

THE FOUR BEASTS AND THE LITTLE HORN

Who are the four beasts and the little horn power of Daniel 7? What do they mean to us in this our day? We are living in the most thrilling period of all history. Every great line of Bible prophecy converges on our day, and indicates to us that the end of all things is at hand. I am very grateful for these Bible prophecies that are such a reliable chart and compass in the present stormy state of affairs in the world.

The apostle Peter, emphasized the reliability of prophecy, says: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19. Peter had just been describing his experience with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Peter reminds us that he, together with James and John, saw the glory surrounding the Lord. They also heard the voice of God declaring: "This is My beloved SON." But even the things that he saw with his own eyes, and the things that he heard with his own ears, are not as reliable as prophecy. He says that we have a **MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY**. Prophecy is more sure than the things that we actually see and hear, and therefore "YE DO WELL THAT YE TAKE HEED."

Tonight let us turn the searchlight of prophecy on one of the greatest prophetic dramas of the ages. We are particularly concerned with the little horn power of Daniel 7. Who is this little horn with the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great things? The consensus of opinion among Bible scholars is that this is the **ANTICHRIST**. Some people believe that the antichrist will be an open enemy of God and His truth. If this were so, there would be little danger that any Christian would be deceived by him.

It is not easy for some to understand that Satan, in opposing God's cause, does not openly come out into battle. He works in disguise. He often parades in the garb of religion. Any method he can use to promulgate his errors, thus diverting the attention of men and women from the truth of God, he will subtly employ. Our topic tonight will reveal the most powerful religious movement on earth, a movement which claims to follow Christ and to speak for Christ, and whose head claims to be Christ's special representative. And yet it is a movement with doctrines and practices directly opposed to the Scriptures.

I read from Dan. 7:2, 3: "Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four WINDS of the heaven strove upon the great SEA. And four great BEASTS came up from the sea, diverse one from another." Notice that there are three sets of symbols here: 1. The great sea. 2. The four beasts. 3. The winds that stir the sea to action. Each one of these symbols has a special meaning, and we shall discuss them one at a time.

First let us consider the symbol of the beasts.

These beasts have frightened some readers of the Bible. There have been numerous theories concerning them. But please notice how simple and plain is the Bible description of them: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth . . . The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon the earth . . ." Dan. 7:17, 23. There is no need to guess regarding the identity of the beasts, for the Bible clearly states that they are kingdoms. They are political powers.

It is not an unusual thing for the Bible to use beasts as symbols of governments. We find the same thing is being done today. For instance, the lion is used to represent Great Britain, the eagle to represent the United States, and the bear to represent Russia. In this prophecy God is using cartoons to describe the rise and fall of nations, and their relationship to the people of God and to the truth of God.

The next symbol is that of water, and it is represented as being in a state of agitation. What is the meaning of water in Bible prophecy? We read in Rev. 17:15: "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest . . . are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." It is very clear from this that the nations that are described as four beasts coming up out of the water arise from the vast populations of the earth in a time of great agitation. We sometimes borrow the Biblical metaphor when we use the expression "a sea of faces."

In regard to the third prophetic symbol, the Scriptures are quite specific when they compare the wind or whirlwind to war, strife, and bloodshed. Jer. 25:32 says: ". . . Evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind . . ." And in Isa. 21:1, 2 we find: ". . . As the whirlwinds in the south pass through . . . and the spoiler spoileth . . ." Also Zech. 7:14 says: ". . . I scattered them with a whirlwind among the nations whom they knew not . . ." Now we have the simple picture that Daniel saw in vision. It is a picture of four great powers coming into being in the midst of turmoil, strife, and war. What nations do these four beasts represent?

Let me read Dan. 7:4: "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made to stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it." There could be no question in Daniel's mind as to what power this winged lion represented. The first empire was Babylon, which ruled from 606 B.C. to 538 B.C.

At the time of this vision, Daniel was a captive in Babylon. He had witnessed the swift conquest of his own native land by this lion-like nation, and had heard many stories of her other recent conquests. "Eagle's wings" are suggestive of the swiftness with which the Babylonian armies poured forth to conquer, striking far and swiftly into the surrounding countries. The descriptions of these

conquests by historians prove to us the accuracy of Bible prophecy.

