

**7:15-18 – Interpretation of the 4 Beasts**

**Dan.7:15-18** “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So, he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’

Daniel asked, “What does the dream mean?” Who are the saints that receive the kingdom? When Christ returns, believing Jews finally enjoy the kingdom that God promised to Israel. Saints (righteous holy ones) *in general* include the saved of all ages. Jude 14; 2 Thes.1:10 New Testament saints are sinners declared righteous due to their faith in Christ. Rom.1:7 The same Greek word *hagios* is used for Old Testament believers. Matt.27:52 *Hagios* is also used in reference to those who are saved during the tribulation. Rev.13:7

The 5th kingdom will exist for the *benefit* of the saints, not their persecution. Saints will *enjoy* Christ’s reign; it will be the opposite of evil and corrupt Gentile kingdoms. The existence of persecution is conclusive proof that we are not living in the 5th kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ will establish this kingdom at His 2nd Coming. Dan 2:34, 44-45

**7:19-22 – Daniel Requests Interpretation of the 4th Beast**

**Dan.7:19-22** “I desired to know the truth about the 4th beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron & claws of bronze, which devoured & broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, & about the 10 horns that were on its head, & the other horn that came up and before which 3 of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, & that seemed greater than its companions. As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, & judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

Daniel asked, “Who is the terrifying 4th beast? It is Satan's blasphemous son, the Antichrist. Satan doesn’t like to be revealed. When someone exposes him, he hides from the light. Satan attacks those who shine light on his deceitful schemes. John 3:19-21 Once Daniel realized what he had exposed, he stopped asking questions and turned pale.

3 satanic persons: the dragon Rev.12:1-9, beast from sea 13:1, beast from earth 13:11.

The 2 beasts: a political leader (Antichrist) and a religious leader (false prophet).

Unholy trinity: Satan is the father of lies. John 8:44 God is the Father of truth. John 1:17,14:6

Antichrist denies the Father. 1 John 2:22 Christ obeys the Father. 1 John 2:3-6

The false prophet is the executioner Rev.13:14-15; Holy Spirit is the Comforter. John 14:16

**7:23-25 – Interpretation of the Vision of the 4th Beast:** “Thus he said: ‘As for the 4th beast, there shall be a 4th kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms. It shall devour the whole earth, trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the 10 horns, out of this kingdom 10 kings shall arise. Another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones and shall put down 3 kings. He shall speak words against the Most High and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times & the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

The 10 horns are 10 kings reigning at the same time (3 are subdued by the little horn).

Critics have proposed countless theories, attempting to find these 10 kings in history. But no time period in the empires of Greece or Rome corresponds to this condition.

Revelation was written about 95 AD, long after the fall of the Grecian empire. The 10 kings relate to the Roman Empire, not in the past, but revived in its final form. The 10 kings will rule at the end of the age – *in the future*. Rev.13:1, 17:12  
John wrote Revelation about the *future*, 250+ years after Antiochus died.  
Both Daniel and John foresaw that the Roman Empire would form 10 kingdoms.

Daniel and John were given the same visions and prophecies, 6 centuries apart. Revelation 13 is the companion chapter to Daniel 7, adding more details. Rev.13:5  
When John wrote Revelation, many of Daniel's prophecies had already come to pass. In Rev.13:2, John mentions the beasts leopard-bear-lion in reverse order from Dan.7:4-6. Daniel was looking *forward* at the 1st 3 empires, while John was looking *backward*.

### **7:26-28 – Destruction of the 4th Empire / Establishment of the Eternal Kingdom**

**Dan.7:26-28** But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.' "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."

M.R. DeHaan said "But" in 7:26 is the most important and encouraging word in Daniel 7. The 4th beast will be judged, ending Satan's counterfeit king and kingdom. This beast will be "completely destroyed forever" – there is a double meaning here. The beast and false prophet still exist 1000 years later when Satan joins them. Rev.19:20 "Destroyed forever" has *continuing action*. Satan's fate is *eternal torment*. Rev.20:7,10

The 5th kingdom cannot *begin* with the new heavens & new earth. Rev.21-22  
Satan has never yet in history been bound for 1000 years or cast into fire. Rev.20:2, 10  
The first resurrection (tribulation martyrs) has never occurred in history. Rev.20:4-5  
No group of believers has yet reigned with Christ for 1000 years.  
The Great White Throne judgment of the dead has not yet happened. Rev.20:11-15

Dan.7:23-27 requires that the 5th kingdom be sovereign, and literal like the other 4. Since nothing in history fits this description, it must be fulfilled *in the future*.  
We long for this every time we say the Lord's prayer "Thy kingdom come". Matt.6:10

The *Son of man will rule* over the kingdom forever from the throne of David in Jerusalem. See Dan.7:13-14; 2 Sam.7:8-17; Zech.14:4-11, 16-17; Luke 1:31-33; Rev.20:1-4  
History will not continue forever in its present course. God controls the course.  
Believers who reverence God have nothing to fear. Prov.9:10; Psalm 23:4, 46:1-2, 9-10

The vision was disturbing to Daniel, but it is one of the greatest chapters in Scripture. 2 years later, he learned more details about the 2nd & 3rd empires in his chapter 8 vision. The conclusion in Dan.7:27 contains a promise from God of hope and comfort. The final kingdom will *never end*, and *all* who dwell in it will *serve God, not Satan*.