

DANIEL CHAPTER 2 and CHAPTER 7

It is common to teach that the vision in Daniel 7 is the same as that in Daniel 2. It has been suggested by many that the magnificent image of chapter 2 is how man views his kingdoms and the beasts of chapter 7 are how God views them. The problem here is that God gave both visions.

There are many reasons to believe that these visions are not the same, just a few of which are listed here. A simple outline of the book could be:

- A. Introduction - Chapter 1 written in Hebrew
- B. Gentile Section - Chapters 2 to 7 written in Aramaic
- C. Jewish Section - Chapters 8 to 12 written in Hebrew

It appears that the Holy Spirit is presenting a prophetic picture of the gentile nations at the time of the Lord's return in Daniel Chapter 7, Daniel Chapter 11 and Revelation Chapter 13.

Consider:

1. Chapter 2 is the beginning of the Aramaic section and Chapter 7 is the end. It is reasonable to conclude that the Holy Spirit is presenting the course of Gentile history to its conclusion rather than repeating at the close of the section what was presented at the beginning.
2. If Chapters 2 thru 7, the Aramaic section, are placed beside Chapters 8 thru 11, the Hebrew section, there is a general correspondence. Both sections conclude with a discussion of the end times.
3. There is good historical agreement between Daniel Chapter 2 and Daniel Chapter 8 but not with Daniel Chapter 7.
4. The Babylonian empire is virtually gone by the time of the vision in Chapter 7.
5. If the Lion of Chapter 7 is Nebuchadnezzar he is already dead by the time of the vision.
6. Nebuchadnezzar's heart was changed to a beast's heart whereas the beast of Chapter 7 is given a man's heart.

7. The Lion and the eagle are used many times by the Holy Spirit to symbolize different things, for example:

The Lion - Gen 49:9; Num 23:24; Ez 19:3; 32:2; 2 Sam 17:10; Ps 10:9; 17:12; Job 10:16; Hos 5:14

The Eagle - Ez 17:7; Obad 1:4; 2 Sam 1:23; Prov 23:5; Job 9:26; Ps 103:5; Isa 40:31; Ex 19:4

it is reasonable to conclude that He uses them here to describe the characteristics of this beast not to identify it as Babylon.

8. Although some have suggested that images of winged lions have been found in the region of Babylon they are only lions with large manes, never with wings.

9. The bear of Chapter 7 does not agree with Persia whereas the Ram of Chapter 8 does.

10. The mwq “raised up” in verse 5 is passive, the beast did not raise itself like Media and Persia but was raised by some other power.

11. The three ribs of verse 5 have no agreement in the history of Persia.

12. The Leopard in verse 6 has four wings and four heads at the start which does not correspond with the history of Greece.

13. Although the Leopard of Chapter 7 does not agree the history of Greece, the Goat of Chapter 8 does.

14. The fourth beast in verse 7 is not like the old Roman empire which was not different from all that preceded it nor was it more cruel in its treatment of the nations which it conquered.

15. The סלק “came up” in verse 3 indicates action at the same time.

16. The קרם “before” in verse 7 occurs 41 times in the Aramaic in the Bible and in all other cases must be translated in the local sense. There is no reason to translate it here in a temporal sense and make it the only exception. These other beasts were in the presence of the fourth beast.

17. The קימ “will arise” in verse 17 is imperfect, incomplete action, in Aramaic this corresponds to the English future it is never used of a succession of events, some past and some future.

18. The first three kingdoms of Chapter 7 are still there, verse 12, when the fourth is destroyed

19. Four beasts are mentioned in Daniel Chapter 7, the end of the Aramaic section, and four beasts are mentioned in Daniel Chapter 11, the end of the Hebrew section. The King of the South, the King of the North, the King of the West, and the fierce King, all existing at the same time.

It is clear that Daniel Chapter 7, the later portion of Daniel Chapter 11 and Rev Chapter 13 picture the Gentile world kingdoms at the time of the Lord's return. They arise at the same time, there are seven heads, and there are 10 horns.

20. In Daniel Chapter 7 the beasts come up out of the sea and in Rev Chapter 13 they come up out of the sea.

21. Daniel Chapter 7 has all beasts come up at same time and Rev Chapter 13 has beasts come up at same time

22. Daniel Chapter 7 has a lion, a bear and a leopard and Rev Chapter 13 has a lion, a bear, and a leopard.

23. Daniel Chapter 7 has seven heads and Rev Chapter 13 has seven heads

24. Daniel Chapter 7 has ten horns and Rev Chapter 13 has ten horns

It is apparent that Daniel Chapter 7 is a prophetic view of the gentile kingdoms at the time of the Lord's return rather than a repetition of the succession of kingdoms revealed in Chapter 2.