Success & Security

Daniel 6

Daniel in the world of his day

- Verses 2-3 A successful man
- Verses 4-5
 - ? An honest (distinctive) man
 - A godly man

TRUST in God

Advance Excellence // Avoid Evil

Earthly Realism?

- "Honesty is the best policy, unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar."
- "Show me a successful man, and I'll show you a successful cheat."
- "The Christian life doesn't work in the real world."
- "Life is like a cup of tea."

G K Chesterton

"The Christian life has not been tried and found wanting. It has been unwanted and left untried."

Daniel and his world

- Verses 2-3 A successful man
- Verses 4-5
 - ? An honest (distinctive) man
 - A godly man

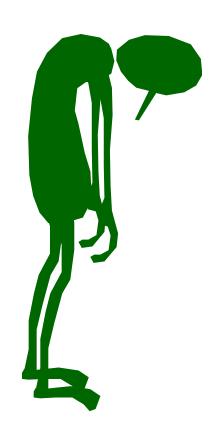
Daniel's Earthly Success:
Distinctive without Defilement

Life in the real world



- cunning & jealous colleagues (1-5)
 - "as a group" (6,11,15)

Have you ever felt as though everyone was scheming against you, as though everything was working to bring you down?





Life in the real world

cunning & jealous colleagues (1-5)



careless & bureaucratic management (6-9)

- he didn't check: "we all agree" (7) !!
- he didn't think: "he put it in writing" (9)
- he was sympathetic but unable (unwilling?) to make exceptions (14)

Life in the real world

- cunning & jealous colleagues (1-5)
- careless & bureaucratic management (6-14)
- changing & transient fortunes (2,3,16,28)
 - in the top three (2)
 - earmarked for number one (3)
 - down in the pit (16)
 - back on top (28)

Life in the real world

- cunning & jealous colleagues (1-5)
- careless & bureaucratic management (6-14)
- changing & transient fortunes (2,3,16,28)

This is life in today's world as we know it!

- Life in the real world
- Integrity in the real work
 - Is integrity the best policy in the "real" world?

The Christian life has not been tried and found wanting. It has been unwanted and left untried.

G.K. Chesterton

- Life in the real world
- Integrity in the real world?
 - •Is integrity the best policy in the "real" world?
 - •How realistic is Daniel's deliverance from the lions?



- Life in the real world
- Integrity in the real world?
 - Does Daniel 6 promise earthly protection to all who do what is right and trust in God?
 - the 2nd half of the book (e.g. 7:7,21; 8:24; 11:33)
 - the experience of the earliest readers in 2nd century BC Greece
 - the analogy with Jesus' death & resurrection

Jesus' death & Daniel 6

- Betrayal by close associate
- Swiftly changing fortunes
 - Palm Sunday to Good Friday
- A ruler unable (unwilling?) to set Jesus free
 - Pilate & the voice of the Jewish leaders
- Not saved from the cross or the lions' den
- The tomb/pit is sealed with a stone
- Resurrection / saved from the lions



- Life in the real world
- Integrity in the real world?
 - Does Daniel 6 promise earthly protection to all who do what is right and trust in God?

NO! It assures us that even death will not harm us or deny us the eternal security of God's protection.

Daniel 6

- The Realism of Daniel 6
 - Life in the real world
 - ➤Integrity in the real world
- The Message of Daniel 6
 - >Success



- Success?
 - the nature of Daniel's "success"
 - achieved without corruption or negligence (4)
 - achieved without hiding his faith in God (5,16,20)
 - not welcomed by most colleagues (4)

"The worst part about success is trying to find someone who is really happy for you."







- Success?
 - the nature of Daniel's "success"
 - achieved without corruption or negligence (4)
 - achieved without hiding his faith in God (5,16,20)
 - not welcomed by most colleagues (4)
 - not held onto at any cost (10)

God is not against earthly

...but Faithfulness & Success are not synonyms

- Success
- Security
 - On whom does true security depend?
 - your human boss?
 - human government or powers?



