



# How Are You Reigning?

**Responsibilities of “Saints  
Possessing the Kingdom”  
(Daniel 7:22, 27)**



# **Nebuchadnezzar's Dream**

## **Daniel 2**

# ***“A Great Image”***

*“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.” (Daniel 2:31-33)*

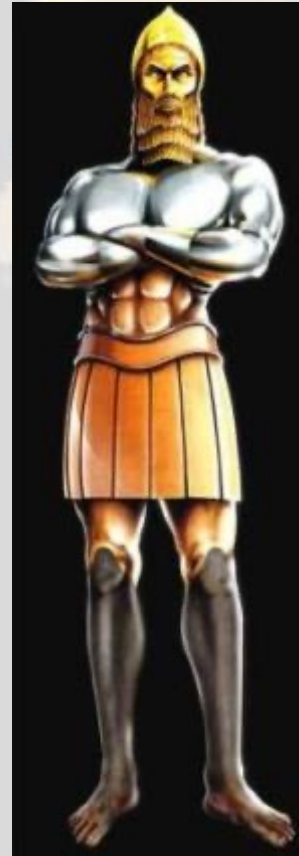
**Gold**

**Silver**

**Bronze**

**Iron**

**Iron &  
Clay**



# An Even Greater Stone, Mountain

*“You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were **crushed together**, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that **no trace of them was found**. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” (Daniel 2:34-35)*



# Interpretation: Four Kingdoms

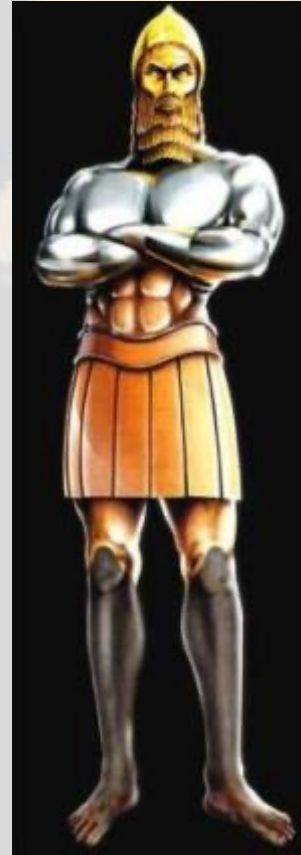
*“This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom ... you are this head of gold. But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.” (Daniel 2:36-40)*

**Babylonian**

**Medo-Persian**

**Grecian**

**Roman**



# Conquering, Enduring Kingdom of God

*“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold – the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” (Daniel 2:44-45)*



# The Kingdom of God?

- As Nebuchadnezzar personified Babylon, both it and he were its *“head of gold”*, so the kingdom of God is personified in its conquering King, Christ (**2:36-39**).
- Fundamentally fulfilled in Christ the King having *“all authority”* over all kingdoms and *“dashing them to pieces”* as He pleases (**Psalm 2; Matthew 28:18-20**).
- Failure to accept His rule does not imply no jurisdiction, unconquered (**Luke 19:12-27**).



# The Kingdom of God!

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*... Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15)*

*And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are **some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power**.” (Mark 9:1)*

† Kingdom came in the church on Pentecost with power (**Acts 1:3-8; 2:1-41**).

† Kingdom was both present (**Revelation 1:9**) and accessible (**Colossians 1:13**) in 1<sup>st</sup> century.



# Unconquered, Enduring Church

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- God is in control and His kingdom – synonymous with the “*church*” – cannot be stopped (**Daniel 8:25; Job 34:13-20**).
- Since the days of “*these kings*”, Christ’s church has continued to “*consume all kingdoms*”.
- Individually spreads through the gospel, evangelism, faith, voluntary conversion (**Romans 1:16; Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; Psalm 110:3**).
- Not carnal conflict (**John 18:33-37**), but spiritual (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**).
- If we are citizens of this kingdom, what are we doing to contribute to its growth? If not, what optional preoccupations have taken greater priority?



# **The Four Beasts versus the Son of Man**

## **Daniel 7**

# The Origin of the Four Beasts

*Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.” (Daniel 7:2-3)*



# The Origin of the Four Beasts

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*Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.” (Daniel 7:2-3)*

- † Imagery of the “*sea*” seems to represent churning, chaotic political society, with rising & falling nations, just like the waves (**Psalm 65:7; Isaiah 17:12-13; 57:20-21; Jeremiah 49:23; 51:54-55**).
- † Loss of dominion is compared to falling back into the sea, or being covered by it (**Jeremiah 51:41-42; Ezekiel 26:3-4**).
- † Powerful nations sit upon or by many waters with “*nations streaming*” to it (**Jeremiah 51:13, 36, 44**).

