

DANIEL AND THE FOUR BEASTS

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22.8.20

There are quite a few things that I want to talk about today — so I've divided it into 4 parts.

- 1) News update with prophetic (?) implications
- 2) Brief recap of last week — Rome or Islam?
- 3) Daniel and the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- 4) Study of the 4 Beasts of Daniel 7

(i) If we're watching the Middle East and Islam — there was a major announcement on August 13 by President Trump. (Click on the hyperlink below)

<https://youtu.be/FkdLO-6rrtw>

Israel and the United Arab Emirates Peace Treaty. Genuinely historic. Only 3rd since Israel became a nation. (Previously Egypt and Jordan).

This is far reaching. A Muslim country to normalise relations with Jewish State — embassies ... direct flights ... tourism ... trade ... health ... education ... security.

It is likely that some other Muslim countries will follow. Partly due to political "fatigue" over the wasted years since 1948. But also concern over Iran. Lots of Muslim countries are nervous about Iran. It is good to be friends with Israel and the USA ... and have them on your side.

The Peace Treaty is known as "Abraham Accord".

Absolutely historical. Probably very prophetic.

WATCH!

(ii) Recap of last week. Should we focus on Europe ... or Jerusalem ... The Middle East ... and Islam?

The Roman Empire has been popular since 200 AD. Based on the 4th Empire of Daniel 2.

Yet — it fails the Bible test?

Daniel 2:40

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, **inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.**

Breaks in pieces (Deqaq) — pulverise ... smash to smithereens.

Did Rome do that? They didn't! Islam did!

We also looked at Revelation 17 — the Harlot sitting on 7 mountains. Many claim that the city on 7 hills is Rome. Hills are not mountains. That is probably an example of confirmation bias?

So ... if you want to focus on Europe — fine. But is this based on tradition ... familiarity — rather than solid scripture?

Perhaps: “Mr HWA taught about the resurrected Roman Empire ... and I have high regards for his teachings”?

I would differentiate between Mr HWA's clear teachings on Bible doctrine (Sabbath ... Holy Days) ... and his interpretation of Bible prophecy — which wasn't too good.

HWA came to his views on prophecy in the 1930's ... I suspect coloured by the rise of the Nazi's and World War II. Here are a few quotes of his:

March 1938 PT: “Mussolini and the Pope will hatch up an idea between them of setting up a world headquarters at Jerusalem — and so Mussolini's armies will enter Palestine (Daniel 11:41) and eventually will capture half the city of Jerusalem”.

January 1939 PT: “Mussolini's soon-appearing reborn Roman Empire is ‘The Beast’ power and Mussolini undoubtedly is the ‘Beast’”!!

“Undoubtedly ... then the ‘Beast’ who will (be) fighting at Armageddon against Christ ... is Mussolini ... with 10 European dictators and their armies! It is coming in THIS GENERATION”.

May/June 1941 PT: “Hitler now emerges as the “Beast” of Revelation.

August 1952 PT: “Adolf Hitler probably is still alive today. Evidence piles up that he is this minute secretly directing the powerful Nazi underground”. We can’t perhaps question Mr HWA’s sincerity ... but his interpretation of prophecy.

My Opinion: If we go strictly by Bible criteria ... Rome has very very very little support. (I would say none ☺)

Islam is probably a much better fit.

(iii) **Daniel may be a “manual for the end-times”**. But not just a book of “technical” prophecy.

Daniel also contains the central message of the Gospel!

Daniel 7:9-10

9 “**I watched till thrones were put in place,**

And the Ancient of Days was seated; (*Ancient of Days = God The Father*)

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.

Judgment is about to take place.

Daniel 7:13-14

13 “I was watching in the night visions,

And behold, **One like the Son of Man,**

Coming with the clouds of heaven!

He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.

14 **Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,**

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

Which shall not pass away,

And His kingdom the one

Which shall not be destroyed.

He receives an everlasting Kingdom.

The Coronation of Jesus Christ by God The Father.

Daniel 7:25-27

25 **He (the little horn of the 4th Beast) shall speak pompous words against the**

Most High,

Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,

And shall intend to change times and law.

Then the saints shall be given into his hand

For a time and times and half a time.

26 'But the court shall be seated,

And they shall take away his dominion, (the 4th Beast's dominion)

To consume and destroy it forever.

27 **Then the kingdom and dominion,**

And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,

Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

In the days of the 4th Beast ... the Kingdom shared with the saints — over all the earth. That is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

So the whole story of Jesus becoming King and reigning during the millennium is here in Daniel 7. Frequent references in the New Testament.

Jesus' favourite term for Himself was "Son of Man". It doesn't just mean ... "I'm a human being". It means "I am the divine ruler of Daniel 7". A massive claim to make. To many people in His day that was a controversial statement!

Jesus used that title over 80 times.

Matthew 16:13-20

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, **“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”**

14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”**

16 Simon Peter answered and said, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

17 Jesus answered and said to him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”**

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one **that He was Jesus the Christ.**

The Great Confession. Jesus — “I, the Son of Man”.

Mark 14:55-65

55 Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none.

56 For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.

57 Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying,

58 “We heard Him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.’ ”

59 But not even then did their testimony agree.

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, “Do You answer nothing? **What is it these men testify against You?”**

61 But He kept silent and answered nothing.

Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, **“Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”**

62 **Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”**

63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “What further need do we have of witnesses?”

64 **You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”**

And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.

65 Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, “Prophecy!” And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

The Son of Man — coming on the clouds of heaven.

