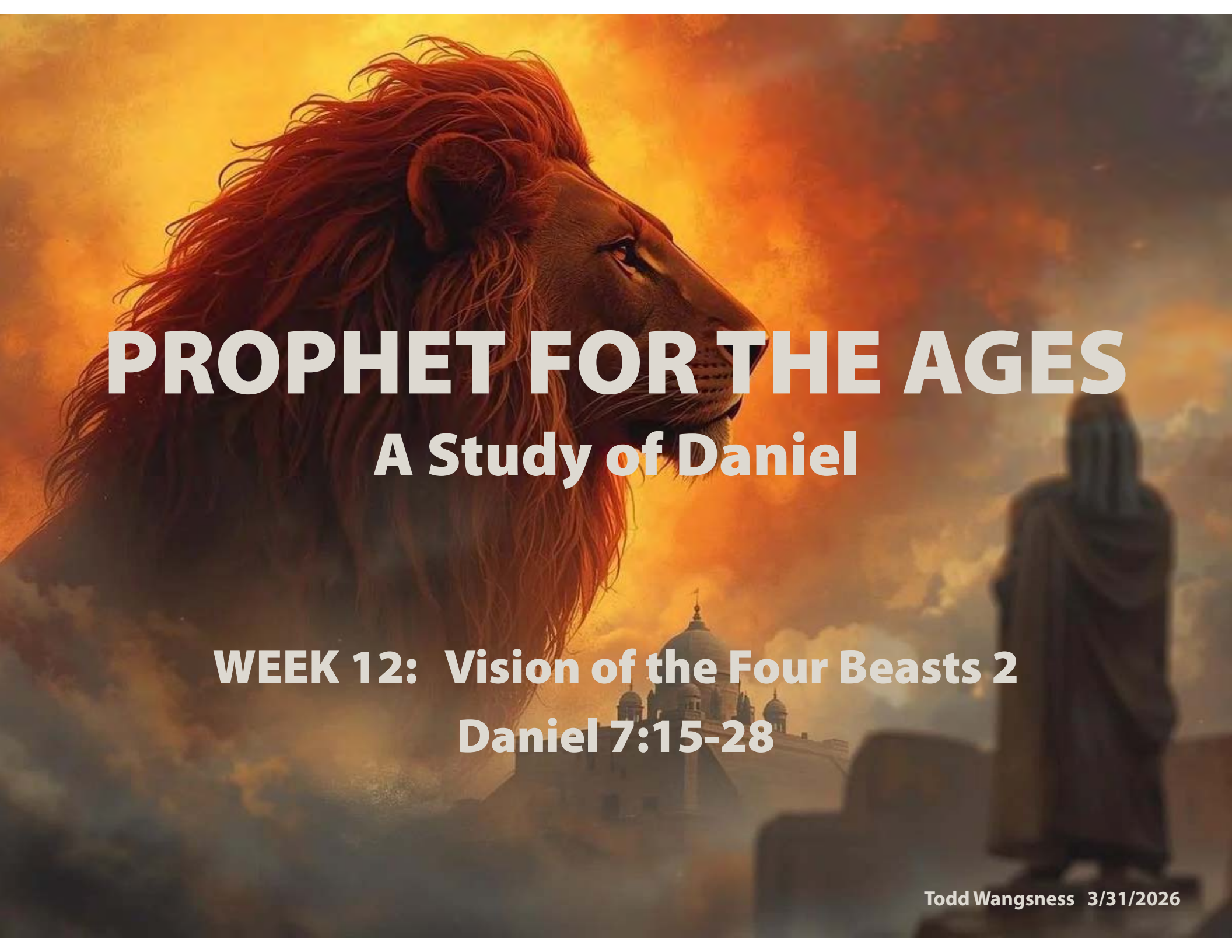




PROPHET FOR THE AGES

A Study of Daniel

WEEK 12: Vision of the Four Beasts 2
Daniel 7:15-28

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Daniel 7:15-28 Overview

- **Daniel is profoundly disturbed by the visions**
 - His spirit is distressed, the images alarm him, his thoughts greatly trouble him, and his face grows pale
 - He approaches one of the heavenly beings standing by and asks for the exact meaning of what he has seen
 - This reaction underscores how overwhelming and serious the revelations about future empires and persecution are

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Daniel 7:15-28 Overview (cont.)

