

The Book of Daniel Syllabus

Chapter 7

We come now to a division in the Book of Daniel.

Chapters 1-6	Chronological account of events in the life of Daniel and the Babylonian captivity of Israel.
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Chapters 7-12	Chronological account of Daniel's Prophetic Visions
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What God revealed to pagan King Nebuchadnezzar as a metallic colossus made of four kingdoms, He now reveals to Daniel as bestial kingdoms.

Man sees material wealth and majesty in empires.

God sees the attributes of brute beasts that devour one another.

Daniel was probably in his late teens when he interpreted Neb's dreams.
He is now about 85 years old when his own visions begin.

Having concluded the historical portion of Daniel, chapter 7 goes back to the latter years of the Babylonian kingdom when Belshazzar was still king.

Daniel's First Vision of the Four Kingdoms

Dan. 7:1 ¶ *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.*

Dan. 7:2 *Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of heaven brake forth upon the great sea.*

Dan. 7:3 *And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.* (ASV)

Verse 3

"The Great Sea" in the Old Testament is The Mediterranean Sea.

This is important to remember when considering "the prophetic earth" at the "end of days." For the rule of the antichrist is in the prophetic world.

Clarence Larkin, *The Book of Daniel*, page 118

...this locates the geographical position of the Nations symbolized by the "four Wild Beasts." For while the "Babylonian" and "Medo-Persian" Empires were not located

on the Mediterranean Sea, as were the “Grecian” and “Roman” Empires, they were greatly indebted for their wealth and power to their Mediterranean coast land which they had conquered. And as more and more of this coast land was absorbed as the “Grecian” and “Roman” Empires came into existence, the “Prophetic Earth,” including “*Palestine” as a centre, became the boundary of the Mediterranean Sea, and the “Great Sea” became little more than a “Roman Lake” within the Roman Empire.” [See Maps in the Appendix.]

*Brim note: The Land of Israel was not known as Palestine in Bible times. The Roman Emperor Hadrian gave the land that name, really as a slap in the face to the Jews whom he banned from Jerusalem. The name held an association with the ancient enemies of the Jews, the Philistines. However, when Larkin wrote in 1929, the world had become accustomed to referring to the Land as Palestine. Everyone born there was considered a Palestinian, including Jews.

The four kingdoms rise up from the area surrounding The Mediterranean Sea.

Verse 2

“The four winds of heaven”

Winds from all four directions stir up the peoples.

In Hebrew the word *ruach* is translatable as either *spirit*, *wind*, or *breath*.

Evil spirits under the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2) influence the bestial kingdoms. (See Ephesians 6:12.)

Larkin, *The Book of Daniel*, page 119

We are to understand then by the “Four Winds of Heaven,” the “Evil Powers” of the air that Satan uses to cause unrest among the nations of the earth. And as the closing days of this Dispensation draw near, and Palestine is repopled by the Jews, the nations that centre around it will be more and more thrown into commotion, as Satan in his last great effort to checkmate the plans of God will bring into play all the “Evil Forces” of the air.

Wow! Larkin wrote in 1929!

The Lion With Eagle’s Wings Babylon

Dan. 7:4 *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 to stand upon two feet as a man; and a man’s heart was given to it.* (ASV)

Brim note: See the Appendix where I have included pictures from my visit to the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. Built to house the altar of Zeus from ancient Pergamon, it also houses reconstructed ruins of the famous Ishtar Gate and

Processional way from ancient Babylon. The walls of that processional way are decorated with a lion with eagle's wings. The Babylonians themselves had an association with this symbol.

"Fillments" and "Fulfillments" of Prophecy

An important fact of prophecy is that it can have "fillments" as well as the final "fulfillment." Scriptural examples include Antiochus Epiphanes, whom some mistakenly take as the fulfillment of the antichrist of prophecy, when he was a type along the way.

That said, I believe some of the biblical judgments against Babylon were "filled" in Gulf Wars I and II. (See Jeremiah 50 and 51.)

Sadaam Hussein, attempted to rebuild Babylon. He had HUGE pictures of himself dressed as Nebuchadnezzar posted throughout Iraq. Was he the "most proud" king who would stumble and fall, while his cities burned around him? Was He the King of Babylon who heard the report of the foreign armies from the coasts of the earth, and waxed feeble? (Jeremiah 50:9, 32, 41, 43, etc.).

