

THE BEASTS OF PROPHECY

JAMIE MCNAB

24.9.16

We said last week that Jesus left many warnings about being watchful ... understanding the "signs of the times". He criticised the Pharisees for not being aware of the "signs of the times".

"When you see the Abomination of Desolation" ... "When you see all these things come to pass". Are we looking?

So ... although some claim that prophecy is a distraction ... it is probably wise to pay some attention ... since Jesus told us to. If we ignore that ... it's our loss.

We're reviewing much of the material we covered earlier in the year ... particularly in Daniel and Revelation.

We can all endeavour to be familiar with the Biblical narrative ... what does it say ... interpreting it can be more tricky. We do see through a glass darkly. Inevitably there will be some speculation ... but let us be careful to try to be responsible.

We spent time last week in Daniel 2 ... the statue ... most people agree with the gold, silver and bronze. We looked at the 4th kingdom ... the Iron Legs. Still viewed by the majority as the Roman Empire ... has been since 200 AD (Hippolytus).

However ... when examined closely ... Rome doesn't seem to fit very well. Remember: The 4th empire would crush and pulverise all of the others. The catch is ... Rome didn't do that! Rome doesn't really fit the Biblical narrative.

However ... Islamic Empire ... beginning in 600s AD does seem to fit. Today ... nations of Babylon, Persia, Javan and former Greek Empire are all Islamic ... as is much of Southern Russia, North Africa, Saudi Arabia, Middle East countries, etc.

The Islamic wars are estimated to have killed about 270 million ... pulverising and smashing ... and they are still fighting and killing today.

So ... I've suggested Islam looks a much stronger candidate than Rome (and Western Europe and the Holy Roman Empire).

The suggestion therefore is to become more watchful of the Middle Eastern countries ... especially the Islamic ones ... as it is more likely they'll factor predominantly in prophecy.

I'm not sure exactly what's going to happen next ... but Daniel 8 suggests we should be watching ... in particular ... Turkey and Iran carefully.

Daniel 8:15-19 (NKJV)

15 Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.

16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."

17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision (of the He-Goat and the Ram) refers to the time of the end." (NB THIS IS THE TIME OF THE END)

18 Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright.

19 And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be. (NB THIS IS THE TIME OF THE END)

Daniel 8:26 (NKJV)

26 "And the vision of the evenings and mornings
Which was told is true;
Therefore seal up the vision,
For **it refers to many days in the future.**"

The vision here isn't historic ... but prophetic.

Daniel 8:20-21 (NKJV)

20 **The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. (Iran)**

21 **And the male goat (He-Goat/shaggy Goat) is the kingdom of Greece. (Hebrew Word: Javan = Western Asia Minor =Turkey)** The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.

So we are looking at a prophecy about Iran and Turkey.

Daniel 8:3-4 (NKJV)

3 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was **a ram (Iran) which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. (2 Horns ... Ayatollah and IRGC? Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corp ... heavily linked to terrorism)**

4 **I saw the ram/IRAN pushing westward, northward, and southward, (Not East)** so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.

Somewhere at the time of the end ... Iran is going to launch a blitzkrieg attack North and South and West.

Daniel 8:5-8 (NKJV)

5 And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat (*Javan = Turkey*) came from the west, (*against Iran*) across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn (*Authority/Ruler/King/power source*) between his eyes.

6 Then he came to the ram/IRAN that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power.

7 And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand. (*So Turkey launching a counter attack on Iran*)

8 Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.

Today ... both Iran and Turkey are Islamic nations. Iran is Shia version of Islam and Turkey is (mostly) Sunni.

Turkey sits at the crossroads of Europe and Asia ... a population of 80 million ... the capital is Ankara ... the largest and best known city is Istanbul (13 million population). It is one of the most powerful militaries in the world (8th). It also has nuclear weapons stored there ... courtesy of the USA.

Historically ... Turkey ... the centre of the Ottomans Empire ... 1300-1922 ... which spreads across all in Africa ... Saudi Arabia ... Iran ... Iraq ... Syria ... Turkey ... Greece ... right up into Austria at one point.

President Erdogan ... a devout Muslim ... may have a vision to restore the Ottoman Empire? Restoring Turkey's greatness.

Der Spiegel ... two weeks ago ... had an article which called Erdogan a despot and dictator. Some people recently have likened him to Hitler and Mussolini.

Iran. Shia Muslims. Population 81 million ... 21st military power. It has ballistic missiles ... a virulent hatred of Saudi Arabia and wants to take over Islamic Holy sites (Mecca and Medina). There is lots of sabre-rattling going on at the moment.

Just two weeks ago ... the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia stated that: "Iranians are 'not Muslims' but 'sons of the Magi'". That is quite provocative if you happen to be Iranians. An insult! He's calling them followers of Zoroastrianism, the old pagan religion of Persia. Apostates!