- **Daniel is especially concerned about the fourth beast, which is different from the others — exceedingly dreadful, with iron teeth and bronze claws**
 - **It devours, crushes, and tramples everything in its path**
 - **This beast has ten horns, and another horn (the “little horn”) arises, subduing three of the first horns**
 - **This little horn has human-like eyes and a mouth speaking great (boastful, arrogant) things**
 - **It wages war against the saints and overpowers them — until the Ancient of Days comes and judgment is given in favor of the saints, allowing them to possess the kingdom**

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Daniel 7:15-28 Major Themes

Rising and Falling Human Powers

- Successive kingdoms (often linked historically to Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, with the fourth sometimes seen as a revived or final form) marked by increasing power, violence, and arrogance

The Arrogant Ruler (the "Little Horn")

- A boastful, blasphemous leader who persecutes God's people and opposes God's authority for a limited period
- Many Christian interpreters see this as pointing to a future end-times figure (often called the Antichrist), though some see partial fulfillments in history (e.g., Antiochus IV or Roman emperors)

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Daniel 7:15-28 Major Themes (cont.)

Divine Judgment and Intervention

- Evil powers may seem to prevail temporarily, but God (the Ancient of Days) will decisively judge them
- No human effort defeats this final oppressor — God Himself intervenes

Hope for the Saints

- Despite persecution and alarming earthly events, God's people will ultimately inherit an everlasting kingdom. This kingdom is shared with and centered on the Son of Man (identified in the New Testament as Jesus Christ)

Sovereignty of God

- History is not random or controlled by beasts and horns; God rules over all kingdoms and ensures His people's final victory

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Notable Quotes About Daniel 7:15-28

"The saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever... 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."

■ David Guzik

"All such kingdoms are doomed to fail. They will be destroyed by Jesus Christ, who establishes his everlasting kingdom. What readers of the New Testament know, which Daniel did not, is that this 'one like a Son of Man', is none other than Jesus Christ."

■ Kim Riddlebarger

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Interpretation of the Vision

Dan 7:15-18 *"I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 17 'Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which 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.'*

- Though Daniel had demonstrated the ability to interpret dreams on previous occasions (Ch. 2; 4), he could not interpret this one
- The "saints" in verse 18 refer to the believing Jews and tribulation saints
 - It does not pertain to believers of the Church Age
 - The existence of the church in the present Age was nowhere revealed in the Old Testament
 - The emergence of the Church was a mystery (previously undisclosed knowledge), revealed only in the New Testament

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Where is the Church?

1 The 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

“Hence, I think the apostle Paul was moved to write in this manner on the second coming of Christ, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a command, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God” and so forth. But the same apostle also set forth in order following this prophecy the end-times coming of the antichrist and his depravity, and after this the glorious appearing of our Saviour.”

■ ***Eusebius (260-339 AD) “Fragments in Daniel”, Fragment ε, Migne 24.528***

- **Order of events (according to Eusebius)**
 - **Rapture**
 - **Tribulation**
 - **Second Coming (“glorious appearing”)**

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Where is the Church? (cont.)

"And therefore, when in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this [creation/age], it is said, 'There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be.' For this is the last contest of the righteous, in which, when they overcome they are crowned with incorruption."

■ Irenaeus (130-202 AD) "Against Heresies" 5.29.1

- Order of events (according to Irenaeus)
 - Rapture
 - Tribulation
 - Second Coming

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Mat 24:37-39 *But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Luk 17:28-30 *Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

- Normal life continues right up until the sudden event (eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling)
 - Therefore the rapture can happen at any moment with no preceding signs
- The righteous (Noah / Lot) are rescued or removed just before judgment falls on the wicked
 - Therefore the church is taken out before God's wrath (the Tribulation) begins
- There is some dispute on these verses, however. Some believe they argue against a pre-trib rapture.

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Interpretation of the Fourth Beast

Dan 7:19-20 *“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.”*

- Daniel seems to have had no difficulty in interpreting the significance of the first three beasts
- It was the fourth beast that caused him consternation
- He asked the unnamed angel to interpret the meaning of the beast and its 10 horns and the other horn that came up among the 10 horns
- From this point forward to the end of the prophecy, Daniel concerned himself with the revelation about the person and work of the individual represented by this little horn

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Interpretation of the Fourth Beast

- Several facts about the 'little horn' have already been disclosed in verse 8
 - It came after the 10 horns (kings; cf. v. 24) were in existence and then was contemporaneous with them
 - It uprooted 3 of the 10 horns (kings)
 - It was intelligent (it had the eyes of a man)
 - It was arrogant and boastful (verse 11)

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Dan 7:21-22 *"I was watching; and the same horn 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."*

- Now the angel discloses additional information about the little horn
 - He will *make war against the saints*
 - He will *prevail against the saints of the Most High*
 - *Rev 13:7 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.*
 - This would appear to contradict Jesus's promise to the Church, consequently, likely does not apply to the Church
 - *Mat 16:18 "... and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."*
 - He will pass a *judgment ... in favor of the saints*
 - He grants *the saints to possess the kingdom* (the 'saints' of Israel)
 - God honors his covenantal promises to Israel
 - Individuals embracing "Replacement Theology" will have some apologizing to do!