It is worth noting the reason for Babylon's judgment,

Jer. 50:4 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God.

[This refers to the return at "the end of days." for the northern kingdom, Israel, and the southern kingdom, Judah, return together.]

Jer. 50:5 They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, *saying*, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant *that* shall not be forgotten.

Jer. 50:6 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away *on* the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace.

Jer. 50:7 **All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD,** the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.

[The Lord holds nations accountable for how they treat the ones He called here "My people" during the Scattering, the Diaspora." Is verse 7 the excuse of those who called them "Christ killers"—often before murdering them?]

Jer. 50:9 ¶ For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows *shall be* as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

Jer. 50:10 And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD.

Jer. 50:41 Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

[An army was assembled from the “coasts of the earth” who fired terrible arrows. And what brought on this judgment:]

Jer. 50:11 Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage,...

God’s revealed will for the Jews in the Diaspora is one of blessing and increase. Nations will be judged, as nations, for treating them otherwise. [See my book: *Judgment of the Nations for How They Treat Israel.*]

Jer. 29:4 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon;

Jer. 29:5 Build ye houses, and dwell *in them*; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;

Jer. 29:6 Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished.

Jer. 29:7 And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

This was made real to me in a Rosh HaShanah service at a synagogue in Sydney, Australia. After the morning service my daughter Shelli and I were invited to a meal in the Rabbi’s home. I’d noticed that during the service he prayed for the leaders of Australia, and for the Queen of England and her family. I asked why did he do that? He pointed me to Jeremiah 29:4-7.

Daniel 7:4

Larkin offers the idea that “the plucking of the wings may refer to the insanity of Nebuchadnezzar, and the standing on two feet like a man, and the receiving of a man’s heart, to his recovery from his beastly state....”

The Persian Bear

Dan. 7:5 *And, behold, another beast, a second, like to a bear; and it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.*

The Persian army was huge and lumbering.

The Persian Empire enveloped vast amounts geography and peoples.

The side that “raised up” was the Persian side over the Median.

There are differences of opinion about the three ribs.
Perhaps allied kingdoms Persia “ate.”

Watching Iran

Brim note: For years I have watched Persia (Iran) of our day. It is one of those “nations” the Prophets spoke of, and Jesus told us to watch.

First, *Elam*, its biblical name as is *Persia*, was brought back to the forefront of modernity just as the Lord said it would be.

Jer. 49:39 But it shall come to pass in the latter days [Hebrew: *end of days*] *that* I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the LORD.

The entire Middle East was brought from the captivity of lying dormant for the centuries Israel lay in desolation. Two things woke up the Middle East:

- 1) World War I, when the Allied Armies freed it from the long held hold of the Ottoman Turks.
- 2) The discovery of oil.

Both brought the Middle East to the headlines, so to speak, of the news.

I remember looking at pictures in *The National Geographic* of the display of wealth and opulence by the Western leaning Shah of Iran when He threw a “birthday bash” reminiscent of Ahasuerus’ party in Esther Chapter 1.

From the Wikipedia

The **2,500 year celebration of the Persian Empire** ([Persian](#): هجده‌شتمین جشن ایران شاهنشاهی سالهٔ ۲۵۰۰) consisted of an elaborate set of festivities that took place on 12–16 October 1971 on the occasion of the 2,500th anniversary of the founding of the Iranian monarchy ([Persian Empire](#)) by [Cyrus the Great](#). The intent of the celebration was to demonstrate Iran's long [history](#) and to showcase its contemporary advancements under [Mohammad Reza Pahlavi](#), the Shah of Iran.

The Tent City of Persepolis [Picture in public domain.]

The Tent City (also Golden City) was planned by the [Parisian](#) interior-design firm of Maison Jansen on 160 acres (0.65 km²)...Fifty 'tents' (actually prefabricated luxury [apartments](#) with traditional Persian tent-cloth surrounds) were arranged in a star pattern around a central fountain, and vast numbers of trees were planted around them in the

desert, recreating something of how the ancient Persepolis would have looked.



Tent City of Persepolis in 1971

The festivities were opened on 12 October 1971 when the Shah and the [Shahbanu](#) paid homage to Cyrus the Great at his [mausoleum](#) at Pasargadae.

