

## Signs of the End of the Age The Beast of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13

Studio Session 92

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01/01/2006

As the enemy comes into the earth, what he comes to do is very clear: he comes to try to eradicate any person in the earth who believes in Jesus, who loves the Lord—that's what he comes to do. How does he plan to do this? That is the big question. It is obvious to us that this age we live in has taken on dimensions of the spiritual that would have been unimaginable as recently as one generation ago. Everywhere people are understanding that things have changed and they have changed very dramatically, but you know people don't actually want to know the extent of the changes. They don't even want to know the character of the changes. It is like people are content to say, "You know, things have changed," thinking that by saying that they are prepared for the changes or that they even know what the changes are.

These times are so extreme that you may properly assume that the things that are changing will represent extreme changes. One of the reasons that the church is going to be caught with a certain degree of unpreparedness is because most of the leaders of the church today are content to talk about change. They talk "new," but they act "old," because if they in fact inaugurated changes, if they sought out what the changes were with the intent of embracing them and implementing them, they are afraid that one of the things they will lose is the power that they have, because changes will mean changes in their present way of doing things, changes in the present structure.

So what will happen—the overwhelming likelihood is that what will happen—is that change will begin to emerge from out of the ranks of the people. The people will begin to see the changes first. Very, very few leaders in church circles will actually survive this process because even today there are very few who are seriously interested in the things of God. They want to maintain the form because if they don't maintain the form they don't have control. They want to maintain the forms to assure themselves control and then to permit incremental changes insofar as those changes will not disturb the foundations of their legitimacy. But all that means is that when change comes it will have been delayed for so long that it will be even more radical and it will take a generation of people who are willing to embrace this enormity of change in a moment, to actually be

able not only to survive the shock of this much that is new, but to actually emerge in it and emerge out of it with a coherent understanding of what is happening and an equally coherent plan to move forward in the directions of the Lord.

To put it differently: You are going to have to hear God, and hearing God will mean that you will hear what God is saying. And today the things that God is saying represent an order of magnitude greater and different than what had been said before—different, but not contradictory to another time. When it is different, it simply means it has been “ramped up.” I think that this computer generation has been probably the best prepared because the changes in technology and changes in society and in the global environment come about so rapidly that this generation is comfortable with uncertainty. And I think that the ranks of leadership will be populated by the people of this generation who understand the need to change quickly and who do not get emotionally attached to traditions so that they are free to move at a moments notice.

But enough of that. Let’s move on into how the enemy plans to control the saints, and by that control to eventually exterminate them, because that is how he intends to extend his time. Let’s begin with **Daniel**, and the key for us is the reference to the beast with seven heads and ten horns. **Daniel** is the first encounter we have with this beast. Now I want to take you through **Daniel** because this is critically important: **Daniel 7** takes us up to the starting line. **“In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.”** (Inserted – **Daniel 7:1**).

Now when God sees fit to have the dream of an ancient prophet be recorded then we had better pay attention, for this is no ordinary dream. You see quite often when God wants to show the future, if the future is so different from our present state, it is necessary to reveal it in the symbology of a dream because if we were to actually see what the future looks like we would have no ability to relate to it. So Daniel sees, in a dream, the future. It seems incredible to base our entire thought process about the future on a dream... anybody’s dream. But that is where it comes down to this simple fact: Do you have faith that the God who created you has been speaking to you—that He knew the end from the beginning and He prepared the way for you, that you might know what the future is? That is the whole sum and substance of prophecy.

It will come down to this in these days. Are we just the result of billions of years of the evolutionary process of protoplasm of dubious origins? Or are we the creatures created by the Living God, Who has formulated our future according to what He knew before He created us and spoken to us through prophetic utterances? You can’t have it both ways. You cannot, on one hand, believe that we evolved out of this primordial soup into what we are today, on the one hand, and on the other hand believe that we are also spiritual beings. It is either that we are spiritual beings—we’ve been put in these human forms by

our Creator and therefore we are first spirit, and then flesh—or we are all flesh, and no spirit. You have to believe one or the other.

It is a function of belief; it doesn't get any more complicated than that. It is not a matter of proof. You can't prove—you cannot convincingly prove to someone that he has a spirit. The question would be: How would you begin to prove that? It is a matter of belief. Do you believe that we are spirit-beings clothed in flesh, or do you believe that we are evolved protoplasm? It is one or the other. If you don't believe, then the things that are happening are just “nature going wild and crazy,” but when you begin to see the stars of the heavens configure themselves in ways that indicate these dramatic things, what then do we believe: that the universe is simply shifting around? But that is what these signs are.

