

Chapter 7:1 *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.* Belshazzar coming to power marked a great decline of Babylon, and the end of the 70 year period, where Israel had been in exile. Belshazzar had been a co-regent for 10 years, and only 2 years as ruler, before the city fell to

the Medes and Persians. Historical sources seem to show that Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar.

Many years before, Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon, had had a dream. He dreamed of an image made of many metals.

The dream of the great beasts in this chapter 7 is a dream of Daniel. It was sent to him, but you will notice it follows the same pattern of the dream revealed to the Nebuchadnezzar. **Five stages.**

We recall the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had, and how there were 4 main kingdoms which followed each other. The fifth was part iron and part clay, and was an extension of the legs.



Daniel knew that what God communicated to him was important – in those days' revelations were given in dreams. This does not happen today, because the Scriptures have been given in completion, and the revelation is complete, so that it is enough for salvation. See 2 Timothy 3:16. Daniel understood by experience that this form of communication was Divine, and he wrote it down.

The following is what he wrote under Divine inspiration.

I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.. In the dream, it began with a scene of great turmoil and unrest upon the earth. The great winds, are often likened to invading armies. This can be seen by look at references like Isaiah 17:13,14, *The nations ... shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.* Jeremiah 4:11-13 *At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A dry wind ... in the wilderness toward ... my people, ... Even a full wind ... Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind...*

Daniel was being shown a dream about a series of invading powers that would seize power in the region of the Mediterranean Sea, and in particular the nation of Israel. *The four winds strove upon the Great Sea.*

Verse 3: *And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.* They were all different from each other.

The sea is also compared to the continually changing and moving peoples and societies: Isaiah 57:20: *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.* So these symbolic beasts in come out of the symbolic sea of nations.

These Beasts Daniel described as Great. These were no ordinary animals. Animals are often used in the Bible to represent people.

Ephraim is compared to an ox, Babylon and Egypt as eagles in Ezekiel 17, Egypt as a crocodile in Ezekiel 29, Israel compared to a lion in Numbers 24. The reason for this, is that various characteristics of those animals which were well known, are used as a useful comparison to the nature and types of people.

The scriptures compare human characteristics to that of beasts:

For example:

Ecclesiastes 3:18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

Proverbs 28:15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.

Jeremiah 12: 9 Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her; come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour.

Daniel described the dream as it unfolded. The beasts did not all appear at once, but one after the other. This then compares to the various consecutive stages of the metals of the image seen by Nebuchadnezzar in his dream. The two dreams can be compared side by side. They can also be compared with chapter 8, and chapters 11 and 12.

This comparison is shown on the next page: I hope it can be clearly seen on the smart phones in Africa.

DANIEL 2		DANIEL 7	DANIEL 8	DANIEL 11, 12
GOLD	BABYLON	LION	NONE	NONE
SILVER	MEDOPERSIA	BEAR	RAM WITH TWO HORNS	FOUR KINGS (Verse 2)
BRASS	GREECE	LEOPARD	THE GOAT	MIGHTY KING (Verses 3-13)
IRON	ROME	PIERCE BEAST	LITTLE HORN FROM FOUR HORNS	KING OF THE NORTH (Verses 14-35)
IRON AND CLAY	DIVIDED KINGDOMS 1260 YEARS	TEN HORNS LITTLE HORN	LITTLE HORN GREAT WAXED	KING OF THE NORTH (Verses 30-39)
STONE CUT OUT WITHOUT MAN'S HANDS	INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT	JUDGMENT SCENE	CLEANSING OF HEAVENLY SANCTUARY	TIME OF THE END (Verses 40-45)
STONE FILLS WHOLE EARTH	CHRIST'S KINGDOM	KINGDOM GIVEN TO SAINTS	EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT	MICHAEL STANDS UP (Chapter 12:1-3)

The above interpretation is not invented, as the chapter interprets itself. 7:17 *These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.* These kings also had empires: verse 12: *...they had their dominion taken away:...*

The 4 beasts 4 kingdoms. They are described as following one after the other. Just as the little stone power destroys the image made of metals representing the kingdoms of men, so after these succession of empires described in this 7th chapter, so the Kingdom of God would follow see verse 17, 18 *These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.*

The First Beast

The symbol corresponds to the Head of Gold.

