

Daniel 7 Unlocked: Part 6 – The Beasts Which “Shall Arise”

Paul R. Wild, April 30, 2020

¹⁷These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which **shall arise** out of the earth.

Daniel 7:17

Paul intimated that we tend to get “...tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...” (Ephesians 4:14) With that truth in mind, I aim to minimize disputes about doctrinal issues by “layering on thick” the proofs of my positions. In other words, once I’ve staked out a position and am convinced of its truth, I try to supply overwhelming evidence to other Christians so that the proverbial “nail in the coffin” can be hammered into opposing positions. This is not intended to be a hostile act against other Christians with opposing positions, for their positions may well be very reasonable and understandable for why they have their positions. It’s more of the idea that we live our lives best founded on truth and making decisions founded on truth, so if I believe another position is not true, then I am obligated to challenge it. We are to be about the business of “... speaking the truth in love...” (Ephesians 4:15) If we aren’t making our decisions based on accurate teaching and sound doctrine, then we expose ourselves to unnecessary dangers. This is nowhere truer than the issue of the prophetic, where making the wrong decision can be catastrophic on both a personal and a Body-wide basis. Should we proceed to the beach assuming it will be a bright, sunny day when in fact the weather service is saying a hurricane is on the way? Ok, so, I’m volunteering to be the weather service.

The ideas stated above serve as the backdrop for this week’s topic. There are some teachings out there for which I have grave concerns are heading Christians off in wrong directions that may personally imperil them. I have touched upon those teachings to varying degrees in previous articles, but this week I am dealing with them head on. They are summarized below.

1. The nations of Daniel 7 are the same ancient nations as those in Daniel 2 and will lead to a Revived Roman Empire that will serve as the foundation for the antichrist’s kingdom.
2. The nations of Daniel 7 are the same ancient nations as those in Daniel 2 and will lead to a Revived Muslim Caliphate that will serve as the foundation for the antichrist’s kingdom.

It is interesting to note that the proponents of the second teaching have done a great job of undermining the first teaching by making an excellent case that the Bible is Middle Eastern-centric, not European-centric. This is to say that the end-times apocalyptic epicenter is centered around Israel and nations near it, not Rome. I applaud them for doing this, and I wholeheartedly agree with them on that point. After that, there is little agreement between us.

The reason I want to bury these two teachings under a mound of controverting evidence is that they both send Christians off looking for things that will never exist and ignore things that exist now and are threatening our lives. Both teachings have us waiting for fourth-beast kingdoms that will not arise in the way their proponents describe them and ignore the first three beasts of Daniel 7 that are staring us in the face. By advocating that the first three beasts of Daniel 7 are ancient nations that no longer threaten us, they are missing the first three beasts that currently **are** threatening us and thereby diminish the sense of urgency. The current birth pangs of which Jesus spoke, which increase in both frequency and intensity, are being ignored by many in the Body of Christ. Ignoring these things is the exact opposite of what Jesus told us to do. He is looking for watchful disciples.

Now, returning to the introductory Daniel 7:17 verse, I want to address the “shall arise” phrase. It is translated from the Aramaic “qum” (koom) infinitive, meaning “to arise” or “to stand” but in the imperfect tense. The imperfect tense can have past, present, and future aspects, with the idea of an ongoing action, so it is very versatile and needs context and certain prefixes to properly translate it. It can be translated as the simple future tense, meaning something that will be completed after the time of one speaking or being spoken to. The simple future tense is how it is properly translated in Daniel 7:17. The importance of this cannot be underestimated, for it very succinctly in common vernacular indicates that the four beasts are after the time of Daniel, not during his time.

At the time Daniel saw the four-beast vision, two major kingdoms were already in existence, the Babylonians and the Persians with their Medo allies. It doesn't make sense to equate the golden head representing Nebuchadnezzar of the Daniel 2 statue to the Daniel 7 lion-eagle beast when Nebuchadnezzar had been dead several years, or maybe even a couple decades, when Daniel saw the beastly vision. The “shall arise” phrase supports the idea that Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian kingdom were not in mind, nor were the competing Medo-Persians who were already powerful and about to overthrow the Babylonians. The translators of the Bible versions shown below understood the intent of “qum” is to indicate future events, not events occurring at the time of Daniel.

