



The "Beasts" in Bible prophecy

Part 2

(Daniel chapter 7:15-28)

(Revelation 13:1-4, 11) “ 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... Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.”

In the book of Revelation John saw the emergence of the last empire that would expand the globe. This empire would be like nothing else that had ever been. It would have the combined powers of Ancient Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome.

Daniel also saw the same vision of four beasts or empires. The prophet Daniel not only described Ancient Rome as the fourth beast but also saw that from this fourth empire would immerge the kingdom of the Antichrist and the last great global empire to exist before the Second Coming of Christ.

(Daniel 7:7-8) “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. 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 man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.”

In the middle of verse seven Daniel does “a time leap” and begins to describe a future kingdom to come.

In this second study on Daniel chapter seven we will look at the Fourth Beast and what it means for us in the last days.

The Fourth Beast in Daniel.
(Daniel 7:15-28)
(The Kingdom of the Antichrist)

(Vs 15-16) “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 this. “So he told me the interpretation of these things:”

The prophet Daniel had received another vision in which he saw four great successive empires. So powerful were these visions that he was greatly disturbed emotionally by what he saw and deeply troubled in his thoughts. His vision of the future was no ‘postmillennial theory’ or a ‘Kingdom Now’ dream of a Christianized world but a vision of the Last Days and a global empire that would terrify the inhabitants of the earth just before the Second Coming of Christ. When Daniel approached one of those standing before the presence of the Lord he asked the true meaning of the things he saw. The one he spoke to gave Daniel the interpretation.

(Vs 17-18) “The four great beasts are four great kingdoms that will rise from the earth.” These of course were Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. “But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.”

Once again Daniel was encouraged to know that the saints would ultimately inherit the kingdom of God. However the fourth beast empire was the one that Daniel wanted to know about because of its terrifying nature and character.

(19) "Then I wanted to know the true 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."

Of course history has shown us that this was Ancient Rome that Daniel saw but primarily it described the last beast empire.

(Vs20) "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."

In Apocalyptic literature "horns" represent kings or rulers over their kingdoms or empires and here Daniel saw that in the Last Days just before Jesus comes back there would be ten kings. Then he saw another horn that looked more imposing than the others, that overthrew three of them and that one was the Antichrist.

In the book of Revelation John tells us that these ten kings and their empires are given power along with the Antichrist's empire for a brief period of time but are subservient to that empire. *"The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast"*(Revelation 17:12-14) This "horn" that *"spoke boastfully"* is the Antichrist himself. Other scriptures confirm this

(Daniel 7:8b)"This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully. "

(Daniel 11:36a) "The king will do as he pleases. He will exult and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods."

(2 Thessalonians 2:4) "He opposes and exults himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, and even sets himself up in God's temple. Proclaiming himself to be God."

(Revelation 13:5-6) "The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months (Three and a half years). He opened his mouth to Blaspheme God, and to slander His name and His dwelling place and those who live in heaven."

(Vs 21-22) "As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them." This describes the Antichrist's persecution of Israel and the Church. *"Until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom."*

When did the Saints possess the kingdom? Only after the kingdom of the Antichrist had been overthrown. This flatly contradicts Kingdom now and postmillennial theology of a progressively 'Christianised' world before Jesus comes back. The very last thing happening just before Jesus comes back will be the Great Tribulation also called "The Time of Jacob's Trouble" when Israel will be centre-stage in world affairs. Daniel knew that the vision was something that was to happen in the future.

(Vs 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.'" Historically this 'Beast Empire' was Ancient Rome.

(Vs 24) "The ten horns are ten kings who will

come from this kingdom. Here in verse 24 Daniel does a 'time leap' taking us into the time of the last global empire that will cover the earth. The ten kings will be a part of that empire. Between verses 23 and 24 there is an undetermined period of history.

Excerpts from the Wikipedia Encyclopedia....

"The end of the Roman Empire is sometimes placed at 4 September AD 476, when the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, Romulus Augustus, was deposed, and not replaced. However, Diocletian, who retired in AD 305, was the last sole Emperor of an undivided Empire whose capital was the City of Rome.

