

# THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE BEAST

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The last few weeks we've been looking at prophecy ... which is about one third of the Bible — and particularly at The Book of Daniel.

There's a reason!

## Matthew 24:15-16

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 you see the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet — let him understand.

Pivotal moment!

## Matthew 24:21-22

21 **For then 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.**

The Great Tribulation.

Jesus was very specific. Daniel describes the Abomination in 4 places — in considerable detail.

But we need to fit it into the overall context of Daniel (“The Manual for The End-Times”). So much of Daniel is speaking to us today.

Last week we started on the 4 Beasts of Daniel 7.

## 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.

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**.

It is commonly believed that this is just a repeat of Daniel 2. The same 4 Kingdoms and all historic.

Quite honestly — if it’s all historic — who cares?! It wouldn’t be of much interest?

However ... if these 4 Beasts are end-time — you may well face them!!

**Daniel 7:17**

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

Four Kings who **will arise** (in the majority of translations). Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon — there would be no more in the future. So this suggests that the four Kings are future.

#### **Daniel 7:11-12**

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.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Beast was slain and destroyed. The other 3 Kingdoms continue. These 4 Beasts are contemporaneous.

The same Kingdoms involved ... but Daniel 7 is their end-time fulfillment.

The “historic view” is quite common (as is “Rome” being the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast) ... but remember:

#### **Daniel 12:4, 9**

4 **But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end;** many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

9 And he said, **Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**

The book is sealed — till the end-time! That means you can't understand it in earlier times.

No matter how well intentioned — or how scholarly — commentaries and explanations on the meaning of Daniel will miss the key points if they are older than the last 25-30 years?

We will move on to the interpretation of the 4 Beasts — who will be active in the end-times.

The first 3 are fairly straightforward.

Lion = Modern Babylon = Iraq

Bear = Modern Persia = Iran

Leopard = Modern "Javan" = Turkey ... but in coalition of 4 nations

Daniel is most interested in the Terrible 4<sup>th</sup> Beast.

Probably we should be too!

### **Daniel 7:15-18**

15 "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

16 I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

17 **'Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise (or "will arise") out of the earth.**

18 **But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.'**

The Beast Kingdoms to come — but — the saints "win" in the end! Daniel saw how the book ended! It ends well.

### **Daniel 7:19-20**

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; ("Broke in pieces" = DEQAQ)**

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.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Beast is different from all of the others — so "Rome" unlikely? I think this is the Islamic Realm of 10 Islamic countries?

### **Daniel 7:21-22**

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 favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.**

The Little Horn makes war against the saints **and prevails against them** — till Jesus returns.

#### **Daniel 7:23-25**

23 "Thus he said:

**'The fourth beast shall be  
A fourth kingdom on earth,  
Which shall be different from all other kingdoms,  
And shall devour the whole earth,  
Trample it and break it in pieces. (Deqqq — pulverise!)**

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. (Subdue — subjugate)**

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.**

War against the saints — for 3 ½ years. Ending at Jesus' return.

I would suggest: Islamic Realm with 10 Islamic nations. A powerful Islamic "Antichrist" ... who hates and speaks against God and His people.

**To "change times and law"**. A desire to enforce Sharia Law and the Islamic Calendar? (Very patchy today ... even in the Muslim-majority countries).

**The traditional teaching of the Worldwide Church of God:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Beast is Rome ... deadly wound 476 AD ... 10 horns/rulers ... who come one at a time (have included Charlemagne ... Otto The Great ... Napoleon). One horn still to come.

Traditionally — The Little Horn is The Papacy.

The Papacy “made war” with the saints for “Time ... Times ... and Half a Time” (verse 25) ... equates (allegedly) to 1,260 years. The traditional view ... 1,260 years of persecution BEGAN with the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD ... or 554 AD ... and finished at the latest by 1,814 AD???

So ... the Little Horn’s war on the saints is historic? It ended perhaps 200 years ago?

**NO! The Horn makes war till Jesus returns and sets up the Kingdom** (verses 21, 22, 26-27).

This is talking about the final 3½ year Tribulation period ... not ancient history!

### **Daniel 12:6-11**

6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “**How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?**”

7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that **it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.**

8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

9 And he said, “**Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**

10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

11 “**And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.**

Once the Abomination of Desolation is set up — 1,290 days. The end 3½ years — The Great Tribulation.

Yet future!

Whilst looking at the Beasts and the 3½ year persecution:

#### Revelation 12:13-14

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, **he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.**

14 **But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time,** from the presence of the serpent.

Time ... times and a half a time. 3½ years.

#### Revelation 12:15-16

15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.

16 **But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.**

The woman has gone to the Place of Safety. So we're in the clear?

#### Revelation 12:17

17 **And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Satan makes war against the saints!

How? He needs powerful government forces. Hence the Final Beast that he can work through!

