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C1233 – October 3, 2012 – Daniel 7:1-15
The Four Beasts & The Son Of Man

Tonight we come to Daniel 7, Daniel's vision of the Four Beasts and the Son of Man which corresponds to Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the Four Metals and the Stone of Daniel 2. This will bring an end of the chiastic section of Daniel. Daniel 2 corresponds to Daniel 7, Daniel 3 to Daniel 6 and Daniel 4 to Daniel 5. Since Daniel 2 depicted four Gentile kingdoms by four metals followed by the Messianic kingdom made of stone then Daniel 7 depicts four Gentile kingdoms by four beasts followed by the Messianic kingdom ruled by the Son of Man.

Now fittingly this section was written in Aramaic, the *lingua franca* of the day, because its primary audience is Gentiles. God wanted to reveal to Gentiles first of all that He was the one who was giving them their sovereignty during this time so they shouldn't get arrogant with their rule lest He take away their rule. God gives rule to whomever He wishes and those who are arrogant He removes. God revealed this to Gentiles secondly so that they wouldn't get arrogant against the Jews. The Jews are under divine discipline during this time and scattered throughout Gentile nations. And they should be respected and honored like Nebuchadnezzar treated Daniel because the Jews are still God's people and He still has a plan for them and will one day restore them in the latter days. So all this was written in the common language of the day so Gentiles could read this and take heed.

Now unfortunately as we look at the history of Gentile rule in Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome we find they have not heeded this message. Every Gentile kingdom has ended in arrogant totalitarian despotism and the people have been crushed accordingly. Further, they have not often respected and honored the Jews. In Babylon the Jews fared quite well due to Daniel's high position in Nebuchadnezzar's administration. In fact, many Jews acquired

land and built homes and started a life in Babylon and stayed all the way to the time of Christ. So they fared quite well in Babylon. When we come to Persia we know from the Book of Esther that there were some very strong anti-Semites that wanted to annihilate all the Jews but God had raised up a very beautiful Jewish woman into the royal house and she was able to intercede for her people and rescue them. When the Jews come to live under the Greeks they won't fare well as we'll see in Daniel 11, they'll have to fight for their victories and that's where the Maccabees come in during the intertestamental times. When Rome comes on the scene you can tell from the NT and thereafter how they fared; the Jews were a constant thorn in Rome's side and they put that to rest in AD70 when they destroyed Jerusalem. We'll see that predicted in Daniel 9. Since then the Jews have tried to find a place to rest their head, they thought at one time France would be wonderful, Napoleon was Jew friendly, but that came to an end with the Dreyfus Affair. They tried Russia but that came to an end with the Pogroms, they tried America and America has been the most Jew friendly nation on earth; the Jew has been able to prosper in America, but now we see the lights dimming on America. Gentile nations have typically been anti-Semitic and so there has always been the Jewish ghetto, the Jew has been isolated and tolerated for awhile until the anti-Semitism rears its ugly head and then you have a bloodbath against the Jews. So Daniel 2-7 is God's word to the Gentiles to beware of doing exactly what they have done lest He judge them.

And tonight we get one more look at the four great Gentile kingdoms; Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. However, this time they are looked at from the divine view point rather than the human view point. Remember that Daniel 2 depicts the four kingdoms as a fantastic accomplishment of man; Babylon is a head of gold, Medo-Persia the arms and breast of silver, Greece the waist and thighs of bronze and Rome the legs of iron and feet partly of iron and partly of clay, it is a beautiful image. Yet Daniel 7 says that from the divine view point they are not beautiful gold and silver and bronze but ugly reckless beasts; Babylon is a winged lion, Medo-Persia a hungry bear, Greece a four-winged, four-headed leopard and Rome a ten-horned beast with iron teeth and brass claws. So the two chapters give you a comparison of what man thinks about these four kingdoms versus what God thinks and it's a very different picture.

Also observe that Daniel 7 backs us up in our chronology because in Daniel 5, the Handwriting on the Wall occurred on the last night of Belshazzar's reign in 539BC when the kingdom shifted from Babylon to Medo-Persia, but in Daniel 7 we are in the first year of Belshazzar's reign which was 553BC. So the vision in Daniel 7 took place before the fall of the Babylonian Kingdom and the rise of the Medo-Persian Kingdom. It's depicting the four kingdoms from within the first kingdom, 50 years after they were first depicted in Dan 2.