- Success
- Security
 - Supplication (7,7,11,12,13,13)

To demand supplication to oneself only is the height of human arrogance & folly

God alone is in control of our

Pray first to the One on whom your real security depends

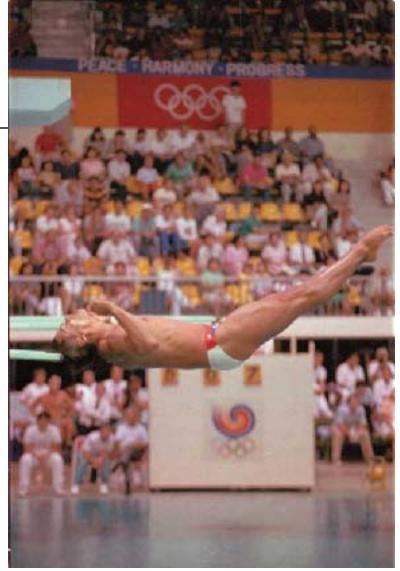
The Invitation of Daniel 6

- Earthly Success without StainAim to be Distinctive without being Defiled
- Eternal Security in God, not in any earthly success



Greg Louganis
Olympic gold medalist
1984 and 1988

"I walk up to the board. I take a deep breath, and then I say to myself: Even if I make a complete mess of this dive, Mum will still love me!"



Daniel 6

The question is not,
"Do Christians live in the real world?"
The real question is,
"In what manner will we live?"

Faithful to the End

Questions or Comments?





A Modern Issue to Ponder

Religious Freedom in a Pluralistic society



- >A theme in both Daniel 3 & 6
 - Daniel 3: Religious coercion; forced to worship another god
 - Daniel 6: Religious prohibition; forced to offer no prayers to one's own god
 - ➤ We need Religious Dialogue without Disrespect

A Modern Issue to Ponder

Religious Freedom in a Pluralistic society



- protecting religious freedom is a mark of sensitivity and respect
- protecting religious freedom should not mean prohibiting religious dialogue
- religious dialogue may invite, but should never impose, conversion

A Modern Issue to Ponder

- Religious Freedom in a Pluralistic society
- Religious Practice in a Pluralistic society



- displays courage in challenging what is wrong (Dan 6:10)
- does not "harm" society (Dan 6:22) but keeps it more humane and humble (Dan 3-6)
- dares to believe that faithfulness to the eternal God is smarter than fearing earthly human powers (Dan 3 & 6 cf. Matt 10:28)



Question for Group Sharing

- "If you were put on trial for being a faithful Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"
 - What might be examples of Christian faithfulness that are obvious but not obnoxious to your colleagues?
- Is there anything we can do to help each other stand up respectfully for what is right, even if there is the risk of serious reprisals?

Questions or Comments?



From Man to Monster

Daniel 7

Daniel 7 summary

- The vision Daniel sees (1-14)
- The interpretation Daniel receives (15-28)

What was the content of the vision?

The Vision in Daniel 7

- Scene 1: four beasts arise from the sea (2-8)
- Scene 2: God ("the Ancient of Days") sits on His throne in judgement (9-10)
- Scene 3: the four beasts are judged (11-12)
- Scene 4: a human figure comes on the clouds to receive an eternal kingdom from God (13-14)

Daniel 7 Men and Monsters

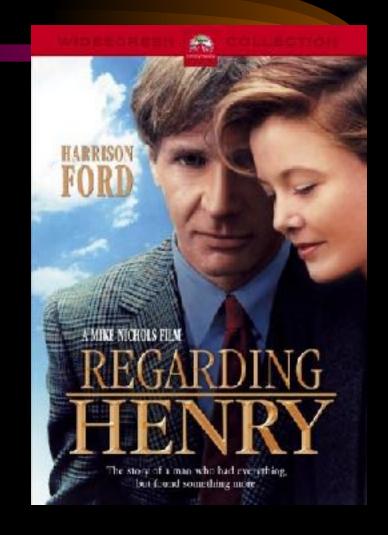
- The Men who Rule
- The Monster who Ruins
- The Master who Reigns
- The Man who Receives

Daniel 7:17

"The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth."

The 1st Beast (verse 4)

The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.