If one could journey through the ruins of ancient Babylon today, he would see the very statuary which adorned the city when Daniel received this vision. The lion was there with eagle's wings. But a change soon came over this glorious kingdom. Luxury and riotous living brought decay, and the clay tablets found in the ruins tell of the forces of the empire falling back step by step until the final fall of the capital city. Daniel beheld until the wings were plucked up and it was made to stand like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. True to this prophecy, in only a few short years Babylon lost its dignity and strength, ruling only 68 years.

Belshazzar, the last king to sit on the throne, was surely a great contrast to Nebuchadnezzar. Instead of being in the field at the head of his army, Belshazzar was in the midst of a wild party when the Persians made their attack upon the city. You recall how the bloodless hand of God came out of a sleeve of darkness and wrote the doom of the empire upon the palace wall. That night the scepter fell from the Babylonian kingdom, and the Persian empire took the field.

Dan. 7:5 says: "And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh." The Medes and the Persians combined to attack Babylon. The prophecy states that one side, or one dominion (margin), was to be higher than the other.

To begin with, the Median power was predominant. Later, however, the Persian power became the stronger. "It raised itself upon one side." And today in history it is referred to as the Persian Empire, the second world empire which ruled from 538 B.C. to 331 B.C. As a bear is slower than a lion, the conquest of the Persians was slower than that of the Babylonians. Three bloody ribs in its mouth represent the three provinces—Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt—which resisted Persia, and of course suffered most severely.

For a time the Persian empire extended all the way from India to Ethiopia, but it was not going to last for long. In the process of time, as predicted in prophecy, it fell to the Greeks. "After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it." Dan. 7:6. The vast army of Persians was defeated by 47,000 Greek soldiers and a few cavalry. Thus the bear went down as the leopard beast arose.

If wings denote swiftness, four wings must certainly denote double swiftness. This is a true picture of Alexander the Great and his rapid conquest. The fleetness and spring of the leopard describes perfectly the swift and bounding movements of the Greeks. As Plutarch says: "With incredible swiftness, from rising to the setting sun," in one great march of twelve years Alexander became prince of all that he surveyed. But while young Alexander could control a world, he could

not control his appetite. He died at the age of 32 in a drunken debauch.

Before Alexander breathed his last one of his stout generals asked: "Who shall assume the kingdom?" "The strongest," replied Alexander. Within fifteen years after his death four of his leading generals had divided the empire among them. Not eight, or seven, or six, or five, but just FOUR in harmony with the prophet's unique picture of the leopard beast with four heads. Isn't it wonderful how the Bible gives us an exact picture of things? Thousands of skeptics have been converted by the witness of Bible prophecy. It is truly an unerring witness.

Just notice this quotation from history showing how accurately the events were foretold. In Wheeler's *Alexander the Great*, p. 494 we read: "Each one whetted the sword against the other, and the empire went down in a tangle of strife and carnage. With the close of the century . . . it had resolved itself into four well-ascertained domains." As the Bible portrays: "THE BEAST HAD ALSO FOUR HEADS."

But the kingdom of Greece was also soon to pass away. And now we read Dan. 7:7: "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns."

At this point the prophecy seems to change. No beast seems to meet the specifications of this fourth dominant empire, which was that of Rome. Here is the same "iron monarchy of Rome" which was depicted in the king's dream of Dan. 2. There it was represented by legs of iron. Here it has "great iron teeth." There is certainly no doubt that this non-descript beast does represent the kingdom of Rome that ruled the world for so many centuries.

Plutarch says: "The victories (of Rome) were not reckoned by the number of the slain or the greatness of the spoils, but by the kingdoms that were taken, by the nations that were conquered, by the isles and continents that were added to the vastness of their empire." *Morals*, art. "Fortune of the Romans," paragraph 11.

And of the Roman conquests the historian Schlegel says: "It was as if the iron-footed god of war actually bestrode the globe, and at every step struck out new torrents of blood." *Philosophy of History*, p. 261. To illustrate the tyranny and cruelty that characterized this empire, note what Claudian says: "Thither the kingdoms and the nations come, in supplicating crowds to learn their doom." How could prophecy be fulfilled more accurately, for the prophet says: "It devoured and brake in pieces."

Now notice that this beast has ten horns, depicting in still greater detail the ten divisions into which the Roman Empire was divided. Between A.D. 351 and A.D. 476, this division of the empire took place, and by 476 A.D. we find these 10 kingdoms established within the boundaries of Western Europe.