After the division of the Empire by Diocletian into East and West, each branch continued to style itself as "The Roman Empire." The Western Roman Empire declined and fell apart in the course of the 5th century. The Eastern Roman Empire, centered on Nova Roma (founded by Constantine I on the Greek city of Byzantium), which would later adopt Greek as its main language, known widely today as the Byzantine Empire, preserved Greco-Roman legal and cultural traditions along with Hellenic and Orthodox Christian elements for another millennium, until its eventual collapse with the conquest of Constantinople, as Constantine's city become known, at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in 1453.

The Ottoman Empire (1299 to 1922) also known as the Turkish Empire or Turkey by its contemporaries, was a multi-ethnic and multi-religious Turkish-ruled state which, at the height of its power (16th – 17th centuries), spanned three continents, controlling much of Southeastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, stretching from the Strait of Gibraltar (and, in 1553, the Atlantic coast of Morocco beyond Gibraltar) in the west to the Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf in the

east, from the edge of Austria, Slovakia and parts of Ukraine in the north to Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia and Yemen in the south.

The empire was at the center of interactions between the Eastern and Western worlds for six centuries. At the height of its power, the Ottoman Empire contained 29 provinces, in addition to the tributary principalities of Moldavia, Transylvania, and Wallachia. With Constantinople (today known as Istanbul) as its capital, the Ottoman Empire was in many respects an Islamic successor to earlier Mediterranean empires — namely the Roman and Byzantine empires. As such, the Ottomans regarded themselves as the heirs to both Roman and Islamic traditions, and hence rulers of a "Universal Empire" through this "unification of cultures." (End of quote)

During WW1 this Islamic empire was thrown back by the British and no longer retained its power, however, after the decline of the British Empire the Islamic world began to stir again. Today an Islamic empire is rapidly encircling the globe once more and Turkey itself will become a major player in its formation. Today we have 10 core nations in the European Union called the Western European Union. This is in fact the military arm of the EU. These countries are Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain and Greece, all countries that have been traditionally associated with the Monarchy and Christianity.

In fact they are calling the EU itself "the new Rome." Is it possible that they could be the ten kings mentioned here in Daniel that are empowered to rule along with the Antichrist's beast empire? Of course time will tell. The empire that these ten kings give their authority to in the light of where we are in history today would have to be Islam. At present America is holding

back the forces of Islam but that will change! The day will come when America will decline as a military and economic power in the world. What America is doing to Israel and to Jerusalem will bring God's judgement down on their heads. The nation has already started to suffer because of what its government is doing to Israel

America has already divided up the Land of Israel and Jerusalem itself with their 'two state solution.' Forget what the media tells us. The wall is already built! (See "The Golden report" "Dividing Jerusalem, it's a done deal." Including photographs. Nov 4th'07 report.) God Himself will deal severely with those nations who try to divide or partition the Land of Israel and America will be no exception!

*(Joel 3:1-2) "In those days and at that time (in which we are now living) I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning My inheritance, My people Israel, for they scattered My people among the nations and **divided up My land.**"*

*(Zechariah 12:2-3) "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day when the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. **All who try to move it will injure ("tear") themselves.**"*

Already America is being hit with floods and disasters and economic woes of one kind or another but the worst is yet to come. That empire 'Babylon the Great' is being torn apart with ecological and economic disasters because of the acts of its government towards Israel. George Bush and his associates have innocent blood on their hands! God sees the partitioning of Israel as an attack against Jerusalem and Israel. This partition will allow the terror-

ists to increase their rocket attacks on the Jewish people.

Today the western nations are declining in power. The Empire of Islam is invading Europe and the West. Islamic nations are controlling the western economy through oil. In virtually every western and third world country there is an Islamic 'Trojan horse.' In fact the whole Islamic world is waiting for the Mahdi to arise in the earth to bring about a global Islamic empire.

Indeed it is an empire that conquered Rome historically and although it declined it has risen out of the ashes of history again to dominate the world. Is this *"the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived?"* Yes we see a European confederation emerging today but we need to also be aware that Islam controls it. The 10 toes on Nebuchadnezzar's statue represent five western kings and five Middle Eastern kings. This Middle Eastern and Western confederation, whatever its final formation, will be given authority along with the beast empire to rule for one 'hour.' This last beast empire will be so vicious and cruel that Jesus will have to cut the days short and come back to save the world from annihilating itself! (Matthew 24:21-22)

"After them (the 10 kings) another king will arise, different from the earlier ones, he will subdue three kings."

