

/We will now begin the eighth lecture of the Book of Daniel. / The text is Daniel chapter 7. / The title of this chapter is, “The Four Great Beasts.” / The four great beasts.

/First, Daniel sees four beasts come out of the sea in his dream. / Verses 1-3. / Second, the appearances of the four beasts from the sea. / Verses 4-8.

/Third, the throne of judgment and the Second Coming of the Lord. / Verses 9-14. / Fourth, the meaning of the four beasts and their end. / Verses 15-18. / Fifth, the relationship between the four beasts and the believers. / Verses 19-28.

/Read verse 1. / In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

/Here, the first year of Belshazzar was around 555 B.C. / He ruled the kingdom with his father. / In chapter 5, King Belshazzar is destroyed. /Daniel chapters 1-6 tell of the history.

/The second part of Daniel, chapters 7-12, speak of prophecies. /The latter half contains apocalyptic prophecies.

/Daniel recorded chapters 7-12, and hence, he speaks in the first person “I.” /The Israelites were taken captive to Babylon at the time.

/However, the revelation showed that they would be liberated and would return to their homeland. /It ultimately taught that the Messiah would come. /God revealed this to Daniel in a dream in the first year of Belshazzar.

/This dream was a special revelation. /It was a revelation from God. /In today’s passage, four beasts would come out of the sea. /This taught about the futures of worldly nations.

/King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream in chapter 2. /He saw a large statue, and the contents of that dream coincides with today’s text. /In verse 1 it says that “visions passed through his mind.”

/This means that Daniel’s mind was clearly active even when he received a supernatural revelation. /Daniel received a supernatural revelation from God.

/His mind was active at the same time. /God clearly taught Daniel so that he would not be confused in his mind. /God taught Daniel through the Holy Spirit.

/Daniel was clearly awake while he dreamed. /Daniel wrote down the substance of his dream. /The “substance” is “yesh.” / “Yesh.”

/“Yeah” means, “actual things, or important things.” /Important things. /Actual and substantial things. /Here it teaches us this.

/Verses 2-3. /Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

/Daniel looked in his vision, and there were the four winds of heaven. /They were churning up the great sea. /Then four great beasts came up out of the sea. /In chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar saw "an image of a human being" when he saw the kingdoms of the world.

/For example, the head was made of pure gold, its chest was made of silver, /its belly and thighs were made of bronze, /and its legs were made of iron. /King Nebuchadnezzar saw "a human being."

/However, in today's text, Daniel saw these kingdoms as "beasts."
/Kingdoms of the world bite, tear, and devour one another. /The larger beasts devour the smaller beasts.

/They go to war and fight one another. /In this way, kingdoms of the world, whether small or big, fight one another.

/The "winds" in verse 2 symbolize powers. /They symbolize war. /Revelation 7:1. /They symbolize conflict and uproar. /The number "four" indicates the north, east, south, and west. /It also indicates the whole world.

/The "winds" symbolize powers. /The "sea" in verse 2 symbolizes the world. /Revelation 13:1 /17:8, 15 /The "beasts" in verse 3 symbolize the kingdoms of the world. /This is also in verse 17.

/Kingdoms of the world rise and fall. /There is chaos, just as the waves of the sea rise and fall. /Revelation 17:7 /16-18 /In this way, there is always chaos, quarreling, /and the rise and fall of kingdoms in the world.

/Ultimately, the kingdoms of the world will fall. /It shows that God's kingdom will have the final victory. /The kingdoms of the world are also cruel.

/Kingdoms will persecute believers of Jesus and the church. /Psalm 17:12 /Ezekiel 29:3 /32:3 /The kingdoms of the world persecute believers.

/However, in the end, the kingdoms of the world will be destroyed by God's judgment. /Isaiah 40:12-17 /Here it speaks of the first 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 first beast was like a lion. /Verse 5 says that the second beast was like a bear. /Verse 6 says that the third beast was like a leopard. /Verse 7 says that the fourth beast was a terrifying and frightening beast.

