



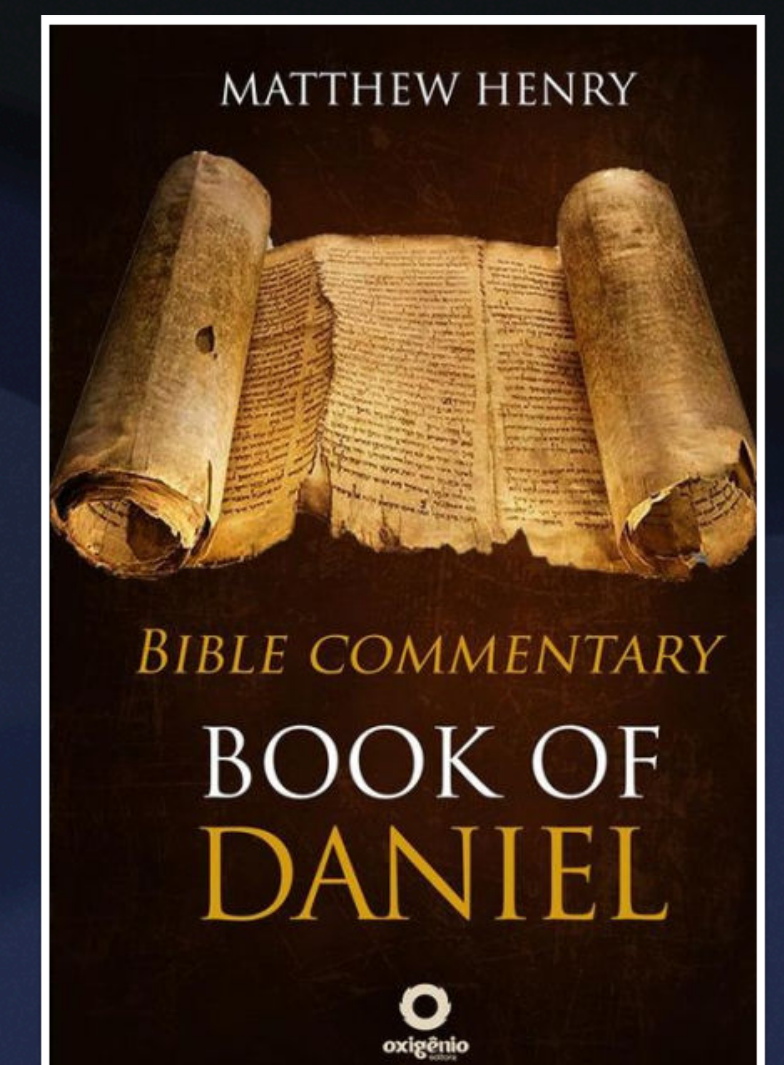
**DANIEL**

**HOW TO THRIVE  
IN BABYLON**



“The six former chapters of this book were historical; we now enter with fear and trembling upon the six latter, which are prophetical, wherein are many things dark and hard to be understood, which we dare not positively determine the sense of, and yet many things are plain and profitable, which I trust God will enable us to make a good use of.”

(Matthew Henry 1704, on *Daniel Chapters 7 -12*)









Chapters 1 – 6 are historical narrative

Chapters 7 – 12 are a prophetic journal

Daniel has been called the “Little Revelation of the Bible”

Chapter 7 – 12 are not in chronological order

The things he sees are so dramatic and terrifying that it affects him physically.