The beast empire will subdue three of these final ten kings. The "horn" or king that brings this about will be the Antichrist. There is no reason to assume that the Antichrist will be a western man. In fact he will probably be a Middle-Eastern ruler as the scriptures clearly identify him with Nimrod who came from the regions of Ancient Babylon and Assyria. Nimrod was not a western man at all!

The "horn" that uproots three of the other ten horns is *"different from them."* If the

ten nations of the WEU are the ten kings Daniel spoke about they are all traditionally associated with Christianity. However, the “*horn*” or king that rules over them is different from them. There is much to suggest that ‘the difference’ is that the Antichrist will be associated with Islam and not with Christianity or western culture. Now lets continue.

(Vs 25) “He will speak against the Most High and oppress the saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. (for a year, two years and half a year)”

1. The Antichrist will speak against God, “with a mouth that speaks boastfully” and as one whom, “exults and magnifies himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.”

Islam not only denies the Trinity but also pronounces a curse on those who believe in the Trinity. The Antichrist will not only speak against God but will be one who, “*Opposes and exults himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, and even sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*” One thing about the Antichrist is that he will be religious and destroy every religion but his own. One of the basic tenants of Islam is the establishment of a global Caliphate and the one religion of Islam.

2. The Antichrist will “oppress the saints.” Not only Daniel picks this up but John also picks this up in Revelation. “*He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them*” (Revelation 13:7a) The standard word John uses for “*saints*” is the standard New Testament word used for Christians. The Lord Jesus Himself confirmed this when he said, “*Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and betray and hate each other*”(Matthew 24:9-10)

The whole context in Matthew chapter 24 primarily describes the Last Days. The word He uses for “*nations*” means the ethnic races within nations. When the Antichrist comes to power the only two people groups that will be hunted down will be Jews and Christians, “the people of the Book,” The Bible.

When Daniel and John and the Lord Jesus spoke about the saints they were not referring to tribulation saints that have missed the rapture but to faithful believers in every age of the Church and specifically to believers in the Last Days. Today in North Korea, China, Indonesia, and Pakistan and in every Muslim country in the world the “*beast*” is already persecuting the saints.

Go to these precious believers in those countries with the gospel of prosperity, Kingdom Now theology and with ‘Purpose Driven’ concepts and see if it works there. In those countries true Christianity is not defined in terms of western consumerism or by secular marketing strategies for Church growth but by the blood of the martyrs for Jesus, which is, “the seed of the Church.” Everyday from the organization called “The Voice of the Martyrs” there are numerous accounts of terrible atrocities being perpetrated against faithful Christians. In almost every case it is coming from Islamic countries. There is a ‘beast’ empire at large today that at its very core denies the Father and Son relationship in the Godhead and this is the kingdom of the Antichrist that is rapidly encircling the globe.

3. The Antichrist will try to change the set times and the laws. When the Antichrist sets himself up in the temple to rule from Jerusalem he will try to change the laws and the customs, primarily, for the Jewish nation, but also for the western way of life. If Islam had its way in the world today it would bring everyone under strict Islamic Shari’ah Law.

4. The Antichrist will have power over the saints for a time, times and half a time. As we have already mentioned the empire of the Antichrist, for three and a half years and within certain perimeters, will have power to conquer the saints. In every nation being a faithful follower of Jesus and the Bible will be a criminal offence and in the majority of cases prove to be a capital one resulting in beheading. (Islam's favourite method of execution) However, the Bible tells us that those who are beheaded for their faith during the Great Tribulation will be raised to life again with Christ to reign with Him over the surviving nations for a thousand years. The Second Death (the lake of fire) will have no power over them.

(Revelation 20:4-6) "I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."