The Men who Rule

- The 1st beast (verse 4)
 - a powerful but humane leadership

The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

The 2nd beast (verse 5)

And there before me was a second beast, which looked <u>like a bear</u>. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'



The three ribs? (Daniel 7:5)

- 3 kingdoms?
 - Assyria, Babylon, Media?
 - Babylon, Media, Persia?
- 3 kings?
 - 3 Babylonian kings?
 - 3 Persian kings?
- John Calvin's wise warning: "Those who understand three definite kingdoms by the three ribs seem to refine far too minutely."

The Men who Rule

- The 1st beast (verse 4)
 - a powerful but humane leadership
- The 2nd beast (verse 5)
 - a <u>hungry for success</u> leadership



And there before me was a second beast, which looked <u>like a bear</u>. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

The 3rd beast (verse 6)

After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked <u>like a leopard</u>. And on its back it had <u>four wings</u> like those of <u>a bird</u>. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.





The Men who Rule

- The 1st beast (verse 4)
 - a powerful but humane leadership
- The 2nd beast (verse 5)
 - a hungry for success leadership
- The 3rd beast (verse 6)
 - a quick rising leadership



People in Power



The Interpretation of the Vision

- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
 - the first three beasts (4-6)
- The Monster who Ruins
 - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)

After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast-- <u>terrifying and frightening</u> and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was <u>different</u> from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.



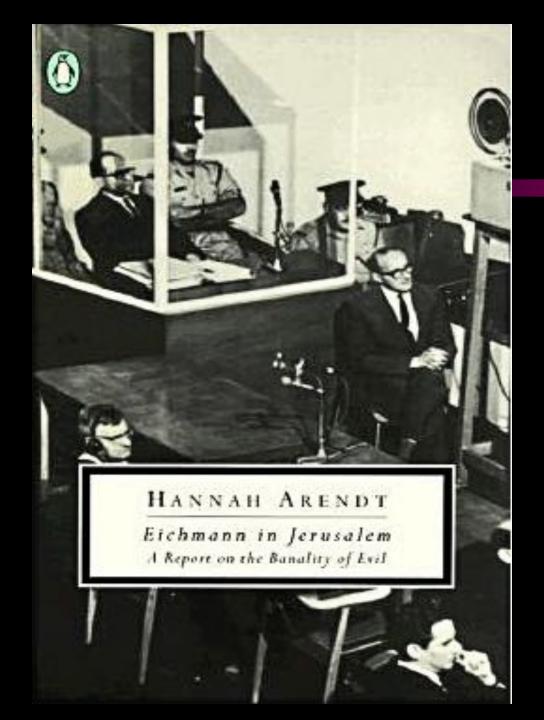
The Monster who Ruins

- The 4th beast (verses 7-8, 19-26)
 - a cruel and terrifying leader (7,19)
 - "different from the rest" (7,19,23)
 - no animal analogy
 - active verbs
 - destroyed (11-12)
 - much worse!! (2 feet, 3 ribs, 4 wings, not 5 but 10 horns!!)

A Terrifying Monster!

The 4th beast (Verse 25)

He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws.



Eichmann in

Jerusalem:

A Report on the

Banality of Evil

by Hannah Arendt

Adolf Eichmann: Architect of Horror An Ordinary Man?

Eichmann had two eyes, two ears and two legs; only one head, one nose and one mouth.

What did you expect?

A man with a jagged tail and two horns sticking out of his head?



Left to die in monsoon drain

Bangladeshi, paralysed in worksite accident, may go home soon

"The change from man to monster sometimes occurs slowly, sometimes his h more quickly. But we almost never for 3 on w recognise that change in ourselves. We almost never realise when we change Seml fores from being someone who rules to being someone who ruins."

Mr Mohamad Bashar sold all be had to raise the money to come to Singapore to work. - Picture by NG CHEE BENG

By Jasbir Singh

cries; call ambulance

CRIPPLEB Bungladeshi worker Mohamad Bashar, 24, stranded in Singapure for more than three months, may be going home soon.

The construction worker had been dumped in a monsoon drain in a comote forested area in Sembawang by two men, after he was hurt in a worksite accident which left him paralyzed I thought I could make money here to pay off my debts and support my family in Bangladesh. Instead I will now be a burden to my family.'

