

Tonight's study is about biblical Beasts. If you missed the BIFIDS and CHIASMS study that supports repetitive visions, that study can be repeated at another time.

All biblical visions are figurative in nature. In other words beasts, heads, horns, seals and the like are pictures of something other than what they seem. For the biblical definition of visionary beasts we need to go to Daniel.

Dan 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. (Revelation 17:15 defines the sea as multitudes of people.)

Dan 7:23 "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom . . . " so the other three were also kingdoms. So beasts are kingdoms, but what kingdoms are they and when do they rule?

Dan 7:4 The first *was* like a lion . . . and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

When Daniel was given this vision in 552BC, Babylon was in power. The Babylonian Empire existed from 606BC to 539BC or 70 years, so Babylon is the 1st Beast. You can see the lions of Babylon today on the Ishtar Gates of that ancient city.

Nebuchadnezzar was probably the most absolute monarch of all time; thus, he is the "man" spoken of in the above verse.

Ancient Babylon is the Lion and it controlled the whole Middle East.

Dan 7:5 And behold another beast . . . like to a Bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth.

Medo-Persia followed Babylon. It was raised up on one side because the Persians were stronger than the Medes. And the three ribs?

Medo-Persia conquered three other empires, Babylon, Elam and Egypt so from 539BC to 332BC Medo-Persia controlled the whole Middle East.

Biblically, Medo-Persia (not Russia) was the Bear. <smile>

Dan 7:6 After this . . . another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings . . . the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

Greece and Alexander the Great. Alexander defeated Medo-Persia at the Battle of Issus in 332BC and became the next emperor to control the whole Middle East.

As for the "four heads and four wings." After his death in 323BC, Alexander's FOUR generals split the empire into FOUR separate smaller empires.

Cassander, Antiochus, Ptolemy and Lycimicus were those four generals and their empires were "the four heads" of Daniel's prophecy.

Remember the first three beasts, the Lion, Bear and Leopard, they are important. Each of them controlled the whole Middle East.

Lion = Babylon = Modern day Iraq (including Saudi Arabia)

Bear = Medo-Persia = Modern day Iran

Leopard = Greece = Modern day Syria

Then came Rome, the strongest of them all and the Eastern Roman Empire controlled the Holy Land until

the Moslem invasion of 649AD

Dan 7:7 After this I saw . . . a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: . . . and it had ten horns.

Rome conquered the whole known world including the Middle East, so Rome is the "Beast Strong and Terrible." Rome itself fell in 476AD and out of it came the separate nations we see today (the ten horns).

Now here is the point: Daniel saw these beasts in a vision and all visions are figurative.

Beasts = Empires

Heads = Usually kingdoms

Horns = Usually kings

Now some folks go to Revelation and wander off into really strange theology. Forgetting that God has already identified visionary beasts as empires, they say that Revelation's beasts are the Antichrist, the false prophet, or some other being.

That's all just creative theology and why people fall for it boggles the mind. There is NO Scripture for beasts being anything other than Empires!

If beasts are empires in Daniel, then beasts are also Empires in Revelation UNLESS God Himself changes the definition for visionary beasts somewhere else in Scripture.

Guess what, He hasn't. Beasts are empires.

The first three beasts in Daniel were the Lion, Bear and Leopard. They were Middle Eastern empires that controlled everything from the Mediterranean to the Indus Valley. Now let's look at the first Beast in Revelation . . .

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea (sea = peoples, Rev 17:15), having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

This isn't a good empire.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Hummm, Leopard, Bear, and Lion again. We have already learned the biblical definition of those beasts . . .

Leopard = Modern day Syria

Bear = Modern day Iran

Lion = Modern day Iraq (including Saudi Arabia)

But this time the beasts are in Revelation, in other words these beasts exist during the Christian Era. What's more, these beasts serve the dragon, Satan.

But this time the Leopard-Bear-Lion is just ONE beast. In other words, the Leopard-Bear-Lion is just one empire made up of those three former empires. This beast also has lots of heads and horns.

And where did they rule in Daniel? In the Middle East, so where do you suppose they rule today?

Well, what empire beginning in 632AD controls the Middle East? It has many nations and many kings (heads and horns), but it is bound together by one religion as one empire and it always has been!

Islam!

We just don't know our history. Islam is not peace and never has been. It has been the enemy of Christians and Jews for over 1300 years.

Right after Muhammad's death, Islamic armies tried to conquer the whole world for Allah by the power of the sword. In the 1st Jihad or so-called "holy war," Islamic Jihadists conquered east all the way to India.

In the west, Islam conquered Egypt, all North Africa and Spain.

Then in 732AD they entered France . . .

Rev 13:3 "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death . . ."

I quote the contemporary account of the battle of Tours by someone who was there:

CHRONICLE OF ST. DENIS: "The Moslems planned to go to Tours to destroy the Church of St. Martin, the city, and the whole country. Then came against them the glorious Prince Charles, at the head of his whole force.