Division of the Roman Empire, A.D. 476:

Alamanni	Germans
Franks	French
Bergundians	Swiss
Suevi	Portuguese
Saxons	English
Visigoths	Spanish
Lombards	Italians
Heruli	
Vandals	
Ostrogoths	

In the image of Dan. 2 the ten toes represented this division of the empire, so here the prophecy says: "AND IT HAD TEN HORNS." Just notice that the three last named divisions of the Roman Empire are not in existence today. We will mention this again in just a moment.

Let us read Dan. 7:24: "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings." Now isn't that clear? We learn that the ten horns represent ten kings or kingdoms that should arise. And while Daniel watched these horns, he saw another little rise up after them, and in the process of rising, it subdued three of the former horns or kingdoms. These are the kingdoms we just noticed are not in existence today—Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths.

Now we want to pay particular attention to the little horn with the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great things. I am sure that you are wondering whom this represents. The Bible indicates WHERE this little horn power will arise, WHEN it will arise, and WHAT KIND OF A POWER IT WILL BE. Certainly when we put these facts together we will have the truth regarding his identity.

First of all, WHERE will it arise? Verse 8 says: "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up AMONG THEM another little horn . . ." The ten horns occupied Western Europe and a little horn was to come up AMONG THEM. Therefore it can be seen that it would arise somewhere in Western Europe.

The next question is: WHEN WILL IT ARISE? Verse 24 says: "And another shall rise AFTER THEM . . ." The last of these ten kingdoms became firmly established about the year A.D. 476. Therefore we may expect this power to arise into full prominence after that date. Now, tell me Friends, what political-religious power arose in Western Europe shortly after the year A.D. 476? There can be no doubt about it. The prophetic finger points unerringly toward the PAPACY.

Please note the latter portion of verse 24: ". . . And he shall be DIVERSE from the first . . ." The prophecy tells us that he shall be different from the others. The other powers were absolutely and totally political. But as the prophecy further unfolds, we find that although the little horn power has a king and a state on its own right, it operates primarily in the realm of religion.

Carl Conrad Eckhardt says: "When the Roman Empire had disintegrated and its place had been taken by a number of rude, barbarous kingdoms, the Roman Catholic Church not only became

independent of the states in religious affairs but dominated secular affairs as well." **The Papacy and World-Affairs**, page 1.

The PAPACY arose to full power shortly after A.D. 476. The English historian, Thomas Hobbes, says: "If any man will consider the original of this great ecclesiastical dominion, he will easily perceive that the Papacy is none other than the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof." (Leviathan.)

Now, before going any further I want to share a word with my Catholic friends who may be here tonight. Many Roman Catholics have been attending these meetings. I want to say for their benefit, and for the others present, that what I have to say tonight is not in any respect unkind criticism of their faith. I believe there are proportionately as many earnest Christians in the Church of Rome who are walking in the light as they know it as there are in any other denomination.

I find that our Catholic friends are just as earnest to discover the truth from God's Word as are our Protestant listeners. What I am revealing tonight is a warning which the Scriptures give. In clear and unmistakable language the Lord reveals the truth of the situation to Roman Catholics and Protestants alike. All I shall say will be said in a spirit of understanding love, for the facts revealed are naturally not pleasant; but I believe that you will see that they are vital and very important.

I want to consider four specifications regarding this power, and will divide the verse into these four parts so that you may readily understand them. Dan. 7:25:

- (1) "And he shall speak great words against the Most High,
- (2) And shall wear out the saints of the Most High,
- (3) AND THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS,
- (4) And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

Now, in regard to the first statement, that he shall speak great words against the Most High, please note what **Ferraris' Ecclesiastical Dictionary** says regarding the claims of the Pontiff: "The Pope is as it were GOD ON EARTH . . . instructed by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom." (Article on the Pope.) While we are willing to admit that this man may be a kindly Christian man, so far as we know, we cannot concede that he has the right to exceed the prerogative which the Scriptures give to the ministers of God.

From **Studies in Church History**, by Henry C. Lea, p. 389, I read: "In 1335 Bishop Alvarez Pelayo lays down the doctrine that as Christ partook of the nature of God and man, so the Pope . . . is not simply a man, but rather a GOD ON EARTH." It is evident, Friends, that we are dealing here with a very serious matter. These are the "GREAT WORDS" of which the prophecy speaks. And, according to the Bible, they simply cannot be reconciled with the prerogatives God has given the church.

The second characteristic tells us: "And he shall wear out the saints of the MOST HIGH." Wm. Edward Lecky, in his *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, Vol. 2, p. 32, says: "That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history." Mr. Lecky is regarded by historians as one of the most reliable.

