

4-Beasts, A Ram and A Goat; Daniel's First Visions
Lesson 12
Daniel 7-8

Daniel was born in the southern kingdom of Judah, around 620 B.C. Then in 605 B.C., at the age of 15, King Nebuchadnezzar took him captive to Babylon during the first deportation. Chapters 1-4 were studied last year in, "Judah Alone," and show that Daniel was from a noble family and he was a young man of strong faith in his God. The Lord honored Daniel's faithfulness by protecting Daniel and his three friends Shadrack, Meshak and Abednego. The Lord also gave Daniel the gift of interpreting dreams, which led to a high position in the Babylonian administration after interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's troubling dream.

King Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C. and was succeeded by his son Amel (Evil)-Marduk. A succession of three kings, Neriglissar, Labashi-Marduk and Nabonidus brings us to the next ruler in the story of Daniel. King Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus and served as co-regent during most of his father's 17-year reign (556-539 B.C.). By going in chronological order, we pick up this study with chapter 7.

Daniel's vision of four beasts - chapter 7

The setting - Daniel 7:1

1. When did this vision take place?

2. How did Daniel receive this vision?

The vision - Daniel 7:2-13

3. What did Daniel see in this vision? (Daniel 7:2 & 3)

Note: sea symbolizes the earth, earthy kingdoms and also stands for people or nations of the earth

4. Describe each of the 4 beasts. Note the language: each is "like a" which is symbolic and not literal.
 - Beast #1 (Daniel 7:4)

 - Beast #2 (Daniel 7:5)

- Beast #3 (Daniel 7:6)

- Beast #4 (Daniel 7:7& 8)

Note: horn symbolizes a king or kingdom

5. Daniel said, "As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat." Describe the 'Ancient of Days' and what Daniel saw. (Daniel 7:9 & 10)

- Who do you think the 'Ancient of Days' is?

6. Why does Daniel say that he continued to watch? (Daniel 7:11a)

7. What happened to the 4th beast? (Daniel 7:11b)

8. Using one or two words, how would you describe what happened to this 10 horned, iron toothed beast?

9. What happened to the other 3 beasts? (Daniel 7:12)

10. The vision didn't end there. As Daniel continued to watch, "There before me was one like a son of man." How did he arrive and where did he go? (Daniel 7:13)

- What other information is given about him in verse 14?

- Who do you think this one 'like a son of man' is?

The interpretation – Daniel 7:15-28

11. How did this vision affect Daniel? (Daniel 7:15)

- What did he do about it? (Daniel 7:16)
12. What was the interpretation given to him of the events just seen? (Daniel 7:17 & 18)

 13. Daniel asked about the 4th beast with its iron teeth and bronze claws that crushed and devoured its victims and about its 10 horns with a new horn that possessed eyes and a boastful mouth growing up and displacing 3 of its horns. Then, as Daniel watched, what did this horn do? (Daniel 7:21 & 22)

 14. Daniel was given a detailed explanation of the 4th beast. 10 kings would come from one kingdom and devour the whole earth. Then, this one king (horn) will arise and will be different from all the rest. What was different about him? (Daniel 7:24-25)

 15. How does it end for this 4th beast? (Daniel 7:26)

 16. What happens to all the kingdoms of the earth when this king is destroyed? (Daniel 7:27)

 17. From this vision, what do you learn about God?

 18. How did this vision and its interpretations affect Daniel? (Daniel 7:28)

Daniel's vision of a ram & a goat - Daniel 8

The setting - Daniel 8:1 & 2

19. When did this vision occur?

20. Where was Daniel in this vision?

The vision – Daniel 8:4-14

21. When Daniel looked up he saw a ram. What information is given about the ram?
(Daniel 8:3 & 4)

22. While Daniel was thinking about what he had just seen, a goat appeared. What information is given regarding the goat? (Daniel 8:5-7)

23. The goat became very great; then what happened at the height of its power?
(Daniel 8:8-11)

24. The vision then shows the people and sacrifices given over to this horn because of the people's rebellion. What is mentioned about this particular time? (Daniel 8:12)

25. At this point Daniel overhears a conversation. The question posed was, "*how long will it take for this vision to be fulfilled?*" What was the answer given? (Daniel 8:14)

The interpretation – Daniel 8:15-27

26. Daniel was trying to understand what he was watching, and then he heard the voice from Ulai speaking. Who was the voice speaking to? (Daniel 8:16)
 - And what did he say? (Daniel 8:16)

27. Daniel became terrified and fell on the ground. How was Daniel addressed? (Daniel 8:17)

28. What information does Daniel record next? (Daniel 8:18)

29. Daniel was now alert and ready to hear the interpretation. When was he told that the events in this vision would take place? (Daniel 8:19)
30. Using verses 20 – 22:
- Who did the 2-horned ram represent?
 - Who did the 1-horned goat represent?
 - What did the 4 horns of the goat represent?
31. Then the little horn will grow. Using 8:23-25:
- What will happen just prior to his arrival on the scene?
 - How is this horn (king) described?
32. He will become very strong but not by his own power. As a result of this power, what does it say he will do? (Daniel 8:24-25)
- *“Yet, he will be destroyed, but not by human power.”* Where do you think this king will get his power?
33. After being assured this vision was true, what was Daniel instructed to do? (Daniel 8:26)
34. How did this vision affect Daniel? (Daniel 8:27)