- Crippled Bangiadeshi worker Mohamad Bashar.

thinking of was my family," he said. " kept asking myself if I would ever, see them askin."

He was admitted to Toa Payoh Hos pital for spinal injuries and has been there all these months.

But although he may soon be home he is depressed at the thought of returning parelysed and broke to his village of Naria in Bangladesh.

"What cam I do when I go home?

The Message of Daniel 7

- Though you may not be able to change the monsters, do not succumb to them. Do not let them change you.
 - Do not succumb by becoming a monster yourself!

The Interpretation of the Vision

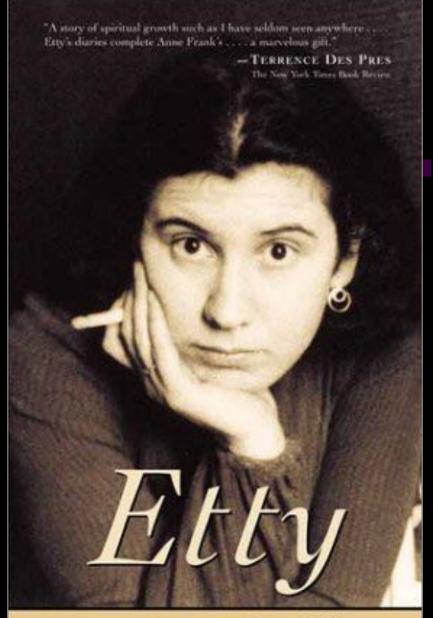
- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
 - the first three beasts (4-6)
- The Monster who Ruins
 - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)
- The Master who Reigns
 - "the Ancient of Days" (9-10)
- The Man who Receives (verses 13-14)



The Master who Reigns

- God seated on His throne (9-10)
 - the "ancient of Days" = GOD
 - "clothes white as snow" = purity, dazzling glory
 - "white hair" = eternal, wise (not old and weak!)
 - "fire" = power, purity, judgement
 - "open books" = judgement, justice

GOD in control: powerful, pure & just



The Letters and Diaries of Etty Hillesum 1941–1943

"Very well then, this new certainty, that what they are after is our total destruction, I accept it... I have come to terms with life.. And the funny thing is, I don't feel I'm in their clutches anyway .. I don't feel in anybody's clutches; I feel safe in God's arms... and I shall always be able to stand on my own two feet even when they are planted on the hardest soil of the harshest reality."

The Interpretation of the Vision

- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
 - the first three beasts (4-6)
- The Monster who Ruins
 - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)
- The Master who Reigns
 - "the Ancient of Days" (9-10)
- The Man who Receives an Eternal Kingdom
 - the "human" coming on clouds (13-14)

The Man who Receives (verse 13)

There before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven... He was given authority, glory and sovereign power ...

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Who is this "son of man"?

Who is this "one like a son of man"?

- Jesus in the New Testament
 - Jesus is the Man who comes on the clouds (Mark 13:26)
 - Jesus is the holy human (Adam) par excellence (1 Cor 15:45; Rom 5:15)
- But how would pre-NT readers understand the Daniel 7 vision?

<u>Vision</u> — <u>Interpretation</u>

• In the vision of verse 14, it is the one "like a son of man" who receives the everlasting kingdom.

• In the interpretation of verse 27 (also verse 18), it is "the saints, the people of the Most High God" who receive the everlasting kingdom.

The Man who Receives

- The human coming on clouds (13-14)
 - "like a son of man" = a human being
 - "coming on the clouds" = the hero who conquers chaotic sea monsters

The hero is human (not beastly)!

Faithful people of the Most High God
will reign for ever, not powerful beasts or
tyrannical monsters

The way the chapter ends

- "This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself." (verse 28)
 - A warning of the <u>harsh realities</u> of life
 - Men who Rule & Monsters who Ruin
 - The Master who Reigns & the Man who Receives



The Message of Daniel 7

- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
 - the first three beasts (4-6)
- The Monster who Ruins
 - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)

Be Prepared

- The Master who Reigns
 - "the Ancient of Days" (9-10)

Be Assured

- The Man who Receives an Eternal Kingdom
 - the "human" coming on clouds (13-14)

Be Faithful

Suggestions for Group Discussion

• Can you think of situations in which people today are suffering cruelly and unfairly? How can the promise and judgement of heaven give hope and courage to such people?

