DANIEL – The Key to Revelation

Week 6 – "Daniel's Visions"

10/25/26 – PM

TEXT: Daniel 7 (Part 1)

Chapter seven begins the second part or Prophetical section of the Book of Daniel. It is a parallel of chapter two (Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image), but this chapter offers a different perspective. Chapter two presented the "times of the Gentiles" from man's point of view. In chapter seven, we see the same kingdoms of man, but from God's point of view. This chapter, chronologically, takes place between chapters four and five, but the chronological order has been set aside as to keep the "historical" part of Daniel separate from the "prophetical" part of the book.

This chapter takes place about 62 years after Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the golden-headed image. Danile would have been about 85 years old during this time. This chapter records three visions that Daniel had: The vision of "The Four Wild Beasts", the vision of a "Judgment Scene", and the vision of the "Son of Man Receiving the Kingdom". Because these visions are interwoven, it implies that they were all seen on the same occasion.

I. The First Vision – "The Four Wild Beasts" (Daniel 7:1-7)

a. The four winds of heaven (vs. 2)

i. Four is a number of the earth: four points of the compass – North, South, East, West; four seasons. This indicates that these are world-wide manifestations in their scope, affecting the entire earth.

ii. The fact that these winds are "striving" indicates spiritual warfare upon the earth (Ephesians 6:12).

1. Quote from Dr. Larkin (1926) – ***"As the closing days of this Dispensation draw near, and Palestine is repeopled***

by the Jews, the nations that center around it will be more and more thrown into commotion, as Satan in his last great effort to checkmate the plans of God will bring into play all the "evil forces" of the air." *Dr. Larkin wrote this over 20 years before Israel returned to the land in 1948.

b. The great sea (vs. 2)
    i. This is an Old Testament name for the Mediterranean Sea, and locates the geographical position of the Nations symbolized by the four wild beasts. The Mediterranean is the geographical center of the Biblical world.
    ii. "Sea" in the scripture symbolizes the restless mass of humanity as well. (Rev. 17:15)
    iii. The four wild beasts - These four beasts correspond to the four metals of the image in chapter 2. Daniel 7:17 is the key to the interpretation. These beasts represent kings or kingdoms. They arise out of the earth (vs. 3) – just like the elements of the image in chapter 2 (gold, silver, brass, iron). Even today, we associate animals (beasts) as national symbols: America – eagle; Russia – bear; England – lion; China – Dragon, etc.
        1. The first beast – "like a lion" (vs. 4)
            a. This represents Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon
                i. The lion is the king of beasts
                ii. The eagle is the king of the birds
                    1. Ezekiel 17:3, 7, 12
            b. Archeologists have discovered numerous "winged lion" sphinxes among the ruins of ancient Babylon.
                i. The plucked wings could symbolize either Nebuchadnezzar's ceasing from conquering, or his testimony in chapter 4, where he was out of his mind for those seven years and then restored – "stand upon the feet as a

man, and a man's heart was given to it." (vs. 4)

2. The second beast – "like to a bear" (vs. 5)
    a. This represents the Medio-Persian Empire
    b. The bear is "second" to the lion in its strength, but it has none of the majesty or agility of the lion. It is slow and awkward in its movements, but operates by brute force and sheer strength. This was the way of the Medio-Persian military actions. They brought a lot of death, and "devoured much flesh".
    c. The bear raising to one side indicates the dominance of Persia in the two-sided confederacy. Media was the older and weaker of the two nations, as described in earlier lessons.
3. The third beast – "like a leopard" (vs. 6)
    a. This represents the empire of Greece.
        i. This is the brass kingdom in chapter 2.
        ii. The leopard is one of the swiftest and most agile of wild animals. Alexander the Great was known for the rapid conquests of his military. He conquered the then known world in 13 years, but he died young – a short-lived empire, illustrated by the brass girdle or waist on Nebuchadnezzar's image.
        iii. The four wings emphasize the speed of his conquering. Unequaled in the ancient world.
        iv. The four heads represent the division of his kingdom upon his death and the murder of his sons. His four generals divided the

kingdom into Thrace, Macedonia, Syria, and Egypt.

4. The fourth beast – "Dreadful, Terrible, Strong, and Diverse" (vs. 7)
    a. This represents the Roman Empire
    b. It was hideous to behold, and had an unnatural feature – "great iron teeth" (vs. 7) and "nails of brass" (vs. 19).
    c. It was diverse – (vs. 7, 19, 23)
    d. It is a conglomeration of all the empires before it. Rome often incorporated the cultures of the nations it conquered into its own. Rome exhibited the glory and opulence of Babylon, the relentlessness of Persia, and the brilliance of Greece.
    e. The fact that the fourth beast had "iron" corresponds to the iron legs of the image of Nebuchadnezzar. The "ten horns" compares to the ten toes in the image as well.
    f. There was no "little toe" that sprang up in Nebuchadnezzar's vision. The little horn is a new revelation specific to the Jewish people in the last days.
5. The Little Horn (vs. 8)
    a. This little horn is a king (vs. 24)
    b. This little horn represents the Anti-Christ (vs. 25)
        i. His power is 3 ½ years – "time, and times, and the dividing of time" = 1 + 2 + ½ = 3 ½
    c. Three things about this Anti-Christ
        i. He is powerful – destroys kings in his way
        ii. He is intelligent – "eyes like a man"
        iii. He is blasphemous – (vs. 25)

II. The Second Vision – A Scene of Judgment (vs. 9-12)

a. This information was not part of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. This vision was for the purpose of revealing to Daniel the judgment that will fall on the Gentile nations, and the manner in which Christ shall receive the kingdom.

b. This is NOT the Great White Throne judgment (which takes place at the end of the millennium). It is NOT the judgment seat of Christ (which takes place before the millennium).

c. The "Ancient of days"
    i. This refers to God the Father (also in vs. 13), but the description appears to be used somewhat interchangeably, as God the Son is described similarly in Revelation 1:12-15.

d. The Judgment that Daniel sees
    i. The thrones are cast down (vs. 9)
        1. May refer to the ten kings that are reigning with the "little horn" at the time of this judgment, or this may refer to the time that Satan is cast out of Heaven (Rev. 12:7-9).
    ii. The "fiery stream" (vs. 10), Rev. 1:16; 19:15 (sharp sword)
    iii. Innumerable angels (vs. 10), Rev. 5:11
    iv. Opening of "the books" (vs. 10)
        1. Although this is not the final judgment known as the "Great White Throne" judgment in Rev. 20:12, it is evident that "the books" are God's recordings of the deeds of men and nations.
    v. The destruction of the fourth beast (Roman Empire) vs. 11.
        1. Not the "Beast" of Revelation, but the beast that Daniel saw as the "diverse" kingdom.

NEXT WEEK – Chapter 7, Part 2

Study references and commentaries used in this lesson:

"The Book of Daniel" – Rev. Clarence Larkin, 1929, published by the Clarence Larkin Estate, Glenside, PA 19038

"Daniel the Prophet" – Robert J. Sargent, 1987, published by Bible Baptist Church Publications, Oak Harbor, WA 98277