"He drew up his host, and he fought as fiercely as the hungry wolf falls upon the stag. By the grace of Our Lord, he wrought a great slaughter upon the enemies of Christian faith, so that--as history bears witness--he slew in that battle 300,000 men . . .

"likewise their king by name Abderrahman. Then was he [Charles] first called "Martel," for as a hammer of iron, of steel, and of every other metal, even so he dashed: and smote in the battle all his enemies.

And what was the greatest marvel of all, he only lost in that battle 1500 men."

From: William Stearns Davis, ed., *Readings in Ancient History: Illustrative Extracts from the Sources*, 2 Vols. (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1912-13), Vol. II: *Rome and the West*, pp. 362-364

That battle stopped the first serious attempt of Islam to take over the world, but it wasn't their last. In the 17th Century, Islam again knocked at the doors of Christendom . . .

"One of the greatest battles ever fought against Moslem forces took place at the gates of Vienna, September 12, 1683. Like the Battle of Tours before it, this battle saved Europe from falling to Islam.

The city was besieged by a large Islamic force of about 275,000-300,000 Turks and Tartars, led by Grand Vizier Kara Mustafa.

"Christian forces were losing the battle until Jan Sobieski, King of Poland, entered the field with about 30,000 Christian knights. The Turks left 15,000 dead on the battlefield. Christian losses are believed to have been about 3500 dead and wounded."

From: Ellis Skolfield, *The False Prophet* (Fish House Publishing, Ft. Myers, FL), p144.

Just, as Revelation predicted . . . Rev 13:3 "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death . . ."

Folks, If it had not been for those two battles in which God defended the Christian nations, your fathers, YOU, and your children would be bowing to Mecca and praying to Allah.

There never has been any real peace between Islam and the Christian nations. As directed by the Koran, their intent has always been to conquer the world for Allah by the power of the sword.

After the 1600s, Islam lay apparently dormant, but spreading still into Africa and Indonesia. Then oil was discovered in the Middle East. All western nations needed that oil so after WW2 we began buying Arab oil. And what did they do with the money?

They bought weapons and Western technology, which we gladly sold them.

Then came the NEW Jihad

Rev 13:3 . . . and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the (Leopard-Bear-Lion) beast.

More people are going into Mosques in England than attend the Church of England. In Germany, Mercedes-Benz even has a mosque on their factory grounds for their Islamic workers. The Dutch government is turning state churches over to the Moslems.

Lectures about Allah are now being heard where the Reformation martyrs prayed.

Though we would be at peace with the Islamic people if we could, Islamic fundamentalists again threaten the West and they are winning the battle. 9/11 was just the latest chapter in a bloody history that spans 1300 years.

Not a day passes that Moslems are not killing or persecuting Christians. In the last few years, over 2,000,000 Christians and people of other faiths were murdered in Southern Sudan and Nigeria.

And on which side is our government? On Hassan al Turabi's side, the Western educated Moslem butcher from the Islamic North, whose barbarities rival any that have ever been perpetuated against a defenseless people.

Our government has been duped into believing that Islam is peace. But that is not what Islamic mullahs say.

Even before Israel even became a state, Ayatollah Khomeini was going into all the Islamic colleges theological seminaries and schools in Iran, teaching them a five point agenda:

Stage 1: Iran must become a theocratic, fundamentalist Islamic State.

Stage 2: Iraq must become a theocratic, fundamentalist Islamic State.

Stage 3: Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, have to become fundamentalist, theocratic Islamic States.

Stage 4: Jerusalem must be retaken and the Jewish people destroyed.

Stage 5: Conquest of all nations.

Conquest of all nations is the goal of fundamental Islam today. That is what al Queda and the other terrorist groups are all about.

Iraq, being a secular state, kept Islam in check. But with Sadaam defeated, Islam has been strengthened. Though we just freed the Iraqis from slavery, they beg for another master.

Shi'ite Moslems are already demonstrating for American forces to leave their country. If we do so, Iraq will soon become another theocratic state and Islam will unite. That indeed will fulfill:

Rev 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

And where is the River Euphrates? Between Iraq and Iran. Those Moslem nations are East of Israel. This

prophecy has nothing to do with China or North Korea.

Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Now who do you think those three unclean spirits might be? Well what three beasts from around the Euphrates River have we been seeing so far in Revelation? The Leopard-Bear-Lion, the Islamic states of the Middle East.

Islam has not changed it's spots just because it crossed the Atlantic. There are now over 6,000,000 Moslems in this country and up to 15% of them are likely to be radical fundamentalists plotting our destruction (10 to 15% is the world average).

But do Christian pastors say anything? A few, while others are inviting these enemies of the Cross (the Islamic Mullahs) to preach from their pulpits . . . talk about holding a deadly viper to your bosom.

Now I do NOT hate Moslems, far from it, but I do hate a religion that is leading 1.3 billion people away from the Savior of the world. And my love for the lost is not going to keep me from recognizing . . .

who the Bible and history identifies as the final enemy of the Church and Israel.

. . . and that is enough for one evening. <smile>

Anything we need to go over or any questions?