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, 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.



The Lion was a symbol of Chaldean empires of Assyria and Babylon. See Jeremiah 50:17. *Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.*

See Jeremiah 4:7 *The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the*

Gentiles is on his way...

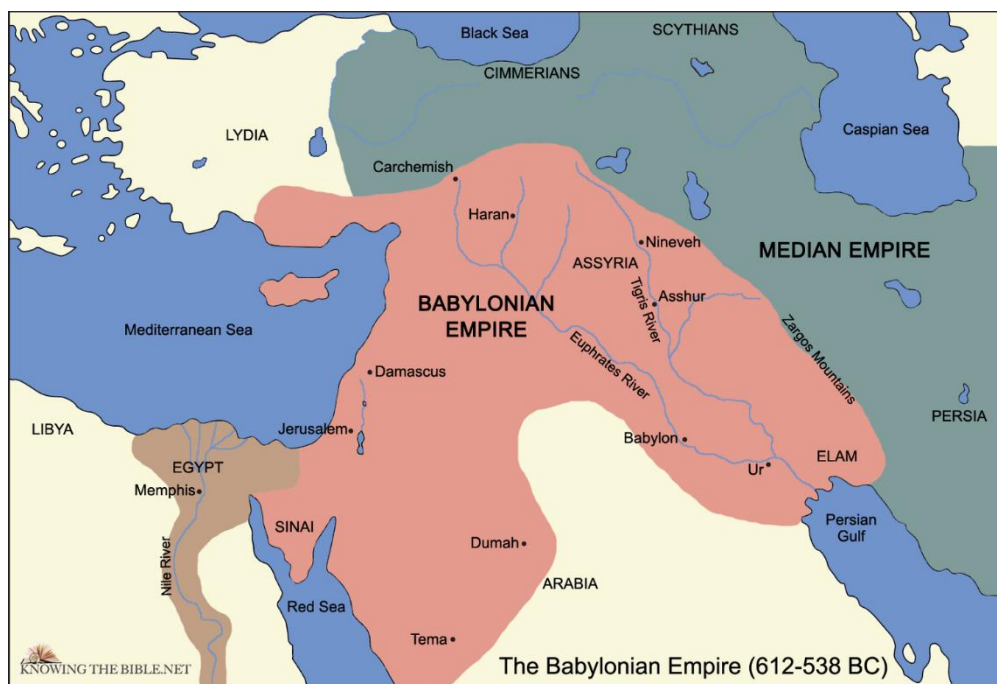


This lion had eagles wings and they were plucked off... Winged lions were a favourite of Assyrian architecture, they had them all over

their palaces. There were also Images of lions all over Babylon as archaeologists have discovered. One of the above images shows an Assyrian lion with eagles wings. This was a representation they applied to themselves. Carved stone reliefs like this can be seen in many National Museums around the world. The other image is taken from the Ishtar gate from ancient Babylon, discovered by archaeologists.

The wings – in scripture speak of empire - represented the widespread territory which the Assyrians gained. They were plucked off. This territory was lost as the Assyrian empire declined, and when it was taken over by the Babylonians, the symbolic lion, *and it was lifted up from the earth* - the centre of the empire moved from Nineveh – where Jonah visited, and relocated to Babylon.

A mans heart was given to it. This Kingdom became less brutal and



more cultured and sophisticated – a more humane rule – Nebuchadnezzar was prepared to listen to Daniel, and he gave honour to the Most High God! – see Daniel 2:47. *The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing you could reveal this secret.*