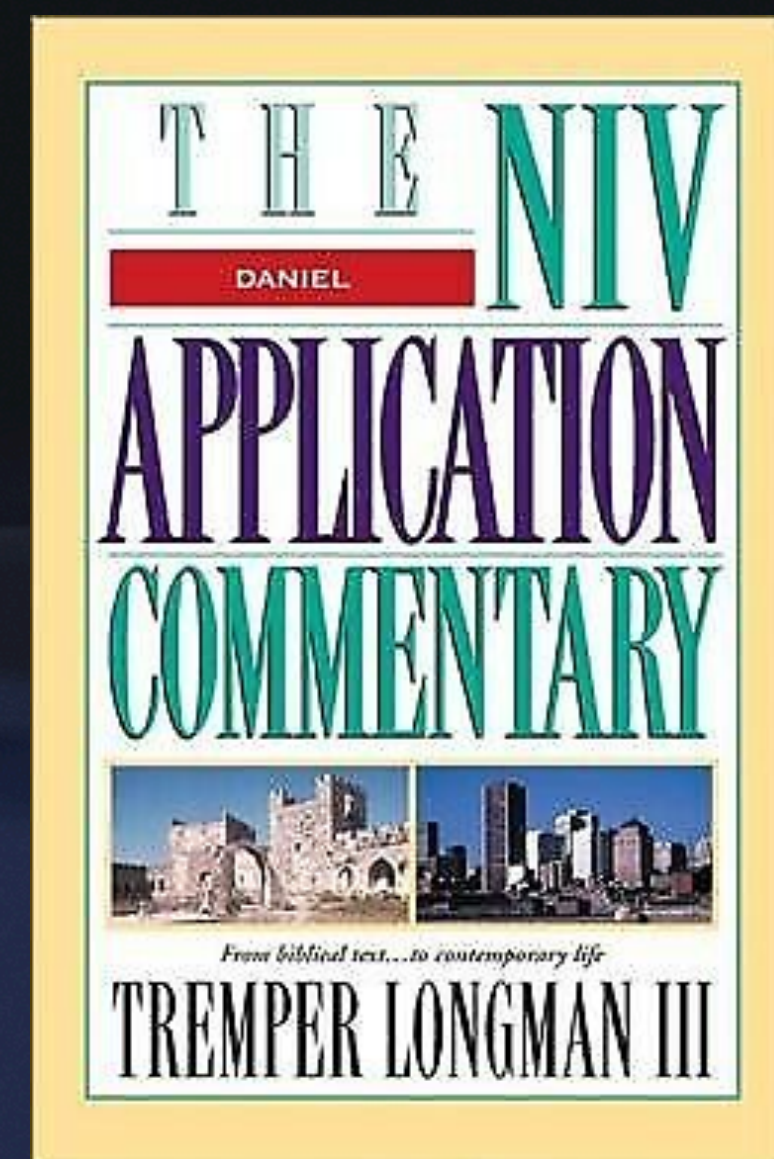


Beginning in chapter 2 verse 4 and going through Daniel 7:28 the book is written in Aramaic. Beginning in chapter 8 it goes back to Hebrew.

The vision given to Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 2 and the vision in chapter 7 are parallels. The vision in chapter 2 is a vision of **human history as man sees it** . . . but the vision in chapter 7 is a vision of **human history as God sees it**.



Daniel 7 is a vision of two parts. The first part reveals that the world at present is under the sway of evil and cruel human power. The second part shows us that God is in control and will ultimately judge the rebels and establish his kingdom among us.



*(The NIV Application Commentary, p 193 & 194)*





“<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> Daniel declared; I saw in my vision by night the **four winds of heaven** stirring up the great sea. <sup>3</sup> And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.”

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*Daniel 7:1-3*



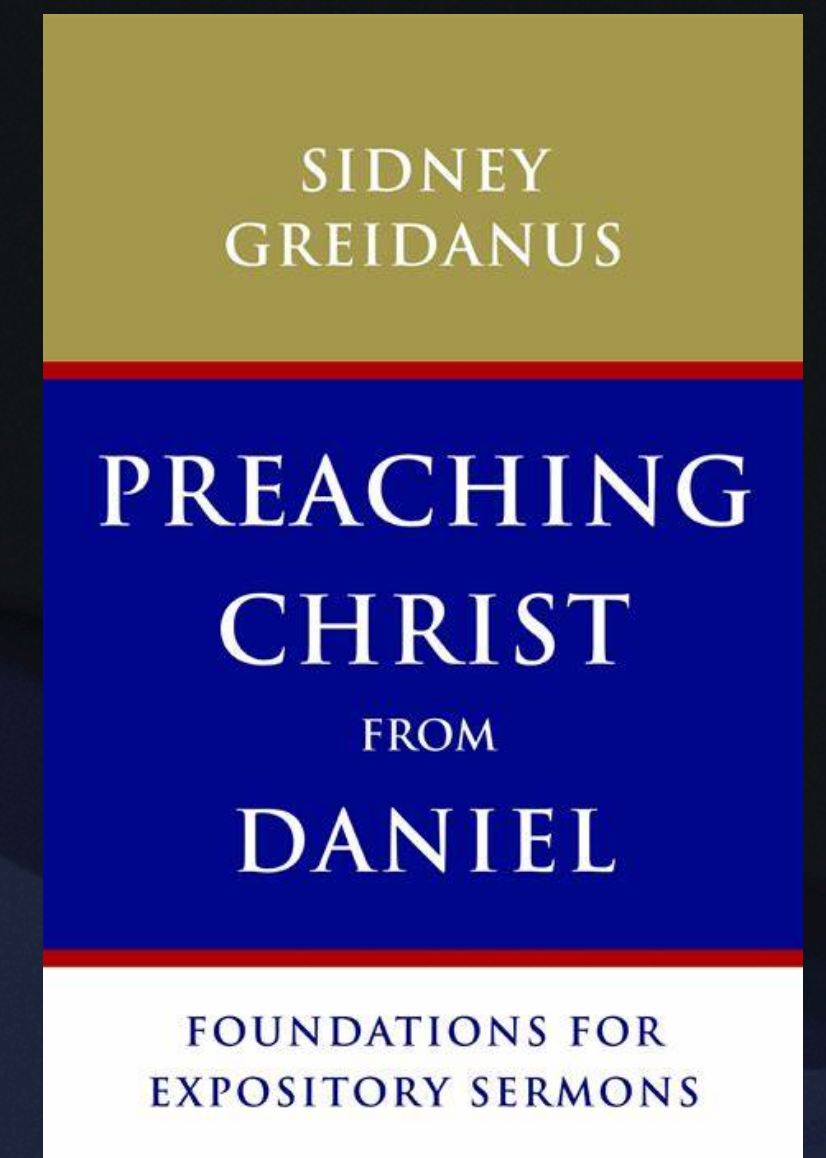
“The first was like a lion and had eagles’ wings.”