/Historically, the first beast, that was like a lion, symbolizes Babylon. /We learned this in chapter 2. /The kingdom of Babylon lasted from 625 B.C. /to 538 B.C.

/This is Babylon. /The second beast was like a bear. /This symbolizes Medo-Persia. /Medo-Persia lasted from 538 B.C. /to 331 B.C.

/The third beast was like a leopard. /The leopard symbolizes Greece. /Greece lasted from 331 B.C. /to 63 B.C. /The fourth beast was a terrifying and frightening beast.

/It symbolizes the nation of Rome. /Rome existed from 63 B.C. /From 63 B.C. /63 B.C. /It lasted from 63 B.C. to A.D. 476. /This was Rome.

/Let's look at the first beast in verse 4. /It was like a lion. /It symbolizes Babylon. /The eagle indicates that Babylon would conquer other nations. /The eagle is the king of all birds.

/The lion is the king of all animals. /It meant that Babylon would be the head of the world. /It says, "its wings were torn off."

/Historically, there have been many statues of lions with wings that were discovered to be Babylon's works of art. /Statues of lions with wings. /Babylon. /Many of them were discovered among Babylon's works of art. /Jeremiah 4:7 /Jeremiah 49:19 /22.

/It says, "its wings were torn off." /This meant that its powers would disappear. /It meant that even the ruling nation that has conquered all would lose power in one morning's time.

/In this way, the powers of the world are limited and will disappear. /Next, it says, "it stood on two feet." /This symbolized that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon would be overthrown and kicked out.

/The king of Babylon was kicked out and lived with the beasts until seven times passed. /4:32-33. /Next, it says, "the heart of a man was given to it." /This meant that King Nebuchadnezzar sought God and looked up to God.

/King Nebuchadnezzar became mentally ill as a result of his arrogance. /He was punished. /Then he became humble and sought after God. /He received the heart of man. /4:34-36 /Next, let's look at the second beast.

/Verse 5. /"And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. 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 bear symbolizes Medo-Persia. /Medo-Persia had qualities that were like that of a bear. /Bears eat a lot. /The kingdom of Medo-Persia conquered many lands.

/To the east they conquered India, /to the west, Greece, /to the north, Germany, /and to the Black Sea. /The Black Sea, /and to the south, the Arabian Desert. /Medo-Persia conquered great areas of land just as a bear would devour all there was to eat around it.

/Verse 5 says, "It was raised up on one of its sides." /This meant that of the two powers of Medo-Persia, Media would become weak. /Then Persia would grow stronger. /It also says, "it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth."

/This symbolized that it would conquer three kingdoms. /The three kingdoms were Babylon, Egypt, and Lydia. /Lydia. /Medo-Persia conquered these three kingdoms. /It also says, "It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'"

/This meant that God would allow Medo-Persia to invade and conquer many nations. /Medo-Persia would conquer many nations at God's command.

/Verse 6. /"After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

/The third beast was like a leopard. /The first beast had wings like that of an eagle. /However, the third beast had four wings like those of a bird.

/The wings of a bird cannot begin to compare to the wings of an eagle. /This meant that Greece had a heavily culture-based personality. /Greece supplied its surrounding nations with its culture. /It spread its Greek language.

/The leopard is a quick animal. /Agility. /Mobility. /It symbolized that Greece would quickly conquer the world. /Historically, Alexander the Great quickly conquered the world.

/For example, King Cyrus of Persia conquered the world in twenty-five years. /However, Alexander the Great conquered the world in thirteen years. /In this way, the "leopard" symbolized that Greece would quickly conquer the world.

/Here it also says that the beast had four heads. /This symbolized that four leaders would rise up after the death of Alexander the Great. /Four generals would split Greece up into four after the death of Alexander the Great, and rule.

/Ptolemy. /First, Ptolemy. /Ptolemy. /He ruled over Egypt. /Second, Lysimachus. /Lysimachus. /He ruled over Asia Minor and the region where Turkey is today.