We will have explanations no doubt, but are the explanations the truth? If you understand that we are spirit-beings in human bodies, then prophecy, and prophecy by dreams, is an essential part of the unveiling of these hidden things that have been put here centuries ago for our benefit so that we might make sense out of the times we now live in. Isn't it remarkable that almost 2700 years ago there was a dream recorded in the Old Testament of a global kingdom? Long before there was even the comprehension that the earth we lived in was a globe, and long before the dwellers in that tiny strip of earth between the twin rivers of the Tigris and the Euphrates understood that there was a world beyond the horizons that they could see, a prophet prophesied of our day, and the prophecy was about a global kingdom that would snare all mankind in its influence.

So Daniel had a dream. You see it is not that Scripture represents the height of folly to write down the dream that a man had—it is the substance of the dream. The substance of the dream clearly speaks of human history culminating in a global kingdom. That is what this dream is about. If we are spiritual beings in human forms then our God, Who made us, will talk to us in ways just such as these, because the human mind, 2700 years ago, could not in fact grasp the concept of a global kingdom. But the Living God, Who knows the end from the beginning, knew that is what our enemy would formulate to try and entrap us, and annihilate us if he could. So here it is: you decide, because on the basis of this decision you may experience peace of mind or terror in the days ahead. If you think that all we are is just evolved protoplasm, I promise you that the only thing ahead for you is terror in the days ahead. On the other hand, if you believe that we are spirit-beings in human form then here is what you are to be told so that you will be ready for what is ahead.

Now Daniel had this dream, and in this dream four great beasts—each different from the others—came up out of the sea. **“The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.”**

(Inserted – **Daniel 7:4**) So the first of the four beasts was like a lion. **“And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, ‘Get up and eat your fill of flesh!’”** (Inserted – **Daniel 7:5**) So the first was like a lion, the second was like a bear.

The third: **“ ‘After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard.’”** (Inserted – **Daniel 7:6a**) So you have a lion, a bear and a leopard. This beast had four heads and it was given authority to rule. Then he said (now this is the fourth beast), **“ ‘After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.’”** (Inserted – **Daniel 7:7**) Now this is the first reference to a beast of seven heads and ten horns.

**“ ‘While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, (so an eleventh) a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it.’”** So an eleventh horn came up and three of the former horns were overthrown. **“ ‘This horn (the little one that overthrew the three) had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.’”** (Inserted – **Daniel 7:8**) Now the scene changes and some things happen in between which are very important, but to keep the train of thought, I want to hold you to the vision itself. Going now to **verse 15**. Now you’ve just heard what Daniel spoke. What is the question in your mind? The same thing that was in his: What does this mean? I see four beasts, one was like a lion, the other like a bear, the next one was like a leopard and the fourth one was really weird; it had ten horns, then an eleventh horn came up which overthrew three of the four other horns and then it had a mouth that spoke blasphemously. It crushed and devoured the whole earth. What does that mean? That’s a weird dream! Then you begin to speculate as to what he might have had for dinner.

In the **15 th verse**, Daniel expressed his own consternation as well. He said, **“ ‘I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this.’”** (Inserted – **Daniel 7:15,16a**) So Daniel, like you, wanted to know *not* what is an interpretation—what is a possible interpretation. He said, “I wanted to know what the true meaning of this was.” And that is what we want to know. I don’t care about speculations; I don’t care about theories. If this is relevant to us, tell us exactly what it means. So here is what he was told, **“ ‘So he told me and gave me the interpretation...’”** (now once you get this, there is no need to speculate anymore because you will get what it means) **“ ‘The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.’”** (Inserted – **Daniel 7:16b,17**)

Now some translations say: four kings, but there is not a violation here and I'll explain that in a moment. The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth. “**‘But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.’**” (Inserted – **Daniel 7:18**) So there is the juxtaposition between the four beasts and the saints of the Most High. Who do you suppose are the saints of the Most High? Would God know who the saints of the Most High were? Leave aside the question of Daniel, because Daniel is not the one saying, “**‘But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom.’**” That is part of the interpretation that was given to him. So it is the messenger of God—not Daniel—saying that the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom. Do you suppose the messenger from God knows who the saints of the Most High are? It wasn't Daniel, so it is not a reference to the Jews—although Jews may be included, and are included in the saints of the Most High—but clearly they are the people who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Daniel seemed unsatisfied with the explanation, not because it was not complete, but because he had additional questions. If you were having this dream, where would you be fixated? Which of these beasts would capture your imagination? All of the other three would certainly be fascinating to you: a lion with wings like an eagle—that is very fascinating; a bear with three ribs in its mouth and a four-headed leopard. Those would be quite fascinating, but you would be obsessed, you would be fixated on the fourth beast, and that is exactly where Daniel was: he was fixated on the fourth beast. And so he said, “**‘Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast,’**” (that's verse 19) “**‘which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell...’**” (Inserted – **Daniel 7:19,20a**)