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*Daniel 7:4*



The major processional street in Babylon was lined with statues of lions with eagles' wings. Winged lions also guarded the gates of royal palaces among the Babylonians.



*(Preaching Christ from Daniel, Sidney Greidanus, p.235 )*



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. (ESV)

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*Daniel 7:4*



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!”

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*Daniel 7:5*







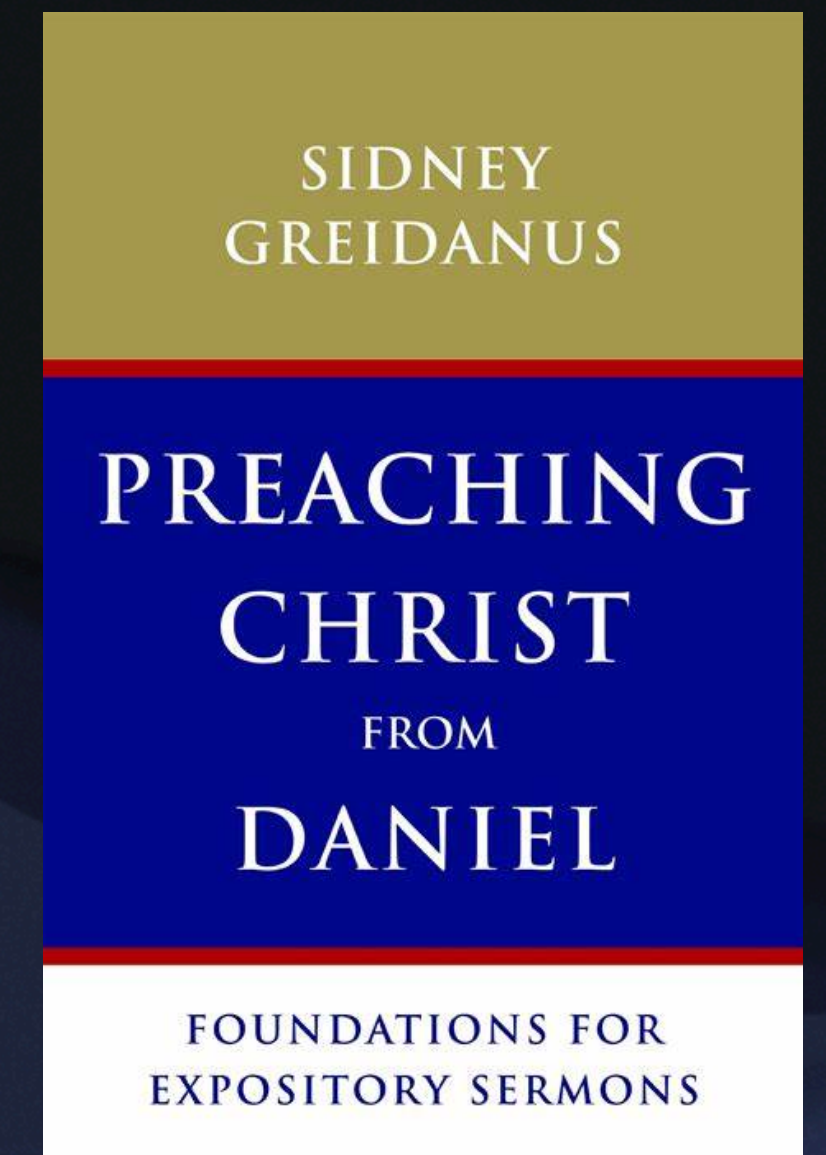
After this, as I watched, another appeared, like a leopard. The beast had four wings of a bird on its back and four heads; and dominion was given to it.

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*Daniel 7:6*



Alexander the Great of Macedonia conquered the then-known world at an amazing speed. He invaded Asia Minor in 334 B.C. and within ten short years (by the age of thirty-two) had conquered the entire Medo-Persian Empire to the borders of India.