The Second Beast

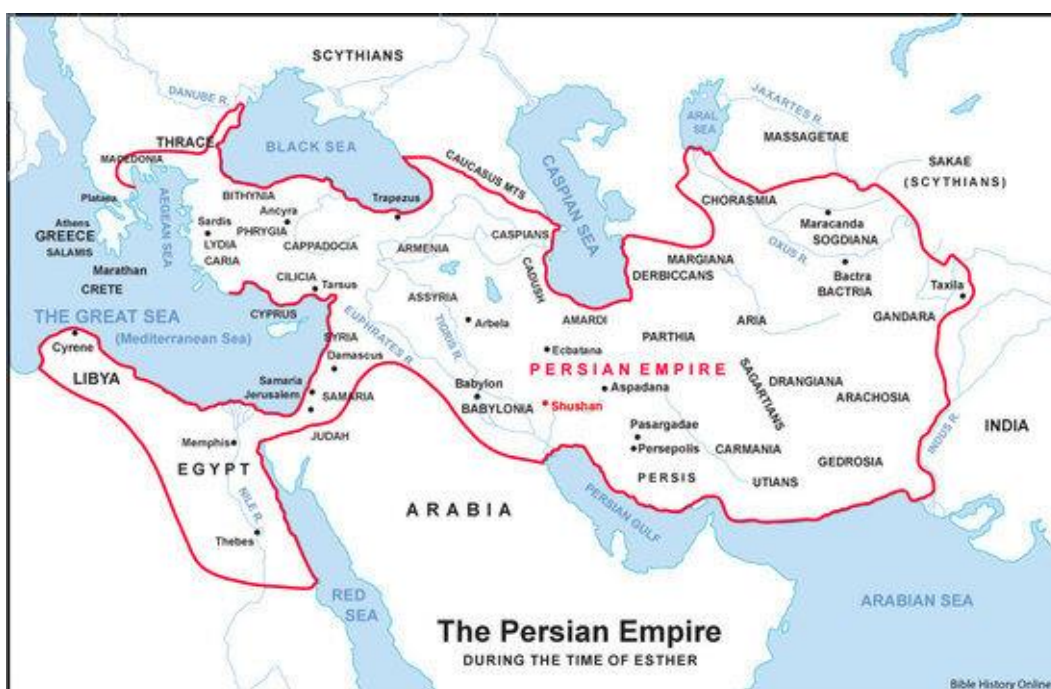
The symbol of the Bear corresponds to the Breast and Arms of Silver.

Verse 5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

After this – the beasts followed on one after another, not at the same time – it is following the pattern of Chapter 2.

We notice the metals started as gold and ended up as iron. They were degrading in value. So also the animals degrade in character. As they go on, they get more sneaky, cunning and greedy.

The power that came after Babylon was Medo Persian in BC 536. It was an alliance of two kingdoms – the Medes from Media, and the Persians.



Queen Esther lived at this time, and so did Ezra and Nehemiah.

The Persians ruled for longer than the Medians, and were more powerful. – Which is why the bear had one side higher than the other.

When the Persian Cyrus came to power there were three enemies who could have overthrown him, Egypt, Lydia and Babylon, but he overcame them all one by one – these are the three ribs.

Daniel described in his dream how he heard voices at this point saying *Arise, devour much flesh!* Indeed in the book of Esther 1:1 we read: the king of Persia ruled *from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces*. History attests that under Xerxes I, the Persian empire was easily able to field over one million fighting men.

Like all kingdoms of men, no matter how great it would not last, for Daniel then describes:

Verse 6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

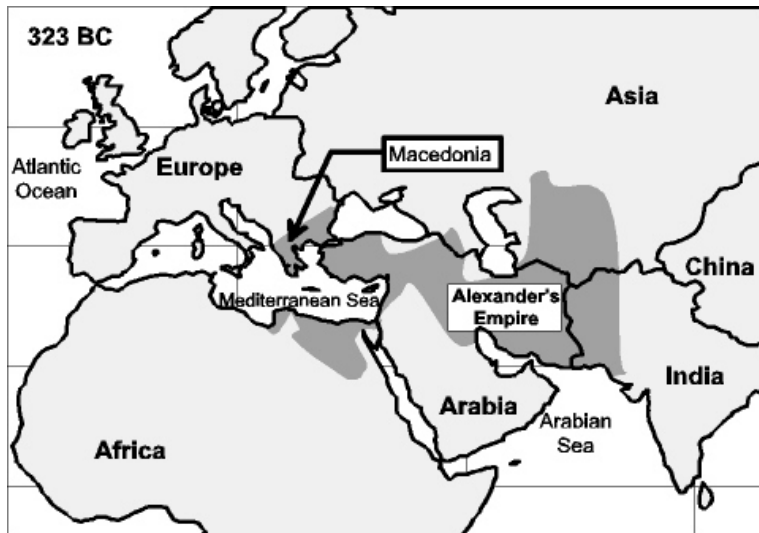
The Third Beast

The symbol corresponds to the Belly and Thighs of Brass.

