

Daniel 7 Unlocked: Part 1 – Winds, Waters, and Beasts

Paul R. Wild, March 22, 2020

I have a sense of urgency to get this series started, for I feel that the Body of Christ is awash with some bad ideas about where we are headed as a nation, and these bad ideas may circumvent God's intent to warn us for the purpose of preparation. I think many Christians feel that the United States (US) in the short term is heading in a wrong direction and is having serious internal moral, political, financial, and physical problems – after all, coronavirus is staring US in the face - but I also think that many Christians are listening to some voices who are not speaking for God regarding the long-term prospects for US. Some Christians are thinking there will be a political solution to our problems, and others are listening to “prophets” who claim national revival is nigh unto US. As an example, a couple years back a brother proclaimed to me with enthusiasm that, “We’ll get Trump elected for a second term and then Pence for two terms and get it turned around.” Wishful thinking, but not Biblical. And then there are “prophets” who are telling believers that God is soon bringing revival to the nation. I’d be OK with it if the “prophets” kept their revival proclamations limited to their own churches or organizations, because perhaps Jesus will bring revival on a local level, but when they proclaim soon-coming revival on a national level, no way. Not now. Not soon. Why? Beside the fact that Paul said, “Evil men will wax worse and worse,” (I’m quite confident gobs of evil men exist in this country, and they are getting worse) Scripture says something different about our national revival, and Jesus said Scripture cannot be broken.

Some Christians will agree with me about coming judgment and point to US as the Mystery Babylon of Revelation 17:5, citing our power, influence, wealth, perversity, decadence, and apostasy, and the Bible says Mystery Babylon will be destroyed. I wished they’d stop that, because the Bible is Middle Eastern-centric, and the first readers of the Old and New Testament prophecies would never have had an understanding of a nation 6,000+ miles to the west and 2,000 years in the future as Mystery Babylon. The prophecies about Mystery Babylon had to have some understandability to the first hearers and readers of prophecies before they have any understandability to us. Still others will say that the US is not described in Scripture but that we will follow Israel's cycle of judgment followed by repentance followed by prosperity followed by apathy followed by rampant carnality followed by judgment followed by repentance, and so on. I can agree with them on the cycle bit, but as for those who say we're nowhere described in Scripture, my response is that **we absolutely are described in Scripture**, and it's just a matter of understanding Biblical symbolism.

We're going to explore this symbolism, and after we're done, I believe my audience will fully understand that America is described in Scripture and will be judged harshly by the Lord. But to those who believe national revival is coming, I agree with you; however, it won't come until we've been taken to the woodshed, in the same manner as Israel. You see, there are only two nations in the history of the world who based their founding on God: Israel and US. That being said, it's not an irrational idea to think that God has big and ultimately great plans for US after we get severely spanked. After all,

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:6

But that's an if/then argument, the idea being that if the pattern of judgment and restoration was true for Israel, then it must be true for US. The problem with if/then arguments is that they are dicey to use as proofs, so we need to have hard, Scripture proofs to defend a position. It turns out that we have those hard, Scripture proofs, and they can be found in Daniel 7.

I don't know how long the dominant, classical view of Daniel 7 has been around, but I can trace it back as far as Matthew Henry's commentary from the early 1700's. The dominant view held by mainstream theologians and Church leadership since that time is that Daniel 7 is a repeat of the Daniel 2 statue vision. The statue vision is generally understood to indicate the progression of nations from Babylon to Medo-Persia to Greece to Rome to revived Rome under the antichrist, although in recent years some have suggested the Muslim Caliphate culminating in the Ottoman Turks should be inserted in there somewhere. For the sake of brevity, I won't elaborate on Daniel 2 here, and for anyone who cares, I address it more fully in [Is the United States Mentioned in Bible Prophecy? With a Treatise on the Ezekiel 38 and Psalm 83 Wars](#). I will say this, though, about the belief held by many that Daniel 7 is simply a rehash of Daniel 2: to what end? What value is it to us in these last days to double down on describing ancient nations but leave out a discussion of the nations that lead up to the antichrist and the Tribulation? It makes no sense. Why would God give us no hint about the prominent nations of our time? Given that God's custom has been to warn His people to prepare for coming trials and tribulations down through the ages, I cannot see how a second telling in Daniel 7 of the Daniel 2 progression of ancient nations provides much value to His people trying to navigate the land mines of modern nations in these end times. It is my strongly held opinion that God would not and did not leave us blind on this issue. Daniel 7 needs to be unhitched from Daniel 2 and allowed to stand on its own merits. Therefore, the task at hand is to open up Daniel 7, so let us begin with Verses 1 to 3 for this article, reserving later verses for later articles.