*(Preaching Christ from Daniel, Sidney Greidanus, p.237 )*



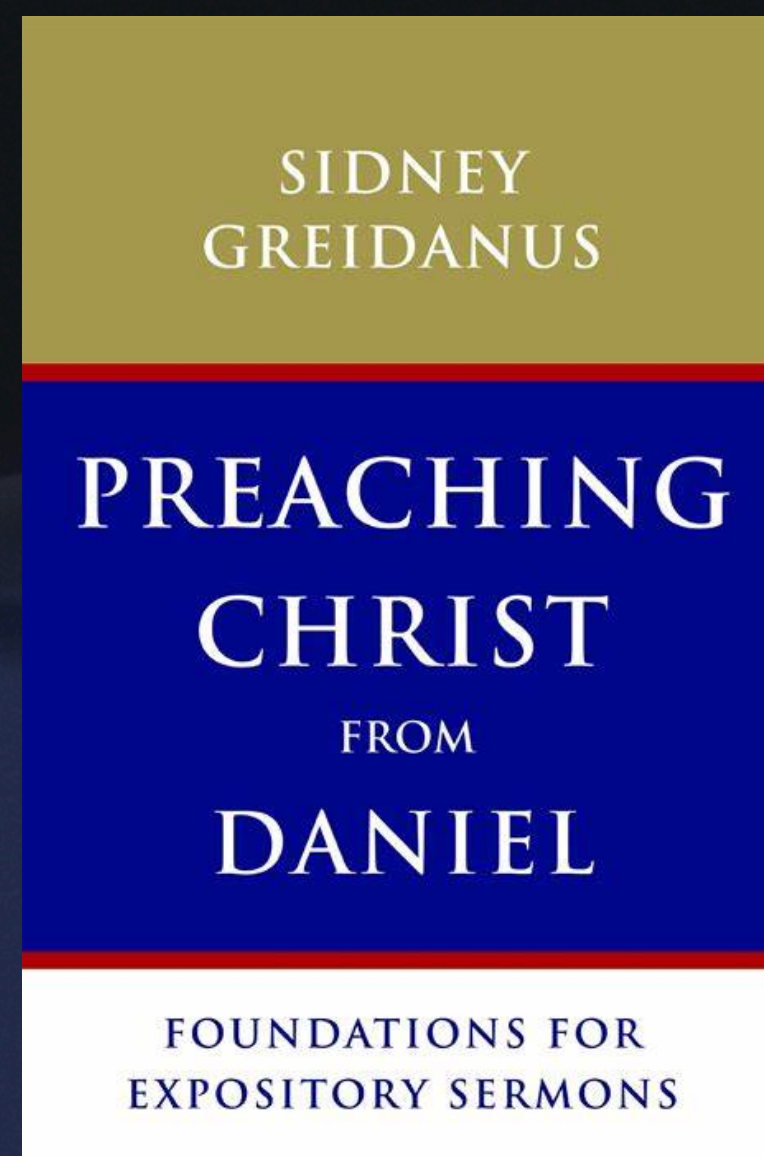
After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

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*Daniel 7:7*



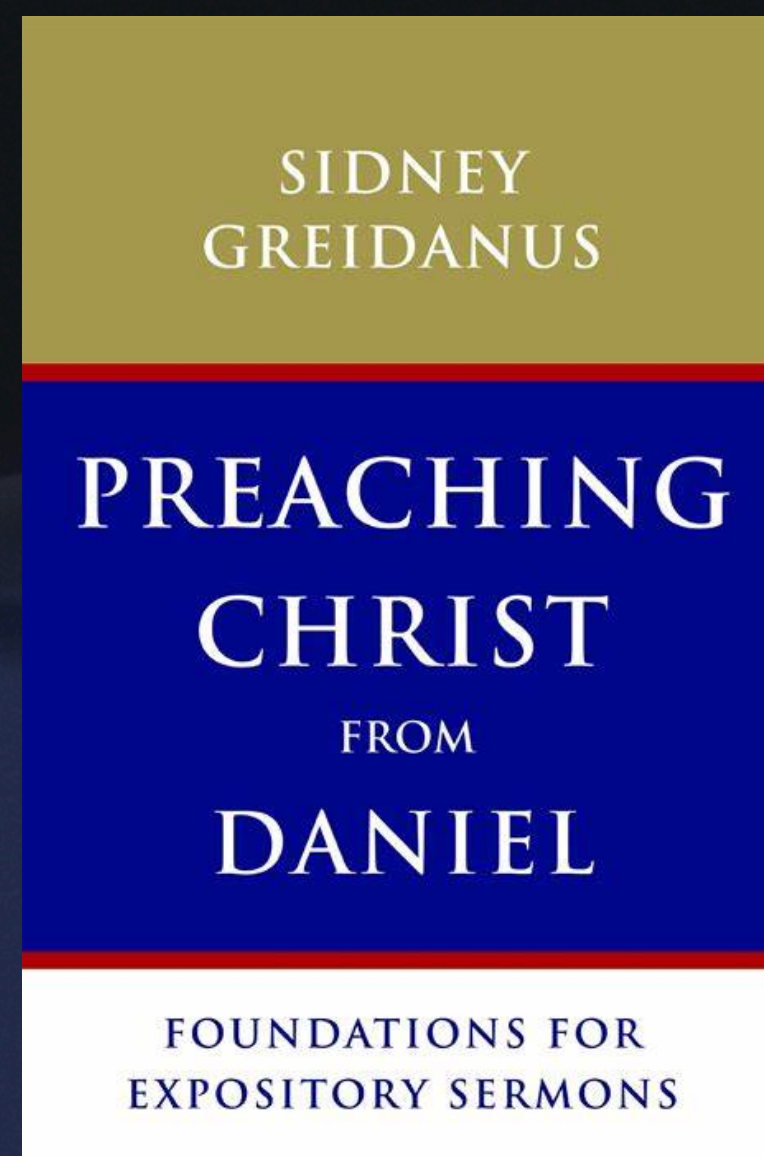
The Roman legions marched across the world, breaking in pieces what was left of the Greek Empire, forcing regions in Asia, Africa, and Europe to submit to the Caesar in Rome.