Six hundred guests dined over five and a half hours thus making for the longest and most lavish official banquet in modern history as recorded in successive editions of the [Guinness Book of World Records](#)

[Orson Welles](#) said of the event: "This was no party of the year, it was the celebration of 25 centuries!"

Criticism

Critiques were voiced in the western press and by [Khomeini](#) and his followers – Khomeini called it the "Devil's Festival." ^[1] Expenses were said to be as high as \$200 million, while the Ministry of the Court placed the cost at \$17 million

Brim note: In 1979, the Ayatolla Khomeini led a revolution which overthrew the western-associating Shah and turned Iran into the Sharia Law nation of today.

Brief Synopsis of LongBible History: Elam, son of Shem. Chedorlaomer. Esther and Mordeciah. Cyrus, who gave the command to return and rebuild Jerusalem. Thought by some to be the son of Esther and Ahasuerus.) The Wise Men. Jews from Persia in Acts 2.

Today: Shia Iran extends its terroristic arm through its well funded and armed Hezbollah based in southern Lebanon. The world watches alarmed as Iran's fanatical leaders threaten to make it a nuclear power.

The Grecian Leopard

Dan. 7:6 *After this I beheld, and, lo, another, like a leopard, which had upon its back four wings of a bird; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. (ASV)*

Alexander the Great was swift like the leopard in his conquests.

Conquered the Greek Empire by the age of 32.

More about him in Chapter 8.

Died in Babylon at 33 or so of mysterious causes.

His empire was split up among four of his generals (the four wings).

Ptolemy – Egypt
Seleucas – Assyria and Babylon
Antigonas – Persia and Asia Minor
Phillip (Alexander's brother) – Macedonia

The Roman Empire

Dan. 7:7 *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. (KJV)*

Daniel sees the Roman Empire in its first manifestation.

John in the Book of Revelation sees it in its revived state (Chapters 13 and 17).

Terrible. Frightening.

Iron teeth tie it to the iron legs of Neb's image.

The iron teeth crushed nations and devoured them for the good of Rome as one's teeth crush food for the good of the physical body.

ArtScrolls Note *The Book of Daniel*:

The fourth beast did not resemble any known beast...The Roman Empire dwarfed every nation known to history. Rome's military power, its genius in administration, and its cleverness in dealing brooked no comparison. Never had an empire held sway over so much foreign territory for so long a time.

Brim note:

Rome evolved from tribes, to city states, to a Republic. Then with power falling into hands of a few, it became an Empire. Even from the time of the Republic, it began to take in other provinces and territories.

How long did it last?

It depends on when you count and what you count.

But at the least 700 to 800 years.

The Little Horn

***Dan. 7:8** 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. (KJV)*

First mention of one later to be called "the antichrist."

He is an orator. A great deceiver with his words.

See Appendix: The Antichrist in Scripture.

Brim note: There was a time when I was reluctant to speak about the antichrist. I'd heard preachers say, "I'm not looking for the antichrist, I'm looking for the Christ." The Lord corrected me. For He has called me to be a witness of these "end of days." He said to me, "Don't be afraid to mention the antichrist, for every where he is mentioned in Scripture, immediately thereafter it speaks of his judgment and end." And so it is at this first mention of that personification of evil:

Vision of A Judgment Scene

***Dan. 7:9** ¶ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.*

***Dan. 7:10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.*

***Dan. 7:11** I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake [kept speaking]: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.*

***Dan. 7:12** As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. [KJV]*

Not the Great White Throne Judgment which takes place after the Millennium

A judgment declaring the end of things introduced in the Book of Daniel.

A Subsequent Vision
The Son of Man Receiving the Kingdom

***Dan. 7:13** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

***Dan. 7:14** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. [KJV]*

The King Messiah receives the Kingdom.

Hannah's prayers birth seven (1 Samuel 2:5).

But her natural children numbered six (1 Samuel 2:21).

Who was the seventh?

Her anointed prophetic prayer tells us:

1Sam. 2:10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall He thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto **his king**, and exalt the horn of **his anointed [Hebrew: Messiah]**.

Her prayers birthed The King Messiah.

In Hannah's prophecy, is the first mention of His King Messiah.

And notice it is in connection with judgment of the nations.

