

8—Daniel’s Vision of Four Beasts

Daniel 7

1. The book of Daniel can largely be divided into two parts. Take a moment to reflect upon the chart below to consider where we have been in our study so far and where we are going. What are some passages in Daniel 7-12 you have a hard time understanding prior to studying?

History (Daniel 1-6)	Prophecy (Daniel 7-12)
Taken to Babylon (Daniel 1)	Four beasts (Daniel 7)
Daniel Interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream (2)	The ram and the goat (8)
The idol and the fiery furnace (3)	70 Weeks Prophecy (9)
Daniel Interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s 2 nd Dream (4)	Angelic Conflict (10)
The Fall of Babylon (5)	Kings of the North/South (11-12)
Daniel in the Lion’s Den (6)	

2. As we embark upon this section of prophecy, let’s ask, what is a prophet? Biblically, what were some of the roles of a prophet (see Genesis 20:7; Jeremiah 37:3; 1 Corinthians 11:4-5; Ezekiel 3:17-19)?

3. Read Daniel 7:1. How does this verse show us the book of Daniel is not written in chronological order?

4. The book of Daniel contains elements of apocalyptic literature, especially in the latter sections. In other apocalyptic texts, what do the following images often represent?

- “4” (Daniel 7:3; Zechariah 1:18-21; 6:1-8; Revelation 7:1-3)—
- “the sea” (Daniel 7:3; Revelation 13:1; 17:15)—

5. Four beasts are mentioned in Daniel 7:2-14. As you read the context as a whole, is the “dominion” of each beast temporary or permanent? What is different about the dominion of the “Ancient of Days” (7:12-14)?

6. Take a moment to describe the “four beasts” which all have a part in Daniel’s vision. Based on textual clues, are these to be understood literally or figuratively? Explain your answer (note Daniel 7:4,5,6, 17)? Describe the beasts.

- “lion” (7:4)-
- “bear” (7:5)-
- “leopard” (7:6)-
- “horned beast” (7:7-8)—

7. Most commentators believe Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 are two different, but similar versions of the same prophecy. What are some of the similarities between the two and what are some of the differences?

The Four World Empires		
Dan. 2	Nations	Dan. 7
	Babylonian Empire	
	Medo-Persian Empire	
	Macedonian Empire	
	Roman Empire	

8. Now describe the “Ancient of Days” (Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14). Did “One like the Son of Man” come to or from the Ancient of Days (see verse 13)? Why might this be a significant detail?

9. What further information does Daniel share about the “fourth beast” along with the “ten horns” and the “other horn” (7:19-25)? What is the big picture within this imagery to consider? How did this make Daniel feel (7:15, 28)?

10. How does this message end in hope (Daniel 7:26-27)? Why should this comfort us today?