

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
"Four World Empires"
Dan. 7:1-28

Introduction

1. Prophetic history in Daniel 1-6 centers in material presented to people with pagan relations. The last 6 chapters of Daniel give prophetic history in God's unsullied light without specific reference to foreign peoples.

2. The truth outlined for the believer in this chapter conveys some of the most astounding prophecy anywhere recorded. The course of history from ancient Babylon to the establishment of Christ's earthly kingdom is presented.

3. We know that God has an outline for historical events because they are delineated in the Bible. Here are the features of this great truth:

1. The PREPARATION for it. v. 1.

a. Historically.

It came about during the reign of Belshazzar. The date is probably 554 or 553 BC, about 14 years prior to the events of Dan. 5.

b. Physically.

It came about whilst Daniel slept. That God has used dreams to reveal His will is certain (Heb. 1:1; Matt. 2:12).

c. Practically.

It came about that the dream was written down and the summary of it recorded for divine revelation. It pleased God to provide this information for all.

2. The PRESENTATION of it. vv. 2-14.

a. Graphically. vv. 2-3.

Daniel notes that winds blew upon the sea. Undoubtedly, winds speak of heavenly powers and

the seas of men.

b. Generally. vv. 4-8.

What Daniel saw and the outline of earthly powers is clear:

- 1) The lion-eagle v. 4. Reference to Babylon.
- 2) The bear-ribs v. 5. Reference to Medo-Persia.
- 3) The leopard-heads v. 6. Reference to Greece.
- 4) The indiscribable beast v. 7. Reference to Rome.
- 5) The ten horns v. 7. Final earthly powers of significance.
- 6) The little horn v. 8. Reference to final world leader and ruler.

NOTE: God has given here in the compass of five short verses all of history from 600 B.C. to ?. See Isaiah 40:15, 17!!!

c. Specifically. vv. 17, 19-21, 23-25.

What Daniel saw became a huge matter of concern to him. God gives specifics about it all.

- 1) Identification. v. 17. That the outline given above is not folly is shown in this verse.
- 2) Explication.
Daniel shows how the fourth beast, ten horns, and little horn are to be identified. The activity of little horn will be: To war with the saints (v. 21); To prevail against them (v. 21); To speak against God (v. 25); To wear out saints (v. 25); To change times and laws (v. 25).

Conclusion. There is but one place to which all this should bring us. The same place it brought Daniel (v. 15). Grief and trouble of heart! Why? Because of what would happen to his own people. Because of the dreadful judgment of sin. Beloved, are we moved by this? If not, what will it take to bring us to Himself?