

Daniel 7:14-18 parallels **the rock** in Nebuchadnezzar's dream that smote the image on the feet and filed the whole earth (Daniel 2:35).

In these two parallel prophecies-Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great image and Daniel's dream of the beasts-God summarized earth's history from the time of ancient Babylon to the great day when Jesus comes in the clouds of glory to set up His everlasting kingdom of love and righteousness.

We today are living in the time of the feet of iron and clay (Daniel 2:43.44) Time is running out for the earth and its inhabitants! This is the message God is trying to share with each of us by His great prophecies. God is telling us, He is still in control. Empires will rise and fall, but I have not forgotten My children on earth or My plan for them.

# THE VOICE OF PROPHECY SPEAKS

WHAT BIBLE PROPHECY SAYS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

## Lesson #18

### THE BATTLE FOR THE THRONE

It is comforting to know that God does not leave His people in the dark concerning what would come to pass in the future. The prophetic book of Daniel depicts four beast like creatures that would impact upon the people of God. *See: Daniel 7:2,3*. What do these symbolic beasts represent? *Daniel 7:15,17,23* provides the key that unlocks the symbolism. The beasts are nations coming out of the "populated" area of the earth. *See: Daniel 7:3-7*

Notice that each of these beasts are not "run of the mill" beasts. They have special characteristics that help you to understand the vision. The prophet Daniel remembered the vision/dream of the "metal image" that was shown to him in Daniel chapter 2, and concluded that the four beasts in Chapter 7 was a parallel prophecy. In **both** dreams, the symbols used covered the four empires of the ancient world, starting with Babylon and ending with the coming of Jesus and establishment of His kingdom.

- The 1st beast like **a lion**, represents Babylon, the 1st world empire (represented by the head of **gold** in the metal-image of chapter 2). The lion was a symbol use by the Babylonians as a national icon. Even the prophet Jeremiah recognized this in

Jeremiah 4:7. The empire would “lose” its lions heart as a conquering nation and be replaced with the heart of a man. *See :Daniel 5:5,6; Jeremiah 51:30*

- The 2nd beast power depicted as **the bear** (Daniel 7:5) is Medo-Persia, the same kingdom represented in Daniel 2, by the arms and chest of **silver**. The 3-ribs represent the 3 kingdoms, Lydia, Babylon and Egypt, conquered by the Medo-Persian empire.
- The 3rd beast power like **a leopard** (Daniel 7:6), represents Greek empire of Alexander the Great. The Chapter 2 parallel was the **bronze** belly and thighs of the metal-image. The 4-haeds of the beast, represent the 4-divisions of Greece after the death of Alexander (Daniel 8:22).
- The 4th beast is like a **non-descript** animal with enormous **iron** teeth and 10-horns. A cruel, vicious power, different from all the others! It was more ruthless, brutal , annihilating some nations, subjugating and enslaving others. A more fitting description for the Roman Empire could hardly be found. This power is the parallel of the **iron legs** of Daniel chapter 2.

However, the prophet Daniel was especially intrigued by the Ten-Horns and the “**Little Horn**” power that “came out” of the Roman Empire. *Daniel 7:8,24* These 10-Horns represented the divisions of the Empire accomplished in A.D. 476 by the barbaric tribes of northern Europe. Seven of these kingdoms (nations) are still in Europe today. The “Little Horn”

power pushed itself up among the 10-Horns, **uprooting** 3-Horns in its struggle for supremacy. Daniel also noticed that “...*in this (Little) Horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things(VS.8)* This troubled Daniel! *See: Daniel 7:15*

Why? Because this power “...*made war with the saints and spoke great words against the most High, and think to change times and laws...*” *See: Daniel 7:21,25* It was obvious to Daniel that this power would make war against God, His people, and His truth. *See: Daniel 7:28* We will study further about this Little Horn power in another lesson. For now we must simply say that the 4<sup>th</sup> beast power and its horns will exist until the end of time as powers struggle to grasp political and religious dominance.

### **-The Judgment Scene-**

*Daniel 7:9,10 ... ”thrones were in place...the court was seated, and books were opened.”* Daniel saw God the Father (Ancient of Days) on His glorious throne judging the world **and** the Little Horn power and the outcome of this judgment *Daniel 7:26* Then he saw Jesus! *Daniel 7:13 “the Son of man”*. Jesus applied this term to himself over 40 times in the New Testament. *See: Matthew 17:22,23; 26:64; Luke 22:48*

Christ came to the judgment **to represent** all sinners who have accepted Him as their Advocate or Mediator and He **never** loses a case! Good News!