# Daniel 7 - the Four Beasts Prophecy - Part 2

In Matthew 15, the pharisees are complaining that Jesus and His disciples didn’t follow their traditions of ceremonially washing their hands before each meal. In response, Jesus gave a short answer: “What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.” This response confused the disciples and offended the Pharisees. A short while later, Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” At which point we see Jesus knew how to tweak his disciples. Jesus asked, “Are you still so dull?” The connotation of the phrase Jesus used was, more like, “Are you witless?” He then went on to explain that whatever goes into the mouth passes out of the body but what comes out of the mouth is what is in a person’s heart. If their thoughts had not been so bound in legalism and tradition, they would have easily understood, but they didn’t. This should have been very easy for the disciples to figure out without explanation, so Jesus teased them about their lack of understanding.

In contrast to this, a couple chapters earlier he gives them the parable of the farmer scattering seed. Some seed falls on the path, some on rocky soil, some among weeds and some on good soil. Even on good soil the yield of the crop varied from 30-fold to 100-fold. When the disciples asked about this one, he not only explained that this type of parable was difficult to understand, but then went on to explain the parable in depth.

There are some things in scripture, like the teaching about clean and unclean things, that are easy enough to understand that Jesus was able to poke fun at those who didn’t understand. There are other things that are far more difficult to understand. This is the case of the passages we are looking at in Daniel. Daniel’s dream is not easy to understand, even for someone as wise as Daniel, so he asks for further explanation. Because of this, the structure of this chapter is repetitive. We have the vision, followed by the explanation of the vision, and finally recapped by further information about the interpretation.

Last week we learned about the four beasts and how this prophecy connects Babylon, Medo-Persia, Macedonian Greece and Rome. We also saw that this prophecy alludes to the kingdom of heaven started at the incarnation of Christ. This week, as we continue in Daniel 7, we will see that the story of Rome is not over. We will begin to see that while the kingdom started at the birth of Christ, it continues through Jesus’ second coming and into eternity.

## Recap of part 1 Daniel 7:1-10,15-18

* Beasts: Nations and Rulers
  1. Lion – Babylon
  2. Bear – Medo-Persia
  3. Leopard – Alexander’s Greece
  4. Fourth Beast –Roman Republic and Empire

## The Little Horn – Revived Rome Daniel 7:7-8,11-12

**7** After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. **8** "While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

**11** "Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. **12** "As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

As discussed last week, this forth beast symbolizes the Roman empire. Last week we looked at the characteristics that applied to the Roman empire prior to the fall of Rome, the items through the first half of verse 7. In the second half of verse seven we continue with it being different because it had ten horns and then a small horn comes up and displaces three of the ten. The little one is described as boastful. Eventually the fourth beast is destroyed, but the other three beasts are given life beyond their loss of preeminence.

So, who or what are the ten horns? Who or what is the boastful horn? In general symbolism, the horns refer to rulers of a kingdom. This same imagery is repeated in Revelation13 as a dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns. It is again repeated in Revelation 17. This also corresponds with Daniel 2 where we see the feet of the idol is emphasized to have 10 toes of iron and clay. Throughout the centuries there have been speculations of what 10 countries constitute the revived Roman empire. Recently people have argued that the horns are the European Union. Others have argued that it was symbolic of the Seleucid kings from 360 B.C. Some have claimed it is a confederacy of ten Islamic countries against Israel. People have even claimed that they were free trade regions such as NAFTA, the EU and the PAN-Pacific partnerships. Each of these theories, and any others I have studied have problems that make them unlikely or wrong. All we can know is that there will be 10 political powers, an eleventh will rise up and, in its rising, take down the power of three, leaving the seven original political powers controlled by the eleventh.

In verse 13, we see that the little horn is ruling when Christ returns to earth and that the little horn speaks blasphemy so the 11th horn is often identified as the Antichrist…a future ruler who will dominate world politics.

