



## Life More Abundant Bible Study

# Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 7A

Daniel Chapter 7 introduces several amazing bible prophecies that reaffirm the fact that we serve an awesome, all knowing, and loving God. Understanding of bible prophecies in the book of Daniel to date have been largely discernable through explanations provided within the chapter. However, Daniel 7 highlights a few literary techniques used in other areas of the bible that are worth mentioning:

**Repeat & Enlarge:** Often, when God would have His people understand a critical truth, the truth will be repeated, often utilizing differing imagery or motifs, yet drawing the reader's attention to a central theme. With each successive repetition of the theme, additional details are incorporated that bring clarity, and expand the understanding of the overall message.

**Imagery & Metaphors:** The bible often utilizes symbols, imagery and metaphors to describe or represent something else. It is important that the symbols, imagery, and metaphors be interpreted by the bible alone, utilizing two detailed methods of bible exposition:

1. The bible should be searched from cover-to-cover to gain understanding of a topic, thought, or idea, then will knowledge be increased: "*line-by-line, precept-by-precept, here a little, there a little*" – Isaiah 28:9-13; Daniel 12:4
2. Unless explicitly stated by a verse, a conclusion should only be drawn if two or more verses confirm or expound upon a topic, thought, or idea: "by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established" – 2 Corinthians 13:1; John 8:17; 1 John 5:6-8

Utilizing these technique, and through the guidance of His Holy Spirit, God promises to give wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to all who diligently seek Him (James 1:5-8; Hebrews 11:6, Jeremiah 29:11-13; Psalm 27:8).

Lastly, the chapter juxtaposes events occurring here on earth with celestial events occurring in heaven. We are given a glimpse of the warring and strivings of the *Great Controversy* begun by Satan in heaven and brought here to the earth; while we also see God's great *Plan of Redemption* being worked out from God's command center in heaven.

The topics and ideas presented in Daniel 7 includes:

- I. The chronologic *Rise of Earthly Kingdoms concluding with God's Eternal Kingdom* (verses 1-8, 17, 18, 27)
- II. The *Heavenly Court Scene in Judgment*, (verses 9, 10, 13, 14, 26)
- III. Imagery of the *Fourth Beast* (verses 8, 19, 20, 23, 24)
- IV. The *Little Horn* (verses 8, 11, 21, 22, 24, 25)

Each of these topics must be studied in detail and will therefore be divided across multiple studies.

## The Rise of Earthly Kingdoms:

The bible uses the literary technique of *Repeat & Enlarge* to describe the rise and fall of world empires and nations. We have seen in Daniel Chapter 2 God's description of the rise and fall of four major world empires only to be followed by a fifth distinct kingdom that will ultimately be disposed of by God's Eternal Kingdom. If you've not read the lesson on Chapter 2, this would be a good time to pause, read that lesson and resume with this study once you've completed Chapter 2. Daniel Chapter 7, in similar fashion as Daniel Chapter 2 repeats the same historic events, however, using different imagery that expounds upon our understanding of those events.

Daniel 7 begins with the description of four distinct animal-like beasts that arise from the vicinity of the "Great Sea" relative to Palestine.

1. The four distinct beasts arise from the "great sea" after being stirred by four winds. How does the bible explain the following images or symbols?
  - **Winds:** Jeremiah 49:36, 37; Jeremiah 25:31-33; Revelation 7:1, 2
  - **Water:** Revelation 17:15
  - **Beasts:** Daniel 7:17
2. Given the prophecy of Daniel 2 and the prophecy of Daniel 7 that is a repetition of the prophecy of Daniel 2, what body of water do you believe makes up the "great sea"? What is the geographic location of the rise of the four great world empires described in these prophecies?
3. The first beast is described as a lion with eagle's wings. The beast is lifted from the earth and made to stand upright as a man and given the heart of a man (Daniel 7:4). What great nation whose power and might at its zenith was as a lion, but ended in fear and trembling with the heart of a man? See Daniel chapter 2:37, 38 and Daniel chapter 5:4-9.

How does the bible describe the following symbol?