*(Preaching Christ from Daniel, Sidney Greidanus, p.237 )*



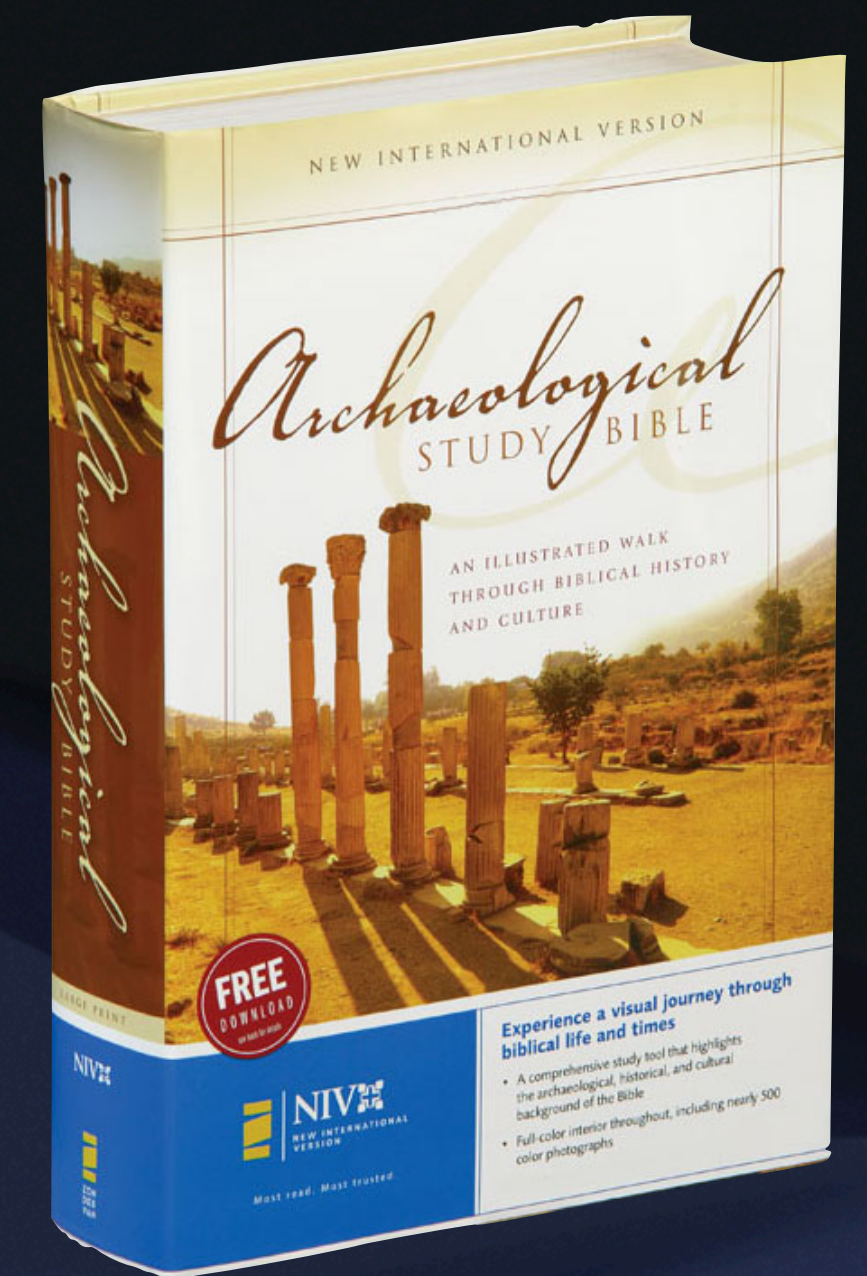
This monster, Daniel says, was different from all the beasts that preceded it. Rome possessed a power and longevity unlike anything the world had ever known. Nations were crushed under the iron boot of the Roman legions, its power was virtually irresistible, and the extent of its influence surpassed the other three kingdoms.