(Be Prepared, Be Assured)

• In a world of cut-throat competition and increasing demands for productivity, what are some practical ways in which offices can be run in a more humane and kind way?

(Don't become a Beast; Be Faithful)



Daniel 7 & Jesus

- Jesus said: "In this world you will have tribulation. But take courage, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)
- This is the message of Daniel 7 in a nutshell!

Beware of the harsh realities of life on earth governed by Men and Monsters. But take courage, GOD is in control and we will reign with Him long after the monsters have all disappeared.

Daniel 7

Modern (and Ancient) Questions

A Modern Concern

Does Daniel 7 "predict" End Time events for our 21st century world?

Modern Predictions based on Details

- The 4th beast as the End Time world power?
 - A power sising 10 horns?
- Three and a half years of tribulation before the End?

Can we identify the 4 Beasts in history?

- Babylonian
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman

- Babylonian
- Median
- Persian
- Greek
- Persia (not Media) succeeded Babylon in actual history
- Media & Persia are one animal (ram) in 8:20
- Roman "beast" destroys Jewish temple in AD 70

- 5:30 implies that a Median king follows the Babylonian
- Greece is a goat with a large horn in 8:21 (see 7:8)
- Greek "beast" persecutes Jews in 2nd cent. BC



So what's the difference?

- Babylonian
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman

- Babylonian
- Median
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman "beast" destroys Jewish temple in AD 70
- Greek "beast" persecutes Jews in 2nd cent. BC

What is *correct* about both views:
A message for a time of great tribulation



Babylonian

Persian

Greek

Roman

- Babylonian
- Median
- Persian
- Greek

Neither!

The beasts as symbols of different types of earthly leadership

- Daniel 7:11-12
 - I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. <u>The other beasts</u> were stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.

The 4 "kingdoms" are *not* in chronological succession.

Remember the DREAM of a Statue in Daniel 2:31-35?



1. GOLD

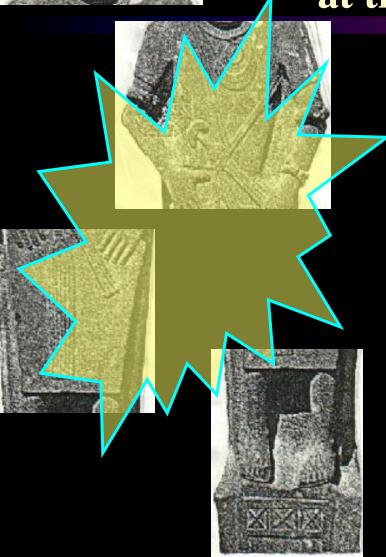
2. SILVER

3. BRONZE

4a. IRON

4b. IRON & CERAMIC





"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer."

Interpreting the 4 beasts

- The text does not say that they follow each other in historical or chronological succession
- The text implies that the 3 beasts are judged less severely than the 4th (7:11-12). They apparently outlive the 4th!

There is no need to make specific "guesses" as to exactly which beast represents which king or nation in history.

Interpreting the 4 beasts

The beasts are descriptions of different *types* of human governments, tyrants and leaders in human history.

There is no need to make specific "guesses" as to exactly which beast represents which king or nation in history.

Most important is the Message of Daniel 7

- The Men who Rule Temporary Kingdoms
 - the first three beasts (4-6)
- The Monster who Ruins
 - the fourth beast (7-8, 19-26)
- The Master who Reigns
 - "the Ancient of Days" (9-10)

Be Prepared

Be Assured

- The Man who Receives an Eternal Kingdom
 - the "human" coming on clouds (13-14)

Be Faithful

Some "popular" Guesses in Recent History

• The 4th beast is ...

- Stalin (Russia)
- Hitler (Germany)
- Idi Amin (Uganda)
- Mao Tse Tung (China)
- Pol Pot (Cambodia)
- The USSR
- USA
- EEC, EU
- <u>etc</u> ...