- **Wings:** Deuteronomy 28:49 || Ezekiel 17: 1-7; Habakkuk 1:6-9

**[Babylon (605-539BC) is represented by a lion with eagle's wings.** The wings represent swiftness/speed and the lions itself represents greatness.]

4. The Second beast is described as a bear, raised-up on one side having three ribs in its mouth (Daniel 7:5).

**[The Mede-Persian Empire (539-331BC) is represented by a bear raised-up on one side**, showing that one component of the alliance between the Medes and Persians was stronger than the other. The Medes and the Persians formed an alliance to combat against the Babylonian power. The stronger Persians under Cyrus, and the Medes under Cyrus' uncle Darius, conquered the Babylonian empire in 539BC and Darius assumed the throne over Babylon at the age of 62 (Daniel 5:30, 31). The three ribs in the bear's mouth indicate the three mighty nations that would eventually fall to the Mede-Persian Empire: Babylon (to the north), Libya (to the west) and Egypt (to the south), all relative to Palestine.]

5. The Third beast is described as a leopard, having four wings on his back and four heads (Daniel 7:6).

**[The Greek Empire (331BC-168BC) represented by the Leopard with Four heads and four wings** would eventually conquer the Mede-Persian Empire in 331BC at the battle of Arbela, very swiftly (four wings) and forcefully at the hands of Alexander the Great. Alexander would swiftly conquer the then known world in only 12 years and would himself be conquered by his own self indulgences at the age of 33yrs old. After his death, four of his generals: Ptolemy, Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Cassander, represented by the four heads on the beast, would rise to power, divide and rule the Greek empire.]

6. Consider that the bible describes the first three kingdoms by beasts or animals found in nature, however no animal can adequately describe the fourth kingdom (Daniel 7:7, 8). What might this fact imply?

The fourth beast is described as the following:

- Dreadful & Terrible
- Exceedingly Strong
- Having huge Iron Teeth, devouring and breaking in pieces and trampling residue
- *Different* from other beasts before him
- Having Ten Horns
- A Little Horn in time arises among the other 10 horns (v8) and does the following:
  - Uproots 3 of 10 horns;
  - Becomes greater than remaining 7 horns (v8)
  - Little horn has the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words against the Most High (v20, 25)
  - Little horn makes war against the saints and prevails against them for a period of time described by: *“a time and times and dividing of times”* (v21, 25)
  - Shall intend to change times and law (v25)

What does the bible use to describe the following symbol?

- **Horns:** Daniel 7:24; Daniel 8:5, 21; Revelation 17:12;

**[Beast with Iron teeth and ten horns (168BC-476AD):** This beast gives a composite view of the power Pagan Rome and its division. Pagan Rome conquered the Greek Empire on June 22, 168BC and would rule until 476AD until its division by 10 barbarian tribes from Northern Europe.]

**[The Little Horn (538AD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ):** Pagan Rome would be fully superseded by the Little Horn in 538 AD, another power to arise in the territory of the Roman Empire. This distinct power would rule both the hearts and minds of the world and all of its kings for a period of 1,260 years during which time it would also be a persecuting power against the people of God.]

## **God's Eternal Kingdom:**

The chapter concludes with a view of God's Eternal Kingdom that will judge the Little Horn power, decisively conquer it and all other earthly kingdoms, and reign forever (v18, 26, 27). The saints of God are portrayed as victorious, reigning with God and being given the kingdom as their inheritance.



<b>ALAMANNI</b>	<b>GERMANS</b>
<b>BURGUNDIAN</b>	<b>SWISS</b>
<b>FRANKS</b>	<b>FRENCH</b>
<b>LOMBARDS</b>	<b>ITALIANS</b>
<b>SAXONS</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>
<b>SUEVI</b>	<b>PORTUGUESE</b>
<b>VISIGOTHS</b>	<b>SPANISH</b>

**Heruli, Vandals, Ostrogoths  
now extinct**



ANGLOSAXONS

FRANKS

ALAMANNI LOMBARDS

OSTROGOTHS

BURGUNDIANS

HERULI

SUEVI

VISIGOTHS

VANDALS