Iran's foreign minister retorted: "The toxic threat of Wahhabism (Saudi version of Islam) cannot be ignored ... concrete action against extremism ... namely Saudis ... is needed".

There are lots of hostile words at present. The feeling is that Iran will sometime seek to take over the Saudi Peninsula.

Now that Mr Obama has released \$30b-\$150b supplied/released by the USA this year ... Iran now has the money?!

So ... watch the Ram and the He-goat ... and watch Islam generally.

Islam has a prime directive ... despite people saying that Islam is a religion of peace ... it isn't. Quran ... the words of Gabriel to Mohammed. 1. To convert 2. Accept subjugation ... humiliation and pay a tax. 3. Die!

In Daniel ... another key prophecy in Daniel 7 ... the 4 beasts.

Daniel 7:1 (NKJV)

1 **In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, (he was the last 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.**

Babylon as a kingdom was almost over. Nebuchadnezzar was long dead. Medo-Persia was about to take over Babylon ... the Silver Empire was about to replace the Gold. Yet ... look at:

Daniel 7:17 (NKJV)

17 **'Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. (Future tense)**

Daniel 7:17 (KJV)

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

Daniel 7:17 (NASB)

17 **'These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.**

Daniel 7:17 (NET)

17 **'These large beasts, which are four in number, represent four kings who will arise from the earth.**

This is a hint that the whole vision is for a future time? Babylon isn't going to arise! It's over! Just like Daniel 8 is future ... so Daniel 7?

Daniel 7:2-14 (NKJV)... key to Daniel 7 ... 4 Beasts

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.

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, (*judgment began*)

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.

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.**

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. (*The Kingdom of God ... and the return of Christ*)

We should know the narrative. It takes us right up to Jesus' return ... His Kingdom ... still future!

Like **Lion = Babylon ... Iraq** (Muslim)

Like **Bear = Persia ... Iran** (Muslim)

Like **Leopard = Javan ... Turkey** (Muslim)

4th Beast = Rome? ... or Islamic Realm? ... a horrible terrible Beast

Pompous Little Horn ... the Pope? Or ... The Islamic Antichrist?...
their final leader.

Daniel 7:18-22 (NKJV)

18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.' (*Right up at the end-time*)

19 "Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;

20 and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.

21 "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. *(Right up until Jesus comes at the end-time and His Kingdom set up)*

Daniel 7:23 (NKJV)

23 "Thus he said:

'The fourth beast shall be
A fourth kingdom on earth,

Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, *(was Rome really different from Greece ... Medo-Persia? Islamic Empire ... that is different)*

And shall devour the whole earth, *("devour the whole earth" ... not the whole planet. But the area of the prophecy)*

Trample it and break it in pieces. *(Break in pieces ... Deqaq ... which Rome didn't do. So again ... not Rome?!)*

Daniel 7:24-25 (NKJV)

24 The ten horns are ten kings
Who shall arise from this kingdom.

And another shall rise after them;

He shall be different from the first ones,
And shall subdue three kings.

25 He shall speak pompous words against 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.

So Ten kings/kingdoms arise ... plus later ... one pompous. The saints will be harassed and persecuted ... for a time and times and half a time.

Explanation: either: Papacy/Vatican attacking people who won't keep Sunday?? Or ... I would suggest ... The Islamic Antichrist ... beheading all who won't worship Allah ... who say that God is a Father and has a Son, Jesus Christ (this is blasphemy in Islam). Allah is the only god and he doesn't have a son.

Intending to change times and law. The Traditional view is: changing Saturday to Sunday ... 10 commandments ... hide #2 graven images and split 10th into 2.

Or:

Sharia Law in any country where Muslims dominate. In the UK 40% of Muslims would like Sharia Law to be the law of the land.

Change times? When Sharia Law comes into effect ... expect Friday as the Holy Day ... so destroying the traditional weekend or Saturday/Sunday.

So ... when Islam is in power ... change society's laws and the weekly calendar.

We read that the 4th "terrible beast" had 10 horns.

The traditional view is: 10 resurrections of the Roman Empire after 476 AD. The 1st 3 (Vandals, Heruli and Ostrogoths) ... were rooted up by the Pope ... leaving 7 ... spread over the period 554 AD up to the present time. The 9th one was Italy under Mussolini ... and the 10th one hasn't come yet!

