

Daniel 7 Unlocked: Part 2 – The Beast from the West

Paul R. Wild, March 31, 2020

In Part 1 we addressed Daniel's vision of four beasts from the four corners of the earth that represent kingdoms or nations rising from the sea of humanity to strive against each other at the same time. Stress that last point: **at the same time**, not over centuries and millennia. The old, classical view of ancient nations is wrong and needs to be buried in the dust bin of history. That old view is that Daniel 7 is a rehash of the Daniel 2 statue vision that showed the progression of ancient nations from Babylon to the Romans. Daniel 7 provides clues in Verses 2 and 3 that show those ancient nations don't fit the description and, in any case, that old view provides little to no value to us in these last days for helping us navigate the stormy seas of modern nations striving against each other now. Daniel 7 differs from other prophetic chapters of Daniel that deal with kings and nations, like Chapters 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11, in that we know from matching the text to known history who the ancient kings and nations of those chapters were, and we know about the ancient nations from the text itself where Daniel or one of the angelic beings stated who the ancient nations were. Daniel 7 is not like those chapters and presents four nations, or kingdoms, which have strange symbolism for which no identification is provided. That is another clue that Daniel 7 speaks of modern nations, not ancient ones. As examples, Daniel 2 identifies the golden head of the statue as Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, thereby allowing us to identify the other nations after him, and Daniel 8 identifies the Medo-Persians and the Greeks as a ram and a goat, respectively. Daniel 7 does not follow this pattern.

Where to now? We must now begin to decipher the four beasts. Verse 4 introduces us to the "first" beast from the west, composed of a lion with eagle's wings that has the feathers plucked from the wings, is lifted above the earth, is made to stand up like a man, and is given the heart of a man. Let's not waste any time: it's the Anglo-American alliance consisting of the British lion and the American eagle. By stating it is the Anglo-American alliance, I can then state with confidence that it represents the western wind that is striving against the northern, southern, and eastern winds coming from those parts of the globe. Remember, the Bible is Middle-Eastern centric and focuses on the land of Israel, such that Israel effectively is the center of God's universe, and certainly of God's planet earth. In that sense, Western European and North American nations definitely meet the criterion of a western wind relative to Israel's location.

Since there might be readers from nations besides the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK) who might be unfamiliar with these countries' national symbols, a brief primer is in order. We'll start with the British, for which the easiest way to demonstrate the importance of the lion in their symbolism is to show the monarchy's various family crests. Again, consulting the low-hanging fruit of Wikipedia, three royal, family crests are shown below. Note the lions scattered throughout the crests and the center shields. The lions and the unicorn are termed "heraldic beasts," and it is easy to see the dominant beast is the lion.



Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Sodacan>



Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom (Scotland)
By Sodacan - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10952153>



The Royal Arms as used by the House of Stuart (these being of William III and Mary II (1688-1694/1702))

By Evelyn Simak, CC BY-SA 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14428077>

Turning our attention to the Americans, the beastly symbol for US is the eagle, as shown below.



Coat of Arms of the United States of America
Wikimedia Commons

Note that the eagle's wings and the lion's body of Daniel 7:4 are fused. Remember that point as a point of contrast to the next beast that will be covered in upcoming Part 3. Regarding this fusion, perhaps it is accurate to look at the wings as springing forth from the lion, for that is exactly how it occurred in history in that the US was a colony of the UK and, after settling some serious differences, the US has become the greatest ally of the UK, and vice versa. These two nations are "joined at the hip" and have stood against global bullies for over a century, and continue to do so now. The proponents of the classical view will say that Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon are this beast, citing Jeremiah 4:13, 48:40, and 49:22 as prophecies about Nebuchadnezzar acting as an eagle to punish various nations; or they will cite Jeremiah 4:7, 49:19, and 50:44 as parallel prophecies about Nebuchadnezzar acting as a lion. If God had meant Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon to be the lion-eagle beast, then why not just use that conjoined symbolism in Jeremiah to simplify the connection to Daniel 7? Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians don't get it done in Daniel 7, for at the time Daniel was recording this vision, Belshazzar was in power, anywhere from five to twenty years after Nebuchadnezzar had died, depending on which historian you're listening to. Later in Daniel 7, an angelic being told Daniel that the beasts "shall" arise, as in a future sense from that time, such that citing a dead king and his kingdom as a future kingdom is bad exegesis. Again, another clue that Daniel 7 has nothing to do with ancient kingdoms and another nail in the coffin of the ancient kingdoms theory.

I mentioned "first" up front. That word indicates a chronological progression of kingdoms rising and falling leading to kingdoms after them. That is certainly the classical view, for those espousing the ancient nations view will readily say that the ancient nations rose and fell in consecutive order over many centuries. In that I can agree with them, i.e., progressive rise and fall. But that fall part is disturbing for US to think about, for it necessarily says we will fall as a nation. The falling is not an if/then hypothesis, because the symbolism of Verse 4 straight-up says we will fall - our wings will be plucked, meaning we are judged by having our beauty and symbol of power removed from US. The Aramaic word (the Hebrew word is equivalent) used there means "to make bald," "to shave," or "to poll," as if plucking feathers, shaving hair, or extracting horns. Have you ever seen a bird with its feathers plucked? Quite ugly.