*(Preaching Christ from Daniel, Sidney Greidanus, p.237 )*



“The ten horns may represent the various rulers and dynasties who governed the Roman Empire. Throughout its history the empire was ruled by the republic, by various generals who seized power during the late republic, and by various dynasties that ruled after Augustus had consolidated power under himself. Vying for power through intrigue, assassination and outright civil war was a regular feature of Roman history.”



*(Archaeological Study Bible, p.1388)*



<sup>9</sup> 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.

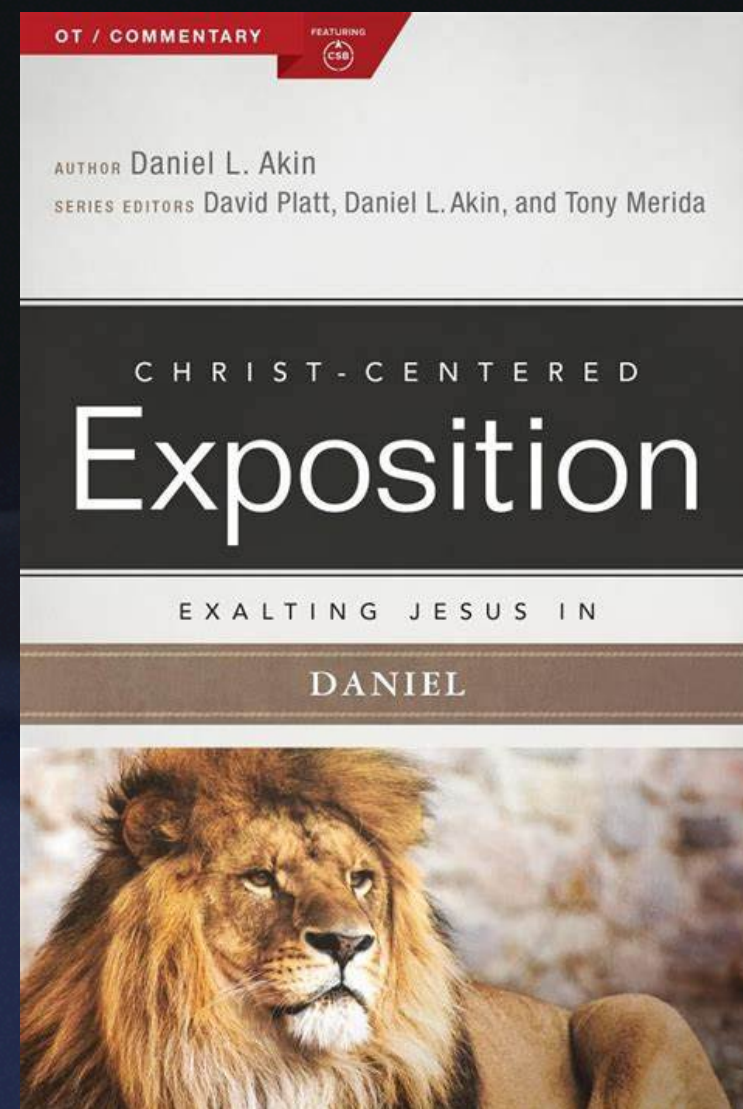
<sup>10</sup> A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

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*Daniel 7:9 & 10*



Only Daniel calls God the Ancient of Days. This is God the Father on his eternal and universal throne. As the Ancient of Days he is eternal, not old. He is wise, not senile! He is a big God, bigger than even Daniel realized, and bigger than the petty beast kingdoms of this world.



