

Daniel 7 Unlocked: Part 4 – The Beast from the East

Paul R. Wild, April 14, 2020

“Asia's Top 5 Economies in 2030”

National Interest online, July 8, 2016

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/asias-top-5-economies-2030-16898>

Note: The author stated, “Looking into the crystal ball, by 2030 Asia’s top economies are expected to comprise China, India, Japan, Indonesia and South Korea,” and, “Could South Korea unite with the North?”

“China, Japan, South Korea Meet on North Korea, Free Trade”

US News & World Report online, December 24, 2019

<https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2019-12-23/china-japan-south-korea-meet-as-north-korean-threat-looms>

“China, Japan, South Korea Ties Vital”

China Daily online, April 14, 2020

<https://www.chinadailyhk.com/article/127477>

“China, Korea and Japan: Forgiveness and Mourning”

Asia Society online, 2020

<https://asiasociety.org/china-korea-and-japan-forgiveness-and-mourning>

China, Japan and South Korea Can Marshal a Collaborative Response to COVID-19

East Asia Forum online, April 13, 2020

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/04/13/china-japan-and-south-korea-can-marshall-a-collaborative-response-to-covid-19/>

“China–Japan–South Korea Free Trade Agreement”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China–Japan–South_Korea_Free_Trade_Agreement

Folks, you have just now been introduced to Daniel 7’s Beast from the East (Daniel 7:6); however, I must admit a little less certainty on the exact complexion of this beast than I have for the first two beasts of Daniel 7. This third beast is a bit further into the future than the first two beasts from the west and north, i.e., the Anglo-American alliance and the Russians with their Islamic allies, Iran, Turkey, and Syria; and it is a leopard with four wings and four heads, indicating the possibility that eight nations could be in play rather than just four. I have taken the position in prior books and articles that only four nations are in play and that each wing-head combination represents one nation, mainly because it’s what I see in the news, as shown above. Specifically, I see four nations consisting of China, Japan, South Korea, and North Korea. I absolutely do not agree with the old, classical view that has been around for centuries, that this beast is ancient Greece and that the four wing-head combinations represent Alexander’s four generals that took over his empire after he died.

In my book, Is the United States Mentioned in Bible Prophecy? With a Treatise on the Ezekiel 38 and Psalm 83 Wars, I added India as a possible fourth-nation alternative to North Korea because of (1) its huge population and considerable economic and military strength and (2) North Korea continues to be an isolated pariah that seems unwilling to engage in any reasonable thinking. Maybe even Taiwan should be thrown in as an alternate to North Korea, since the Chinese very much want Taiwan back for absorption into the mainland milieu. Therefore, I think it is wise to not state with absolute certainty the smaller nations standing with China. Nevertheless, I am absolutely certain that China is the major nation of the four, for to suggest otherwise would be like ignoring not just a 600-lb gorilla in the room but rather a 900-lb gorilla in the room. Furthermore, with China, it completes the pattern of three superpowers being stripped of power to allow the fourth and final beast – the antichrist and his kingdom – to rise to the top. It makes sense and fits the pattern of the most prominent nations on the world scene currently jockeying for power, as the concurrently striving east-west-north-south winds of Daniel 7:2 show.

But, as we did for the prior two beasts, we must examine the symbolism of the third beast to validate the theory. The primary indicator of this beast is that it is a leopard, and it will be the major component of the fourth and final beast, the lion-bear-leopard antichrist (Revelation 13:2). I have postulated in previous books and articles that the leopard could represent African nations, since the leopard is native to Africa and has great significance to African nations; it is mythic in many ways to the people of those nations. However, the leopard is also mythic to Asian nations – defined as those nations east of the Mediterranean Sea - for the Chinese even developed a kung fu style named after it. Ignoring the snow leopard, a whitish leopard that is exceptionally rare and highly limited in geographic distribution, we must take note of the coloring of the common leopard, having yellow fur for the main body, white fur for the underbelly, and black fur for the many, scattered spots. This symbolism more appropriately fits Asia, which has major groupings of the three major skin colors classically (but not much anymore) used by anthropologists in the past: black, white, and yellow; Africa is more homogeneous relative to skin color, with virtually no yellow, and thus seems less likely as a candidate for the third beast. Now, before anyone goes apoplectic over skin color and sees racist overtones, I will do a preemptive strike and quote from Identifying the Antichrist.