They understood! Jesus claiming to be the Divine Being of Daniel 7 — the King of the everlasting Kingdom.

There are “echoes” of the Book of Daniel in many places in the New Testament. The Son of Man coming in the clouds is a key motif.

Matthew 24:3

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, **“Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”**

Jesus’ return.

Matthew 24:30-31

30 **Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Son of Man ... coming in the clouds. Coming to receive His saints.

Chapter 25 tells us about different rewards to the servants who used their talents. Who would be given “rule over many things”.

Matthew 25:31-34

31 **“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.**

32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and **He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.**

33 And **He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.**

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, **'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

The Kingdom shared amongst the saints.

So ... in explaining the Gospel of the Kingdom ... and the Millennium ... Jesus refers back to Daniel 7.

This wasn't "brand new" teaching. Daniel is vital!

We won't turn there ... but Daniel 9 even tells us when to expect Jesus' first coming!

In future ... we may look at how the Apostle Paul refers to Daniel in explaining about the Man of Sin in 2 Thessalonians 2. That is based on the Book of Daniel too.

Daniel is a key book!!

(iv) Turn now to another important vision for the end-times.

Daniel 7:1-8

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. *(Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon)*

2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.

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.**

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!'**

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**, and dominion was given to it.

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.**

Four Beasts.

A common view is that it’s basically a repeat of Daniel 2 — Babylon ... Persia ... Greece ... and (of course) ... Rome. Mostly history??

We’ve already seen Rome is not a real contender?

Further problem with the common view. **It seems reasonably clear it’s all future** — not historic.

Daniel 7:17

17 **‘Those great beasts, which are four**, are four kings which arise out of the earth.

Daniel 7:17 (KJV)

17 ... **are four kings**, which **shall arise** out of the earth.

Daniel 7:17 (ESV)

17 ... **are four kings** who **shall arise** out of the earth.

Daniel 7:17 (NASB)

17 ... **are four kings** who **will arise** from the earth.

Daniel 7:17 (NIV)

17 ... **are four kings** that **will rise** from the earth.

The original Aramaic is inconclusive. It could mean just “arise” ... or as many translations show “will arise” — in the future (from the time of the vision).

But the vision was in the reign of Belshazzar (Daniel 7:1). He was the last king of Babylon. You can't really prophecy that 4 kings “will arise” — when the last one is about to disappear?? 😊

It is most likely that Daniel 7 and the 4 Beasts are yet future — for the end-times.

The regions may be the same (Babylon/Iraq ... Persia/Iran ... etc) — but their end-time fulfillments.

It seems to be confirmed by:

Daniel 7:9-11

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.

11 **“I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body**

destroyed and given to the burning flame.

The 4th Beast slain and cast into the Lake of Fire.

Daniel 7:12

12 **As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.**

The other 3 Beasts/Kingdoms continue for a while longer.

The 4 Beasts are contemporaneous.

Daniel 7 is not talking about a 2,500 year period of one Kingdom after another.

Not a “repeat” of Daniel 2.

Next week: We will look more closely at these 4 Beasts — especially the Terrible 4th Beast that makes war against the saints.

Daniel 7:25

25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,

Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,

And shall intend to change times and law.

Then the saints shall be given into his hand

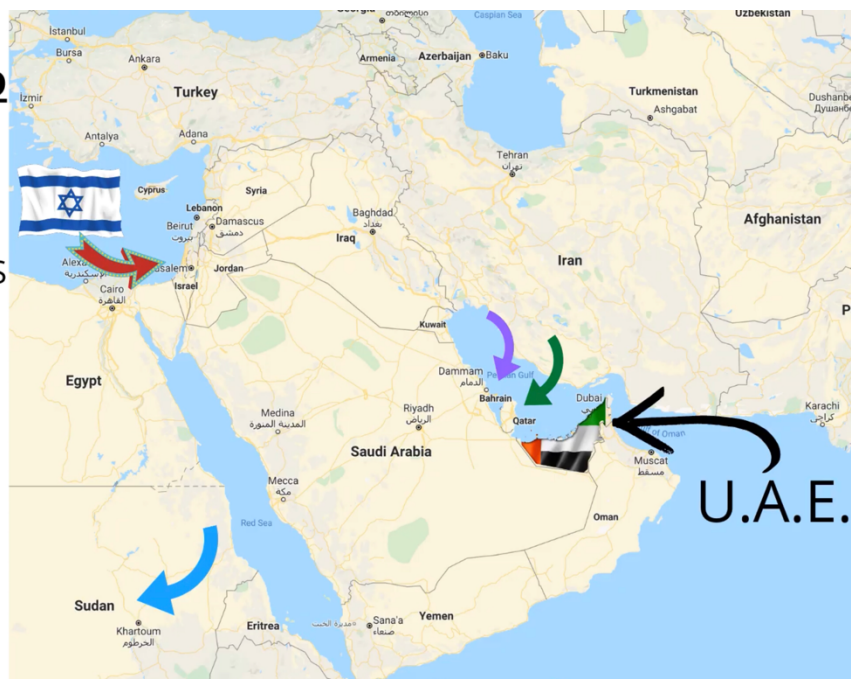
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Those great beasts, which are four, are four
kings which arise out of the earth - **NKJV**

These great beasts, which are four, are four kings,
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These great beasts, which are four in number, are four
kings who will arise from the earth - **NASB**

The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from
the earth - **NIV** **DAN 7:17**