Evaluating "popular" Applications in recent history

• The 4th beast is ...

- Stalin (Russia)
- Hitler (Germany)
- Idi Amin (Uganda)
- Mao Tse Tung (China)
- Pol Pot (Cambodia)
- The USSR
- USA
- EEC, EU
- etc ...

What is "good" about this type of teaching

- This evil and terror was foreseen by God. God has not lost control. Trust Him.
- This evil and terror will come to an end in due time.
- Persevere in faithfulness to God. Don't give up.



Evaluating "popular" Applications in recent history

• The 4th beast is ...

- Stalin (Russia)
- Hitler (Germany)
- Idi Amin (Uganda)
- Mao Tse Tung (China)
- Pol Pot (Cambodia)
- The USSR
- USA
- EEC, EU
- etc ...

What is "bad" about this type of teaching

- Isn't this a fascinating prediction of events? Let's look out for the next thing to happen!!
- This is what the Bible clearly "predicts". Trust it.
- **?** This is the *definitive* End of time. Don't make long term plans.

Hal Lindsey, *Planet Earth - 2000 A.D. Will Mankind Survive?* (1996)

"Just for the record: I'm not planning to attend. In fact, looking at the state of the world today, I wouldn't make any long term earthly plans.

We may be caught to meet Christ in the clouds between now and then - just as I described .. Could I be wrong? Of course. ...But never before in the history of the planet have events and conditions so coincided as to set the stage for this history-stopping event." (pp.307-8)

Beware this kind of "End time Mentality"

- "I'm not planning on studying anymore. Christ will be here before I graduate. I'm going to the mission field."
- "I'm not saving for my children's education. They won't be around to need it."
- "I'm going to quit my job and preach the Gospel. My savings can easily last for the next few years before Christ returns."

Daniel 1-6 calls for Faithfulness in the midst of life's troubles. It does not encourage us to <u>escape</u> from the responsibility of daily life in the real world.



To be continued?

Modern Predictions based on Details

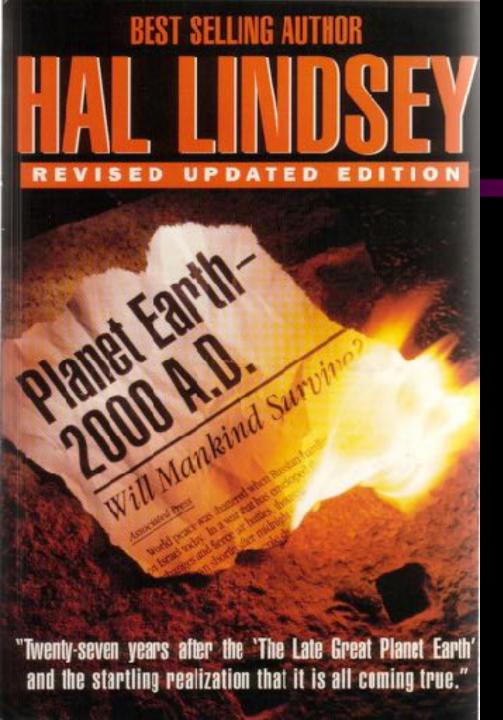
- The 4th beast as the End Time world power?
 - A power comprising 10 horns?
- Three and a half years of tribulate the End?



- Ten horns = "ten" kings (7:7,24)
 - "ten" as a literal number?
 - Ten ancient Greek rulers? (Which 10?)
 - Ten ancient Roman rulers? (Which 10?)
 - Do the 10 reign simultaneously or successively?
 - Ten EU nations??

The European Union as the Beast with 10 horns!!??

- The European Union
 - In 1950, it started with 6
 - 1973, it added 3 to become 9
 - 1981, Greece joined to make it 10!!
 - <u>1986</u>, it became 12.
 - 1995, it became 15.



1996 edition

• "Therefore we can expect five nations to withdraw from the EC or we can expect to see some mergers of nations." (p.231)

The European Union as the Beast with 10 horns!!??