Now this vision was given directly to Daniel whereas the earlier dream was given to Nebuchadnezzar and interpreted by Daniel. And in this vision Daniel is going to add details to what Nebuchadnezzar saw so they complement one another but we get a fuller picture. Verse 1, **In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.** Apparently it was a single dream that had a series of visions within it. The difference between a dream and a vision is that in a dream you can't enter into the dream and participate but in a vision you can and later in the vision Daniel is going to interact with an angel trying to get the interpretation of what he sees. So it's called a dream and visions and I don't know everything that means but it seems he had a dream and multiple visions.

Notice Daniel says in verse 1 this is his **summary of what he saw in his mind.** It's not every detail of what he saw but the Hebrew word means he included all the essential elements of what he saw, the gist of it. Verse 2, and I think this is the key to the whole vision, I see this as the one element that pervades the four beasts. We tend to focus on the four beasts and ignore the sea but the vision centers on the sea. **Daniel said, I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of the heaven were stirring up the great sea.** I take it that the **sea** is a symbol for the Gentile nations. Isaiah 17 captures the condition of nations, saying, the people roar like the roaring of the seas and the nation's rumble, they rush on like the rumbling of mighty waters. Water is fluid which means it's easy to stir up and so the point is that the nations are easily stirred up into a frenzy and then they become very dangerous. This is what we have to live in and it's been this way ever since God gave Gentile kingdoms the right to rule. Now the **four winds** here that stir up the sea I take it are a symbol for satanic

influence. Obviously wind influences water and since Satan and the demons are spirit beings, wind beings then they are the ones that are going to stir up the nations during this time. So what you want to be aware of is that Gentile kingdoms are ruled by Satan who is the prince of the power of the air and so the human rulers are secondary, behind them the primary player is Satan and he's stirring everything up; politics, economy and religion are primary targets. And he has many means of stirring things up in these areas, he's no dummy, he's very efficient, so he uses the major centers of information distribution and in our day this would be the university and the mainstream media. So if I were you I wouldn't pay too much attention to those things, I'd keep them on the radar so I was aware of what was going on, but I wouldn't be constantly watching these sources because it's Satan's tool to create anxiety in people. And on that note I would suggest there is a close association between the increase in anxiety among people and the mainstream media today. I think almost everything that comes through mainstream media is linguistically prejudiced to confuse and deceive the public. They set up questions that are prejudicially biased to get a predetermined outcome and generate statistics that support their agenda. Since Satan is behind all this I don't think it's worth the time, energy or anxiety it creates. I think you have to find alternative news sources, I use Cornwall Alliance, World Net Daily, sometimes Wallbuilders.

So the **four winds** are stirring up the **sea** and out of this you see four beasts coming up in verse 3, these are four kingdoms, and all four are unnatural beasts. It's not a lion but it's like a lion, it's not a bear but it's like a bear and so forth. These are unnatural animals and they have strange characteristics, it actually gets stranger from beast to beast, but these strange features are symbolizing certain characteristics of the kingdoms they represent. So this section is highly symbolic, there are angelic interpreters so we'd classify this as apocalyptic literature, but we don't have to guess the interpretation of all these symbols because the angel is going to give us that.

Verse 3, **And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. 4The first was like a lion, not a lion but like a lion, lion-like, and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.** This beast undergoes changes. It started as a winged lion. Depictions of winged

lions were found on the gates of Babylon so it's very clear this represents the first great Gentile Kingdom of Babylon and corresponds to the head of gold in the statue of Dan 2. That's what the chart I've given you tonight tries to do, it tries to show the correspondences of the Daniel 2 prophecy with the Daniel 7 prophecy so keep that handy.

