

## LESSON FIVE

# DANIEL'S DREAM AND VISION

TEXT: Daniel Chapters Seven and Eight.

### A. DANIEL'S VISIONS:

Chapters seven and eight contain the description of the visions that Daniel himself received. The first vision was seen in the first year of the reign of King Belshazzar and the second vision was seen in the third year of Belshazzar's reign. Since Belshazzar was not associated with his father as King of Babylon for more than a three-year period, and he was killed in BC 538, Daniel must have received his first vision in the year BC 541. This would have been about sixty-two years after Nebuchadnezzar had received the dream of the image, and Daniel was now about eighty-five years old.

### B. DANIEL'S DREAM: (Daniel Chapter Seven).

#### 1. DIVISIONS OF CHAPTER SEVEN:

- a. Night Vision of the Three Beasts (verses 1-6).
- b. Night Vision of the Fourth Beast (verses 7-8).
- c. Judgment Vision (verses 9-12).
- d. Son of Man and His Kingdom (verses 13-14).
- e. Interpretation of the Visions (verses 15-18).

#### 2. GREAT CONFLICT:

The term "sea" represents the nations of the world. This fact is revealed in Revelation 17:15, "... *The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, the multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*"

The Great Sea always means the Mediterranean Sea. The four winds striving speak of great conflict, strife and commotion. The four winds speak of this conflict coming from every direction.

#### 3. FOUR BEASTS:

- a. Lion with eagle's wings:
  - (i). This is Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar.
  - (ii). Eagle's wings speak of swiftness of conquest.
  - (iii). Wings plucked speak of the revolt of some of the provinces.
- b. Bear:
  - (i). This is the Kingdom of the Medes and Persians.
  - (ii). Since Persia was more powerful the bear is shown raised on one side.
  - (iii). The three ribs indicate that it had to overcome three great world powers.
- c. Leopard:
  - (i). This is Alexander the Great.
  - (ii). The four wings speak of great swiftness.

(iii). The four heads speak of the four divisions of the Empire after Alexander's death. At that time the empire was divided among four of Alexander's generals: Syria under Seleucus; Greece under Lysimachus; Thrace under Cassander; and Egypt under Ptolemy.

d. Fourth Beast:

The fourth beast was dreadful, terrible and very strong. It had iron teeth, and it devoured and stamped the previous beasts with its feet. It was different from the other beasts and it had ten horns. As Daniel considered these horns, there came forth a little horn before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots.

This fourth beast is the last form of Gentile world dominion beginning with the Roman Empire.

The "little horn" is the man of sin, the Antichrist, the superman of the end times.

In Revelation 13 John saw the same beast rising out of the sea of the Roman Empire. The ten horns with crowns are the same ten horns of the fourth beast here in Daniel chapter seven. We find that John mentions the leopard, the bear and the lion but the order is reversed. The reason for this is that Daniel looked forward to the future while John looked back over past history and saw them in the reverse order.

e. Little Horn:

The "Little Horn" is none other than the Antichrist found in the New Testament as: The Man of Sin (II Thessalonians 2:3-8); Son of Perdition (II Thessalonians 2:3-8); That Wicked (II Thessalonians 2:3-8); Antichrist (I John 2:18); and The Beast (Revelation 13:1-8).

John saw him in Revelation thirteen as having combined abilities and powers of the Leopard, Bear and Lion Gentile Kingdoms. In other words, he will possess all the combined abilities of Nebuchadnezzar, Xerxes, Alexander and Caesar. He will possess superhuman powers and will dominate the political scene of the world.

f. Length of Time for Antichrist's Power:

*"... And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time" (Daniel 7:25).*

The expression "time, times and the dividing of time" means three and one-half years. The Antichrist will have power during the last half of the Tribulation Period.

During his reign he will try to change laws and customs, and shall try to wear out the saints.

It might be noted that the devil is trying to do this even in this present day. He delights in putting pressure upon the saints to wear them out and to discourage them.

### C. DANIEL'S VISION: (Daniel Chapter Eight).

#### 1. TIME AND BACKGROUND OF THE VISION:

This vision was given to Daniel during the third year of the reign of Belshazzar. It was the year of the handwriting on the wall and the fall of Babylon.

Daniel was in Babylon, but for the vision he was transported to Shushan, the chief city of Elam. This became one of the chief cities of the Medes and Persians. The entire story of the book of Esther happened in this city. In the vision he saw himself by the river Ulai.

#### 2. RAM WITH TWO HORNS:

This Ram represented the Kings of Media and Persia (Daniel 8:20). It is significant that the national symbol of the Medo-Persian Empire was a ram. Daniel saw the second horn

higher than the first and it came up last. In the beginning Media was the stronger of the two nations but gradually Persia became the real power in the Medo-Persian Kingdom.

3. THE HE GOAT:

The He Goat came from the west and traveled with great rapidity. He attacked the ram with great anger and subdued it. This He Goat was the Grecian leader, Alexander the Great. In a short period of time he conquered practically the whole world. After a career of drunkenness and debauchery he died in 323 BC. He had reigned for twelve years and eight months. He died when he was only thirty-two years old.

In this lesson it has already been stated the names of the four generals who divided Alexander's kingdom at his death.

4. THE LITTLE HORN:

Out of these four division would come another little horn which would become exceeding great toward the south, the east and toward the pleasant land.

The term "pleasant land" would refer to Palestine. This little horn would come out of the kingdom of Syria ruled by the general Seleucus.

This little horn is not identical with the little horn in chapter seven. That little horn came out of the ten horns of the end time Gentile Kingdom. This little horn comes out of one of the divisions of the Grecian Empire. This little horn is a historical person who is a type of the Antichrist who is to come.

This little horn of chapter eight was literally fulfilled in the person of Antiochus Epiphanies who came out of Syria. He made many promises to the Jews only to disregard them. He desecrated the Temple, killed the priests and sacrificed a swine upon the altar.

5. TWENTY-THREE HUNDRED DAYS:

This period of time was the literal length of time between the desecration of the temple by Antiochus and the deliverance of Jerusalem under Judas Maccabeus. It was exactly twenty-three hundred days.

There have been false teachings, which would attempt to build doctrines around this period of time by symbolizing the twenty- three hundred days. However, history verifies the accuracy of the length of time as being literally twenty-three hundred days.

**D. THE WORLD EMPIRES:**

	<u>DANIEL TWO</u>	<u>DANIEL SEVEN</u>	<u>DANIEL EIGHT</u>
Babylonian	Head of gold	Lion	
Medo-Persian	Breasts and arms of silver	Bear	Ram
Grecian	Belly and thighs of brass	Leopard	He Goat
Roman	Legs of Iron		
Antichrist	Ten toes of iron and clay	The beast with ten horns	
Christ's	Stone cut out of the mountain without hands.		

## LESSON FIVE

### SELF HELP TEST

*Fill in the blanks:*

1. The term \_\_\_\_\_ represents the nations of the world.
2. The Great Sea refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ Sea.
3. The lion beast had \_\_\_\_\_ wings.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ represented the kingdom of the Medes and Persians.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ represented Alexander the Great.
6. The fourth beast is the last form of \_\_\_\_\_ nations.
7. The "little horn" is a type of the \_\_\_\_\_ nations.
8. The expression "time, times, and dividing of time" means \_\_\_\_\_ years.
9. The He Goat of chapter eight represented \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The Temple was desecrated by \_\_\_\_\_.