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Description of the Fourth Beast

Dan 7:23-24 *“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, Trample it and break it in pieces. 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.*

- It is apparent there are various ‘phases’ to the fourth kingdom
- The first phase was the Roman Empire proper which began with Augustus Caesar (Octavian) in 31 BC
- The second phase began in 395 AD when the Roman Empire split into two
 - The Western Roman Empire (Rome) in the west
 - The Byzantine Empire (Constantinople) in the east

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Future phases of the 4th Kingdom revealed

- **Third phase (Imperialistic global government)**
 - This 3rd phase will have 10 regions that encompass the entire world
- **Fourth phase (Antichrist government)**
 - The Antichrist will uproot three of the 10 rulers/regions and will rule the other seven with an iron fist
- **The sphere of this coming ruler in the 4th kingdom will be worldwide**
 - Daniel was told that this empire will devour the whole earth (:7)
- **It will be a ferocious conquest, in which that kingdom will trample and crush those who oppose it**
- **A coming one-world government under a worldwide dictator**

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The “Big Mouth” again ...

Dan 7:25 *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.*

- Additional facts are now disclosed about this evil ruler
 1. He will oppose God’s authority (*speak pompous words against the Most High*)
 2. He will oppress the saints (*persecute the saints of the Most High*)
 3. He will institute his own system of laws and religion (*change times and law*)
 4. The nation of Israel will be subjugated to him (*saints shall be given into his hand*)
 - Israel to be under his authority for 3-1/2 years (*time and times and half a time*)
 - References: *Dan 12:7; Rev 11:2; 12:6,14; 13:5*

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Court is in Session ...

Dan 7:26-27 *'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.'*

- God the Father will convene His court
- He judges the little horn, his power will be removed and he will be destroyed
 - Reference: *Dan 11; 2 The 2:8; Rev 19:20*
- This will occur at the Second Advent of Christ
- At the beginning of the Millennium, the Son of Man will be given authority to rule
- This kingdom will not be overthrown or superseded by another
- It will continue in the Millennium and on into eternity!
 - Reference: *Dan 4:34; 6:26; 7:14; Isa 9:6-7*

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Conclusion of the Prophetic Vision

Dan 7:28 *"This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."*

- This concludes prophetic panorama of the times of the Gentiles as presented by the angel of God (likely Gabriel)
- It was so awesome to Daniel that he continued to be troubled and deeply moved
- He kept the matter in his heart and pondered these future events and their implications

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Daniel 2 and 7 Side-by-Side (Futurist View)

#	Daniel 2	Daniel 7
1.	The Babylonian Empire	The Babylonian Empire
2.	The Medo-Persian Empire	The Medo-Persian Empire
3.	The Greek (Hellenistic) Empire	The Greek (Hellenistic) Empire
		• United Stage
		• Four-Division Stage
4.	The Fourth Empire (Imperialism)	The Fourth Empire (Imperialism)
	• United Stage: Roman Empire	• United Stage: Roman Empire
	• Two-Division Stage (East-West)	• Two-Division Stage (East-West)
		• One-World Government Stage
		• 10-Division Stage (10 Kingdoms)
		• Antichrist Stage (Absolute Dictatorship)
5.	The Fifth Empire (Messianic Kingdom)	The Fifth Empire (Messianic Kingdom)

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Futurist View of the Fourth Kingdom

- The fourth kingdom in Daniel 2 is described as the legs of iron, representing a powerful, crushing empire ([Dan 2:40](#)), followed by the feet partly of iron and partly of clay ([Dan 2:41-43](#)), indicating a divided kingdom that is strong in parts yet brittle and unable to fully unite or cohere ("they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay" – [Dan 2:43](#))
- The ten toes (explicitly referenced in connection with the feet in [Dan 2:42](#)) symbolize a further fragmentation or confederation within this final phase of the fourth kingdom
- This fourth kingdom parallels the fourth beast in Daniel 7 (terrifying, with iron teeth, different from the prior three, [Dan 7:7](#)), which has ten horns emerging from it ([Dan 7:7-8, 20, 24](#))
- Daniel 7:24 explicitly states: "The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom." A little horn then arises after them, subduing three of the ten, speaking against the Most High, persecuting the saints for "a time, times, and half a time" ([Dan 7:24-25](#))

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Futurist View of the Fourth Kingdom (cont.)

