

# The Book of Daniel

**“Daniel, close up the book and seal it. These things will happen at the time of the end.”** Daniel, Chapter 12, Verse 4, NCV

## Chapter 7 Daniel's First Vision \*

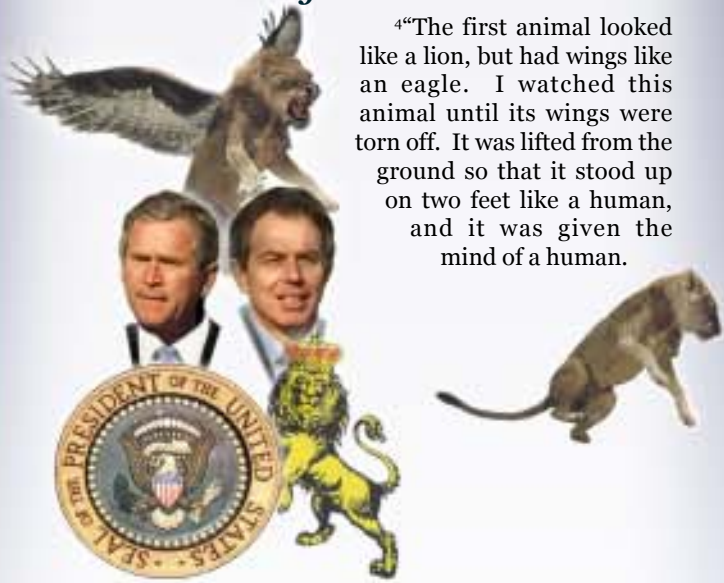
<sup>1</sup>In Belshazzar's first year as king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream. He saw visions as he was lying on his bed, and he wrote down what he had dreamed. <sup>2</sup>Daniel said: "I saw my vision at night. In the vision the wind was blowing from all four directions, which made the sea very rough.

The angel said, "The waters that you saw... are peoples, races, nations and languages."  
Book of Revelation, Chapter 17, Verse 15, NCV

<sup>3</sup>"I saw four huge animals come up from the sea, and each animal was different from the others.

### A "Lion King" To Be Humbled?

<sup>4</sup>"The first animal looked like a lion, but had wings like an eagle. I watched this animal until its wings were torn off. It was lifted from the ground so that it stood up on two feet like a human, and it was given the mind of a human.



### Then a Bear Stirs

<sup>5</sup>"Then I saw a second animal before me that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat all the meat you want!'



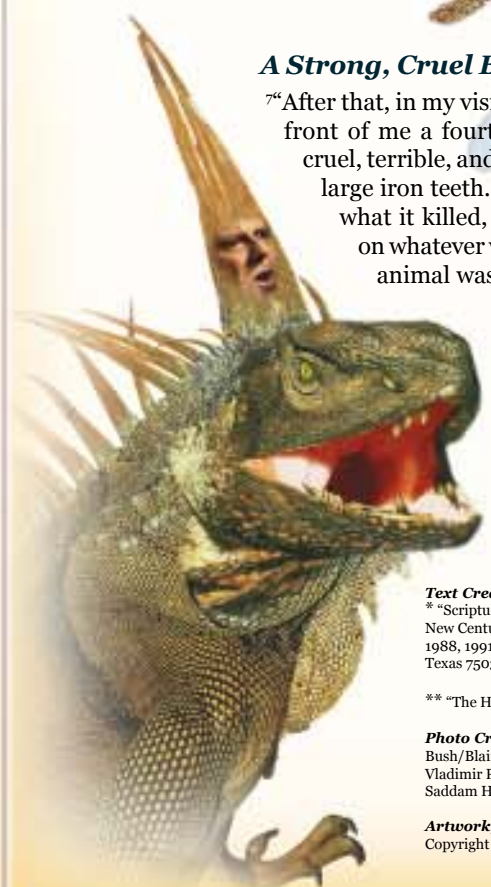
### Will "Asian Tigers" Quickly Unite?

<sup>6</sup>"After that, I looked, and there before me was another animal. This animal looked like a leopard with four wings on its back that looked like a bird's wings. This animal had four heads and was given power to rule.



### A Strong, Cruel Beast Appears

<sup>7</sup>"After that, in my vision at night I saw in front of me a fourth animal that was cruel, terrible, and very strong. It had large iron teeth. It crushed and ate what it killed, and then it walked on whatever was left. This fourth animal was different from any animal I had seen before, and it had ten horns.



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### The Boastful Little Horn

<sup>8</sup>"While I was thinking about the horns, another horn grew up among them. It was a little horn with eyes like a human's eyes. It also had a mouth, and the mouth was bragging. The little horn pulled out three of the other horns.



<sup>9</sup>"As I looked, thrones were put in their places, and God, who has been alive forever, sat on his throne. His clothes were white like snow, and the hair on his head was white like wool. His throne was made from fire, and the wheels of his throne were blazing with fire. <sup>10</sup>A river of fire was flowing from in front of him. Many thousands of angels were serving him, and millions of angels stood before him. Court was ready to begin, and the books were opened.

<sup>11</sup>"I kept on looking because the little horn was bragging. I kept watching until finally the fourth animal was killed. Its body was destroyed, and it was thrown into the burning fire. <sup>12</sup>(The power and rule of the other animals had been taken from them, but they were permitted to live for a certain period of time.)

<sup>13</sup>"In my vision at night I saw in front of me someone who looked like a human being coming on the clouds in the sky.

He came near God, who has been alive forever, and he was led to God. <sup>14</sup>He was given authority, glory, and the strength of a king. People of every tribe, nation, and language will serve him. His rule will last forever, and his kingdom will never be destroyed.