*(Christ Centered Exposition, Exalting Jesus in Daniel, Daniel L. Akin, p.88)*



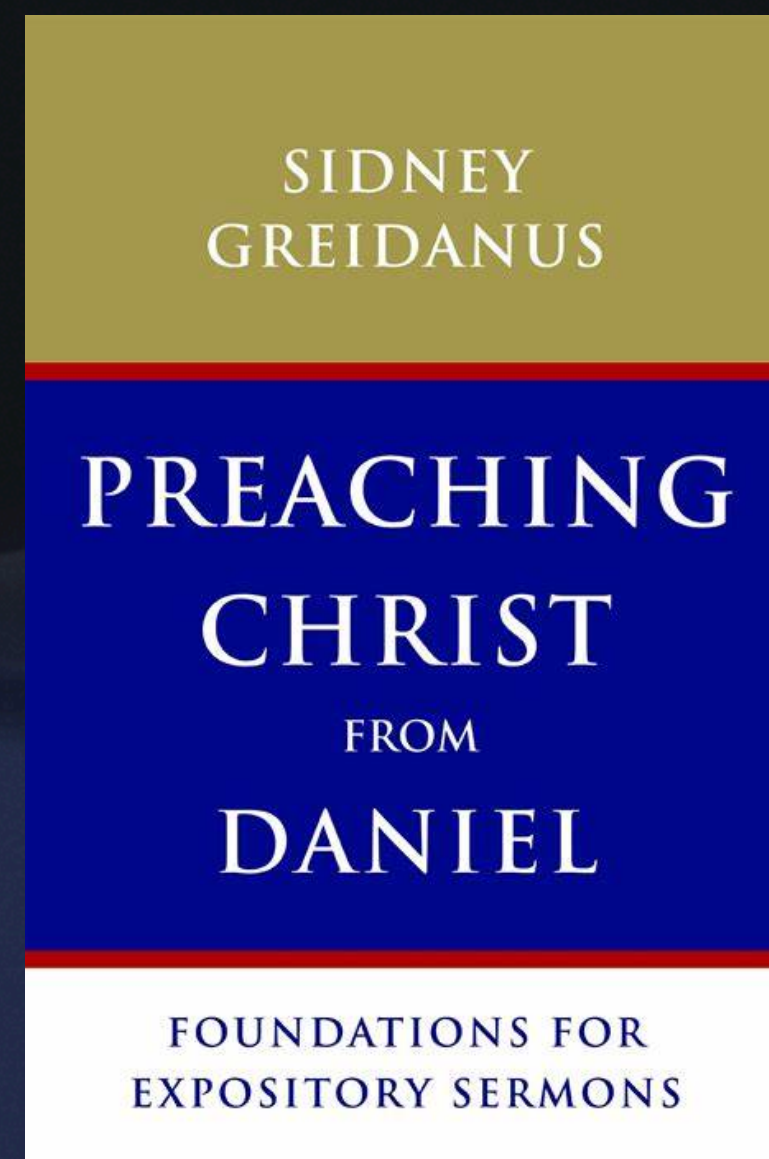
As I watched in the night visions,  
I saw one like a son of man  
coming with the clouds of heaven.  
And he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.

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*Daniel 7:13*



Notice the contrast between this “son of man” and the earlier kingdoms. The human kingdoms were described in verses 4 - 7 as being like beasts: But this fifth king is described as being “like a son of man,” “like a human being.” Moreover, the “four great beasts came up out of the sea — the biblical symbol for chaos and evil. But the one like a son of man comes “with the clouds of heaven.”



*(Preaching Christ from Daniel, Sidney Greidanus, p.241 )*







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.

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*Daniel 7:14*







<sup>15</sup> I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. <sup>16</sup> 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: <sup>17</sup> “The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. <sup>18</sup> But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.”

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*Daniel 7:15 - 18*



<sup>19</sup> “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. <sup>20</sup> 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.”

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*Daniel 7:19 - 20*



<sup>23</sup> 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.

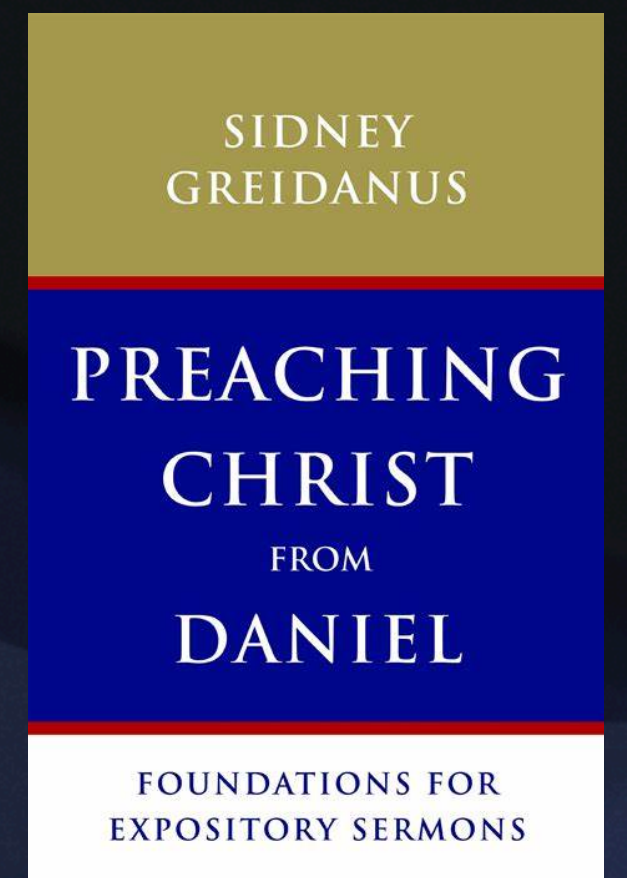
<sup>24</sup> As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another king shall arise after them, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

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*Daniel 7:23 - 25*



This verse speaks of the demise of the Roman Empire in several phases. As the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great at its fall had split into four “heads”/kingdoms, so the fall of the Roman Empire will result in ten kings or kingdoms arising from the ashes of Rome.