In Daniel's vision, the handing of the kingdoms of this world to Him is prophesied. In John the Revelator's vision, it is fulfilled.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The **kingdoms of this world** are become *the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ [Messiah]*; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Daniel Questions

Dan. 7:15 *¶ I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. (KJV)*

The Hebrew literally says: *My spirit was uneasy in its sheath.*
An unusual picture of the spirit and body relationship.

Dan. 7:16 *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.*

Dan. 7:17 *These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.*

Dan. 7:18 *But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. (KJV)*

Dan. 7:19 *Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;*

Dan. 7:20 *And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.*

Dan. 7:21 *I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;*

Dan. 7:22 *Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.*

Dan. 7:23 *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.*

Dan. 7:24 *And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.*

Dan. 7:25 *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

Dan. 7:26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

Dan. 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

V. 21

“war with the saints”

The Jewish remnant.

The Body of Christ is in Heaven at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

I offer here for your consideration what two able ministers wrote as to the ruling and reigning during the Millennium....Later in Daniel we meet heavenly princes identified as “the prince of Persia” and “the prince of Grecia.” Satan’s throne is not in hell at this time, but in the mid-heavens.

Clarence Larkin, *The Book of Daniel*, pp 130 and 131

Who are these “Saints of the Most High?”

They are not the “Saints of the Church” for the “Saints of the Church” are “caught out” before the “Little Horn” makes “War with the Saints” (verse 25)...

the “Saints of the Most High” are the Jews, for they are to be the “Head” of the Nations during the Millennium (Deut. 28:13). and the “Saints of the Most High” are the God-fearing Jews that shall escape destruction by the “Little Horn” during the “Great Tribulation.”

John A. MacMillan, *The Authority of the Believer*, pp 10, 12, 13-15

...the kingdoms of this world are under the control and leadership of satanic principalities. The great head of these is, in the Gospel of John, acknowledged as “god of this world” by our Lord Himself. His asserted claim to the suzerainty of the world kingdoms, made in the presence of the Lord Jesus (Luke 4:6), was not denied by Christ.

Although a rebel against the Most High and now under judgment of dispossession (John 12:31), he is still at large, and as the masses of mankind are also rebels, he maintains over them an unquestioned, because unsuspected rule, their eyes being blinded to his dominance (2 Cor. 4:4). [See also Ephesians 2:2].

...The seats of authority of these rebellious spiritual rulers are also in the heavenlies. From there they have dominated the human race since its fall. There they will remain until the divine “purpose of the ages” is complete. [Eph. 3:9-11.]

The “God of the whole earth” does not purpose to tolerate forever this rebellion against His righteousness... “...unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear” (Isaiah 45:23). Ere this can be accomplished, **the instigators of human rebellion must be cast down...**

[Brim note: Interestingly, Larkin thinks this may be the “casting down of thrones” referred to in Daniel 7:9.]

...God having redeemed a people and purified them, has introduced them potentially into the heavenlies...they will in actuality take the seats of the “powers of the air,”...

...This purpose, present and future, is very definitely stated in Ephesians chapter 3:9-11. Here it is revealed as the divine will that “now” (*nun*, the present time) unto the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places* [literally: heavenlies] might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God” (3-10). The Church is to be God’s

instrument in declaring to these rebellious and now usurping powers the divine purpose and in administering their principalities after they have been unseated and cast down.

...This is further declared to be “according to the eternal purpose of the ages which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (3:11). That is to say, God, through all the past ages, has had in view this wonderful plan of preparing in Christ Jesus a people, chosen and called and faithful, whom He might place in these heavenly seats to rule through the ages yet to come...

...the Church [is] raised to sit in the heavenlies. Below them... are the people of Israel... Israel will administer the earthly kingdom and will be head of the nations, but overall will rule the exalted Church as the executive of God.

***Dan. 7:28** Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart. (KJV)*

Another Division in the Book of Daniel

After Daniel 7:28, the original language of the Book of Daniel changes. From here on it is in Hebrew.

The Book begins in Hebrew until 2:4. That verse begins, “Then spoke the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack [Aramaic]....” From there through the 7th chapter, Daniel is written in Aramaic.

Brim Note: For more complete exposition of the Little Horn, see the Appendix: The Antichrist in Scripture.