/Third, Casander. /Casander ruled over Greece and the region of Macedonia. /Fourth,

Seleucus. /Seleucus. /Seleucus ruled over Syria and the Middle East.

/Four commanders ruled the nations of the world after the death of Alexander. /Among the four, please keep in mind, Ptolemy, who ruled over Egypt. /Please also keep in mind, Seleucus, who ruled over Syria.

/Israel suffered under Seleucus who came from the north. /Israel also suffered under Ptolemy of Egypt from the south.

/Verse 7. /"After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast-- terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

/The fourth beast was a terrifying and frightening beast. /It was very powerful, and it had large iron teeth. /The fourth beast symbolizes Rome. /Rome was powerful and attacked and destroyed many nations.

/It was violent and destructive. /The nation aroused fear in all. /It also says that the beast had ten horns. /There were ten horns, and verse 8 speaks of a "little horn."

/Verse 8. /"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

/The "little horn" symbolizes the antichrist that persecutes Christianity. /The little horn came up and uprooted three of the ten horns. /Now, there were eight horns left.

/There were ten horns at first. /Then a little horn came up. /Hence, there were eleven horns. /However, the little horn uprooted three horns. /Now, there were eight horns left.

/The little horn is called the "eighth king." /Revelation 17:11 /There is speaks of an eighth king. /This is the antichrist, /and is the most heinous king. /The little horn spoke great words. /It spoke boastfully.

/It spoke "boastfully," which means that it spoke arrogant words, /and words that stood against God. /This is in verse 25. /It is also in 11:36. /It is also in Revelation 13:5, 6. /Revelation 13:5, 6.

/It even calls itself "Christ, and the Messiah." /It claims that it is the king. /This is presumptuous behavior. /These are words that go against God.

/The ten horns symbolize ten nations. /Ten nations were formed after the fall of Rome. /There were ten toes in chapter 2. /This symbolized that there would be ten nations, many nations, after the fall of Rome.

/It is important to note that the eighth king is a heinous king. /It is a wicked king that stands against God. /However, God will ultimately bring the antichrist to destruction.

/Verse 9. /"As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

/Here it speaks of the Father God. /The Father God sits on his throne. /He is truly majestic and dignified. /Psalm 9:5 /29:10 /Isaiah 28:6.

/His clothing was as white as snow. /This symbolizes the holy God. /Next, the hair of his head was white like wool. /This shows the pure God, the holy God. /Isaiah 1:18 /Revelation 3:5 /4:4 /19:8 /19:11

/"His throne was flaming with fire." /This symbolized God's judgment. /Ezekiel 1:15, 27 /It also symbolized God's majesty.

/In verse 19, it says that thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand attended him. /This meant that the army of angels attended to the throne of God. /Revelation 5:11 /Psalm 68:17 /Hebrews 12:22

/Verse 11. /"Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.

/Here it speaks of the words of the little horn. /This is the antichrist. /It is a heinous king. /However, God will judge him. /He will suddenly die.

/Verse 12 says he was "allowed to live for a period of time." /This means that the kingdoms of the world exist only until the time God has allowed them to exist. /Kingdoms of the world last only until God allows them to.

/Verse 13. /"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

/Here it prophesies that Jesus will return on clouds. /Acts 1:11 /Revelation 1:7 /Jesus will return on clouds. /Jesus will surely return as prophesied.

/Verse 14. /He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

/God will give Him authority, glory, and power, and all peoples, nations, and men of every language will worship God. /This means that all peoples of all nations will worship Jesus.

/The authority of Jesus is eternal authority, and His kingdom will never be destroyed.
/God's kingdom is eternal.

/Verse 15. /"I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me.

/Daniel was troubled and disturbed in spirit. /He wanted to know the true meaning of all this. /Then, an angel taught him.

/Verse 17. /"The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.

