

Extra Notes

Daniel 1-6: Court tales; written for both believers and unbelievers; truth communicated with little to no offense

Daniel 7-12: Four visions (7, 8, 9, 10-12); written for the encouragement of believers; reveals the reality of earthly kingdoms, the certainty of their fall, and the everlasting kingdom of God for believers

Apocalypse – Gr. *Apokalypsis*

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation (*apokalypsis*) of Jesus Christ

Apokalypsis: unveiling; revelation

Symbolism is important – coded language

Themes include judgment and salvation, and the sovereignty and supremacy of God for the good of his people.

The first beast: Almost certainly Babylon; Nebuchadnezzar compared to a lion in Jeremiah (4:7; 50:17; the king, nation, or armies of Babylon compared to an eagle in Jeremiah (4:13), Ezekiel (17:3), Habakkuk (1:8), and Lamentations (4:19); Wings add speed to the ferocious lion; Wings torn off – Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation?

The second beast: Medo-Persian Empire; The bear raised up on one side indicates Persia's ascendancy over the Medes; Three ribs in its mouth could indicate three major conquests of Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt – but we are not sure; it is symbolic of limited conquest; Who commands the beast to arise and devour much flesh? God! It prepares the world for the Messiah. Also, see Revelation 6:7-8

The third beast: The Greek empire – Alexander the Great, who, in one decade, conquered more territory than any previous empire in the Near East; Four heads likely represents Alexander's desire to conquer in all directions;

After his death, the empire was divided into four parts; First to be given dominion – a subsequent ruler, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, will wickedly persecute Jews; “These rulers are not God’s agents, but, rather, servants of God to align the world for God to bring his kingdom of salvation and grace.”
Andrew Steinmann

The fourth beast: Different from all the rest – 10 horns signify great power; Indiscriminately destructive (as Rome was); The little horn was arrogant – this beast resembles the first beast of Revelation 13:1 – the Antichrist; The only beast said to make war against God and his people (Daniel 7:25)

Israel’s Captivity

- 70 years, as prophesied by Jeremiah (25:8-14)
- Explanation given in 2 Chronicles 36:20-21 – the people had failed to keep the Sabbath year, 70 times
- Requirement to keep the Sabbath year – Leviticus 25:1-7
- Failure to keep the Sabbath year was a failure to trust God with finances, but God had promised to provide during the year of no planting and reaping