



Beastly Mankind

SCC Message by John Aldax

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Daniel 7

¹ In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. ² Daniel declared; I saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea. ³ And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

⁴ The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings." Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

⁵ 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!"

⁶ After this, as I watched, another appeared, like a leopard. The beast had four wings of a bird on its back and four heads; and dominion was given to it.

⁷ 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.

⁸ While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

⁹ As I looked,

 thrones were set in place,
 and the Ancient of Days took his seat.

His clothing was as white as snow;
 the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,
 and its wheels were all ablaze.

¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing,
 coming out from before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him;
 ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,
 and the books were opened.

¹¹ Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. ¹² (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a son of man
 coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient of Days
 and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion and glory and kingship,
 that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
 that shall not pass away,
 and his kingship is one
 that shall never be destroyed.

¹⁵ I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. ¹⁶ I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this.

So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: ¹⁷ “The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.”

¹⁹ Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, 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. ²⁰ 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—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

²¹ As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

²³ He gave me 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, trampling it down and crushing it.”

²⁴ “As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and after them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.”

²⁵ “He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.”

²⁶ “But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. ²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.”

²⁸ This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.

The main message of Daniel 7 is twofold:

1. God is in control.

2. God’s people will receive the kingdom.

Community Questions:

1. When you think of a kingdom, what kind of images come to mind?
2. When you think about the end times that Daniel’s vision describes, with the Antichrist and the world government, are you more afraid, intrigued, or excited?
3. How would you apply Daniel’s vision to our contemporary context?