Daniel 7:1-2 begins with Daniel stating he had a very vivid dream, a vision, which is different than a typical dream in that it is as if the person having the vision is seeing it three dimensionally, in real time, with exceptional detail. Essentially, it's like the observer is in the real, physical world watching events unfold. Verse 2 continues with Daniel seeing four winds striving against each other. Four winds indicate the four points of the compass, or north, south, east, and west. This tells us that the beasts Daniel saw in Verse 3 are going to encompass regions of the earth that directionally cover those four points and are distinct one from another in their spatial relationships. The fact that the four compass points are presented is a clue that the ancient nations of the classical view cannot be in view here, for those nations gobbled each other up successively, where Babylon had its territory overtaken and expanded by the Medes and Persians; the Greeks overtook and expanded the territory of the Medes and Persians; and the Romans overtook and expanded the territory of the Greeks. If you want to toss the Muslim Caliphate/Turks in there, so be it, for their territory

was comparable to their predecessors. Do some web searches for yourself to see maps of their ancient boundaries. These nations were not spatially distinct from each other and overlapped one another in whole or in part. It would be difficult to make a cogent argument that these nations distinctly represented all four compass points separate from one another.

The four winds are striving against each other simultaneously, signifying two things: (1) the beasts that the winds indicate are striving against each other exist concurrently, and (2) there is competition, or even violence, between these beasts. We can conclude that Daniel 7 eliminates the nations of antiquity based on the fact that the beasts are striving against each other concurrently, for those ancient nations mentioned symbolically in Daniel 2 did not all exist as distinct nations at the same time – they transitioned from one to the next over many centuries.

Verse 3 says the beasts come up from the sea and are diverse from each other. We'll leave the diversity issue for a future discussion on Verse 4 and beyond, but we need to explore the beast and sea descriptors further. What do they mean? The term "beast" is just another name for "animal," but the prophetic meaning of beast is "nation" or "kingdom." It is easy to prove this by using Daniel 8. Daniel 8 presents a ram and a goat, and the angel Gabriel told Daniel that the ram is Medo-Persia, while the goat is Greece. The use of beasts to indicate kingdoms shows God's low opinion of human kingdoms, for 2 Peter 2:12 says, "But these, as natural brute **beasts**, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption," referring to those who "walk after the flesh" of 2 Peter 2:10.

As for the sea, it represents the sea of humanity from whence these kingdoms arise. The sea is referred to as the "great sea," which may represent the Mediterranean, but this is not definitive. In any case, if it is the Mediterranean, it would be reasonable for God to use a body of water familiar to the Jews. A few verses supporting the symbolism of kingdoms coming from the sea of humanity are shown below, but there are many more.

¹² Woe to the multitude of many **people**, which make a noise like the noise of the **seas**; and to the rushing of **nations**, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty **waters**! ¹³ The **nations** shall rush like the rushing of many **waters**: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Isaiah 17:12-13

He stretched out his hand over the **sea**, he shook the **kingdoms**: the LORD hath given a commandment against the merchant city, to destroy the strong holds thereof.

Isaiah 23:11

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great

whore that sitteth upon many **waters**: ²With whom the **kings of the earth** have committed fornication, and the **inhabitants of the earth** have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. ¹⁵And he saith unto me, The **waters** which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are **peoples**, and **multitudes**, and **nations**, and **tongues**.

Revelation 17:1-2,15

It is now time for a simplified summary to wrap this topic up. Daniel saw four future kingdoms – but modern for US - coming up out of the sea of humanity that are spatially separate from each other and associated with northern, southern, eastern, and western regions of the earth. These four kingdoms exist at the same time and are in competition with or at outright war against each other.

This now concludes Part 1 of the Daniel 7 commentary. Part 2 in upcoming weeks will begin to address who these four modern kingdoms are. In the interim, I pray that the reading audience will study Daniel 7 in its entirety to become familiar with its terms and begin the process of deciphering who these end-times kingdoms are.