- These elements connect closely to Revelation, particularly the beast with ten horns (*Rev 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12-14*), where the ten horns are "ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast" (*Rev 17:12*)
- They give their power to the beast (the Antichrist figure) and wage war against the Lamb but are ultimately defeated at Christ's return (*Rev 17:13-14; 19:19-20*)
- This ties the imagery together:
 - The fourth kingdom's final form involves a revived or end-times manifestation of the Roman-style empire (iron strength persisting)
 - Divided yet confederated under ten allied rulers/kings, who align with a dominant figure (the little horn/beast) before God's kingdom crushes it
 - The stone cut without hands striking the feet/toes (*Dan 2:44-45*)
- The legs of iron represent the historical Roman Empire
 - Strong, unifying, and conquering, as iron crushes all prior metals/beasts

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Futurist View of the Fourth Kingdom (cont.)

- The feet of iron and clay (with ten toes) represent a future, final phase or revival of that fourth kingdom's power structure in the end times — a partially strong but inherently divided confederation
 - That is, a ten-nation or ten-ruler global alliance, unable to fully unify due to the iron-clay incompatibility
 - The final emanation of this global government will be a world-dictator who ruthlessly and violently subjugates three of the ten regions
 - He then rules the rest with an iron fist and *makes war with the saints*
 - This time is described as “Jacob’s Trouble” ([Jer 30:7](#))
- This final form is destroyed by Christ's return (as the stone kingdom of [Dan 2:44-45](#)), linking directly to Revelation's defeat of the beast and its ten horns/kings

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Are the 10 horns referenced in Daniel 7 concurrent or consecutive?

- **Dan 7:24** describes them as ten kings arising "from this kingdom" (out of the fourth beast), and then "another [little horn] shall arise after them" who subdues three of them
- The sequence is the ten first, then the little horn emerging among/after them and uprooting three—implying the ten exist together as a group before the little horn's rise and actions against three of their number
- **Rev 17:12** reinforces this: the ten horns/kings receive authority "for one hour" (a short, unified period) together with the beast, acting in concert ("they are of one mind" and give power to the beast, **Rev 17:13**).
- This is not a succession of ten kings one after another over centuries (as some historicist views might propose for phases of Rome), but a simultaneous confederation of ten rulers/kings in the end-times phase of the fourth kingdom, who align under the dominant figure (little horn/Antichrist/beast) for a brief time before final judgment

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Are the 10 horns referenced in Daniel 7 concurrent or consecutive? (cont.)

- In summary, the fourth kingdom's iron legs point to historical Rome's strength, while the iron-and-clay feet/toes (and parallel ten horns) point to its prophesied final, divided, end-times form — a tenfold alliance that empowers the Antichrist briefly before God's eternal kingdom supplants all earthly rule

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

10 Toes of the 4th kingdom as a global imperialistic hegemony

- This is the most consistent view within the futurist interpretation
 - Understanding the final end-times form of the fourth kingdom (the feet and toes of iron mixed with clay in Daniel 2, paralleled by the ten-horned phase of the fourth beast in Daniel 7) as not necessarily a literal revival or direct continuation of the ancient Roman Empire itself
 - Rather it is a future imperialistic or authoritarian power structure that derives from, inherits the legacy of, and emerges in the cultural/political sphere once dominated by Rome
- The legs of iron unambiguously point to the historical Roman Empire:
 - Its crushing strength ("like iron that breaks in pieces," [Dan 2:40](#))
 - Its vast reach
 - Its "different" character from prior empires ([Dan 7:7](#))

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

10 Toes of the 4th kingdom as a global imperialistic hegemony (cont.)

- The feet and toes (iron mixed with clay) represent a later, divided outgrowth or final stage of that same fourth kingdom ("a divided kingdom... partly strong and partly brittle," [Dan 2:41-43](#))
- The iron persists (some enduring strength or "firmness"), but it's mingled with clay (fragility, inability to fully unite — "they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay")
- This signals fragmentation within a confederated structure, not seamless revival
- The ten toes/horns ([Dan 2:42; 7:7, 24](#)) emerge "out of this kingdom," implying they arise from the fourth empire's domain or lineage
 - This forms a short-lived alliance ("ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom," [Dan 7:24](#)) that empowers a dominant figure (the little horn/Antichrist/beast in Revelation 13/17)
- [Rev 17:12](#) describes these ten as receiving authority "for one hour" together with the beast — brief, concurrent, end-times rule