Four Metal Statue			Four Beasts	
Daniel 2 Prophecy		Fulfillment	Daniel 7 Prophecy	
Dream	Interpretation	Kingdom	Interpretation	Dream
Head of Gold	Nebuchadnezzar Kingdom	Babylon (605-539BC)	King	Lion-like with Wings
Breast and Arms of Silver	Kingdom Inferior	Medo-Persia (539-331BC)	King	Bear-like Lopsided with 3 Ribs in Mouth
Waist and Thighs of Bronze	Kingdom Over All the Earth	Greece (331-63BC)	King	Leopard-like with Four Wings and Four Heads
Legs of Iron	Kingdom Divided	Historic Rome (63BC-AD476/AD1453)	Fourth Kingdom	Fourth Beast with Iron Teeth and Brass Claws
		Future Rome (AD???)		Ten Horns and an Arrogant Little Horn
Feet of Iron and Clay				
Stone Cut Out Without Hands	Kingdom Eternal	Messiah (???)	Indestructible Kingdom	Son of Man

In Dan 2 the head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar who was the incarnation of Babylon. In Daniel 7 Nebuchadnezzar is depicted as Lion-like with wings. The lion is royalty and power and depicts his royal power. Wings give you speed and so they depict his rapid conquest. And indeed Nebuchadnezzar was a great royal power that swiftly rose to defeat Assyria (Hab 1:5ff). But notice a development of this kingdom is indicated by the progression of the vision. **I kept looking until its wings were plucked**, I take it that is the time during which Nebuchadnezzar was walking around on all fours like a wild animal in Daniel 4. Then **it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it**, that's the end of Daniel 4. I suggest this is when Nebuchadnezzar's reason returned to him toward the end of his reign and his kingdom was restored to him. The kingdom at that time changed from a beastly character to a human character because Nebuchadnezzar changed from a pagan to a believer and so the early years of his reign were strong but tyrannical while the latter years of his reign were strong and humanitarian, that is, he reigned in a humane way, he respected human dignity, he honored the image of God in men. So after he learned his theology lesson he changed the way he ruled. So the first kingdom is Nebuchadnezzar, the winged lion.ⁱ

Verse 5, the second kingdom, **And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat.'** Now the first beast is out of the picture and the second one rises up out of the tumultuous sea. It was something like a **bear**, not a bear but bear-like, but it was strange because **it was raised up on one side**. This represents Medo-Persia which is a two branched kingdom and corresponds to the arms and chest of silver in the statue of Dan 2. So just as there were two silver arms signifying the two branches of this kingdom so there are two sides of the bear, he's lopsided and this signifies that one branch of the kingdom would be stronger than the other. It turned out to be the Persian branch. We saw in chapter 5 that Darius the Mede invaded Babylon through the water channel and took the city without a battle. He was in an alliance with Cyrus the Persian and it was Cyrus that had made possible Darius' victory over Babylon. Today we don't even refer to the Medo-Persian Kingdom unless we're in Bible class; we just talk about the Persian Kingdom. Why? Because over time the Persians overwhelmed the Medes.

And that is why the bear is depicted as being **raised up on one side**, there were two branches originally but eventually the Persian kingdom was all that remained. In the times of Esther there's no mention of the Medes, it's just the Persians. Notice the bear-like creature has **three ribs in its mouth**. I take it that those **three ribs** refer to three most notable conquests of the Medo-Persians, their defeat of Lydia, Egypt and Babylonia. But they conquered much more because the text says, **Arise and devour much flesh**. So this kingdom would conquer and conquer and indeed they conquered more land than any previous kingdom.ⁱⁱ Medo-Persia is the lopsided bear-like beast.

In verse 6 the bear sinks into the sea and a third beast arises, **After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, 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**. So this one is leopard-like, not a leopard, but leopard-like, it has four wings and four heads, so a four-winged, four-headed, leopard-like creature, it just gets stranger and stranger as you move from kingdom to kingdom. This represents Greece and corresponds to the waist and thighs of bronze in the statue of Dan 2. The **leopard** is a very sleek, very fast animal and with **four wings of a bird** on the back it depicts lightning fast speed. And if you know your history Alexander the Great was well-known for his lightning fast military campaigns. He started his conquests at age 21 conquering Persia within a matter of months, he continued to conquer and conquer and conquer and then one day some of his men saw him crying and they asked him what he was crying about and he said he overheard how many worlds there were and yet he hadn't even conquered one! It's a revealing testimony to this man's desire to conquer and conquer and conquer, he began at age 21 and died at 33. He had conquered more than any human general in the history of the world. Then the text says **the leopard-like beast had four heads** and what happened was Alexander died and his kingdom was so vast that no one ruler could rule it so it was divided amongst his four generals; Casander over Greece and Macedonia; Lysimachus over Thrace and Asia Minor; Seleucus over Syria and the Middle East; and Ptolemy over Egypt. So Greece is the four-winged, four-headed, leopard-like beast.