One commenter commenting on a YouTube video lesson taught by a pastor covering this topic called these concepts “disgusting stereotypes,” but I would reply, “Nonsense,” and counter that stereotypes exist for a reason in that they conveniently and often accurately describe large groups of people, places, and things. The Bible is not politically correct, nor should we be. We are called sheep in Scripture, deservedly I might add, since humanity’s behavior has been much akin to those silly, easily lost, easily captured and killed animals. The stereotype fits. Therefore, the use of a leopard is a simplistic but fitting way for God to identify a characteristic of the beast for silly, sheep-like humans, that he [the antichrist] will be appealing to all the cultures (and races) of humanity.

There is no room for assigning more wickedness to one race than another; all are wicked and, in any case, sin is a distinctly *human* race issue. As an aside, the Bible does not use the Hebrew or Greek words for race to uniquely assign skin color. I challenge anyone to prove that last statement wrong.

Brethren, in my opinion, ultimately there are only two colors of importance for making distinctions among humans, and those colors are defined as the red blood of Jesus that makes our souls as white as snow.

¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 1:18

I got sidetracked there a bit, but I think it was useful for reminding us what is important. Now, moving further into our analysis of the leopard, we take note of the numerous black spots. Perhaps this speaks of the many Asian nations with huge populations where, in some instances, the people are packed in like sardines. But I think more telling that the leopard represents Asia rather than Africa is that we need a Beast from the East to provide balance to the beasts of the western (US-UK), northern (Russia-Islamic allies), and southern (antichrist) regions of the earth.

Another comment about the Asians is in order to support my thesis about the Beast from the East being composed of the Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans, both North and South. If you examine the histories of these nations, their spoken languages, written languages, and cultures are more alike than those of the other Asian nations. These nations have intermingled more and fought more than the other Asian nations that are in proximity to them. With the exception of Japan, which is separated from China and the Koreans by the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan, for all intents and purposes the four nations are contiguous with each other and geographically can function much more easily as a unit than other Asian nations near them.

One final observation about my Asian beast argument: Revelation 9:14-19 and 16:12 describe a 200-million-horsemen army and the Euphrates River being made to dry up so the "kings of the east" will be able to cross it. These two facts corroborate a massive, eastern army. What better location is there to find 200 million people to move from the east to the west than Asia, of which one nation, China, apparently boasted in a Time Magazine article (May 21, 1965, Vol. 85 No. 21) that it could field a 200-million-man army. Theories abound on what the symbolism of the horsemen in Revelation 9:14-19 means, for the symbolism doesn't describe ordinary horses with riders, but perhaps it was John's way of describing military equipment that he had never seen before. In any case, the Revelation passages indicate that Asia appears to be a great candidate as an eastern beast to be a major player in end-times prophecy.

Unlike the Anglo-American Beast from the West and the Russian-Islamic Beast from the North, I don't know how the Asian Beast from the East gets displaced by the fourth and final antichrist Beast from the South (see Daniel 11:36 – 45). Daniel 7 teaches the US-UK beast gets its wings plucked, and Ezekiel 38-39 teach that the Russian-Islamic beast is destroyed on the mountains of Israel, but I can find no such clarity for the demise of the Asian beast. Irrespective of that, somehow, someday, it will fall and be overtaken by the fourth and final Beast from the South, the antichrist. I will address him in the next article.

Keep studying Daniel 7, brethren. Let it sink in that it is happening now, and share that message with other believers. Time is of the essence. We have relatively little time left to prepare.