

Signs of the Times in Daniel

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, June 3rd

In every age a battle has raged between the forces of light and darkness! (Eph. 6:12) God has a plan and is looking for partners He can work with. (Ex. 32:26) God has a pattern of revealing his plan with such partners. (Amos 3:7,8) Daniel was such a man, and so God uniquely gifted him with special revelations. (Dan. 1:17) When he struggled to understand such revelations, God told him: *“Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”* Dan. 12:10,11

Let's examine a few of those special “revelations”.

1. The King's Dream Daniel 2



2:44 *“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed... but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”*

2. Four beasts of Daniel 7

A. Lion (vs 4) Babylon.

1) Plucked wings and man's heart correspond to Nebuchadnezzar's humbling. Ch. 4

B. Bear (vs 5) Media Persia

1) *“Raised on one side”* The Persian empire dominated the Medes.

2) *“Three ribs in the mouth”* represent three Kingdoms Cyrus defeated. (Persia, Media, Lydia)

C. Leopard. (vs 6) Greece.

1) “four wings” represent the speed of the Grecian conquests.

Daniel 8:5 described Greece as: *“an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.”*

8:21 *“the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn between his eyes is the first king.”*

Alexander the Great conquered 11 nations in 11 years!

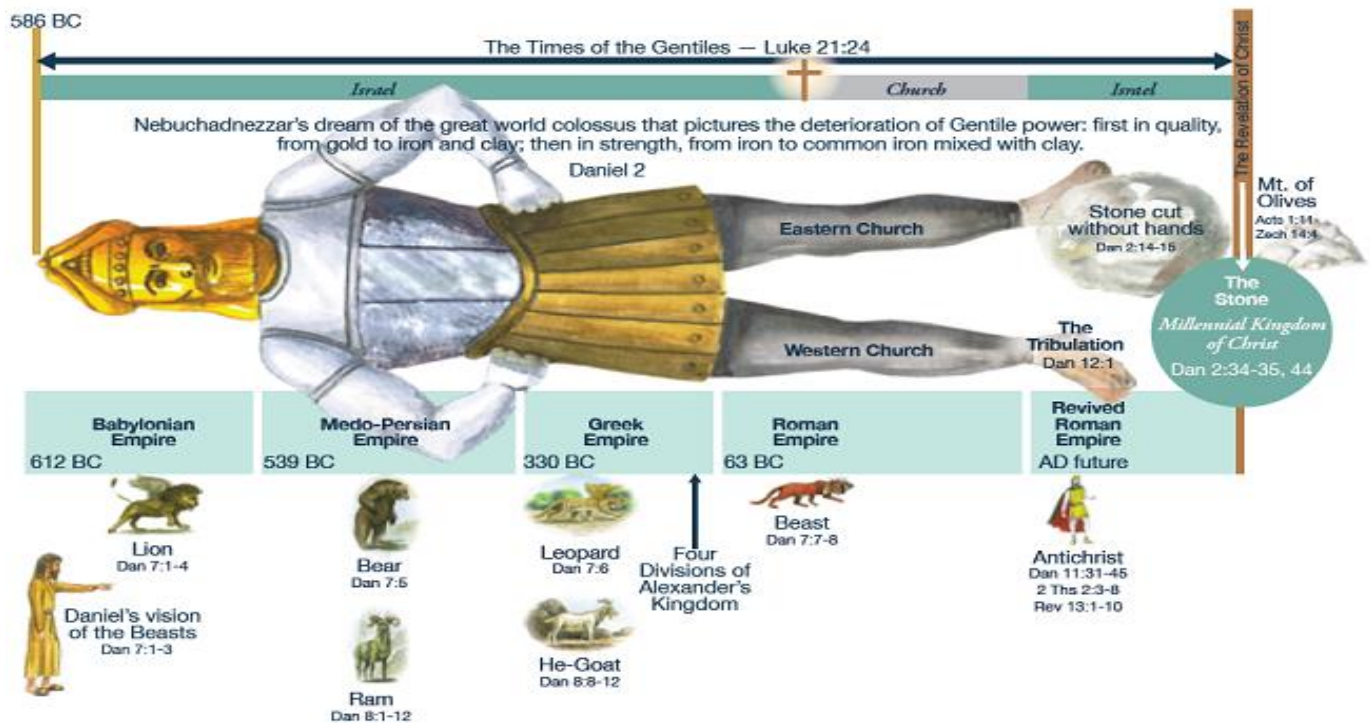
2) The four heads represented the division of the Empire after Alexander's death among his four Generals. (Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy, Seleucus) (See also Dan. 8:8, 22)

D. The Dreadful Beast Rome. (Vs 7) *"a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue..."*

- 1) The Roman Empire ruthlessly extended its power and influence further and longer than any preceding empire.
- 2) Characteristics of this "Beast" would dominate the last days. Vs 7-9 *"it had ten horns... there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."*
 - a) This is a reference to the Antichrist of Rev. 13.

Vs 21 *"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them."*
 - b) The coming of Christ. Vs 22 *"Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."*
 - c) The Final Judgment. 7:9 *"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit... and the books were opened..."*
 - d) The Reign of Christ. 7:12-14 *"As I saw... one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days. and there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people... should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion..."*

Conclusion: Compare the various Visions



If God revealed the future to Daniel in such graphic detail, should we doubt Him? (Ez. 21:27)

Amos 4:12 *"Therefore thus will I do unto thee... and because I will do this... prepare to meet thy God!"*

God still asks: *"Who is on the Lord's Side?" (Ex. 32:26)*

Just as God placed Esther in the Persian court: *"for such a time as this" (Esther 3:14)*

He's placed us here and now. What are we willing to do in order to "partner with Him"?

Luke 18:8 *"When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"*

Will he find it in us?