

DANIEL 7-8

DANIEL'S VISIONS

Chapter 7 The Four Beasts

Summary: Daniel dreams of 4 beasts (1-8), representing 4 gentile empires. **The lion** (v. 4) is Babylon (the man is Nebuchadnezzar). **The bear** (v. 5) is the Medo-Persian empire, which conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. The 3 ribs are empires it defeated (Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt). **The leopard** (v. 6) is Greece, under Alexander the Great, which defeated the Persians in 331 B.C. The 4 heads are his 4 generals, who divided the kingdom after his death in 323 B.C. **The terrible beast** (v. 7) is the Roman empire, extending to the latter days, and broken down into 10 separate kingdoms. The little horn is the AntiChrist, who will defeat 3 of the 10 kingdoms [read Rev. 13:1-2]. The Ancient of Days (God) (9-12) will judge the AntiChrist and give the everlasting kingdom to Jesus Christ (13-14). The interpretation is given (15-28).

Lesson: *To avoid judgment, give your personal kingdom to Jesus Christ.*

Chapter 8 The Ram And The Goat

Summary: This vision concerns the nation of Israel under the Greek empire. The vision is given (1-14), and then its interpretation (15-27). The ram is Media and Persia (20). The male goat is Greece (21). The large horn is Alexander the Great (21). The four horns (22) are his generals, Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus, and Seleucus (who was given Syria, Israel, and Mesopotamia). From the Seleucid line would come a fierce king (23-25), Antiochus IV Epiphanes. He would desecrate Jerusalem's people, temple, and treasury. He ordered idolatry and unclean animal sacrifices in the temple on 168 B.C. This prevailed for 2,300 days until Jewish patriot Judas Maccabeus rededicated and cleansed the temple on 12/25/165 B.C. Verses 17-26 speak also of the future Antichrist.

Lesson: *God knows the future; put your trust in Him.*