

The Vision Of The Four Beasts (Daniel 7:1-28)

2. Part Two: An awesome judgment - Daniel 7:9-12;
 - a. Thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated
 - b. The judgment of the four beasts
3. Part Three: The coronation of the Son of Man - Daniel 7:13-14;
 - a. Daniel sees one like the Son of Man
 - b. To Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom - Daniel 2:44;

II. THE VISION INTERPRETED (15-28)

A. EFFECT ON DANIEL...

1. Grieved in his spirit - Daniel 7:15;
2. Troubled by the visions he saw

B. EXPLANATION TO DANIEL...

1. An overall summary of the vision - Daniel 7:16-18;
2. Daniel's desire to know more - Daniel 7:19-20;
3. What Daniel then saw - Daniel 7:21-22;
4. What Daniel then heard - Daniel 7:23-27;
 - a. Concerning the fourth beast
 - b. Concerning the ten horns - These may be emperors who ruled during the first century A.D. when the everlasting kingdom (i.e., the church) was being established, similar to the ten kings alluded to in Revelation 17:12-13; then again, the number ten may be symbolic, reflecting their complete or full number, and not ten specific kings.
 - c. Concerning the little horn - Into whose hands the saints shall be given for a time, times and half a time
1/ Perhaps 3 1/2 years (1 year, 2 years, 1/2 year), or 42 months - cf. Revelation 13:5; also 11:2,3;
2/ A broken, short period of time involving persecution (Harkrider) -- This is likely the persecuting emperor of Rome (e.g., Domitian), seemingly described as the beast from the sea in Revelation - cf. Revelation 13:1-2,5-7;
 - d. Concerning the judgment

C. EPILOGUE BY DANIEL... His thoughts greatly troubled him, and his countenance changed, but he kept the matter in his heart - Daniel 7:28

CONCLUSION

1. "The Vision of the Four Beasts," expands upon the vision seen by Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2 and I believe it introduces the conflict described in the vision seen by John in Revelation 13-20;
2. I understand these visions to relate details concerning the establishment of "the everlasting kingdom" (i.e., the church)...
 - a. To occur during the days of the Roman Empire - Daniel 2:44; Luke 1:30-33; Mark 1:14-15
 - b. Which began when Jesus ascended to heaven - Daniel 7:13-14; Acts 1:9; 2:36; Ephesians 1:20-23; 1Peter 3:22; Revelation 1:5,9;
 - c. Which experienced great persecution at the outset - Daniel 7:25; Revelation 1:9; 2:10; 17:14;
3. But the saints who persevered in those days, even to the point of death, continue to reign with Christ in heaven (i.e., they "possess the kingdom") - Daniel 7:18; 2Timothy 4:17-18; Revelation 20:4 The ultimate victory of the church over the Roman Empire came to pass as foretold to both Daniel and John. May this fulfillment encourage us to remain faithful until the time when Jesus returns to "deliver the kingdom to God the Father"! - cf. 1Corinthians 15:23-26;