- 1599 Geneva Bible – “shall arise”
- Amplified Bible – “will arise”
- American Standard Version – “shall arise”
- Common English Bible – “will rise”
- Evangelical Version – “will arise”
- Good News Translation – “will arise”
- King James Version – “shall arise”
- The Message – “will appear”
- New American Standard Bible – “will arise”
- New International Version – “will rise”
- New King James Version – “which arise”
- New Living Translation – “will arise”
- Revised Standard Version – “shall arise”

- World English Version – “will arise”
- Wycliffe Bible – “shall rise”
- Young’s Literal Translation – “rise up”

Within the last two weeks I watched a YouTube video of a proponent of the Revived Muslim Caliphate theory who was working very hard to prove that Daniel 7 repeats Daniel 2. He went out of his way to say that we need to ignore the “shall arise” phrase because the Aramaic imperfect verb can have past tense or current tense aspects, which is true. But that only creates confusion and obfuscates the overwhelming evidence that “shall arise” means exactly what English speakers normally interpret it to mean: **the future**. I’ll add another layer of proof:

From The Verbal System of the Aramaic of Daniel: An Explanation in the Context of Grammaticalization as part of the Studies in the Aramaic Interpretation of Scripture series, March 25, 2009: In Chapter 6: The Prefix Conjugation, Section B. Non-Modal Functions, Subsection 1. Simple Future, author Tarsee Li states, “In at least 47 instances, the prefix conjugation verb expresses the simple future, By ‘simple future,’ I mean instances that predict actions or events after the moment of speech without any other explicit modal implications.”

Li cites Daniel 7:17 as an example of this, where $\gamma\text{ə}\cdot\text{q}\bar{\text{u}}\cdot\text{m}\bar{\text{u}}\text{n}$ (Strong’s Concordance), the imperfect verb tense for “qum,” is the Aramaic simple future tense “shall arise” or “shall stand.” This means that the proper way to interpret “arise” in Daniel is in the future tense, as in events that had not happened and were not happening at the time the angelic being was speaking to Daniel. Most English Bible translators have understood it this way, as can be seen by the translations shown above. Of those translations, only two, the New King James Version and Young’s Literal Translation, are ambiguous. The implication of this is that **the four beasts of Daniel 7 cannot be the ancient nations and must be nations that were future from the time of Daniel.**

Any commenters trying to make an argument that the imperfect verb tense for “arise” can be translated in a past, present, or present progressive sense from Daniel’s time are muddying the waters to make a weak argument to support their theory. The upshot of this is that I’m on firm ground to postulate that the western lion-eagle beast is the US-UK alliance; the northern bear-with-three-ribs beast is the Russian-Islamic alliance; and the eastern leopard-with-four-heads-and-four-wings beast is the China-Asian nations alliance. But I will do more than postulate and state unequivocally that the ancient nations Revived Roman Empire and Revived Muslim Caliphate theories **must be immediately abandoned.** Time is of the essence.

I want to make a final point about the Roman and Muslim theories. Neither Rome nor Mecca are mentioned in the Old Testament (OT), but Assyria, Babylon, Israel, and Jerusalem are prominently mentioned in the OT prophecies about the last days. The action in the last days relative to the antichrist and his movements will be in Israel and Iraq (ancient Assyria

and Babylon), not Rome or Mecca. The book of Daniel supports this, for these two nations are the focus of Daniel. Daniel lived in Babylon (modern Iraq), yet his heart was in the land of Israel, and Jerusalem in particular. The placement of substantial end-times prophecy in Daniel is supposed to tell us something, and I am confident it is another layer of evidence to show that the Roman and Islamic theories are untenable. Even in the New Testament (NT) apocalyptic language of Revelation, Babylon (Iraq) and Israel are the focus, not Rome or Mecca; in Revelation, the city of Babylon should be understood to have its plain meaning as Babylon, not a mysterious code word for Rome or Mecca. Jews, whether OT or NT, would always understand Babylon to mean Babylon, and we modern Gentiles should, too. Finally, as I stated last week in Part 5, Islam will cease to be a major force after numerous Muslim nations are defeated in the Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38-39 wars, which are pre-Tribulation wars that help pave the way for the antichrist to come onto the world scene.

We have come to the end of our Daniel 7 study. My hope and prayer are that Christians will come to grips with the fact that Daniel 7 is upon us and that God gave us prophecy to warn us to prepare. We must do something with this knowledge. **We must do something;** it cannot be that we gain new insight into prophecy and yet do nothing with it. It cannot be that we continue to do business as usual, for assuredly, as the Scripture makes certain, there will be a day of reckoning. Consider the parable of the ten virgins:

¹ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. ² And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴ But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. ⁷ Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹² But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³ Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 25:1-13

Now, let's all go trim our lamps.