# The Four Beasts – #1

*“The **first** was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.” (Daniel 7:4)*

† *“lion”* – most ferocious predator, king of beasts, powerful conquest (**Pr. 22:13; 28:1**).

† *“eagle’s wings”* – speed of movement, greater reach – rapid conquest

† *“man’s heart given”* – conscience was pricked, possibly converted (**Daniel 4**).



# The Four Beasts – #2

*“And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’” (7:5)*

- † *“bear”* – not as fast, but great strength, endurance
- † *“raised up”* – ready to attack, hostile
- † *“three ribs in its mouth ... devour much flesh”*  
– not easily satisfied, continuing to conquer – aggressive, ambitious consumer of nations



# The Four Beasts – #3

*“After this I looked, and there was **another**, like a **leopard**, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and **dominion was given to it.**” (Daniel 7:6)*

- † *“leopard”* – not as strong as lion or bear, but powerful predator, **very fast**
- † *“four wings of a bird”* – very fast; 4 might symbolize spreading out, world number.
- † *“four heads”* – intelligence, or spreading out in all 4 directions (broken into 4 kingdoms; **Daniel 8**).
- † *“dominion was given to it”* – legitimacy of kingdom and rule, even if quick



# The Four Beasts – #4

*“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.” (Daniel 7:7)*

- † Not like any beast known to man at that time.
- † “*dreadful, terrible, exceedingly strong*” – more terrifying, ferocious
- † “*huge iron teeth*” – great power to consume, devour
- † “*devouring, breaking, trampling*” – leaving no remnant of predecessors
- † “*different*” – emphasizes uniqueness compared to others, but how?
- † “*ten horns*” – full, complete power to conquer – peak of human empire



# Four Beasts = Four Kingdoms

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*I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: “Those **great beasts**, which are four, **are four kings** which arise out of the earth. ... The fourth beast shall be **A fourth kingdom** on earth, Which shall be **different from all other kingdoms**, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.” (Daniel 7:15-23)*

- † Like **Daniel 2**, each represents a different kingdom, world empire.
- † Like **Daniel 2**, kingdoms are personified by their leading king.

# Four Beasts = Four Kingdoms

- † Four kingdoms of **Daniel 2** are *same kingdoms* of **Daniel 7**.
  - History does not permit other “world empires” from Nebuchadnezzar to Jesus.
- † 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom of **Daniel 2** has multiple similarities to 4<sup>th</sup> beast:
  - Iron, breaks in pieces, shatters, crush all other kingdoms (**2:40**).
  - Huge iron teeth, devouring, breaking in pieces, trampling residue (**7:7, 19, 23**).
- † Similar judgment is executed against the whole in the 4<sup>th</sup> beast’s reign:
  - Stone cut without hands, strikes image in 4<sup>th</sup> segment, destroys image , no trace of previous, turns into a kingdom that covers the whole earth (**2:34-35, 44-45**).
  - Ancient of Days issues judgment, 4<sup>th</sup> beast slain, body destroyed, Son of Man receives a kingdom over the whole earth (**7:9, 11-14, 22, 26-27**).

# Comparing the Visions



## History

### **Babylon**

612-539 B.C.

### **Medo-Persia**

539-331 B.C.

### **Greece**

331-64 B.C.

### **Rome**

64 B.C. - 476 AD

**4 World  
Empires**

## Daniel 2

Head of Gold

Arms & Chest  
of Silver

Belly and  
Thighs of  
Bronze

Legs of Iron  
with Feet  
mixed with  
Clay

4 Sections –  
1 Body

## Daniel 7

Lion

Bear

Leopard

Dreadful with  
Iron Teeth and  
10 Horns and  
Great Words

4 Beasts

## Revelation 13

Lion's Mouth

Bear's Feet

Leopard's  
Body

7 Heads and 10  
Horns,  
Blasphemous

4 Sections –  
1 Body

# Rome: Blasphemous, Persecuting

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*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was **different from all the beasts that were before it**, and it had **ten horns**. I was considering the horns, and there was **another horn, a little one, coming up among them**, before whom **three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots**. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and **a mouth speaking pompous words**. ...Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and **the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words**, whose appearance was **greater than his fellows**. I was watching; and the same horn was **making war against the saints, and prevailing against them**” (7:7-8, 19-21)*

# Rome: Blasphemous, Persecuting

*Thus he said: “The **fourth beast** shall be **A fourth kingdom on earth**, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall **devour the whole earth**, Trample it and break it in pieces. The **ten horns are ten kings** Who shall arise from **this kingdom**. And another shall rise after them; He shall be **different from the first ones**, And shall **subdue three kings**. He shall **speak pompous words against the Most High**, Shall **persecute the saints of the Most High**, And shall intend to change times and law. Then **the saints shall be given into his hand** For a time and times and half a time.” (7:23-25)*

† Try to subvert God’s will for kings (**Rom. 13:1-6; Dan. 2:21; Acts 1:7; 1 The. 5:1**).

