

Daniel 7 Unlocked: Part 5 – The Beast from the South

Paul R. Wild, April 22, 2020

The news headlines that I cited in the last two articles about the beasts of Daniel 7 made it easier to make a case that the second bear-with-three-ribs beast is Russia with its Islamic allies and that the third leopard-with-four-heads-and-four-wings beast is China with its Asian allies. Not so for the fourth leopard-lion-bear beast of Daniel 7:7-8. This beast has no headlines to cite, because it is the antichrist and his kingdom which has yet to arrive on the world scene. For those noble Bereans (Acts 17:10-11) in the audience who quickly scrambled to read Daniel 7:7-8, I tried to save you the labor by quoting it below, but if you beat me to the punch and already have read it, you should be asking why I call it a leopard-lion-bear beast, considering how the fourth beast is described.

⁷ After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. ⁸ I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Daniel 7:7-8

Where are the leopard, the lion, and the bear? Well, notice the “ten horns” at the end of Verse 7 above. Now look below at the corresponding passage in Revelation and notice the “ten horns” in Verse 1.

¹ And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ² And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Revelation 13:1-2

Take note of this connection between Daniel and Revelation and burn it into your memory that these two books cannot stand without each other, at least not with respect to understanding apocalyptic symbolism. Both the Daniel and Revelation passages are obviously about the antichrist, but of particular interest for this exercise is the leopard's body, the bear's feet, and the lion's mouth, for they indicate the amalgamation of the three predecessor beasts of Daniel 7. This is significant because it signifies the global reach of this beast, specifically that this beast will absorb the territories of the prior three beasts within his sphere of influence. Revelation 13:3-4 confirms his global reach, stating, “...all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”

To be consistent with previous Daniel 7 articles, we must address the issue of the fourth beast's compass direction relative to Israel. Recall that the first US-UK beast is a western beast, the second Russian-Islamic beast is a northern beast, and the third Asian beast is an eastern beast. How do we account for the fourth beast's southern direction relative to Israel, since the absorption of the three predecessor beasts suggest a global reach that encompasses east, west, and north, but not necessarily south. Through the process of elimination, accounting that the other three beasts capture the east, west, and north compass points, there is only the southern compass point left. There is more evidence within the book of Daniel to support this, as shown below.

⁴⁰ And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. ⁴¹ He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. ⁴² He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

Daniel 11:40-43

How can the king of the south push against the antichrist and yet the antichrist be the king of the south? Simply, the antichrist will supplant the king of the south and become the new king of the south. I have stated with vigor and rigor in my book, Identifying the Antichrist, that the antichrist will have his origin from Iraq, which is composed of ancient Assyrian and Babylonian territories that are north of Israel, Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia. I state Iraq as his nativity based on Isaiah stating in multiple passages that he is the "Assyrian" and the "king of Babylon," and I demonstrate that the Isaiah passages have clues in them that tell us that Isaiah is describing future events in these passages, not just historical events related to God's judgments on Assyria and Babylon in the 7th and 6th Centuries B.C. It is fitting that he will hail from Iraq, for the first anti-God world ruler, Nimrod the Rebel, came from that region and founded several cities after the Flood, including Babel.

You see, God uses parallels, patterns, and pre-types to teach precepts, principles, and prophecies (the six Ps), and He uses the six Ps to show His people another three Ps, consisting of purpose, planning, and predictability. We can get into the mind of God if we understand this hermeneutic. That being said, mankind's rebellion, including that of Adam's, began in that region of the world, and God will end it in that region of the world. What God did in the Old Testament (OT), He repeats in the New Testament with a new spin on it. As Zechariah 5 reveals, Babylon will be rebuilt as the headquarters of the anti-God, world system that the antichrist will dominate for a short time. But as Revelation 14:8, 16:19, and 18 also reveal, rebuilt Babylon will be destroyed in a way that never occurred for the ancient City of Babylon. I advise the reader to ignore the other theories that the antichrist will be American, British, Roman, or Turkish, and that rebuilt Babylon is Istanbul, Mecca, New York,

or the United States in general. The primary place of Biblical action for God's redemptive purposes has always been the Middle East, of which Israel and Babylon, i.e., Iraq, have factored most heavily.