Of course, the plucking could mean complete removal of the wings from the lion's body, as if we and the Brits get completely disconnected from one another and mutually are on our own. Time will tell. Irrespective of that issue, in my estimation both nations are worthy of judgment, because both nations have deliberately, purposely, with thought and intent, lowered themselves into a cesspool of corruption, perversion, and apostasy. How could God not whip the stuffings out of US? We have become a profane nation, and it's pretty much the same for the Brits. We appear to be trying to outswim each other down to the bottom of the cesspool. Irrespective of what your opinion of Donald Trump is, in my opinion, he is simply an instrument in God's hand to show US, especially Christians, just how profane we are as a nation. It's as if God has used the Trump presidency to lift our skirts to expose our nakedness the way He did with the Israelites, for the last four years have shown just how filthy we are from top to bottom. The common man is corrupt; the elected leaders are

corrupt; the unelected, appointed leaders are corrupt; and the unseen, government bureaucrats scurrying about in the shadows like cockroaches are corrupt. Woe to US.

But there is good news. Like our counterpart, Israel, the only other nation founded as a nation under God, we will get restored after severe chastisement. God is not finished with this nation, and perhaps it will be the same for the Brits, since we are first shown in Daniel 7:4 as connected beasts. Though the British were not founded as a nation under God, they have produced some of the greatest evangelists, pastors, teachers, and theologians the world has ever known and sent the good news of Jesus throughout the world with the King James Bible that they produced. Well, I can't be sure about the Brits, but I am sure about US, since the most shocking event in the vision is the wings being plucked, such that there is a strong focus on US. Either way, the picture of the beast being lifted above the earth is a picture of being lifted above the profane and common. The following passages show this.

¹⁶ And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

1 Chronicles 21:16

¹ In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Isaiah 6:1

¹⁹ And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. ²⁰ Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. ²¹ When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. ²² And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. ²³ And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies. ²⁴ And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. ²⁵ And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. ²⁶ And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

Ezekiel 1:19-26

¹⁴ So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

Ezekiel 3:14

³ And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

Ezekiel 8:3

¹ Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne. ² And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight. ³ Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court. ⁴ Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD's glory. ¹⁵ And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar. ¹⁶ And when the cherubims went, the wheels went by them: and when the cherubims lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also turned not from beside them. ¹⁷ When they stood, these stood; and when they were lifted up, these lifted up themselves also: for the spirit of the living creature was in them. ¹⁸ Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. ¹⁹ And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD's house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. ²⁰ This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubims.

Ezekiel 10:1-4,15-20

¹ Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD's house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

Ezekiel 11:1

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:14-15

³² And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

John 12:32

Got the picture? And what can we say about being given the heart of a man? As I have stated elsewhere, Scripture defines Scripture, so we are fortunate that God chose to provide the key to what it means to be given the heart of a man in another chapter in Daniel.

¹⁶ Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

Daniel 4:16

Nebuchadnezzar dreamed that he was a glorious tree that was cut down because of his arrogance, and rather than remain as a rational, reasonable man, he was driven to madness and became as a beast, i.e., unreasoning and wild. If a man can be given the heart of a beast to become unreasoning, then a beast can be given the heart of a man to become reasoning. It has nothing to do with the ferocious, powerful beast becoming a weak, vacillating, frightened man, as some commenters have suggested, as if being the beast is a good thing that then gets degraded to lowly human kind. Ridiculous. Talk about missing the mark on Biblical symbolism. After Nebuchadnezzar's sensibilities were restored to him, he repented and fully acknowledged and honored the "King of heaven." (Daniel 4:37) It will be the same for US.

Finally, to round it out, we are made to stand upon the feet like a man. The lion's paws have been replaced with the feet of a man, and the man stands up. This is the second mention of "man" in Daniel 7:4, as if to provide two witnesses – the Biblical mandate for confirming a thing – that the beast has lost its beastliness and has become a reasoning, rational human being standing upright before the Lord.

Let's summarize. The US and Great Britain are the lion-eagle beast of the western wind that will be severely judged for our profound wickedness. We will repent and be restored, probably not as an economic and military powerhouse, but as a nation or nations of saints patiently waiting for our Lord. Brethren, **This! Is! Good! News!**

What is the practical application for US? Every Christian must seek the Holy Spirit for direction, but since Solomon said the wise man sees the day of evil and takes cover, while the foolish pass on and are punished (Proverbs 22:3), it strongly indicates that we need to begin preparing in every way imaginable for the coming judgment. There are "prophets" scattered about the country who are proclaiming that all will be well with US and that we are on the verge of a soon-coming national revival, but I would urge my audience to pay no mind to them. Anyone "prophesying" "peace, peace; when there is no peace" (Jeremiah 6:13-14) for the entire nation is not speaking from God, nor is anyone who suggests that the prophecies in Scripture are not etched in stone and can be avoided by our actions; when the word of man and the word of God do not match, you must reject the word of man. Jesus said Scripture cannot be broken, meaning that there is no way to avert the coming judgment

on US. Given the rate of our decay, I don't think our implosion is far off, maybe an election cycle or two away, maybe less. We need to be the ones who are prepared in order to minister to the lost to lead them to Jesus, and we need to be able to minister to each other to survive the storm. God gave us prophecy for that reason, to prepare US for whatever He has ordained in eternity past. With that said, I encourage my readers to begin their preparations **now**, as God prescribes, through diligent prayer, Bible study, and consultation with other like-minded Christians. As Peter said, "...take heed."

¹⁹We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2 Peter 1:19