A Third empire arose.

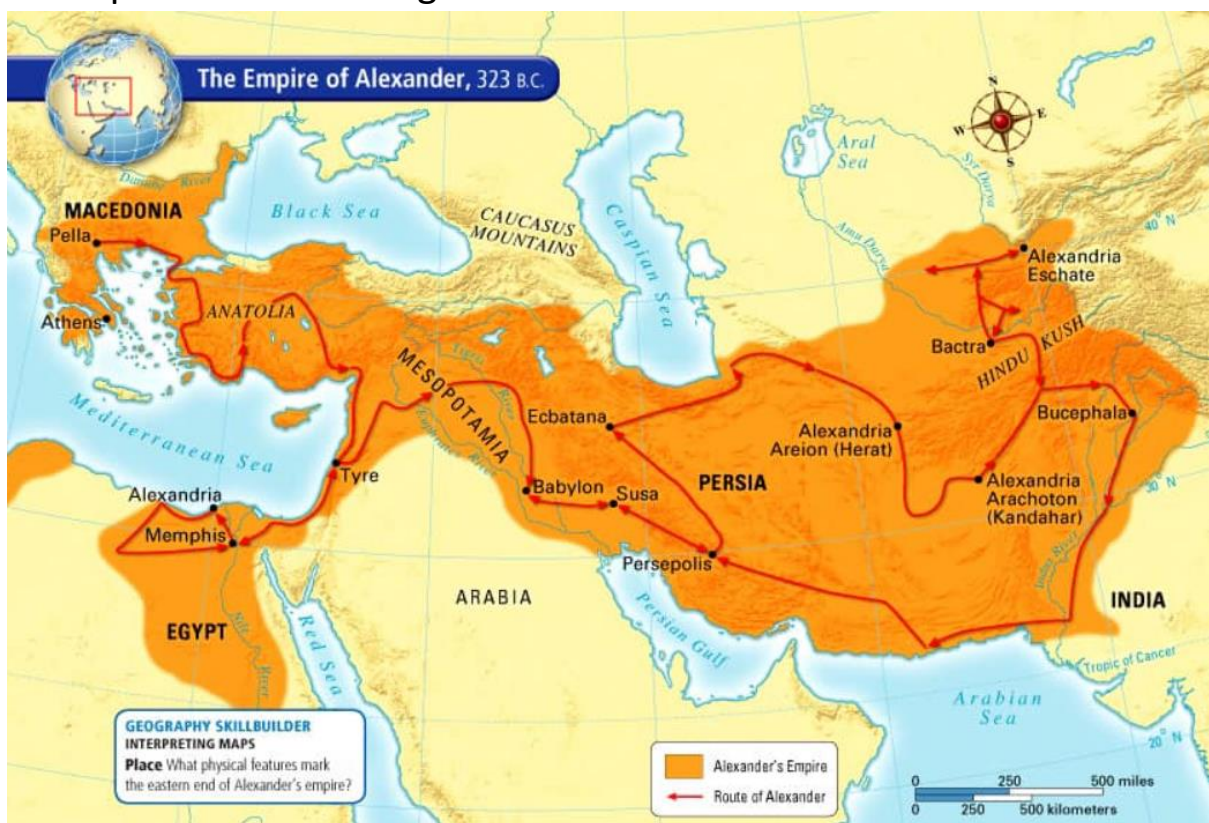
This represented by a leopard with four heads and four wings. A leopard is an animal famous for superb speed, and surprising its prey, with excellent camouflage, so that the prey does not expect the attack.





The Greek armies led by Alexander the Great conquered all before them, in rapid succession, right the way from Greece through to Persia, from Libya to India, a huge territory in lightning speed, - hence the

description of the 4 wings!



Strangely though it also had 4 heads. This was because Alexander the Great did not live for very long. He died at 33, supposedly in a drunken party, so his massive territory was divided between his 4 generals: Ptolemy, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Cassander.

The kingdom was split between them.