- The European Union (2017) has 28 nations.
 - In 1950, it started with 6
 - 1973, it added 3 to become 9
 - 1981, Greece joined to make it 10!!
 - <u>1986</u>, it became 12.
 - 1995, it became 15.
 - 2004, it became 25

- Ten horns = "ten" kings (7:7,24)
 - "ten" as a literal number??
 - "ten" as a round number implying "many" (cp. Daniel 1:20; Genesis 31:7,41; Numbers 14:22; Nehemiah 4:12; Job 19:3)

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them <u>ten</u> times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

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 - "ten" as a literal number?
 - "ten" as a round number implying "many" (cp. Daniel 1:20; Genesis 31:7,41; Numbers 14:22; Nehemiah 4:12; Job 19:3)

Yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times.

- Ten horns = "ten" kings (7:7,24)
 - "ten" as a literal number?
 - "ten" as a round number implying "many" (cp. Daniel 1:20; Genesis 31:7,41; Numbers 14:22; Nehemiah 4:12; Job 19:3)

... the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert ... disobeyed me and tested me ten times--

- Ten horns = "ten" kings (7:7,24)
 - "ten" as a literal number?
 - "ten" as a round number implying "many" (cp. Daniel 1:20; Genesis 31:7,41; Numbers 14:22; Nehemiah 4:12; Job 19:3)

Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

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 - "ten" as a literal number?
 - "ten" as a round number implying "many" (cp. Daniel 1:20; Genesis 31:7,41; Numbers 14:22; Nehemiah 4:12; Job 19:3)

Ten times now you have reproached me; shamelessly you attack me.

- Ten horns = "ten" kings (7:7,24)
 - Is 10 literally "ten"? If so, which ten???
- A little horn and three horns (7:8,24)?
 - One who "subdues" three other kings
 - Who do these refer to?



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 - One who "subdues" three other kings
 - Who do these refer to?
 - Antiochus versus Seleucus IV and his two sons? (2nd century BC Greece)
 - "Russia subdued Latvia, Estonia & Lithuania" just before WW2??
 - etc. ???

Another popular (more general) Guess

"The ten-nation group that consolidates the power and wealth of the Middle East will soon come under the control of this new leader. Bible expositors have concluded that this emerging ruler will first of all conquer three countries of the original ten and then take control of the entire group of ten nations..." John F. Walvoord (1990)



- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few") cp. English "give me a couple of days"



Numbers, Numbers, Numbers

Chinese

- not three, not four
- 7 hands, 8 legs
- -7,7,8,8

English

- to be at sixes & sevens
- dressed to the nines
- to have nine lives
- the 11th hour

German

- 7 things (Siebensachen)
- to get a six (einen Sechser im Lotto haben

French

- to speak 5 letters (dire les cinq lettres)
- 5,10,15 (cinq-dix-quinze)

- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few") cf. (perhaps) Gen 30:36; 40:12ff; 2 Sam 24:13; Ezra 8:15,32; Prov 30:31; Dan 1:5; 10:2; Jonah 1:17; 3:3; Zech 11:8 etc.

Then he put a <u>three</u>-day journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob continued to tend the rest of Laban's flocks.

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"This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are <u>three</u> days.

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 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few") cf. (perhaps) Gen 30:36; 40:12ff; 2 Sam
 24:13; Ezra 8:15,32; Prov 30:31; Dan 1:5; 10:2;
 Jonah 1:17; 3:3; Zech 11:8 etc.

So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come upon you <u>three</u> years of famine in your land? Or <u>three</u> months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or <u>three</u> days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide..

- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few") cf. (perhaps) Gen 30:36; 40:12ff; 2 Sam 24:13; Ezra 8:15,32; Prov 30:18; Dan 1:5; 10:2; Jonah 1:17; 3:3; Zech 11:8 etc.

So we arrived in Jerusalem, where we rested three days.

- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few") cf. (perhaps) Gen 30:36; 40:12ff; 2 Sam 24:13; Ezra 8:15,32; Prov 30:18; Dan 1:5; 10:2; Jonah 1:17; 3:3; Zech 11:8 etc.

