

Daniel 12:7—I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

Revelation 12:14—And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Revelation 11:2—Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

Revelation 13:5—There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

Revelation 11:3—And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.

Revelation 12:6—Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Numbers 14:34 —According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt a year, even forty years, and you will know My opposition.

Ezekiel 4:6—When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year.

Daniel 7:26-28—But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him. At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself.

Note:

In February of 1798 Napoleon's French general Berthier entered Rome, proclaimed a free and independent republic, under the special protection of the French army and took the pope prisoner. A provisional government was acknowledged, as established by the sovereign people; and every other temporal authority emanating from the pope was suppressed, nor was he any longer to exercise any function. The pope died in France shortly thereafter. Although a new pope was elected, apostate Christianity had lost its Political power.

The object of the French directory was the destruction of the pontifical government, as the irreconcilable enemy of the republic. The aged pope Pius VI was summoned to surrender the temporal government; on his refusal, he was dragged from the altar, his rings were torn from his fingers, and finally, after declaring the temporal power abolished, the victors carried the pope prisoner into Tuscany, whence he never returned.

Nevertheless, although apostate Christianity's political reign ended in 1798 CE, her spiritual influence and affect on our perceptions of God's character would not be completely broken until quite some time later...

A PRETENDER

Where Did We Get The Wrong Picture?

Daniel 7:1-14—In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. Daniel said, I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'

After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened. Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

Note:

This interpretation of the little horn power of Daniel 7 is not an isolated teaching by one single denomination. Rather it is a protestant teaching whose adherents have included Martin Luther, Phillip Melancthon, John Calvin, John Knox, John Fox (author of Fox's Book of Martyrs), Roger Williams (considered to be the first Baptist pastor in America), The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), John Wesley, John Wycliffe, Ulrich Zwingli, William Tyndale, John Bunyan, Sir Isaac Newton, George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon and others.

Note:

The Bear was raised up on one side symbolizing the kingdom of Media-Persia with Persia possessing dominance. The three ribs in the bears mouth refer to Media-Persias victories over Egypt, Syria and Babylon.

The Leopard symbolizes Greece. Alexander's empire, fell into four main divisions after his untimely death in 323 BCE: West—Macedon and Greece (under Cassander); East—Thrace and Asia Minor (under Lysimachus); North—Syria (under Seleucus I); and South—the Holy Land and Egypt (under Ptolemy II).

L I G H T B E A R E R S

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“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” —John 10:10, NIV

*All Scripture References are from the updated New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

Daniel 7:15-19—As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things. These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast . . .

Daniel 2:31-45—“You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue. . . . The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them . . . and [they] became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. . . . You are the head of gold. After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future.

Daniel 7:19-25—Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates. I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the

Note:

cf. Daniel 2:31-45: Daniel was already familiar with the succession of kingdoms that would follow Babylon, yet this fourth beast in this vision greatly intrigued him.

Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law.

Daniel 11:36 —Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

Revelation 13:6-7—And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 9— Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. . . . That is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders.

Daniel 7:25 —And they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

ASV Daniel 4:23—And whereas the king saw a watcher and a holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, hew down the tree, and destroy it; nevertheless leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field, and let it be wet with the dew of heaven: and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him.

ASV Daniel 7:25—He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time, and times, and half a time.

Note:

1. The Anglos and Saxons (Britain)
2. The Franks (France)
3. The Alemanni (Germany)
4. The Burgundians (Switzerland)
5. The Visigoths (Spain)
6. The Suevi (Portugal)
7. The Heruli (Italy) 493A.D.
8. The Vandals (North Africa) 534 A.D.
9. The Ostrogoths (Austria, then Italy) 538 A.D.
10. The Lombards (Italy)

In the fourth century, Arius, a priest of Alexandria, began teaching that Christ was the first created being and was therefore inferior to the Father. The Council of Nicea, called by Constantine in 325 A.D., condemned Arius as a heretic and his teachings as heresy. Arianism, how-ever, continued to grow until three of the ten kingdoms were Arian in belief. These three were: the Heruli, the Vandals, and Ostrogoths.

Through war and diplomacy Christianity, which clung to the Nicene Creed, endeavored to destroy these heretical nations.

Between 496-508 CE the other seven kingdoms into which Rome had been divided converted to Christianity. Although the church’s *political* reign as head of Europe would not be established for another thirty years (538 CE), by 508 CE Christianity had been embraced by these seven kingdoms establishing the it’s religious influence.

Then, in 538 CE, Belisarius (Emperor Justinian’s General) defeated the Ostrogoths in Italy, thus establishing Christianity not only as a religious power, but a Political Power as well.