Eventually, the empires merged to become two, under Ptolemy, and Seleuchus, but that is not for this study, but is in fact covered in Daniel chapter 8 and 11 which describes that in great detail.

The Fourth Beast

The symbol corresponds to the Legs of Iron.

Verse 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold 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 with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

In fact, this 4th beast didn't have a name, it was not likened to any type of animal at all; because it seemed to have the worst of all the aspects of the previous beasts in it.

It was described as Dreadful!

The word in its original language seems to give the idea of *to crawl*, so maybe this animal was based on a crocodile, a beast from the sea.

In the Revelation 13:1 there is a Beast of the Sea which represented the Pagan Roman empire



e. Again, in this vision of Daniel, it is the same, it represented the Roman power. Jesus was born in this era, at the time of the Romans.

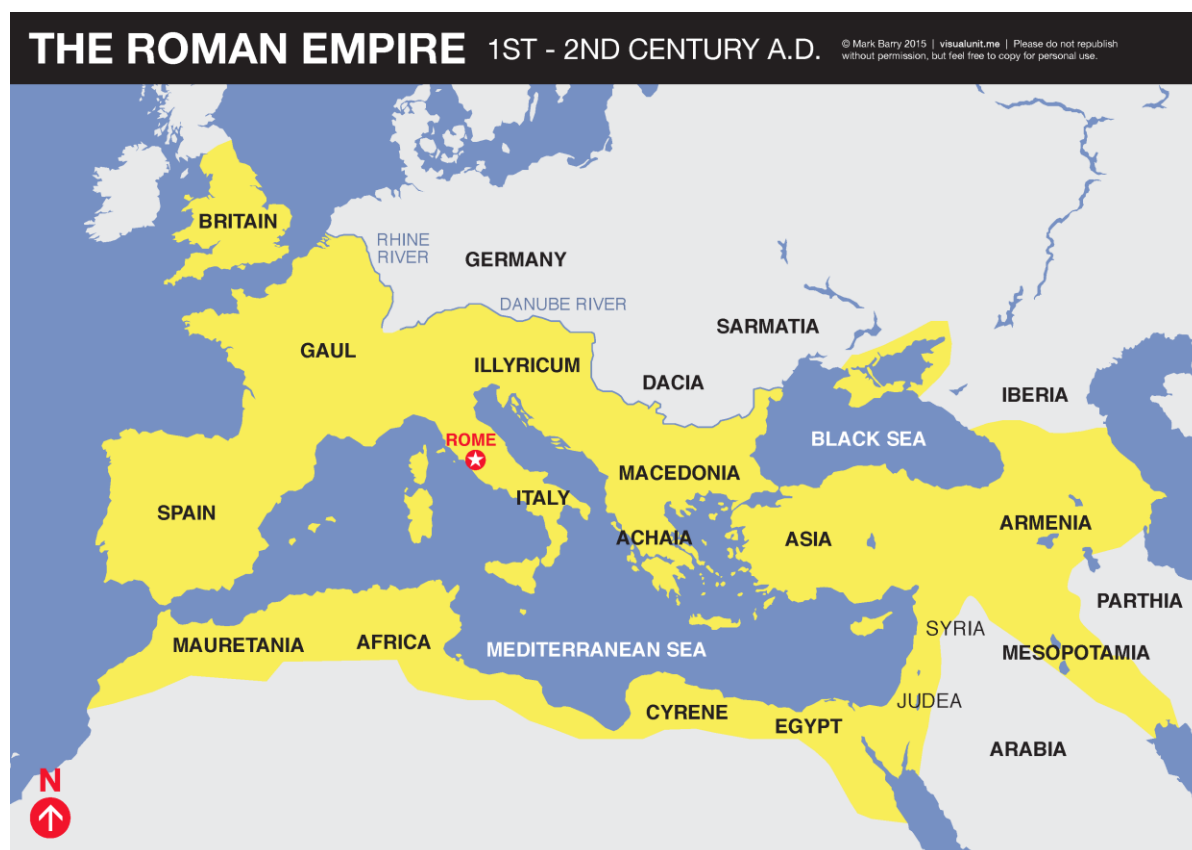
We note that it has great iron teeth, corresponding to the iron legs of the 4th stage of the image. Iron was the base metal used in all of the military weaponry and armour of the

Roman army, whereas previous imperial armies had used bronze.



