

Daniel 7 • Visions for the Future – Part 1

1. (v.1) The first **half** of Daniel is a teaching that has something to contrast and/or compare in the second **half**. It also provides a segue from the working of the **Gentile** nations in the world to the working of **Israel** in the world.
2. (v.2-3) The symbols in the vision:
 - a. The restless sea represents the **Gentile** nations.
 - b. The four winds of heaven represent **spiritual** forces behind the stirring up and agitation of the nations.
 - c. The four great beasts represent four **earthly** kingdoms
3. (v.4) **The First Beast: Babylon** was still ruling at this time but at this time the empire was weakening and would fall within only a matter of a few years, giving way to the next beast/empire.
4. (v.5) **The Second Beast:** The **Medo-Persian** Empire conquered Babylon in 539 BC and was known for its aggressiveness, but it lasted only about 200 years, confirming that whereas Babylon was represented by gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, **Medo-Persia** was silver, not quite having the overall impact and luster of its predecessor.
5. (v.6) **The Third Beast:** This is **Greece** led by **Alexander** the Great who swiftly (by ancient standards) conquered the world and, in the process, the Persians around 331 BC. It corresponds to the bronze part of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
6. (v.7-8) **The Fourth Beast:** The **Roman Empire** corresponding to the legs of iron and the ten toes composed of the mixture of the iron and the clay in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
7. (v.9-10) While the kingdoms of the **earth** have been going about their business conquering and flexing their **authority**, in reality the kingdom of **heaven** has been organizing in preparation to conquer and exert its **authority** over them all.
8. (v.11-12) There is an final and ultimate **kingdom** to come.
9. (v.13-14) Everything will permanently give way to the **kingdom** of **Christ**.
10. (v.15-18) In the end it is not just that **Christ** will win it all, but that it is passed on to His holy ones – "**the saints**" eternally.
11. (v.19-27) What **Satan** and his earthly kingdoms attempt to own and control is ultimately accomplished through **Christ** alone.
12. (v.28) Lessons from the personal example of Daniel:
 - a. True messengers of God are extremely **empathetic** as to what will happen to the **people** for which the message is intended.
 - b. True messengers of God don't rush out to convey a message they themselves don't fully **comprehend**.
 - c. As with most personal encounters with God recorded in Scripture, the experience is **humbling** and **life-changing**.