There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand:

- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few") cf. (perhaps) Gen 30:36; 40:12ff; 2 Sam 24:13; Ezra 8:15,32; Prov 30:18; Dan 1:5; 10:2; Jonah 1:17; 3:3; Zech 11:8 etc.

But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights

- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few") cf. (perhaps) Gen 30:36; 40:12ff; 2 Sam 24:13; Ezra 8:15,32; Prov 30:18; Dan 1:5; 10:2; Jonah 1:17; 3:3; Zech 11:8 etc.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days walk.

- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few") cf. (perhaps) Gen 30:36; 40:12ff; 2 Sam 24:13; Ezra 8:15,32; Prov 30:18; Dan 1:5; 10:2; Jonah 1:17; 3:3; Zech 11:8 etc.

In one month I got rid of the <u>three</u> shepherds. The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them

- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance

Was Jesus in the tomb for "three days"?

Matt 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.



- A little horn and three horns ? (7:8 & 24)
 - Either The number 3 had an idiomatic significance (= "a few")
 - Or Antiochus versus Seleucus IV and his two sons (2nd cent BC Jewish readers)

In either case, it probably mirrors the kind of revolution and violence which harsh leadership typically produces.





Modern Predictions based on Details

- The 4th beast as the End Time world power?
 - A power comprising 10 horns?
- Three and a half years of Tribulation before the End?





- Different "guesses"
 - -1 time + 2 times + $\frac{1}{2}$ time = $3\frac{1}{2}$ <u>years</u>
 - Revelation 11:2; 13:5 "42 months"
 - History: 3 years from temple desecration (167 BC) to rededication (164 BC) in 2nd century BC Greece



- Different "guesses"
 - -1 time + 2 times + $\frac{1}{2}$ time = $3\frac{1}{2}$ years
 - -1 time + 2 times + $\frac{1}{2}$ time = $\frac{3}{2}$ months
 - = long, harsh winter
 - = idiomatic for hardship
 - cf. Luke 4:25; James
 - 5:17 for 3 ½ year Elijah drought

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- Different "guesses"
 - -1 time + 2 times + $\frac{1}{2}$ time = $3\frac{1}{2}$ years
 - -1 time + 2 times + $\frac{1}{2}$ time = $3\frac{1}{2}$ months = hardship
 - $-1, 2, \frac{1}{2}$.. (not 4, 8) = a time cut short

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- Different "guesses"
 - -1 time + 2 times + $\frac{1}{2}$ time = $3\frac{1}{2}$ years (literally)
 - -1 time + 2 times + $\frac{1}{2}$ time = $\frac{3}{2}$ months = hardship
 - $-1, 2, \frac{1}{2}$ (not 4, 8) = a time cut short
 - "whether one, two or only a fraction of time, his rule is only temporary ..." (in contrast to his destruction which is "forever" cf. verse 26)



Daniel 7:25; 12:7 "time, times and half a time"??

- Literal?
 - 3 ½ <u>years</u> ??
 - $-3\frac{1}{2}$ <u>years</u> is <u>not</u> literal?
 - 3 ½ literal *years* is <u>not</u> the only plausible view

- Symbolic?
 - A time of hardship
 - Hardship that will be cut short
 - Hardship that is only temporary, not forever

What all should agree on:

God is in control of the time.

verse 25: "The saints <u>will be handed over</u> to him for a time, times and half a time."





"Literal" readings are unlikely in Daniel 7

- The beasts come from the sea (3-4); they are kings who arise from the earth (17)
- The 4 winds of heaven (2) = totality (cp. Jer 49:36; Ezek 37:9; Zech 2:6; 6:5; Matt 24:31; Mark 13:27)
 - 4 beasts = all types of human leadership
- "A thousand thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him." (10)
 - 1,000,000 or 100,000,000?
- The 3 beasts survive the 4th beast (11-12)
 - none of the *literal* views treat this "literally"!!

Daniel 7 & Jesus

- Jesus said: "In this world you will have tribulation. But take courage, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)
- This is the message of Daniel 7 in a nutshell!

Beware of the harsh realities of life on earth governed by Man and Monsters. But take courage, GOD is in control and we will reign with Him long after the monsters have all disappeared.