/He said, "The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth." /They symbolized the four kingdoms.

/Verse 18. /But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever-- yes, for ever and ever.'

/Next, it says that the saints will receive the kingdom. /God's kingdom is the church. /The church will succeed in the world. /Many lives will be saved through the church.

/God's kingdom will be fulfilled. /Lastly, this sinful world and its kingdoms will receive judgment before God. /However, the church will remain.

/The believers will enter eternal heaven. /They will live with Jesus forever and ever.

/Verse 19. /"Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws-- the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left.

/Daniel wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast. /The fourth beast was different from all the others. /It had iron teeth, and it was a wicked king that stood against God.

/This kingdom refers to the nation that persecutes the church and the believers. /It also refers to the king. /Revelation 17:11

/Verse 20. /I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell-- the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

/There were ten horns. /Then there was another horn that came up. /This is the little horn that we learned in verse 8. /It had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. /It was powerful.

/This means that it had more wisdom than other kingdoms. /It had power. /It joined with

other kingdoms to stand against God and the church. /It tries to exterminate Christianity.

/However, ultimately, God has the final victory. /They might persecute believers, but God will let believers have the victory.

/Verse 22. /until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

/God will let the church have victory. /The Lord, the Ancient of Days, will come to avenge us. /God will judge the kingdoms of the world, /and believers will have the final victory.

/Verse 23. /"He gave me this explanation: "The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.

/The fourth kingdom is a terrifying kingdom. /It is a powerful kingdom.

/Verse 24. /The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

/"Another king" is the eighth king, as we learned in verse 8. /It is the little horn. /Revelation 17:11

/Verse 25. /He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

/The "little horn" symbolizes the antichrist. /The antichrist stands against God. /It oppresses the believers. /It persecutes believers. /It tries to change the set times and the laws.

/It tries to abolish the traditional things. /It tries to make new laws. /It tries to change the set laws.

/It changes all moral and natural things. /For example, one week is seven days. /It tries to change it to eight or nine days.

/The calendar changed after Jesus came. /We use B.C. and A.D.

/However, these people will come and change such laws. /They will destroy basic ethics and morals.

/Verse 25 says, "The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time." /"A time, times, and half a time" indicates half of the seven years great tribulation.

/This indicates the first three and a half years. /We believers will suffer during this time. / We will encounter hardships. /We will receive sufferings in the first half of the three and a half years of the seven years great tribulation.

/Verse 26. /"But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.

/However, the little horn, the antichrist will be destroyed. /Then the great tribulation will come to an end. /Then, the kingdoms of the world will receive judgment.

/Verse 27. /Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

/God's kingdom, the believers' kingdom is eternal. /They will live through the Millennial Kingdom, and they will enter eternal heaven. /Believers will live in the kingdom as kings. /Believers will be kings, and our Jesus will be the King of kings.

/Verse 28. /"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."

/Daniel was deeply troubled by his thoughts. /His face turned pale, but he kept the matter to himself. /Daniel saw all that would happen in the future, and his face turned pale.

/Daniel saw the kingdoms of the world fight, bite, and tear at one another. /Then lastly, the antichrist would come and persecute believers. /Hence, Daniel was deeply troubled by this.

/Yet, what is most important is that our God will judge the antichrist in the world and the kingdoms of the world. /The powers of the kingdoms of the world are temporary. /Persecutions from the kingdoms of the world are temporary.

/The wealth and honor of worldly kingdoms are temporary. /However, the kingdom of God is eternal, /and there will be everlasting glory for those who keep their faith as Daniel did. /Our God controls all of history. /He is in control over all that is to come.

/There will be the seven years great tribulation in the last days as was prophesied here. /We will receive tribulations for the first three and a half years of the seven years great tribulation.

/Therefore, we must be prepared to receive persecutions, and we must protect our faith. / We must look upon the glorious kingdom of God, and we must keep our faith.

/With this we will conclude the eighth lecture on Daniel. /Thank you.