medes that is the reason why it was raised up on one side.

The three ribs in the mouth represent the conquering over three kingdoms that gave them power. The three ribs coming out of the mouth of the bear described in Daniel 7:5 amazingly and historically apply to the three conquests of Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt that allowed Median-Persian to set up their kingdom.

What was the third beast that Daniel saw in his vision and who does it represent?

Daniel 7:6

6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

This funny looking beast represents the third world kingdom of Greece that conquered the Median and Persian kingdom. Greece is also described as the third kingdom on the statue in Daniel 2, the belly and thighs of brass. This symbol of a leopard with four wings accurately characterizes the many conquests of Greece that gave it world dominance. With Alexander as its leader, the Greek military was quick as a leopard in its conquest, also with four bird wings they covered very large territories swiftly. Many historians described Alexander's military movement and speed as extraordinary.

Four wings

Notice that this third beast had more wings than the first beast of the lion which represented Babylon. Even though the Grecian kingdom was not as luxurious and wealthy as Babylon, their world dominance covered a larger territory.

Four Heads

The leopard has four heads. How does this apply to Greece as the third world power? We must go to history to find out this detail. Alexander the Great unexpectedly died young at the height of his dominance. His son was born after he died. After his death, the kingdom of Greece was led by and divided among four leading generals. These leopard's four heads represent these four leading generals [Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Seleucus (Smith, p. 109)].]

Matter of fact, these four divisions of Greece are repeated in Daniel's vision in Daniel 8:21-22.

Daniel 8:21-22

21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

What was the fourth beast that Daniel saw in his vision and who does it represent?

This fourth beast is the most notable of all the beasts for you and me because it directly and indirectly influences our world today.

Daniel 7:7-8

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This fourth beast that Daniel saw in his vision was so ugly, great, and hideous that he could not even describe it as a common animal as he did with the other three beasts in this vision.

Iron Empire / Iron Teeth / Legs of Iron

This hideous beast with large iron teeth fits the characteristic and historical facts of the Roman Empire. This Roman Empire is represented by the legs of iron on the statue in Daniel 2. Matter of fact the characteristics of the fourth kingdom in Daniel 2:40 matches perfectly with the characteristics found in Daniel 7:7 in which this kingdom will use its iron might to crush and break into pieces other nations and rule them. Any nation that stood in Rome's way was crushed with its iron might. Note that this fourth beast was different from the other three beasts.

Ten horns / Ten Toes (part iron & clay)

The Roman Empire was never conquered by another powerful world kingdom or alliance like the others, it was divided over time into exactly ten tribes or nations. In which seven of the ten tribes or nation make modern Europe.

Ten Toes = Ten Horns

These 10 nations are represented by the part iron and part clay feet and 10 toes that were described in Daniel 2 and they are also represented by the **ten horns** of the fourth hideous beast of Daniel 8. Seven of the ten nations make up modern Europe. Daniel 7:24 verifies that the 10 horns are ten kingdoms.

Each description in Daniel 2 and 7 match up together perfectly, such as ten toes and ten horns, in the order of the metals on the statue and the four beasts!

While Daniel was looking at this hideous beast in his vision with ten horns he noticed a little horn that grew up in the midst of the ten horns. He noticed that this little horn plucked up three of the ten horns off the beast's head. History records that this little horn is responsible for terminating 3 of the 10 tribes that divided the Roman Empire. Who is this little mighty horn with eyes of a man speaking great things? What are the detailed characteristics and historical facts of this little horn? Does this little horn exist today? How influential and powerful is this little horn?