Returning to the king of the south issue, if the antichrist is from Iraq, then it makes sense that he will move south from Iraq to dominate Israel but also to overtake Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia. All of these nations are south of Russia, the northern beast, and Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia are south of Israel. He will not be able to overtake Jordan (Edom, Moab, and Ammon), for that is where the Israelis will be hiding during the Tribulation under God's protection for 3½ years.

¹⁴ And to the woman [Israel] were given two wings of a great eagle [God is described as an eagle in Exodus 19:4, so don't apply this to US] that she might fly into the wilderness [of Jordan], into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Revelation 12:14

Thus, we have our necessary southern beast as a balance against the northern, eastern, and western beasts of Daniel 7:2's four winds of heaven. The classical, ancient-nations interpretation and my interpretation at least agree on this point, that the fourth beast is the antichrist and his kingdom. The difference is that the classical interpretation sees the antichrist as a European in a Revived Roman Empire, whereas I see it as a Middle Eastern Beast with its roots in Iraq. The classical view sees a significant time gap between the ancient nations and revived Rome, whereas I see it as happening now where the way is being prepared for the three major superpowers, the US, Russia, and China, to fall in succession, leaving the antichrist as the last dictator standing. In support of my thesis that there is no significant time gap between the fall of each beast leading to the antichrist, I offer the following:

¹² As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a **season** [zeman] and **time** [iddan].

Daniel 7:12

Zeman is used 11 times in the OT, with all of them used in Daniel except one instance in Ezra. All 11 uses refer to short periods of time. Iddan is used 13 times in the OT, all of them in Daniel, and in every case they refer to a year, a short period of time, or an abstract concept in the case of Daniel 2:21 where it is said of God that "he changeth the times and seasons." The importance of this is that you cannot reasonably apply these words to huge periods of time, meaning centuries and millennia, yet the apologists for the classical view do just that. If the first, second, and third beasts of Daniel 7 are supposed to mean Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece, then it cannot be said of those kingdoms that "their lives were prolonged for a season and time." Their lives as national entities or distinct kingdoms were not prolonged for a season and a time, for they came to abrupt ends as each successive kingdom conquered its predecessor. Properly understood, Daniel 7:12 indicates that modern nations

identified as beasts in Daniel 7 will be allowed to exist as identifiable nations and people groups simultaneously for a short time, on the order of a few years or maybe a decade or two, after their falls until Jesus sets up camp in Jerusalem after the Tribulation at the beginning of His Millennial reign. **All of this signifies that the beasts of Daniel 7 are modern nations.**

I want to make one final point about the fourth beast. There is a movement afoot to define the antichrist as a distinctly Muslim beast, the Mahdi, and that his kingdom will be a distinctly Muslim kingdom that is the Revived Muslim Caliphate. This view holds to the ancient-nations, classical view of Daniel 7 except that the Revived Roman Empire is replaced with the Revived Muslim Caliphate. My concern for this position is that it will, as the classical view does, take Christians' eyes off the urgency of the moment, specifically that there is little time to prepare Christians in this country and others for coming judgment.

I will address the Caliphate position in a future monograph, but I will leave the audience with this thought to ponder. In opposition to the Caliphate position, Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38-39 describe wars that are pre-Tribulation wars waged against Israel by Russia and many Muslim nations. These nations will be defeated by the Israelis in Psalm 83 and by God Himself in Ezekiel 38-39. One of these wars is likely the war that causes "Damascus [to be] taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap." (Isaiah 17:1) Islam will cease to be a major player in Middle Eastern politics. The idea of a Revived Muslim Caliphate is unsupportable and should be rejected, for it distracts us from the primary, prophetic significance of Daniel 7. I believe the antichrist will have a Muslim cultural background by virtue of being Iraqi, but he ultimately will pay no mind to Allah and will exalt himself above every god; therefore, he will not function as a distinctly Muslim antichrist reviving a Muslim Caliphate, for his eyes will be on Jerusalem, not Mecca. I pray the audience understands this and prepares to unlock more of Daniel 7 with the correct perspective that it deals with current times and with a soon-coming beast that exalts himself above all.