

The Book of Daniel Part 9
Daniel 7:1-7:10

by Erik Olsen

-CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF WHERE WE'RE HEADED IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL:

-God's progressive revelation to Daniel... emerging picture of the future...

-one purpose of Daniel is to give Israel sober perspective of present and hope for the future... help Israel see where they're at and where they're headed

-the road is longer than they expected...

-satan is the mastermind behind behind the beasts... a closer look at them reveals his character as the **father of lies** (John 8:44) who comes to "**steal, kill, and destroy...**" (John 10:10)

-not until Israel as a nation turns to Jesus Christ will Satan be taken out of the picture (see *lyrics to A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* on pg. 3 of notes)

chapter in Daniel	...4	7a	7b	8	5	6	9	10,11	12
corresponding study	...8	9	10	<i>presented with 14</i>	11	12	13	14	15
events in Daniel's life	interpretation of Neb's 2 nd dream	vision of the 4 beasts and God's throne...	another vision about kingdoms 2&3	writing on the wall incident	Daniel in the lions den	vision: 70 Weeks prophecy	yet another vision about kingdoms 2&3	vision of select events in kingdoms 4&5	

**tentative schedule... some lessons may be expanded into two lessons*

-FIRST THREE BEASTS

"7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. 2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.

-**"four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea"**: signifies the worldwide scope of the vision... concerning the dominant powers of the world

-**"four winds"**... today science has proven there are four major winds

-**"Great Sea"**... most likely a reference to the Mediterranean Sea

The Hebrews were a land-loving people who distrusted a large body of water such as the Mediterranean Sea. To them the sea was a perilous and forbidding place. The sea therefore became a symbol of the seething nations of the world and of the troubled lives of the unrighteous (Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

-First Kingdom: Babylonian

-"...like a lion, and had eagle's wings"

-the lion is considered the king of the beasts, and the eagle the king of the birds; and therefore the kingdom of Babylon, which was signified by the golden head of the great image, was the first and noblest of all the kingdoms; and was the greatest then in being. (Adam Clarke's commentary)

-the eagle's wings represent the speed at which the Babylonian empire (under Nebuchadnezzar's rule) rose to it's world-wide dominance

-**"it's wings were plucked off"**

-after Nebuchadnezzar lost his sanity the Babylonian empire stopped expanding and began to shrink until finally being conquered by the Medo-Persian empire

-**"... [the beast was] made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it"**

-when Nebuchadnezzar was restored he had a change of heart...

5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'"

-Second Kingdom: Medo-Persian

- "...like a bear"

- Medo-Persian empire was known for its fierceness

- "It was raised up on one side"

- lopsided alliance between the Medes and Persians with the Persians being the dominant power

- "three ribs in its mouth between its teeth"

- conquest of three kingdoms – Lydia, Babylonia, and Egypt – led to their empire status

6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads,

-Third Kingdom: Greek

- "like a leopard"

- symbolized speed of Alexander's conquest (all his accomplishments occurred before the early age of 33 when he died)

- "on its back four wings of a bird. ... also had four heads"

- Alexander's empire was divided among four of his generals

6b and dominion was given to it.

-**angelic intervention** enabled Alexander the Great to conquer a Medo-Persian army of 600,000 with only 30,000 soldiers

- Daniel's vision in chapter 10 gives further insight into the angelic interventions... Daniel 10:12-11:4 – "Then he said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me**, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 **Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days**, for the vision refers to many days yet to come... .. 20... And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth [**further explanation of what previous visions spoke of figuratively**]. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. 11:1 Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, **I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.**) 2 And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia [**Cambyses, Gaumata, Darius 1**], and the fourth [**Xerxes**] shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece. 3 Then a mighty king shall arise [**Alexander the Great**], who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. 4 And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled... [**Alexander's kingdom divided between four of his generals**]"

- God's sovereignty... in spite of all Satan's raging and scheming, God is the one who is in ultimate control, intervening in world history to accomplish His purposes... Romans 11...

- Acts 17:26-28: "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has **determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings**, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us..."

7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words. 9 **I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated**; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

...19 Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast..."

-A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD...

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.

-NEXT WEEK...

-We'll take a closer look at the fourth beast (4th kingdom) and God's judgement of it which will mark the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom (5th kingdom) ... Just as we have seen the prophecies about the first three kingdoms fulfilled, so we will one day see all the other prophecies fulfilled about the 4th kingdom and God's Kingdom!