## The Little Horn – the Antichrist Daniel 7:19-25

**19** "Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, **20** and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates. **21** "I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them **22** until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. **23** "Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. **24** ‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. **25** ‘He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Here we learn more about the little horn. As stated in the previous passage, it is described as having eyes and a mouth that utters blasphemy. But now we see more details about what it does. Specifically, this ruler begins to wage war against the followers of God. Whether this is the church, or whether it is tribulation saints after the rapture is unclear, but this ruler specifically and successfully targets believers. This person is so powerful that it takes God himself passing judgment to stop his terror. We also see that the king represented by the little horn will be different than the other kings, indicating that he probably does not have the same legitimacy, but is still authoritative.

Because he speaks against God, he is often referred to as the Antichrist. It should be noted in scripture that others are known as being antichrist or having the spirit of antichrist. While this future ruler will be antichrist and likely the premier example of being antichrist, scripture does not directly give him this title.

As with speculation on what countries will make up the ten, there have been numerous speculations on who the antichrist will be. People have suggested the Pope, Prince Charles, Henry Kissinger, Hitler, Michael Gorbachev, and every single president since George Washington. It has been speculated that he will be a fundamentalist, a homosexual, a Jew, a European, or an Arab. It has been speculated that the antichrist will be royalty, elected, a religious leader or a bureaucrat. I don’t believe we can know for sure until he is revealed. I could be wrong, but I don’t believe that will happen until the Jewish temple is rebuilt and the church has been raptured, but I could be wrong.

Finally, we see that this little one will speak out against God and as a result will attempt to change both the laws and the times. The times could mean he tries to change the calendar system or tries to rewrite history. We are not totally sure. He will be given authority for a time, times and half a time. In English, we have singular and plural. Some languages such as Hebrew have a third category of dual. The closest we come to a dual in English is when we say “both”. Everyone knows that in English both means two where many or several is an uncertain number. The word times in Hebrew is a dual. So in English this would be a time, two times and half a time, or three and a half times. From other passages we learn that this authority lasts for three and a half years.

## Son of Man – Jesus’ Second Coming, New Heaven and Earth‌ Daniel 7:13-14,22,26-28

**13** "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. **14** "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

**22** until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

**26** ‘But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. **27** ‘Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’ **28** "At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself."” (Da 7:1-28 NAS95)

This passage beautifully describes the second coming of Christ. At his first coming, Jesus came humbly, at his second coming he will come as a conquering king. In Acts 1:7-11, we see that as Christ was caught up into the clouds at His ascension, he will also return on the clouds. We also know this is referring to the second coming of Christ because it says, “That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him.”

When Christ returns, he will judge between the forces of the little horn and the saints, judging in favor of the saints. This period of time is generally believed to be what is known as the millennial reign, or thousand-year reign of Christ. At the end of that time, there will come the final judgment, known as the white throne judgment, when sin will be ultimately destroyed and there will then be a new heaven and new earth. It is this point that as Revelation 20:4-6 says we will reign with Christ. At this point authority will be given to the saints of the Holy one.

If you are judged at the white throne judgment, the only possible declaration is guilty of denying God because only those who’s name are not written in the Lamb’s book of life will be judged here. Those whose names were written in the Lamb’s book of life were previously judged at the Bema Seat Judgment, where they were rewarded based on their faithfulness.

You WILL stand at a judgment, which one is up to you. Your loved ones will stand at a judgment, which choice they make will be influenced by you. The Bible asks in Romans 10:14, “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?” Are you going to give them that choice?

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## The Little Horn – Revived Rome Daniel 7:7-8,11-12

The little horn is described as boastful.

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The closest we come to a dual in English is when we say “both”.

The word ‘times’ in Hebrew is a dual.

## Son of Man – Jesus’ Second Coming, New Heaven and Earth Daniel 7:13-14,22,26-28

At his first coming, Jesus came humbly, at his second coming he will come as a conquering king.

As Christ was caught up into the clouds at His ascension, he will also return on the clouds Acts 1:7-11

We will reign with Christ Revelation 20:4-6

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? Romans 10:14, “

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## The Little Horn – Revived \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daniel 7:7-8,11-12

The little horn is described as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

## The Little Horn – the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daniel 7:19-25

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As Christ was caught up into the clouds at His ascension, he will also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the clouds Acts 1:7-11,

We will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ Revelation 20:4-6

How then will they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? Romans 10:14