

## **The Book of Daniel**

### **The First Vision of Daniel (II)**

#### **Daniel 7**

#### **1. The Great Sea (v.2)**

A. Some Relevant Scriptures: Num. 34:6; Josh. 1:4; Ezek. 47:13-20; Isa. 17:12-13; 57:20; Rev. 13:1, 11.

#### **B. Possible Meanings**

- I. The Mediterranean Sea
- II. Sinful humanity in general

#### **C. Pastor's Comments:**

Verse 3 indicates that the beasts (i.e. kingdoms of men) will arise out of the sea. While Greece and Rome are across the sea to the west and could be said to have 'come up from the sea', Babylon is to the east of Israel. It seems best to see that while "the great sea" could refer to the Mediterranean Sea, it is better to see it as a reference to humanity in general so as to say, "out of the mass of sinful humanity will arise these four beastly kings and their kingdoms..."

#### **2. The Four Beasts (vs.3-7, 12, 17)**

A. Some Relevant Scriptures: Dan. 2:37-38; 7:6; 8:5-8, 20-22; 11:3-4; Rev. 13:1ff

#### **B. Possible Meanings**

- I. Biblical Supernaturalists: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman
- II. Biblical Anti-Supernaturalists: Babylonian, Median, Persian, Greek

#### **C. Pastor's Comments:**

Because of the interrelatedness of the prophecies of Daniel along with the specific identities given to them in Daniel, it is best to see these as the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman empires.

#### **3. The Fourth Beast and the Little Horn (vs.8, 11, 19-26)**

A. Some Relevant Scriptures: Dan 2:44-45; 8:9; Rev. 1:1; 13:1-6

#### **B. Possible Meanings**

Various interpretations have been given for this beast and the horn. Two of the prominent interpretations are of Antiochus Epiphanes and the final anti-christ.

#### **C. Pastor's Comments:**

The little horn of this chapter is the same person described in connection with the beast and the dragon in Revelation (Rev. 13:5) and referred to as the anti-christ. He is distinct from the individual noted in Daniel's next vision (Dan.8:9) who is Antiochus Epiphanes. He was a type, a foreshadowing, of the climactic figure and his actions who is still yet to come in the future.

#### **4. The Ancient of Days (vs.9-10)**

A. Some Relevant Scriptures: Isa. 1:18; Rev. 1:14; 20:4, 11-15

#### **B. Pastor's Comments:**

The primary purpose of this image is to clearly show God as being present in power, splendor, and might far surpassing that of any of the kingdoms as evidenced by His holding court to determine what should happen to the other kingdom and then utterly annihilating them when the judgment is passed down.

#### **5. The Son of Man (vs.13-14)**

A. Some Relevant Scriptures: Isa. 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Ezek 34:23-24; Matt 16:27-28; 19:28; 24:30; 25:31; 28:18; 1 Cor 15: 28; Phil 2:9-11; Rev. 19:1ff; 20:4-6

B. Pastor's Comments: This is the one of the passages to which Jesus referred when making profession of His identity to the high priest. During His ministry, He most often referred to Himself with this title.