To have lived in the will of God in this life is to have prepared us to die. Death is inevitable as the scripture says, *"It has been appointed for men to die once and after that the judgement."* For believers in the Lord Jesus physical death is the door into an eternal life where death, sin, suffering and sorrow are abolished forever. It means that believers will experience the eternal joy and splendour of the new heaven and earth the home of righteousness that Jesus Himself has promised. (2 Peter 3:13)

(Revelation 21:1-4) "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and

the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

For the faithful believer the goal of their life is to experience *"the first resurrection."* The first resurrection will include both the living and the physically dead saints, both those still living at the rapture, those who have died especially those who were beheaded for their faith. These precious fruits of Christ's work at the cross will make up his bride when He returns again. They will be clothed with the very righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

(Revelation 18:6b-8) "Hallelujah! For the Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him the glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)"

If we die with our faith in the Lord Jesus and with a total reliance upon the merits of His shed blood and righteousness then we will go on living after we depart this life. We will never experience the eternal conscious torment of the lake of fire that is called *"the second death."* The Lord Jesus Himself has given His word on that.

(Vs 26) " 'But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever."

It may well be that the majority of faithful believers will be beheaded during the reign of the Antichrist but even though he

kills us physically he cannot kill us as we will be forever with the Lord and physically resurrected when He comes to earth again.

When Jesus comes back to destroy the Antichrist and his followers the faithful resurrected remnant will see their enemies burn in the lake of fire forever along with the devil himself! *“And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against Me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind” (Isaiah 66:24)*

(Vs 27) “Then the sovereignty power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey Him.”

The prophet Joel said, *“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the Day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for His people, a stronghold for the people of Israel” (Joel 3:14-16)*

Today, right now in fact, the Lord is giving everyone a choice, Christ or the Antichrist? It will be one or the other. When the Lord thunders at the head of His army as He descends upon the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem the nations gathered against that city will be destroyed on the mountains of Israel.

At that time the whole world will experience the unabated wrath of God upon sin and rebellion. Those who have been marked with the blood of Christ through faith in Him will be spared this cataclysmic judgement. Like Noah and his family they will be protected from the deluge unleashed upon a Christ hating, Christ rejecting world!

The scripture itself says, *“Go, My people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until His wrath has passed by, See the Lord is coming out of His dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins” (Isaiah 26:20-21a)*

When the plagues fell upon ancient Egypt those who had sheltered under the blood of the slain lamb were spared. When Rahab tied the red cord to the beam of her window she and her family were spared when the walls of Jericho collapsed. The red cord symbolised the eternal blood of Christ the Lamb of God shed from the foundation of the world.

When the wrath of God comes in blazing fire from heaven will you be spared and caught up to meet the Lord Jesus in the air or be left behind? The only hope any of us have to escape God’s wrath upon sin is to flee to the Lord Jesus Himself by faith. Lay hold of the power of His blood to cleanse and protect you in the day of His wrath and claim His righteousness by faith alone. *“For without holiness no one shall see the Lord!”*

In the Lord Jesus Christ God has given us everything we will ever need to escape His wrath upon sin and rebellion. Are you in Christ right now by faith alone? Are you fully resting in His blood and righteousness or in something else to save you from the wrath to come? Have you been ‘marked’ with the Blood of Christ?

The Antichrist and his ‘beast’ empire are coming. The Time of Jacob’s trouble is rapidly approaching. The devil is about to be cast down to earth, because he knows his time is short!

The day is coming when everything that God has not established will be shaken! No nation and no person on earth at that time will be able to escape His wrath upon sin and rebellion! Everything that can be shaken in this temporary life will be shaken!

(Isaiah 24:1-3) "See, the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; He will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants-it will be the same for priest as for people (the religious world), for master as for servant for mistress as for maid (the domestic world), for seller as for buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor (the business world). The world will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The Lord has spoken this word."

If our daily lives are being established on the 'Rock' of God's Word then we will stand secure in the time of His shaking. However, if our daily lives are being established on any other foundation other

than Jesus and His Word then we will not stand in the time of His judgement! There is only one sure foundation for life and Godliness and that is to stand by faith alone upon the Lord Jesus Christ!

(1 Corinthians 3:11) "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

(1 Corinthians 1:30-31) "It is because of Him (God) that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION

" For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ "