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Summary of the Futurist View of the 4th Kingdom

- **Futurist interpreters (e.g., those connecting Daniel directly to Revelation's beast) commonly describe this as a "revived Roman Empire"**
 - **The phrase often means a revived form, spirit, or imperial model rather than a literal re-establishment of ancient Rome under the same borders or government**
- **It could manifest as:**
 - **A coalition of nations/rulers in Europe, the Mediterranean, or broader Western-influenced regions (where Roman legacy persists in law, culture, governance)**
 - **A global superpower system echoing Rome's authoritarian, unifying-yet-divisive character**
 - **An end-times confederacy with "iron" military/political strength but inherent divisions (cultural, ideological, or ethnic "clay" preventing true cohesion)**

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Summary of the Futurist View of the 4th Kingdom (cont.)

- The key biblical point is continuity with derivation:
 - The final form grows "out of" the fourth kingdom (*Dan 7:24* "out of this kingdom"), retaining its iron essence while exhibiting end-times characteristics
- It is imperialistic (crushing, devouring, global reach per *Dan 7:23* and *Rev 13*)
 - The text does not require it to be ethnically Roman, geographically identical to ancient Rome, or a direct resurrection of the Caesars' empire
- This avoids enforcing a strict "Rome 2.0" while still honoring the prophetic link:
 - The end-times empire inherits Rome's dominant traits (strength, diversity of rule, opposition to God's people) before being crushed by Christ's kingdom (the stone in *Dan 2:44-45*)
 - The Lamb's victory in *Rev 17:14; 19:20*
- In conclusion: The 10 Toes represent a global form of imperialistic rule derived from the earlier Roman Empire, adapted to the final prophetic scenario

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Questions To Ponder

- **At no other time in history have world conditions become so polarized. We are sitting on a powder keg, just waiting for a spark to trigger these cataclysmic events.**
 - **The overt presence of an insidious “Deep State” arrayed against all that is good with race / class divisions being exploited and amplified by the media**
 - **Co-opted governmental authority across all branches ... judiciary, legislative, and executive. Across all levels of government, from the highest all the way down to city commissioners and school boards.**
 - **The attack on marriage and disdain for normal, healthy, God-ordained family structure (LGBTQ+ agenda)**
 - **Concerted actions to legislate decision-making authority over children to the “state” and away from parents (gender transitioning, euthanasia)**
 - **Teaching the bible is now becoming “hate speech”, punishable by fines and jail**
 - **A rising tide of anti-christian and anti-semitic sentiment, seemingly without restraint. The precipitous rise of Islam throughout the world.**
 - **Emergence of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC's) and the ability to track and control ALL financial transactions (*Rev 13:17 “that no one may buy or sell”*)**
- **All this points to the prophesied tumultuous end-times events being IMMINENT!**

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Questions To Ponder (cont.)

- **From Daniel's vision and the interpretation by the angel, it is clear that these momentous times are now on our doorstep**
 - **In view of this, how should we – as believers – conduct our lives?**
 - **What resolutions and changes do we need to make in our churches and our personal lives?**
 - **Do we feel a sense of urgency in the following areas?**
 - **Drawing closer to God**
 - **Our prayer life, rooting out addictions, digesting His Word**
 - **Aligning our thoughts, words, and actions with our faith**
 - **Witnessing to the lost**
 - **Establishing closer relationships with brothers and sisters in the faith**
 - **House churches will likely become our safe havens**
- **Daniel prayed three times a day – even under the threat of death. Jesus prayed to the Father – He was in constant contact with Him.**
 - **If Daniel did it as a prophet, and our Savior (2nd person in the Godhead) did it, shouldn't we do likewise?**

Prophet for the Ages: Vision of the Four Beasts

Questions To Ponder (cont.)

- However, none of these events have taken God by surprise
 - *"Has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God"?*
- Our Father is Sovereign ... nothing happens that is beyond His control
 - *Isa 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*
- Trying times are coming! But we know how the story ends!
 - *Luk 21:28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near!"*
 - *Rev 19:6-7 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*
 - *1 Cor 2:9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love Him!"*