† Foretells an unusual persecution against God’s “*saints*” during Roman empire.

- God’s saints did not bring this upon themselves, like period of Judges or Captivity.
- Entire empire was mobilized against God, His saints, and succeeded – for a time.

† Lesson: Are we prepared to suffer persecution like the saints of early church?

# God's Judgment against Rome

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*“I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.” (Daniel 7:9-11)*

† Emphasizes God's authority, control, fiery judgment (**Eze. 1, 9-10**).

† Represents a judgment in time against an earthly nation, Rome.

# Christ's Ascension & Coronation

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*“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, **One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven!** He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.” (7:13-14)*

- † Heaven's view of Jesus ascension, revealed in symbols (**Acts 1:9-11**).
- † Coronation, seated at God's right hand (**Acts 2:30-36; Heb. 1:8-13**).
- † Parallel to rock striking the great image's feet, and mountain consuming all preceding kingdoms and their residue (**Dan. 2:44-45**).

# God's Judgment for Christ & His Saints

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*“I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, **until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. ... He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.** (Daniel 7:21-22, 25-26)*

† After God rules in favor of His saints, Rome is destroyed, never to return.



# ***“Saints to Possess the Kingdom”?***

*“Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed. ... judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. ... ‘Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’”*

**(Daniel 7:14, 22, 27)**

- † **Cannot** refer to establishment of church, because saints were persecuted by Rome, the 4<sup>th</sup> beast, well **after** the church was established.
- † Not mere inhabitation, since already in the kingdom (**Rev. 1:9; Col. 1:13**).

# ***“Saints to Possess the Kingdom”?***

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*“I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. ... This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart.” (Daniel 7:15, 28)*

† No doubt, Daniel was bothered by the persecution and war of the 4<sup>th</sup> beast against *“the saints of the Most High” (1 Peter 1:10-12)*.

† We might wonder, “What does it mean for *‘the saints’* – us – *‘to take possession of the kingdom’*?” “Are we succeeding?” Are we doing all we can do?”

† Regardless, Jesus is still *“king of kings ... all nations, peoples, languages should serve Him”*. Don’t think too highly (1 Cor. 4:6).

# ***“Saints to Possess the Kingdom”?***

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- † If we were make too much of this granted “rule”, we would be no better than the:
- *“little horn ... speaking blasphemous”* things
  - Builders of the Tower of Babel
  - Unfaithful Steward
  - Jehu
- † Lesson is not unusual, but parallel to others ...

# Taking Possession like Israel?

*“Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.’” (Joshua 1:11)*

*Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: “You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.” (Joshua 13:1)*

*So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. (Joshua 21:41)*

*“You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you. See, I have divided to you by **lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes**, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea westward. And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. **So you shall possess their land**, as the LORD your God promised you. **Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you.** You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them, but you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day. ... Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.” (Joshua 23:3-11)*

# ***“Saints to Possess the Kingdom”?***

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† If we were make too much of this granted “rule”, we would be no better than the:

- *“little horn ... speaking blasphemous”* things
- Builders of the Tower of Babel
- Unfaithful Steward
- Jehu

Lesson is parallel to others (**Joshua 1:11;13:1; 21:41; 23:3-11**):

- Parable of the Faithful Steward (**Matthew 24:45-51; Luke 12:4-48**)
- Parable of the Talents (**Matthew 25:14-30**)
- Parable of the Minas (**Luke 19:11-28**)

† But, more grand, more inspiring, more encouraging, and provoking a greater sense of ownership, responsibility, & duty (**Luke 12:48**).

# Proverbs for Kings? Saints!

*These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment. He who says to the wicked, “You are righteous,” Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him. But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, And a good blessing will come upon them. (Proverbs 24:23-25)*

*Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, Much less lying lips to a prince. (Proverbs 17:7)*

*Also, to punish the righteous is not good, Nor to strike princes for their uprightness. (Proverbs 17:26)*

*If a ruler pays attention to lies, All his servants become wicked. (Proverbs 29:12)*

† As judges, rulers, stewards in “*possessing the kingdom*”, we must exhibit the wisdom of kings in our everyday relationships & interactions.



# How Are You Reigning?

Responsibilities of “Saints  
Possessing the Kingdom”  
(Daniel 7:22)