

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 36 (September 3-9, 2017)

We have already studied the amazing dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar. This week, we will turn our attention to the dreams of Daniel, depicting the same sequence of events from his current times through the earthly kingdom of the Lord.

**Sunday**, September 3 (read Daniel 7:1-4)

*Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. (Daniel 7:3)*

In a dream (v. 1), God shows Daniel the powers that would rule the world throughout all time, just like He showed King Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 2. The Lord uses symbolic beasts to describe the Gentile nations that will emerge into world leaders. Babylon, the first of these kingdoms, is still in power when the dream comes to Daniel, although, in chapter 5, he has already described their conquest by the Medo-Persian combined empire. (Don't expect the Bible to be chronological.) God uses the winged-lion to describe Babylon, the very symbol they had at the gate to the royal palace (v. 4). The second part of v. 4 describes the humiliation of King Nebuchadnezzar when he is given the mind of an animal until he repents (see 4:28-37). Prepare to be amazed at the perfect accuracy of the Word of God.

**Monday**, September 4 (read Daniel 7:5)

*And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. (Daniel 7:5a)*

Daniel has his dream in 553 B.C. The event foretold in today's verse occurs 14 years later in 539 B.C., even though the book of Daniel has already described the takeover in chapter 5. Daniel sees the symbolic bear raised up on one of its sides, indicating that Persia is more powerful than its ally, the Medes. The Medo-Persian kingdom defeats Lydia (546 B.C.), Babylon (539 B.C.) and Egypt (525 B.C.) on the way to world dominance; therefore, the three ribs picture their coming conquests. I tell you all of this because I want you to be amazed at the Word of God, but more so, at the sovereignty and foreknowledge of the Lord. We will continue with this dream in tomorrow's devotion.

**Tuesday**, September 5 (read Daniel 7:6)

*After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. (Daniel 7:6a)*

More than 200 years after Daniel's dream, Greece, under Alexander the Great, becomes the third one-world ruling power. The leopard symbolizes the speed with which this young general conquers the combined empire of the Medes and the Persians (334-330 B.C.). Alexander dies, however, in 323 B.C. at the tender age of 33 and his kingdom is divided into four parts with a general ruling over each territory. This amazing prophecy foretells the event, depicting it as the four wings of a bird. Greece never has the same power in the divided kingdom as it did under Alexander the Great. Are you amazed yet by the perfect accuracy of the Word of God? If not, wait until you see what comes next.

**Wednesday**, September 6 (read Daniel 7:7)

*After that, in my vision at night, I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. (Daniel 7:7a)*

The kingdom of Rome conquers Greece in 63 B.C., and becomes the fourth one-world global power. God does not use a named animal to describe the Roman kingdom, but instead, pictures it as a terrifying and frightening beast with iron teeth and ten horns. Rome is never defeated by an enemy, but loses power because of the unbridled promiscuity of the leaders. The Romans introduce democracy into the world, a system that will still be in place when Jesus returns to set up His global kingdom. The ten horns picture the ten nations from the former Roman Empire that will introduce and elect the antichrist of the end times. We will learn more about him in tomorrow's devotion.

**Thursday**, September 7 (read Daniel 7:8)

*While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them, and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully. (Daniel 7:8)*

Out of the old unconquered Roman Empire, a ruler will emerge who will head up the final man-made global government prior to the earthly kingdom of Jesus. Other than the **little horn** seen here, this ruler is called by several different names in the Bible, but the most recognizable one is the **antichrist** (1 John 2:18; 4:3; 2 John 1:7-11). This one-world global ruler will overthrow the governments of three of the ten-nation confederacy on his way to world dictatorship, as pictured in this verse. Revelation, chapter 13 reveals that Satan (the dragon) is the one who handpicks this ruler and gives him his authority and his boastful mouth (Revelation 13:1-8). Did you notice that the passage in Revelation refers to a **beast** with ten horns and seven heads, perfectly fulfilling today's Scripture? You have to be amazed by now!

**Friday**, September 8 (read Daniel 7:9-12)

*As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair on His head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze." (Daniel 7:9)*

In his dream, Daniel sees God on His throne with the Angels attending Him (v. 9-10). God is preparing to bring judgment on the antichrist and his global government. The books that are opened in Heaven are in two categories: 1) The Book of Life, in which are written the names of all who believe in Jesus and His finished work on Calvary, and 2) The books recording all the deeds done by people on earth. These records will be used to judge those who do not receive the Lord's offer of salvation (see Revelation 20:11-15). All whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire (hell, see Revelation 20:14-15). The antichrist (beast), along with his religious leader, the false prophet, will be the first two humans to be thrown into hell (see Revelation 19:20). Don't forget that Daniel is seeing this climax of human history more than 600 years before John sees it as recorded in the book of Revelation. Is God awesome or what?

**Saturday**, September 9 (read Daniel 7:13-14)

*"In my vision at night, I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of Heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence." (Daniel 7:13)*

The antichrist and his ungodly rule will come to an end, because Jesus returns to earth to set up His kingdom, as Daniel describes here in a scene that will not take place until what is described in Revelation 19:11-21. When the Lord returns, He will defeat the antichrist at the battle of Armageddon, throw him and his false religious leader into hell, and take a seat on His throne in the current city of Jerusalem. Unlike the one-world governments of man, His kingdom will never end and His dominion will never pass away (v. 14). I conclude this lesson in the words of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests" (Luke 2:14).