I don't think this fits? The Pompous Horn comes **after the 10**. If Islam ... this represents 10 Islamic Kingdoms at the end-time ... of whom Islamic antichrist subjugates 3 of them ... Egypt, Libya and Sudan?? (Daniel 11:40-43)

Before we leave Daniel 7 ... notice:

Daniel 7:21 (NKJV)

21 "I was watching; **and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,** (*The Papacy or the Islamic Antichrist?*)

Daniel 7:25 (NKJV)

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**

For a time and times and half a time. (*3.5 times/years*)

Islam is doing that today. Today it persecutes Christians ... severe oppression ... they burn churches ... they kill people. Iran ... Saudi ... Iraq ... Syria are amongst the worst. NOW! Once the conditions change ... a new charismatic leader arises (Islamic Antichrist). They will multiply. Anyone who bears the name "Christian" (true or nominal will make no difference) ... will have to convert or be subjugated or die!

So. The scriptural description we see here fits Islam. Christianity is almost extinct in the Middle East.

Things jump to a new level after the Abomination of Desolation. Turn nasty in a hurry.

Daniel 11:31-35 (NKJV)

31 **And forces shall be mustered by him, (the King of the North) and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.**

32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

33 **And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. (This is the end-time again. For us. Beheading? Burning churches? Subjugation?)**

34 Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue.

35 And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, **until the time of the end;** because it is still for the appointed time. **(END-TIME PROPHECY)**

Matthew 24:13-22 (NKJV)

13 **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

14 And **this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

15 **"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),**

16 **"then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (When we see this ... what Daniel referred to. Can you take your time?)**

No! Urgent! Go! Get out of Judea ... the Middle East will be the centre)

17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

21 **For then (when you see the Abomination of Domination etc) there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

This is real! It lies somewhere ahead of us. When we see The Abomination of Desolation ... it's almost too late!! We need to be looking at these prophecies today!! We should already be READY!

Let's move into the New Testament and pick up the story in Revelation.

Revelation 13:1-3 (NKJV) ... COMPOSITE OF DANIEL 7

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And **I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads (Lion, Bear, Leopard x 4, Terrible Beast) and ten horns, (4th Terrible Beast) and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.**

2 Now **the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.**

The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marvelled and followed the beast.

The Traditional View: Roman Empire ... deadly wound when Rome was overrun in 476 AD ... ? ... unlikely ... the Roman Empire continued until 1453 ... the fall of Constantinople.

The Traditional View makes Revelation 13 all historic ... of limited practical relevance to you and me. It's all past.

The Alternative View: Prophecy for today! This Beast is the destructive end-time Islamic Empire. Deadly wound likely to be 1922-1924 ... when the Ottoman Empire wound up after 600 plus years and the Islamic Caliphate (Supreme Islamic Authority ... spiritual or political) ... was disbanded. The last of the caliphs. There is none today.

The deadly wound is to be "healed very soon"? Erdogan of Turkey wants to restore/resurrect the Ottoman Empire. The Islamic nations are looking for and waiting for a new caliph to arrive ... supreme authority ... to help establish Islam and Allah over the whole world. I think this deadly wound could be healed in the next few years.

Revelation 13:4 (NKJV)

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

The dragon is Satan = Allah. Islam and Jihadis war and kill in the name of Allah. "Allahu Akbar" = Allah is greater = common battle cry.

Revelation 13:5-10 (NKJV) ... 42 months

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (42 prophetic months = 1260 years)

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.**

8 **All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

The Traditional View: Roman Empire healed in 554 AD (Emperor Justinian) until 1814 AD ... fall of Napoleon. Historic? Not convincing.

The Alternative View: 3.5 actual years ... 42 months ... of severe persecution by revitalised Islamic Empire (of 10 nations). It makes war. And ... those who refuse to convert ... beheaded!!

Onto the 2nd Beast.

Revelation 13:11-18 (NKJV)

11 **Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.**

12 **And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.**

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those

who dwell on the earth to **make an image to the beast** (*Eikon ... likeness*) who was wounded by the sword and lived.

15 **He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**

16 **He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,**

17 and that **no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

18 Here is wisdom. **Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.**

Verse 11 ... the 2nd Beast.

1. The Seventh Day Adventists believe this is the USA.
2. The Traditional View: Papacy looks like a lamb ... but he has the dragon behind him ... religious authority or ... city-state (Vatican City) and its Political power
3. **The Islamic alternative:** Islamic Antichrist/Caliph has total authority (religious and political) over the 1st Beast (Islamic Empire of 10 Nations)

Verse 14. An image to healed beast. (Eikon = likeness) Force all countries to adopt Sharia Law and model their societies on Islamic Law (calendar too?). Or ... an actual physical image? Statue?

But note ... TAKING THE MARK INCURS GOD'S ABSOLUTE WRATH.

Revelation 14:9-12 (NKJV)

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **"If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,**

10 **he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.**

He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; **and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."**

12 **Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**

So. If we take the mark of The Beast we will incur God's great wrath!!

We will look into this further next week.