... it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it.. Although Rome did not actually fully conquer Persia, the

empire of Rome spread and spread – all around the Mediterranean and northwards right across Europe and across North Africa, and the Middle east. Previous empires were no longer politically recognisable.



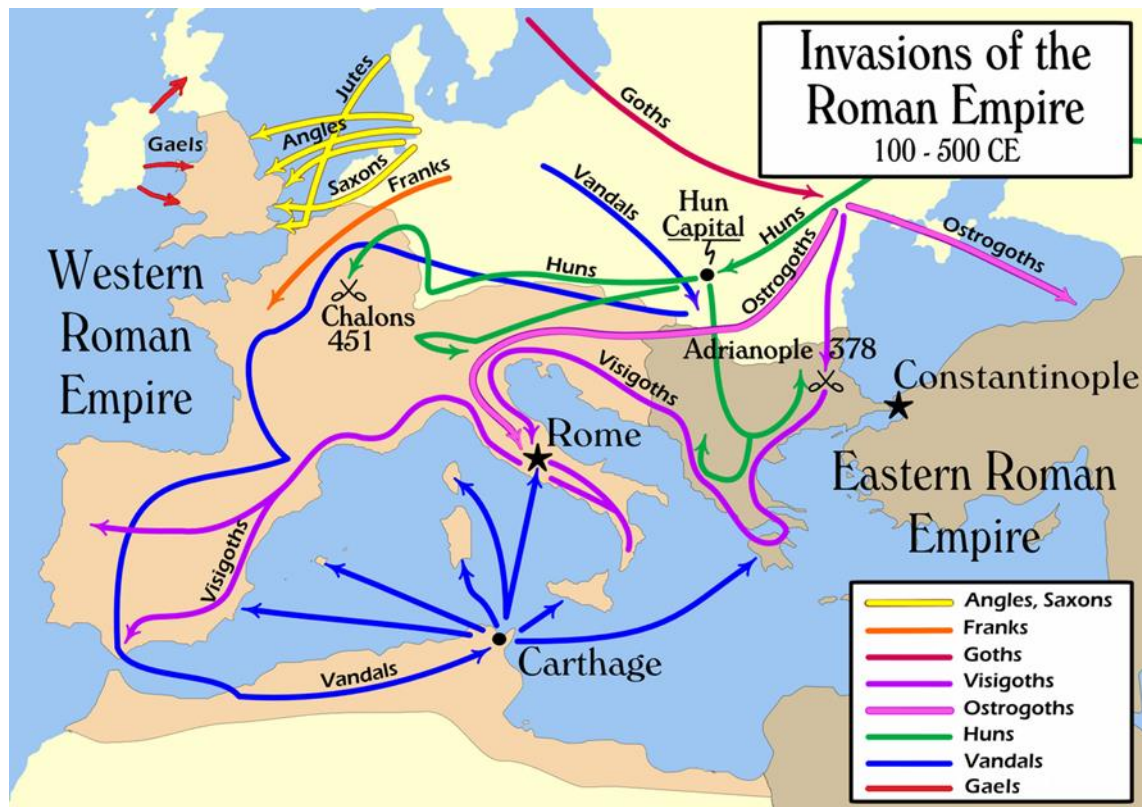
Once again the Promised land was subjected to Gentile rule.

Daniel noticed this beast had 10 horns. This chapter interprets itself:

Verse 24: And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

This tells us that these represented ten kings which would arise out of the fourth beast –like the ten toes following on from the iron legs.

After Constantine enforced Christianity as the state religion, Barbarians from the north of Europe in about the 4th century began to invade the Roman empire, such as the: Goths, Suevians, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Vandals, Franks, Lombards, Burgundians, Gepidae and



Alani, and others and eventually became part of it, these became ten tribes or ten kingdoms, which are represented by these ten horns corresponding to those which arose in Western Europe, which actually weakened the empire.



As Daniel saw all this in his dream, he then noticed another little horn growing. Verse 8 ... *behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*



Out of these another kingdom was growing, it was in fact what became known as the Holy Roman Empire.

