

KEYS TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL —PART 2

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We started reviewing the Book of Daniel — the highlights. This is a key book for end-time prophecy.

Jesus pointed us to the Book of Daniel in His Olivet Prophecy — “when you see the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet” — then flee!!

As we go through the Book of Daniel ... we'll check whether the prophecies point to Rome — or Islam.

We have covered Chapters 1 to 4.

CHAPTER 1

Daniel taken to Babylon 605 BC. He ends up in King Nebuchadnezzar's court.

CHAPTER 2

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a Great Statue. Details 4 Empires right up to the setting up of God's Kingdom. The Iron Empire fits Islam rather than Rome — which fails the Biblical test?

CHAPTER 3

Nebuchadnezzar built a big obelisk for everyone to bow down to. Shadrach ... Meshach and Abednego wouldn't — so they were thrown into the fiery furnace. But they were delivered from that fiery furnace.

CHAPTER 4

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a Tree Cut Down. He is driven into the wild like a beast for 7 years because he is so arrogant. After that ...

Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges the Great God of Heaven. (And was probably converted).

Chapter 5 brings the story of another king of Babylon — but unlike Nebuchadnezzar — **this king rejects God and loses everything.**

About 23 years has past ... Belshazzar is on the throne (probably a grandson of Nebuchadnezzar). (He is its last king). He makes a great feast.

Daniel 5:1-4

1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand.

2 While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his fore-father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. (A bit provocative using the vessels from the temple of the Great God)

3 Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.

A huge feast. **Drunken revelry ... worshipping idols with the vessels from the temple.**

Daniel 5:5-6

5 In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

6 Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.

A hand appears — it writes mysterious words on a wall. **Belshazzar is terrified.**

Eventually ... Daniel is called.

Let's look at Daniel's explanation.

Daniel 5:17-31

17 Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet **I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation.**

18 "**O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor.**

19 "And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down.

20 "**But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.**

21 "Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, **till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.**

22 "**But you his descendant, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this.**

23 "**And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven.** They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And **you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.**

24 "Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written.

25 "And **this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.**

26 "This is the interpretation of each word. **MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;**

27 "**TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;**

28 "**PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."**

29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 **That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.**
(The end of the Babylonian Empire)

31 **And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.**

Belshazzar would have fully known the public testimony of Nebuchadnezzar. He ignored or rejected it.

Daniel Chapters 4 and 5 — the story of two kings. One turned to God. One rejected God.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 5: Belshazzar rejects the lessons of Nebuchadnezzar and God. The writing on the wall announces his death and the end of the Babylonian Empire.

Chapter 6 brings us to Daniel in the lion's den.

Lots of people are jealous of Daniel. They decide to trap him. They get the king to pass a law that no one can approach any other god for 30 days except King Darius ... or ... if they do ... be thrown into the pit of lions.

Of course Daniel is faithful (see Chapter 1) and gets caught praying to God.

Daniel 6:10-18

10 **Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.** *(Daniel prayed three times daily)*

11 **Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.**

12 **And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O**

king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" **The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."**

13 **So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."**

14 **And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.**

15 Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

16 **So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."**

17 Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

18 **Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting;** and no musicians were brought before him. Also **his sleep went from him.**

So Daniel was thrown into the pit of the lions!

Daniel 6:19-24

19 **Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.**

20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, **"Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"**

21 Then Daniel said to the king, **"O king, live forever!**

22 **"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."**

23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. **So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.**

24 And the king gave the command, and **they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions-- them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.**

Daniel was delivered.

Daniel 6:25-27

25 Then King Darius wrote: *(in Aramaic)*

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

26 **I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.**

For He is the living God,

And steadfast forever;

His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed,

And His dominion shall endure to the end.

27 **He delivers and rescues,**

And **He works signs and wonders**

in heaven and on earth,

Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Now it's Darius' turn to issue his testimony to the whole world — in Aramaic — “make sure you respect and honour the God of Daniel!”

With the testimonies of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and Darius of Medo-Persia — God is certainly getting His name and reputation out to the whole Gentile world!

SUMMARY: God's power revealed to the whole world as He delivers faithful Daniel from the pit of lions.

Daniel 7 is the final chapter in “Aramaic Daniel”.

Four Beasts that represent Four Kingdoms ... the Return of The Lord Jesus and the Kingdom of God being established.

In Chapter 7 ...there's an "echo" of Daniel 2 ... but not the same.

Daniel 2 is the history which started with Nebuchadnezzar and Ancient Babylon ... then all the way for 2,500 years till Jesus' return and God's Kingdom is established.

Daniel 7 — the same Kingdoms — but it is entirely END-TIME — which makes it very different from Chapter 2.

Daniel 7:1, 17-18

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

17 Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which SHALL arise out of the earth.

18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.

Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon — he only reigned for 2-3 years — so we can't really say the "Kingdom of Babylon will arise" ... so **Daniel Chapter 7 can't be said to include Ancient Babylon?**

Daniel 7:17 (NASB)

17 These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. (Future)

Daniel 7:17 (AMP)

17 These four great beasts are four kings who will arise from the earth.

Daniel 7:17 (NIV)

17 The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth.

Daniel 7:17 (KJV)

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

“Will arise” — future. (This can’t include Babylon).

