

## Fantastic Beasts and What Will Happen to Them

Daniel 7; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; May 1, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. <sup>3</sup> And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. – Daniel 7:2-3

***History should bother us greatly without ruining our peace!***

Daniel 7:15, 28; Psalm 139:16; 7:11; 1 Timothy 6:15; Ephesians 4:26; 2 Peter 3:10-18

### 1. **History is linear.** (Daniel 7:1-3, 26)

History is moving toward a conclusion, a consummation. *History is a railroad track, not a merry-go-round or a dead end.* History is linear not cyclical or pointless. We need to 'keep looking' at what God says will happen and what He promises us so that we can keep a right perspective on all that is happening. – Daniel 7:4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 21

### 2. **History is beastly and about the Anti-Christ.** (Daniel 7:3-8, 19-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13:5-7; 1 John 2:18)

History is about villains and the Villain. History is about anti-Christ. The nature of human government, without common grace restraint, is beastly and ungodly. There is a coming one world government that will be different in its domination of all things. There is a coming one world government ruler who will be different in his desire for dominance over all things. The Anti-Christ and all those like him will be certainly and soundly defeated by the Christ they oppose. The hand-writing was on the wall for Belshazzar's kingdom (see chapter 5) and the hand-writing is on the wall for these 4 kingdoms as well. The Little horn speaks against God and wages war against God's people and changes 'times and laws' and will have a short reign but a universal and dominant reign. For the first time in history, the complete dominance of the whole world by a single ruler and government is actually possible. Satan will not give up without a fight and indeed, not without pulling out all the stops at the end. But he will fail.

### 3. **History is saintly and most about the Christ.** (Daniel 7:13-14, 18, 21-22, 27)

History is more about heroes and the Hero. History is about the Christ and His people. History is 'His Story'! For His glory and His people! (Colossians 1:13-20; Ephesians 1:18-23; Esther 9:20-28) It takes divine revelation for us to believe that anything we can now see will one day be vastly different; indeed, a divine reversal! It is the divine revelation of a divine reversal. Before the saints inherit the kingdom, they will be at war with and overpowered by and wore down by the anti-Christ and especially, the Little Horn. There is a future one world government that will be anti-Christ and temporary and a future one world government that will pro-Christ and eternal!

The contrast is between the Son of Man and the Little Horn under the authority of the Ancient of Days. One blasphemes God and oppresses His people and the other honors God and blesses His people. The best is yet to come for saints. Jesus is the Son of Man who will reign. Those who inherit the eternal kingdom will be the targets of the temporary kingdoms, especially the last of these. Heaven on earth is the hope of the world and the purpose of the coming of the Son of Man. Before the saints inherit the kingdom, they will be at war with and overpowered by and wore down by the anti-Christ and especially, the Little Horn. The Son of Man receives a kingdom but also the saints of the Highest One receive a kingdom too!

4. **God is not a slave.** (Daniel 7:9-12)

***God is not a slave of human choices.*** Or powerful leaders. Or pagan kingdoms. God does what he wants/chooses to do. God is 100% in control. Beware the ‘God is a Gentleman’ mentality and the charismatic ‘God is my bell-boy’ mentality (who must do what I say or believe Him for or what I name and claim). – Psalm 103:19; 115:3; 135:6

***Application:***

Pray and depend on God. True happiness cannot be found outside of God. – Ephesians 3:20-21

5. **Man is not a victim.** (Daniel 7:11-12, 23-26)

***Man is not a victim of divine sovereignty.*** Or evolutionary natural selection. Or the influence of human injustice. Or unfortunate circumstances. We are what we choose/want to be when it comes to sin. Man is 100% responsible for his sin. Beware the victim mentality that says God and/or others are the reason I am the way I am. – Genesis 18:25; Jeremiah 11:20

***Application:***

Take responsibility for your sin and your choices. True happiness does not come to those who simply play the victim card. Go to God through Christ for help! – Matthew 11:28

***It matters who your King is.***

Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 16:13; 16:28; Luke 19:13-15, 26-27

Being ruled by sinful man is like being ruled by a devouring, crushing beast; being ruled by the Son of Man is like being ruled by someone who identifies with you and is ready to help. Faith that saves turns from sin and trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. Jesus must be our King if He is going to be our Savior! This world and its history is filled with ‘fantastic beasts’ that compete with God for allegiance. But God has selected His King. (Psalm 2:1-3, 6-9, 12) Jesus is king! Do you know Him? Is He your king? It matters!