The question is usually asked: "Why did the church slaughter?" The answer is apparently simple for the Catholic historian. Prof. Alfred Baudrillart of France says: "The Catholic Church is a respecter of conscience and of liberty . . . Nevertheless, when confronted by heresy, she does not content herself with persuasion . . . she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to torture . . . She lit in Italy . . . the funeral piles of the Inquisition." *The Catholic Church, the Renaissance and Protestants*, pp. 182, 183. This historian simply points out that this was the only way the church could deal with heresy. Now, every man has a right to his own belief. He has a right to think of and worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. However, when the church and state are united, the record of history is always the same—persecution and martyrs to the cause of truth.

Striking as the next quotation may be, we feel that we must include it here so that you will be awake and alert to recognize the warning voice of prophecy. Rev. John Dowling, a Baptist historian, says: "From the birth of Popery in 606, to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than FIFTY MILLIONS of the human family have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors." *The History of Romanism*, 1845, p. 541. Many people died during the Dark Ages simply because they did not agree with the dictates of the Papacy.

Surely this must be the time about which Isaac Watts wrote:

"Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize
And sailed through bloody seas?"

Dear Friends, however startling these revelations may be, I appeal to you tonight to read the prophecy as God intended it to be read, AS A KIND AND LOVING WARNING.

Now, let us note the next characteristic of the little horn power: "He shall think to change times and laws." Here is one of the boastful claims of this little horn power: "The pope has power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things even the precepts of Christ." *Decretal De Translat. Episcop. Cap.* Before considering this third characteristic of the antichrist power further, let us consider its last characteristic, which designates the time that this power would rule supreme.

The prophecy says: ". . . And they shall be given into his hand until a TIME and TIMES and the DIVIDING OF TIME." Briefly a TIME is a Jewish year of 360 days. TIMES indicates plurality and would signify two years or 720 days. The

DIVIDING OF TIME, a Jewish expression for cutting in half, would be a half year, or 180 days. Thus the period mentioned in Dan. 7:25 is actually 1260 years, according to the principle of prophetic interpretation well recognized by Bible expositors, "each day for a year." Eze. 4:6.

This same prophetic period of Dan. 7:25: "a time and times and the dividing of time," is referred to in Rev. 12:6 thus: ". . . a thousand two hundred and three score days." But in the 14th verse it says of this period: ". . . a time, and times, and half a time . . ." So we see that both prophecies refer to the same 1260 days, or literal years. Now let us see when this 1260-day period began.

A series of crises led to the elimination of all obstacles to the growth of the papacy. The prophecy says in Dan 7:8: ". . . There came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots . . ." The most serious hindrances came from three Arian kingdoms, Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Vandals; but these were finally subdued. The last was liquidated in the year A.D. 538 by the conquest of Rome by Belisarius.

Historian George Finlay says: "With the conquest of Rome by Belisarius . . . commences the history of the Middle Ages." *Greece under the Romans*, p. 295. And Historian Schaff tells us: "Vigilius . . . ascended the papal chair (538 A.D.) under the military protection of Belisarius." *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 3, p. 327.

Since the papacy became supreme in the year A.D. 538, with no one questioning its authority, we add 1260 years to 538 A.D. and are brought to the fateful year of 1798 when the historic deadly wound was given to the papacy by Napoleon Bonaparte, a wound to its prestige and power from which it did not fully recover until 1929. On another night we will discuss the remarkable healing of this papal wound.

Now let us go back to the matter of changing of times and laws. The Douay, or Catholic Version of the Bible, translates this verse even more accurately and graphically than the King James Version. It says: ". . . He shall dare to change times and the law." Has the papacy done this?

Yes, dear Friends, while Sunday observance was first practiced in a few isolated meetings in the year A.D. 140, over one hundred years after the ascension of Jesus, there was a steady growth in this apostasy from the true Sabbath until the growing Roman Church officially sanctioned the substitution of the first day for the seventh day as the Sabbath. Ever since, she has boasted that the change is a unique MARK of her authority in religious matters.

Notice this quotation from the official revised *Baltimore Catechism No. 2*, printed by order of Francis J. Spellman in 1941:

"Ques. What is the second commandment?

Ans. The second commandment of God is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." p. 84.

Please note that the commandment concerning images is left out of the ten commandments by the papacy, and the third commandment of the ten

listed by God in Exodus 20, is the second in Catholic catechisms.

On page 85 of this catechism it says:

"Ques. What are we commanded by the third commandment?

Ans. By the third commandment we are commanded to worship God in a special manner on Sunday, the Lord's day."

