

DANIEL'S FIRST VISION, PART 1
(Daniel 7:1-8)

- I. Four Great BEASTS (Dan. 7:1-3)
 - A. During the FIRST year of BELSHAZZAR
 - 1. Fourteen years BEFORE Babylon's FALL
 - 2. Occurred between Nebuchadnezzar's HUMILIATION (ch. 4) and Belshazzar's FEAST (ch. 5)
 - B. COMPARABLE to Nebuchadnezzar's vision in chapter 2
 - 1. Nebuchadnezzar saw kingdoms in terms of DIMINISHING HUMAN GLORY
 - 2. Daniel saw kingdoms in terms of INCREASING HUMAN BRUTALITY
 - C. Components of the vision
 - 1. Four winds of HEAVEN represent the SOVEREIGN power of God RULING the NATIONS
 - 2. TURBULENT great sea represents the NATIONS of the world in constant STRIFE
 - 3. Four diverse BEASTS from the SEA represent human KINGDOMS that dominate in different PERIODS
- II. The First Beast Is BABYLON (Dan. 7:4)
 - A. Like a LION with EAGLE'S WINGS represents royal AUTHORITY and MAJESTY

- B. Saw wings PLUCKED and lion stood as a MAN and received a HEART
 - 1. Generally understood as Nebuchadnezzar's HUMILIATION
 - 2. More likely depicts Nebuchadnezzar's CONVERSION

- III. The Second Beast Is MEDO-PERSIA (Dan. 7:5)
 - A. Like a BEAR that rises up on one side, representing Persian DOMINANCE
 - B. Three RIBS in its MOUTH probably represents CONQUEST of Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt
 - C. The command for it to "devour much meat" probably refers to CONTINUED conquest and growth for 200 years beyond DANIEL'S day

- IV. The Third Beast Is GREECE (Dan. 7:6)
 - A. Like a LEOPARD with FOUR WINGS to represent SPEED of conquest
 - B. Being given DOMINION with its FOUR HEADS implies GOVERNMENTAL divisions

- V. The Fourth Beast is ROME (Dan. 7:7-8)
 - A. Like NO OTHER animal
 - B. Seen DEVOURING, CRUSHING, and TRAMPLING the residue of earlier kingdoms indicates RUTHLESS destruction
 - C. Its TEN HORNS indicates a FUTURE coalition of TEN KINGS under one HEAD
 - D. A LITTLE HORN emerges LATER (cf. 7:20-27)
 - 1. Uproots three of the ORIGINAL HORNS
 - 2. Described with HUMAN eyes and a BOASTFUL mouth