So Chapter 7 is not just repeating the events of Chapter 2. The identity of the Kingdoms is the same — but not the timing — it is entirely different.

In fact there’s a very clever structure across all six chapters of Aramaic Daniel.

Chapters 2 & 7 echo and correlate

Chapters 3 & 6 echo and correlate

Chapters 4 & 5 echo and correlate

Chapter 2 — 4 Metals/Kingdoms Chapter 7 — 4 Beasts/Kingdoms

Chapter 3 — Saints delivered Chapter 6 — Saint delivered from pit

Chapter 4 — King accepts God Chapter 5 — King rejects God

These chapters “pair up” with each other. Deliberate structure. Each chapter of each pair has similarities ... echoes ... differences.

So with **Chapter 7 — paired with Chapter 2 — helps us to understand — but not identical. These are 4 kings that will arise. Chapter 7 is end-time.**

This literary structure is known by scholars as a

“CHIASMUS”. Many examples throughout scripture — perhaps showing its divine handiwork — and not merely human authors?

Daniel 7:3-8, 11-12

3 **And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.**

4 **The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings.** I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

5 "And **suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear**. It was raised up on one side, **and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth**. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'. (*Gorge yourself*)

6 "After this I looked, and **there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird**. **The beast also had four heads**, and dominion was given to it.

7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and **behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong**. **It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet**. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, **and it had ten horns**.

8 "**I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them**, before whom **three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots**. And there, **in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words**.

11 "**I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking**; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

12 "**As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time**. (*Lion ... Bear ... Leopard*)

Verses 11 & 12 — these 4 Kingdoms are side by side — concurrent.

Although the timing is different from Daniel Chapter 2 ... **the 4 Beasts represent the same 4 Kingdoms ... but in the end times**.

Lion	= Babylon	= Modern Iraq	<i>Muslim</i>
Bear	= Medo-Persia	= Modern Iran	<i>Muslim</i>
Leopard	= Greece/Javan	= Asia Minor	<i>Muslim</i>

4 Heads	Turkey)	
	Egypt)	<i>Muslim</i>
	Syria)	
	Albania)	

TERRIBLE

4th BEAST

= Islamic Empire of the end-time *Muslim!*

As in Daniel Chapter 2 ... these run up to the return of Jesus.

Daniel 7:13-14

13 "I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man, (*Jesus. This is His favourite description that He uses of Himself — 78 times*)

Coming with the clouds of heaven!

He came to the Ancient of Days, (*The Father*)

And they brought Him near before Him. (*Jesus*)

14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

Which shall not pass away,

And His kingdom the one

Which shall not be destroyed.

God's Kingdom established.

Daniel especially wants to know about the dreadful ... terrible ... destructive 4th Beast.

Daniel 7:19-27

19 "Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast,
which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its
teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in
pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;

20 "and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn
which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had
eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance
was greater than his fellows.

21 "I was watching; and the same horn (the Antichrist — Islamic?) was
making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

22 "until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in
favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints

to possess the kingdom. (*End-time prophecy — running up to the Return of Jesus Christ*)

23 "Thus he said:

'The fourth beast shall be

A fourth kingdom on earth,

Which shall be different from all other kingdoms,

And shall devour the whole earth, (*the area of the prophecy*)

Trample it and break it in pieces. (*Aramaic = Deqaq = smash/break in pieces/pulverise*)

24 **The ten horns are ten kings**

Who shall arise from this kingdom.

And another shall rise after them;

He shall be different from the first ones,

And shall subdue three kings. (*Libya, Egypt and Sudan — mentioned in Daniel Chapter 11*)

25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, (*Islamic Antichrist*)

Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, (*heaven help you if you are a Christian in their country at this time*)

And shall intend to change times and law. (*Sharia law must come into being*)

Then they shall be given into his hand (*"they" — authority — times and laws given into his hand*)

For a time and times and half a time. (*3½ years*)

26 'But the court shall be seated,

And they shall take away his dominion,

To consume and destroy it forever.

27 **Then the kingdom and dominion,**

And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,

Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

10 horns = 10 Kingdoms

Little Horn = "Antichrist" — Authority for 3½ years

"Times and Law" = Sharia Law?

The Beasts of this chapter explain the "Composite Beast" of Revelation 13.

Revelation 13:1-2

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, (*same environment as Daniel Chapter 7*) **having seven heads and ten horns**, and **on his horns ten crowns**, and **on his heads a blasphemous name**.

2 Now **the beast which I saw was like a leopard**, **his feet were like the feet of a bear**, and **his mouth like the mouth of a lion**. **The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority**.

Same Beasts ... Heads ... Horns? The devil gives power to this empire.

Revelation 13:5

5 And **he (this Beast) was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies**, and **he was given authority to continue for forty-two months**. (*Authority for 3½ years.*)

Revelation 13:7-8

7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them**. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. (*Islam is EVERYWHERE*)

8 **All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb** slain from the foundation of the world.

SUMMARY: Daniel Chapter 7 refers to 4 Beasts representing end-time Islamic Nations at war ... including war against the Saints.