Once again let me point out the fourth specific commandment as recorded in Ex. 20:8-11, enjoins the seventh day of the week, Saturday, to be observed as the Sabbath of our Lord.

Among the many statements that I might quote, let me share this one from a "Catholic Universe Bulletin," Aug. 14, 1942: "The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her Founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant, claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday."

Dear Friends, do you not see why God gave this great prophecy to Daniel? He intends to bring us face to face with the truth regarding the origin of the popular observance of the first day of the week, and He kindly urges men and women who love and honor Him to return to the keeping of His true Sabbath. The Scriptures declare that the ten commandment law is an essential guide to Christians.

Please note James 2:8, 9: "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors." We can be certain that this refers to the ten commandment law.

Now let us read verses 10-12: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." Specific reference is made to two examples, and then it says that man shall be judged by this PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY. So this plainly tells us to which law the text refers. It could refer to no other than the ten commandments spoken by God at Sinai.

Please don't let anyone tell you that God's law is a yoke of bondage. It is only bondage to the man who intends to disobey. There is a law in this city which prohibits the stealing of automobiles. That law is not a yoke of bondage to anyone here at this meeting tonight because no one here intends to steal an automobile. The law is a yoke of bondage to the man who plans to disobey it. To you it is a LAW OF LIBERTY, protecting and blessing you.

Now notice that the text reveals: "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Jas. 2:10. You ask: "Does this mean that the man who breaks just ONE of these commandments is as bad as the man who breaks all ten?" No, Friends, I believe there are degrees of guilt in God's sight, but may I illustrate the point?

Think of a lamp suspended from a ceiling by a chain of ten links. How many of those links would we need to cut before the lamp would fall? Just ONE, you say. Yes, the chain is broken as surely by cutting one as by cutting ten. Do you see? The Lord here points out the seriousness of disobedience to any one of His commandments.

Now, Friends, do not think of the past. The Lord understands your heart and cares for the days when you did not understand the full light of His Word in this or any other Scripture truth. He accepts the past if we have been walking in all the light that we have known. NOW He says: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Jas. 4:17.

Perhaps I might illustrate it this way: Suppose that a man's father dies leaving him with a dry goods store. The father had operated the store for many years. He had a yard stick that was attached to the counter to measure the goods that he sold. It had been used all the years that he had been in business.

Shortly after the son had taken over the father's business a woman returns the material she has bought, declaring that the measurement is not right. The young man immediately informs this lady that it has to be right for he measured it with the yard stick on the counter that his father had used for many, many years. The woman still insists that the measurement is not correct, and asks that another yardstick be brought to test it.

The young man is upset to think that anyone would question the yardstick that his father had used for so long. He finally agrees to the arrangement and gets another yardstick. He measures the material and, much to his chagrin, he discovers that the yard stick that his father had used is short almost an inch. Now his father was an honest man, and he did not realize that he was giving a short measure to his customers. He had used that yard stick, though it wasn't right, for many years. Now, what is his son to do?

He might declare that the yardstick had been used by his father for many years and if it was good enough for his father, it was good enough for him and go on using it. However, if he did this, he would be a dishonest man. He would be cheating people because he knew better, even though his father did not. Therefore, the only thing he could do would be to take out the yard stick that his father used and replace it with a new one, and from then on do what was right.

The same thing applies to our religious practices, Friends. Although our parents and grandparents may have honestly followed a certain course in religious matters, if we are shown by God in His Word that that course is not in harmony with the will of God, then we must be willing to do what God wants us to do. It is when we know better, when we understand His truth, that God expects us to obey.

But someone says: I am helpless to keep God's law as it should be kept. Yes, Friends, we all are. God's will can only be obeyed and received into the life when we surrender to His power. Only as we cooperate with Him in obedience does our Lord give us the strength to obey. He also gives

us divine aid in solving the problems which may be standing in the way of obedience. Jesus and His power is the only answer.

"I've tried in vain a thousand ways,
My fears to quell, my hopes to raise;
But what I need, the Bible says,
IS EVER ONLY JESUS.

"My soul is night, my heart is steel,
I cannot see, I cannot feel;

For light, for life, I must appeal
IN SIMPLE FAITH TO JESUS.

"He died, He lives, He reigns, He pleads;
There's love in all His words and deeds;
There's all a guilty sinner needs,
FOREVERMORE IN JESUS."

May God help every one of us to cooperate
with Jesus on this vital matter of obedience.