#### Revelation 13:1-2

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, **having seven heads and ten horns, 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.

The composite Beast of Daniel 7 — empowered by Satan.

Having 7 heads and 10 horns.

### **Revelation 13:3**

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 marveled and followed the beast.**

Deadly wound. The Islamic Ottoman Empire “terminated” in 1922-24? The mightiest and longest-lived Islamic Empire that has ever existed. Perhaps being resurrected at the Centenary of that Empire by President Erdogan?

### **Revelation 13:4-8**

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?”

5 And **he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.**

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.

This final Beast continues for 42 months — 3½ years — and makes war with the saints.

I believe all of this is future. Powerful Islamic Empire ... coalition of 10 nations ... just prior to Jesus' return.

(If you take the "Traditional" view: Roman Empire ... deadly wound 476 AD ... Beast continues 42 months ... 1,260 years from 554 AD ... the Imperial Restoration of Justinian to Napoleon's defeat in 1814. So irrelevant to us ... apart from one "last horn"?)

Some background about Islam.

Officially ... the prime directive is that the whole world must live under Allah's rule.

Political objective — not just "personal religion".

Many Muslim countries expect the whole world to "convert" — eventually. Maybe 100–150 more years. (The "Evolution" approach). Jihadists are in a latter camp — we wage war for Allah in a hurry!

Throughout history ... the majority of Muslim countries have offered 1) Conversion ... 2) Dhimmi Status ... 3) Beheading.

Today on the earth we have about 1.8 billion Muslims. Approximately 25% of the world population ... approximately 25% of the countries on the earth.

It will be interesting to see how they respond to the charismatic end-time prophet?

### **Revelation 13:11-18**

**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 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.

Another Beast. It will partner with the earlier Beast. Introduces the Mark of the Beast?! THE ISLAMIC ANTICHRIST?

The Mark of the Beast causes a lot of concern! Credit cards (can't buy or sell)? Microchip? Could it be Sunday-keeping?

Whatever it is ... we definitely don't want it!

#### Revelation 14:9-11

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."

Receive the undiluted wrath of God! Tormented!

But if you don't receive it — you can't buy or sell — and may be beheaded.

### Revelation 20:4

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

So ... what might this mark be? **NEXT WEEK!**



# AMBASSADOR COLLEGE OFFICIAL CHART

A CHART, SHOWING PROPHECIES OF TIMES OF THE GENTILES' REIGN						
Dan. 2 The IMAGE	Daniel 7, The FOUR BEASTS (State) (Church)	Dan. 8, The RAM, & Goat	Revelation 13, The BEAST & IMAGE (State) (Church)	Rev. 17, BABYLON & Beast	Symbols Explained	The EVENTS Fulfilled in HISTORY
Head of gold, v. 32, 38.	1 <sup>st</sup> BEAST Like LION v. 4.				1 <sup>st</sup> HEAD of Prophetic BABYLON.	The CHALDEAN EMPIRE (Babylon) -625-538 B.C.
Breast & arms of silver, v. 32, 39.	2 <sup>nd</sup> BEAST (BEAR) v.5.	RAM with 2 horns v. 3, 4, 20.			2 <sup>nd</sup> HEAD of prophetic BABYLON	The PERSIAN EMPIRE (Medo- Persia), 558-330 B.C.
Belly, & Thighs of Brass v. 32, 39	3 <sup>rd</sup> BEAST LEOPARD, 4 HEADS v. 6	HE-GOAT, with great horn & 4 notable ones. v. 5- 8, 21, 22.			3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> HEADS of prophetic BABYLON	GREECE, under Alexander the Great, and 4 division, 333- 31 B.C.
Legs of Iron v. 33, 40-43.	4 <sup>th</sup> BEAST strong like IRON with 10 HORNS, v. 7, 23, 24.		The BEAST with 7 HEADS & 10 HORNS, v. 1, 2.		7 <sup>th</sup> HEAD of prophetic BABYLON, with 10 HORNS	The ROMAN EMPIRE, 31 B.C.- 476 A.D., in 2 divisions, West, & East.

**DAN 2 STATUE: THE KINGDOMS ARE SEQUENTIAL -- AND ALL DESTROYED UPON CHRIST'S RETURN**

**DAN 7 BEASTS: ALL 4 ARE CONCURRENT -- AND THE 4TH TERRIBLE BEAST IS DESTROYED FIRST, LEAVING THE OTHER 3 ALIVE**





# REV 13 BEAST

7 HEADS

10 HORNS

10 CROWNS ON THE HORNS

BODY LIKE A LEOPARD

FEET LIKE A BEAR

MOUTH LIKE A LION



## REV 6:8

And power was given to them [4 Horsemen] over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

**ISLAM = 1/4 OF: POPULATION -- LAND MASS -- COUNTRIES**