A Political and religious empire, led by an all-powerful emperor, Charlemagne. *This horn had eyes like a man and a mouth speaking great things.*

Charlemagne and his successors were crowned emperor by the bishops of Rome, and in turn gave military support and protection to the Papacy. This is why this horn had *eyes like the eyes of a man*.

The Holy Roman Empire does not today possess much land or territory at all, but is in fact even more influential in world politics. Today it is known as the Papacy, and likes to be called The Holy See. This is the name that the Papacy is officially known as.

It derives from to Oversee – in Greek it is *episkopos* translated as Bishop. The Papacy reveals it is Pompous - looking over... copying God - 2 Thessalonians 2:4 *Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.* Copying God: Zech 4:10 *they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.*

But this little horn with eyes – they are not the eyes of God, but the eyes of a man – fallible, not infallible, the Holy See, - The Pope - his eyes are his spies, priests and clergy in every city, town and village.

Daniel also describes the Horn as having a Mouth speaking great things – or arrogant things as the word can be translated. This arrogance and blasphemy is the false religion that is spewed out of the mouth, in the form of false doctrine, edicts and decrees – b – 2 Thessalonians 2: 3,9-11: Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of destruction; Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; ...and for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Daniel also described: 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

The Catholic Church and the lands it controlled waged inquisitions, crusades, and massacres against any who protested against the wicked behaviour of the Church. These Protesters or Protestants sheltered and looked after smaller sects and denominations including the Faithful Ecclesia who maintained the Apostolic Traditions, but as described in Revelation This Beast of the Sea overcame and prevailed against them. This section of Daniel 7 is expanded in the book of Revelation where we can read in chapter 13: speaking of this little horn power: 5 -7: *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

Going back to the book of Daniel and verse 25, he describes how this false religious system headed by a MegaMouth: 25 ... *shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High,*... this occurred and darkness descended upon the

earth, as the Light of the Truth was extinguished, and the Dark Ages continued until the time of the French Revolution.

... and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. A time or set time as it should read in Chaldean also means a year. A Jewish year (the dream was given to Daniel) was 360 days.

Time = 360

Times = 360 x 2 = 720

And dividing of time = 180

360+720+180= 1260

(notice in Revelation 13:5-7 the parallel passage the time period is described as 42 months – 42 x 30 = 1260)

How were *“they given into his hand”* for a period of 1260?

In 533 AD a certain Justinian, Emperor of Byzantium, head of the Eastern Roman Empire strengthened through Decrees the Western or Catholic empire. In the Decree he united all the priests "in the Orient" to the Apostolic See of Rome, *and that all affairs touching the church shall be referred to the Pope, 'Head of all bishops, and the true and effective corrector of heretics'*

So in 533, the Pope was given military power over all Protestors.

533+1260 = 1793.

AD1793 was the year of the French Revolution. During this great political upheaval in the most influential and rich nation of the Holy Roman empire, many long-held rights and powers were stripped from the Catholic church and given to the state. In 1789, church lands were expropriated and priests killed or forced to leave France. Jews were granted full citizenship, and freedom of religion and worship was granted to all. The Little Horn Power could no longer wear out the Saints.

After this time period, Daniel was informed in his dream, that the Kingdoms of Men, would come to an end, and the Gentile Invaders of The Promised Land would be no more. For One like the Son of Man would come with clouds of heaven – verse 26.

26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Jesus was described himself as the Son of man during the days of his flesh, his life on earth. But he is no longer the same man. He is like him, but he has been changed. He was changed when he put on immortality. He had overcome human nature, and thus was empowered by the Spirit and not blood. Like the Son of Man. Daniel saw him coming with clouds. This is also the words of Paul to the Thessalonians describing the appearance of Christ Jesus with the Saints with him... 1 Thessalonians 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in clouds, ...and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* The clouds are described in Hebrews 12:1: *seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses*, referring to the faithful who have laboured under the oppression of the blasphemous Little Horn Power.

This passage in this verse 26 also mirrors the description of the Kingdom of God being that little stone power which grows into a mountain and fills the whole earth. *The greatness of the Kingdom under the whole heaven* – in other words, every part of the earth, *all dominions* will become part of that Kingdom and the Saints will rule over it.

Brother Terry

