

RUSSELL SANDERS

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DANIEL THE PROPHET – LESSON 2

THE FOUR BEAST DREAM

The first of Daniel's four night-visions came during Belshazzar's first year as king, reigning as co-regent with his father King Nabonidus. The dream is described in Chapter 7:1-14.

Verses 2-3 say that Daniel saw the four winds of the heaven (atmosphere: east, west, north, and south winds) striving upon the great sea (sea of humanity). Four great (big and powerful) beasts (kingdoms) rose up from the sea of humanity.

The first beast appeared like a lion with eagle wings. Its wings were plucked off. It was made to stand upon feet like a man and was given a man's heart (spirit).

The second beast was like a bear raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth and was instructed to ***"Arise, devour much flesh."***

The third one was like a leopard with four wings on its back and having four heads. It was given dominion.

The fourth beast was in verse 7, ***"dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly"*** having great (big) iron teeth. It broke the others into pieces, devoured them, and stamped upon their residue with its feet. It was very different (in many ways) than the previous beasts, and it had ten horns. As Daniel watched it, a little horn rose up among the ten and plucked up three of the ten horns. This "little horn" had ***"the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great (mighty) things."***

As Daniel continued in the vision (dream) the thrones of all the horns (kingdoms) were cast down as the Ancient of Days appeared. His garment was white as snow (pure and righteous), His throne like a fiery flame, his wheels (movements) as a burning fire and a fiery stream went before Him. Billions stood in judgment before Him as the books were opened.

The "little horn," who had spoken "great words," was slain and cast into the burning flame (lake of fire). The other seven horns (kingdoms) had all their power (dominion) taken away, but their lives (existence) were given some mercy for yet a limited time.

Then appeared one like the Son of Man who came with the clouds of heaven. The Ancient of Days gave Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom of all the earth that would be everlasting.

That concluded the dream (vision). It troubled Daniel (vs. 15). Tomorrow we see the interpretation given to this prophet.