Then that beast sunk into the sea and Daniel saw a fourth beast, verse 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. 8While 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. Observe first of all that there is much more attention given to the fourth beast than the first, second or third. We saw the same thing in Daniel 2, much more material was given to the legs of iron and feet and toes of iron and clay. So why is this in both cases? Probably for several reasons, let me suggest first of all that the fourth kingdom, the kingdom of Rome, is more complex. This kingdom does not come and go off the scene in the way that Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece will do. Rome will come on the scene, fade into the background and then reform. So there are actually two phases or forms of the Roman Empire, from our day there is historic Rome and there is future Rome. A second reason I suggest is because Israel will not be restored during the first, second or third kingdom, but the fourth kingdom, so that may be a contributing reason why the majority of attention is directed toward that fourth kingdom.

Notice verses 7 and 8 Rome is depicted as having two phases or stages. As for historic Rome, verse 7 says **a dreadful, terrifying, extremely strong beast** that had **large iron teeth**, note the iron because the statue in Dan 2 depicted this stage of Rome with iron legs. And **it devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet**; the **remainder** being the prior kingdoms, **and it was different from all the beasts that went before it**. I could take you on an aside to Rev 13:2 and you'd see a beast coming out of the sea much like this one. It is described as having a body like a leopard, feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion. So I take it this fourth beast is a composite of the three prior beasts. They sunk into the sea and combined such that when the fourth rose it was an amalgam of all three. What this means is that each of the three prior kingdoms would make a contribution to the kingdom building activities of man and would pass it on to the next kingdom who would meld it with its own. Babylon would contribute the fractional reserve theft system, Medo-Persia would inherit this and contribute globalism, Greece would inherit both of these and add rationalism, the ultimacy of the human intellect and Rome would inherit all of these and add to them law and military might. So this fourth beast is the worst of all

because it's combining and manipulating all the contributions of the prior kingdoms. And that's why it's the most dreadful. As you can see from Daniel's description, ancient Rome was extremely powerful, they crushed and terrified everyone. When they defeated you they didn't form loose confederations, they consolidated you into their kingdom permanently. And for 500 years Rome ruled without rival, a statistic unparalleled by any other kingdom in the history of the world. So this beast was far more fearful to Daniel than any of the others in its awesome ferociousness.

As for future Rome, and I take it that the Roman Empire is with us today but under the radar so to speak, it hasn't disappeared, its form just isn't clearly detectable, but its ideas, its organization, its laws, its conquering mentality are still with us, and it is moving toward concrete form. When you see the end of verse 7 it's taken shape, **it had ten horns**. These correspond to the ten toes on the statue Nebuchadnezzar saw in Dan 2. **Horns** symbolize power and represent kings in Scripture. So it refers to ten kings that will rule contemporaneously just as the ten toes in the statue seen earlier depicted ten contemporaneous kings. So there will come a time when the Roman Empire takes shape and ten kings reign contemporaneously. Some refer to this as a ten-nation confederation and in modern times have identified it as the UN, the European Union or some modification of one of those organizations. Usually the ten-divisions are sought within the borders of the ancient Roman Empire. I'm suggesting that since the future Roman Empire is a global empire that the ten divisions are global and divide naturally along the continents with some additional divisions for the larger continents. So you'd be looking for nations to merge politically, economically and legally, those would be necessary steps toward ten kings.

When this occurs verse 8 describes developments that will quickly take place. **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;** note the strange eleventh horn, it starts off small in comparison to the others, it too is a king but apparently it will start off insignificantly, no one will even think about it, but it rises quickly to significance and then **three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots**. A defeat of three kings will occur and it seems to happen in connection with the rise of the **little** horn so that the **little** horn is no longer little and it subdues three of the ten kings. Then there will be only eight kings over the

ten kingdoms. And you might say that the goal of this little horn is to try and take over all ten; however he's successful at taking over only three. And this little **horn** it says, **possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. Eyes like the eyes of a man** indicate great intelligence, we don't only see with our eyes, we perceive in the mind, so this man is a superior genius, far above the average person. He also utters great boasts, he has a big mouth and he spouts it off and you probably guessed who this is talking about, this is none other than the anti-Christ. That title can mean against Christ or instead of Christ and it probably means both. This king will be against Christ and he will be a counterfeit Christ and so he'll counterfeit the miracles of Christ and deceive people into thinking he's the Christ. , And it's what he's doing here, wagging his big mouth that introduces the interruption of verse 9.

But I'm going to jump ahead to Revelation 17 for a moment, the rise of this individual can be traced from an insignificant beginning Revelation 17:13 when the ten kings give their power and authority to him, he puts down three of the kings and so he becomes the final ruler of a one world government. At that point he starts uttering boasts and his big mouth gets him into big trouble with the God of the universe. Remember what it was that got Nebuchadnezzar in trouble? His mouth. While he walked around on the roof of the royal palace saying I am so great. Remember what got Belshazzar in trouble? His mouth. Remember how he got drunk and said, bring the vessels of the Temple in Jerusalem in and they drank and praised the gods of gold, silver, wood and stone? There's a pattern here. Always when the Gentile mouth starts getting arrogant what does God do? He shuts it.

So we find it very interesting that when this little horn starts uttering great boasts that God moves to shut it. It's at the height of Gentile arrogance that God is going to move decisively in human history to end the times of the Gentiles and to begin the time of Israel's salvation. So that's why this heavenly scene is so significant as it breaks into the vision of the little horn. **I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. 10A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And**

the books were opened. It's apparent this is a courtroom scene, there are thrones set up, we don't know who will occupy them, maybe the twenty-four elders of Revelation will sit as witnesses in the case. The **Ancient of Days** is apparently the Father because the Son of Man comes up to Him later in verse 13. So the Father is the one presiding over the case. **His vesture was like white snow and His head like pure wool** signifying purity and wisdom. And notice his **throne**. Daniel saw his **throne ablaze with flames with wheels of burning fire and a river of fire flowing** from beneath the throne. Fire commonly signifies judgment and the wheels signify omniscience. And since the court is preparing to sit God as pure wisdom is preparing to judge.

Attending to him are **thousands upon thousands...And myriads upon myriads**, an uncountable number of angels ready at His beck and call to execute the judgments and you might think of Revelation at this time and how angels carry out the judgments. **The court sat, And the books were opened.** So there are books containing a record of men's lives, men's works, all judgments are based on works and so **the books were opened** at this time and apparently the books related to the fourth kingdom and especially the little horn who we're going to learn more and more about in the later chapters of Daniel and in Revelation.

Verse 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.** Daniel kept watching the Antichrist mouth off and then it didn't take God long to take care of Him, **the beast was slain**, referring to the future Roman Kingdom **and** as for the head of that kingdom, the little horn, his **body was destroyed and given to the burning fire**. Peeking ahead to the book of Revelation he'll be thrown into the lake of fire along with the false prophet for the thousand years.

Verse 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.** That's referring to the lion, the bear and the leopard; Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece, and the point is not to say that these three kingdoms outlast Rome, but to say that they were **granted an extension of life** in that they were combined into Rome. And this finds it's parallel in the

Dan 2 statue when the stone came and struck the feet only, future Rome, but the entire statue was destroyed at that time, all the kingdoms, so now we see an identical picture in that when future Rome is destroyed all the prior kingdoms are destroyed simultaneously as well.

Then verse 13 and 14 and this flows perfectly, if verse 12 is the end of the times of the Gentiles, what time follows? The time of the Jews. So here we have Israel's kingdom follow and it's governed by one called the **Son of Man**. Before we look at this title observe the striking contrast between the four beastly kingdoms and the fifth human kingdom. What's the significance of this? It's to say that the four Gentile kingdoms are sub-human but the Son of Man kingdom is human. When the Son of Man comes He will come in all human nobility to rule as a perfect human king. Verse 13, **I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven, in great majesty, 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.**

The title **Son of Man** is very significant and so we want to camp here for a moment. It's the title Jesus mostly commonly used to refer to Himself and I'd suggest that He was linking Himself back to this passage when He used it. He was saying He was the one who was coming to rule the world. So what is the significance of the Son of Man title? It emphasizes His true humanity, He is still undiminished deity of course, that's the Son of God theme, it's just that this title emphasizes that He is the Son related to mankind, the incarnation. Why is it significant in a kingdom passage to refer to Him as the Son of Man? Because of the original creation mandate that God gave man. Genesis 1:28, I want man to rule the earth, to have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky and every living thing. The original mandate was given to Adam. Did Adam fulfill the mandate? No, he immediately handed the creation over to Satan. And that is why Satan is consistently viewed through Scripture as the god of this world and the prince of the power of the air. He is the one stirring up the nations. So the dominion was originally given to man Satan is now exercising the dominion. The Son of Man theme is all about the return of dominion to a man. One would come who was a

genuine member of humanity and exercise dominion. Until that happens God's plan and purpose for man is not accomplished. That's why you've got to have an earthly millennial kingdom.

Psalm 8 asks the question, "What is man that you take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty. You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet." Gen 1:28 is setting out the purpose of God for man, namely to subdue the creation.

Then you see in Hebrews 2 the author saying "But now we do not yet see all things subjected to" Jesus. He knows it's coming but in 67AD it hadn't come. So when will we see all creation subjected to a man? When Jesus Christ comes back to earth, He will then, as a genuine man, fulfill God's purpose for man and have dominion over all things.

So the **Son of Man** theme is introduced here in Dan 7:13 in expectation of the arrival of a Man who will fulfill God's original purpose for man, fulfill Gen 1:28 and have dominion. And after He has done this for 1000 years then 1 Cor 15:24, He will hand the kingdom over to the God the Father so that the Father will be all in all. So we emphasize the Son of Man title that Christ used of Himself more than any other coming out of Daniel 7.

So where does the Son of Man get His authority? Well, right there in Dan 7:13 He marches up to the Father and **was presented before Him And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom.** In Psalm 2 the Father says "Ask of Me, I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession." The Son of Man is asking for it. He is the heir of the world and we are heirs through Him. The Father gives Him the scepter, verse 14, **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.** So this is a very important earthly millennial picture that's given to us here. It is subsequent to the four prior kingdoms, not overlapping them, the prior four are totally destroyed before it arrives and once it arrives it remains forever.

Now if we could summarize what Daniel saw when he laid down to sleep that night, suddenly a great sea and wind from every direction stirring up the sea into a giant storm, then a winged lion-like beast rose up out of the sea, a huge monstrous thing, it's wings were plucked out, it was lifted up and made to stand on two feet like a man and a human mind was given to it. Then a lopsided bear-like creature came up out of the tumultuous sea raised up on one side with three ribs in its mouth. Then a four-winged, four-headed leopard-like creature came up and it ruled. Finally a very strange beast, a composite of the other three beasts rose up out of the stormy sea, it was extremely wicked and destructive, it had ten horns, then an eleventh horn came up, a little one and it pulled out three of the horns by the roots and this horn had eyes on it and a big mouth, it was making a big noise. Then a heavenly courtroom was prepared with the Ancient of Days presiding, judgment was being cast against this little horn and his kingdom. Then the little horn was defeated and cast in the burning fire and all Gentile kingdoms were destroyed simultaneously. Finally the Son of Man was presented before the Ancient of Days and dominion was given to Him to rule an eternal kingdom in fulfillment of God's original purpose for man. That's the dream and visions that Daniel saw and it's an outline of the times of the Gentiles as dominated by animal-like rule followed by the times of the Jews dominated by the Son of Man rule which is the only kingdom fit for human life.

Verse 15, **As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.** Daniel got scared to death when he saw the course history would take. It was very alarming to realize what the world had to go through to get to the final kingdom. And I'm sure Daniel was concerned about how his people Israel would fare living in such tumultuous times.

Alright, what can we learn from the first 15 verses of Daniel 7? First, these are very tumultuous times. All four Gentile kingdoms are depicted as arising out of an agitated sea, indicating they are highly influenced by satanic powers. Now I would characterize life during the times of the Gentiles as an ebb and flow between apparent stability and instability, it's like a pulse and you can feel this pulse in our times. It is a characteristic of the times of the Gentiles, tumult, followed by apparent security followed by tumult, back and forth in a series of events that is escalating to a catastrophic judgment. So don't try to find stability in this world, find your stability in God and His

Christ. And stay at arms length from the mainstream media, don't get caught up in what is prejudicial bias leading you into deception, it will only create anxiety in your soul. Second, this is an awesome prophecy. It predicts 2,500 years ago remarkable details of the course of Gentile history. It portrays Nebuchadnezzar as a royal lion with wings who swept upon the world stage very rapidly and then went through a period of inability to conquer but at last was restored and ruled humanely.ⁱⁱⁱ It depicts Medo-Persia as a lopsided bear predicting that the Persian element would eventually dominate the second kingdom. The three ribs in its mouth predicted Persia's three major conquests of Lydia, Egypt and Babylonia. It predicts Greece as a lightning fast leopard that would conquer the world with remarkable speed depicting Alexander the Great's military conquests with awesome precision. It had four heads to predict that his kingdom would be divided among his four generals at his death; Casander, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy. It predicts historic Rome as a dreadful, extremely strong empire that would crush with its teeth of iron and trample with its claws of brass exactly as it did for over 500 years. It also predicts a future Rome that is presently forming that will have ten contemporaneous kings and then an eleventh little king will rise with extreme intelligence who will defeat three of the ten kings and utter great boasts against the God of heaven. At that time the heavenly court will sit and the Ancient of Days will take His seat, open the books and judge this little horn as well as future Rome. In place of this kingdom He will give a kingdom to the Son of Man whose kingdom will be over all the earth and everlasting fulfilling the dominion mandate of Gen 1. As an aside to those who are unbelievers. In light of the fact that so much of this has already been fulfilled to the minutest detail, why haven't you bowed the knee to God and His Christ? How do you give an account of the precision detail of this prophecy and its fulfillments? And even if you try to skirt the issue by dating the book later and saying that Media and Persia are two distinct kingdoms such that Greece becomes the fourth kingdom, you have to admit that the fourth beast does not fit Greece but Rome. So why not rather accept the One you know very well controls whatsoever comes to pass and has sketched all this in advance? He loved you and sent His own Son to die for you, will He not when He returns not suffer but reign? The third thing we learn is that God is sovereign over the course of history. He declares the end from the beginning. He marked out the entire times of the Gentiles that we are still living within 2,650 years ago. He will restore the Jews in His time. It is an awesome revelation of the God of history showing us that He controls

whatsoever comes to pass. Fourth, premillennialism is the proper outline of eschatology. What premillennialism means is that the Second Coming of Christ is required to establish the Messianic Kingdom. Amillennialism says that the Messianic Kingdom was established at Christ's First Coming. This would require that the Messianic Kingdom overlap with the Roman Kingdom. Yet the vision depicts the Messianic Kingdom not coming until the Roman Kingdom and its final ruler, the little horn, are destroyed along with every other Gentile kingdom. So then the premillennial picture is correct.^{iv} Fifth, the four Gentile kingdoms are depicted as beastly in nature over and against the Messiah's kingdom which is depicted as human in nature. Only the kingdom of the Son of Man is governed in such a way that is befitting the nature of humans, respecting human dignity and their noble position as the only creature made in the image of God. The world has never seen rule that is truly fitting of who we are. Every government to date has been sub-human. Sixth, therefore the times of the Gentiles will be a very exhausting and distressing time to live in. Daniel was exhausted just seeing what was coming. We have to live in a very chaotic, unstable world where people are blown to and fro by every wind of doctrine! Our rulers exhaust us by governing without respect for human dignity. So there's no use trying to find ultimate hope, peace and security during the times of the Gentiles, that time is reserved for us in the coming kingdom of the Son of Man. Finally, this vision of Daniel 7 is foundational to later things in Daniel and the Book of Revelation. Without a firm understanding of this vision later prophetic revelation can't be understood. So you need to be able to think very clearly through Daniel 7 before you study later prophecy. And we'll be doing more of that next week, connecting these things with later revelation.

ⁱ When Daniel saw this vision the winged lion was historical. The precision of the symbols depicting this historical kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar therefore give an interpretive precedent for the interpretation of the symbolic depictions of the future kingdoms of Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome contained herein.

ⁱⁱ The Persian Empire extended from the Indus River on the east of Egypt to the Aegean on the west. (cf Wood, p 183)

ⁱⁱⁱ See footnote 1.

^{iv} To the objection by Amillennialists that the ten kings and the Antichrist have already come and been destroyed in the 1st century AD, it is replied that the ten kings are depicted in the vision as contemporaneous and not successive. The eleventh arises among them while they are contemporaneously ruling and defeats three of them. There is no historical period in Rome when these things occurred. Therefore they must still be future and the Messianic Kingdom must therefore also be future.

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