**Verse 21** says, “**‘As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them...’**” He was waging war against the saints and defeating them. That is not what you typically hear today. Today everybody wants for the saints to be victorious... and they will be eventually, but they are not always victorious, in that sometimes they will lose. This [verse] says so, and God permits it. “**‘... waging war against the saints and defeating them.’**” Not always, but at least for a time “**‘... until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High...’**” **Verse 23** says, “**‘He gave me this explanation...’**”

He saw these terrible things going on, against the saints, by this fourth beast. Now what do we already know about this beast? Well because the four beasts are four kingdoms—or four kings that will rise from the earth—the fourth beast is one of these kingdoms or kings. But then he gives this explanation, “**‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will**

**devour the whole earth...**” (Inserted – **Daniel 7:23a**) I want you to mouth those words: “the whole earth.” Do you know why? Because “the whole earth” means: the whole earth.

This is the distinction between the first three beasts and the fourth. The reference we said earlier was that the three others were said to be three kings. That is because ancient kingdoms were typically ruled over by a single king, but this fourth beast is different from all the others because it is not ruled by one king; it is ruled by ten kings, and whereas the ancient kingdoms represented a geography that could be controlled by a single king sitting in one location, this kingdom cannot be so ruled. It is ruled by multiple kings—at least for a period of time—but we see their leader arise as the little horn who speaks blasphemously.

Now in the time remaining, it goes on to say, “**‘The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and...**” (look at this again) “**‘... and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws.’**” (Inserted – **Daniel 7:24,25a**) Did you see that? He will try to change the set times and the laws. Why? Because he will know that he is out of time; he will be filled with fury because he knows his time is short, so he will try to change the set times. How is he going to try to do that? By attempting to annihilate the saints so that God will have to start over. He will try to change the set times. But it says, “**‘The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.’**” (Inserted – **Daniel 7:25b**) (For three-and-a-half years) The court will sit; judgment will be given in favor of the saints, and this beast will be overthrown.

In the time remaining I want to get to **Revelation 13**, because there is a huge gap between where we are in **Daniel** and the New Testament... not only a gap of 700 years, but we must fill in some details because the things we absolutely know are: these four beasts are four kingdoms, and the last one is a global kingdom because it will oppress the whole earth. Now we will have to pursue this matter in a subsequent discussion, but I want to at least lay out the framework so you can see it all. Daniel speaks and then John speaks. This is in the book of **Revelation**, the **13 th chapter**, it opens with this, “**And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.**” (Inserted – **Revelation 13:1**)

But you will say, “Daniel saw a beast with ten horns, but he didn’t see a beast with seven heads. So maybe we have a similar but different beast.” Because if the beast here is identical to Daniel’s beast then what do we know about this beast? It is a global kingdom because all four beasts are four kingdoms. Quickly now, what were the three beasts before the fourth one? Daniel said that the first was like a lion; the next was like a bear;

the other was like a leopard, and then the ten-horned beast. Look at this, look at this, this leaves you with no doubt that it is the same beast: **“The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear...”** What’s missing? The lion. **“...and a mouth like that of a lion.”** (Inserted – **Revelation 13:2a**)

These are the evil predecessors of the fourth beast; they are all predatory; they are all devourers. These kingdoms represent the evolution of Satan’s kingdom, culminating in the final one with seven heads and ten horns. It is exactly the same beast. Daniel is looking forward into history, so the one nearest to him is the lion, the next is like the bear, the next is like the leopard and then the fourth. John is looking back into history and the one closest to him is like the leopard; the one further is like the bear; and the most distant, like the lion. We have exactly the same beast, so we need to understand what this global kingdom is like. I hope that you will join me as we continue to discuss the future. God bless you, I’ll see you soon. This is Sam Soleyn.

### **Scripture References :**

Daniel 7:1-8

Daniel 7:15-25

Revelation 13:1-2a