*(Preaching Christ from Daniel, Sidney Greidanus, p.245)*



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

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*Daniel 7:23 - 25*



<sup>25</sup> 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.”

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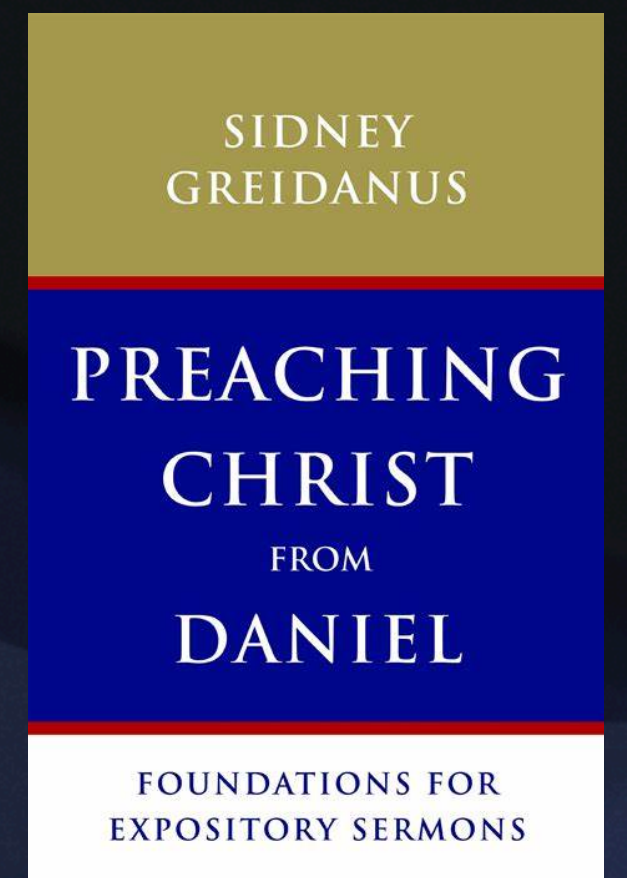
*Daniel 7:23 - 25*







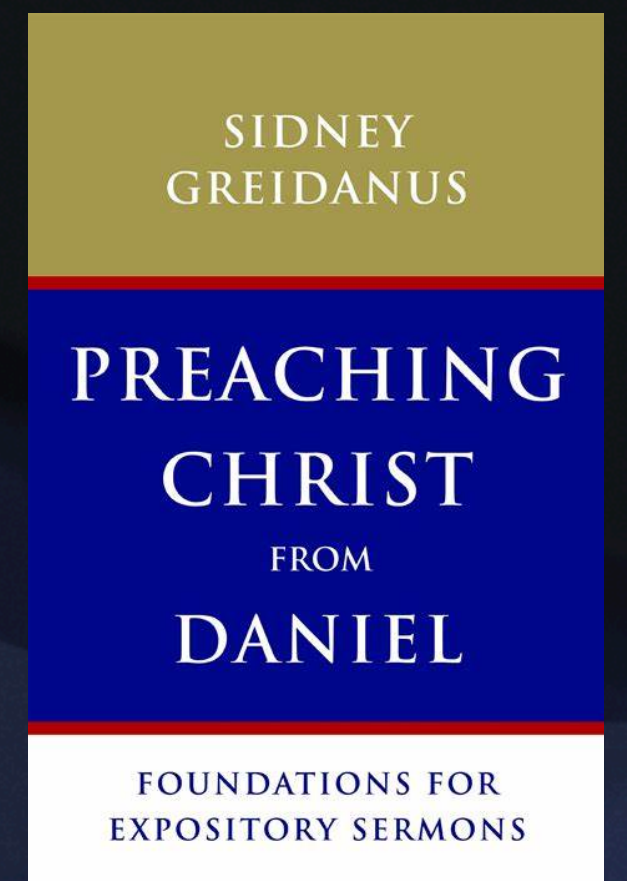
Jesus came to reestablish God's kingdom on earth, but it will come in two stages. With his First Coming Jesus inaugurated God's kingdom on earth; with his Second Coming he will bring it to completion. So now we live in the in-between times, in "the last days," awaiting the coming of the Son of Man with the clouds to receive God's everlasting kingdom.



*(Preaching Christ from Daniel, Sidney Greidanus, p.247 - 248 )*



In this time before the end, many Antichrists are at work in the world defying Christ and opposing God's people. But they are only precursors, forerunners, of the final personal Antichrist. They point forward to that horrendous figure who will come at the end of time.



*(Preaching Christ from Daniel, Sidney Greidanus, p.247 - 248 )*



<sup>26</sup> But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. <sup>27</sup> 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.

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*Daniel 7:26 - 27*



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.

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*Daniel 7:28*



The main message of Daniel 7 is twofold:

1. God is in control.
2. God's people will receive the kingdom