### Daniel's Vision Interpreted

<sup>15</sup>"I, Daniel, was worried. The visions that went through my mind frightened me. <sup>16</sup>I came near one of those standing there and asked what all this meant. So he told me and explained to me what these things meant: <sup>17</sup>"The four great animals are four kingdoms that will come from the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the holy people who belong to the Most High God will receive the power to rule and will have the power to rule forever, from now on."

<sup>19</sup>"Then I wanted to know what the fourth animal meant, because it was different from all the others. It was very terrible and had iron teeth and bronze claws. It was the animal that crushed and ate what it killed and then walked on whatever was left.



<sup>20</sup>"I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the little horn that grew there. It had pulled out three of the other ten horns and looked greater than the others. It had eyes and a mouth that kept bragging. <sup>21</sup>As I watched, the little horn began making war against God's holy people and was defeating them <sup>22</sup>until God, who has been alive forever, came. He judged in favor of the holy people who belong to the Most High God; then the time came for them to receive the power to rule.

### A "New World Order" Coming?

<sup>23</sup>"And he explained this to me: "The fourth animal is a fourth kingdom that will come on the earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will destroy people all over the world. It will walk on and crush the whole earth. <sup>24</sup>The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this fourth kingdom. After those ten kings are gone, another king will come. He will be different from the kings who ruled before him, and he will defeat three of the other kings. <sup>25</sup>This king will speak against the Most High God, and he will hurt and kill God's holy people. He will try to change times and laws that have already been set. The holy people that belong to God will be in that king's power for three and one-half years.

### A Better World Order Promised!

<sup>26</sup>"But the court will decide what should happen. The power of the king will be taken away, and his kingdom will be completely destroyed. <sup>27</sup>Then the holy people who belong to the Most High God will have the power to rule. They will rule over all the kingdoms under heaven with power and greatness, and their power to rule will last forever. People from all the other kingdoms will respect and serve them."

<sup>28</sup>"That was the end of the dream. I, Daniel, was very afraid. My face became white from fear, but I kept everything to myself."

## Chapter 8 Daniel's Second Vision, Part 1 \*\*

<sup>1</sup>"In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after (like) that which appeared unto me at the first. <sup>2</sup>And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.

### Pushing, Pushing, Pushing

<sup>3</sup>"Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. <sup>4</sup>I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.



### Fierce Anger From the West

<sup>5</sup>"And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

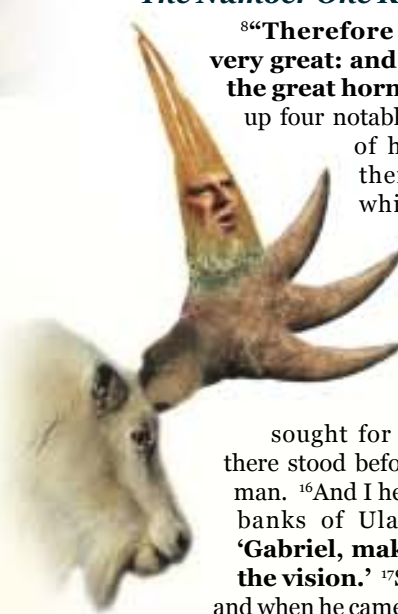


<sup>6</sup>"And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. <sup>7</sup>And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.



### The Number One King Is Broken

<sup>8</sup>"Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. <sup>9</sup>And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. . .



<sup>15</sup>"And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. <sup>16</sup>And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, 'Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.' <sup>17</sup>So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, 'Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.' <sup>18</sup>Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. <sup>19</sup>And he said, 'Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.

### The Beginning of the End?

<sup>20</sup>"The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. <sup>21</sup>And the rough goat is the king of Grecia (nations): and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. <sup>22</sup>"Now that being broken . . ."



To Be Continued

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** More than an author, Charles Wheeling is a widely acclaimed speaker who, for more than twenty years, has addressed hundreds of audiences across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Thousands have been captivated by Mr. Wheeling's seminars on global social, political and economic developments in the light of ancient Hebrew prophecy. As early as 1980, he attracted the attention of listeners around the world, warning of a predicted confrontation, with fearful consequences, between the United States as a principal, and Iraq and Iran. Today, these predictions appear imminent and ominous.

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Charles Wheeling



# Apocalypse Now?

## The Stage May Be Set for an Ancient Prophecy to Come True

About 605 B.C., Babylon was the world's Superpower. The legendary Nebuchadnezzar, (*Hanging Gardens of Babylon fame*), was General turned King, and the driving force behind Babylonian imperialism. Nebuchadnezzar had visions of grandeur and believed he was destined to rule the world. Egypt was Superpower number two and the tiny kingdom of Judea (modern Israel and Palestine) stood between these warring giants. Judea was trampled.

On his march toward Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar's armies besieged Judea and its capitol city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem's walls were breached and the city was completely destroyed. Tragically, King Solomon's magnificent temple, built to the glory of *Yahweh*, and standing for 300 years, was also destroyed. Thousands of Hebrew captives with the treasures of their Great Temple were taken to Babylon where they were to remain in exile for 70 years. This happened in fulfillment of a prophecy by Jeremiah, an important Jewish prophet. Jeremiah had predicted a coming Babylonian scourge and a 70-year captivity.<sup>1</sup>

A youth named Daniel was among the Hebrew captives taken from Jerusalem to Babylon. In Babylon, through propitious circumstance, Daniel would become a respected *Hebrew Seer*, an "interpreter of dreams." After correctly interpreting one of the king's troubling dreams, Daniel became a trusted advisor to King Nebuchadnezzar and in time, an important figure in Babylonian government, serving a succession of kings.

In his later years, Daniel claimed to have received at least four visions<sup>2</sup> from his Hebrew God, visions his angelic instructors told him, related to "the time of the end." At the close of his book, the mightiest of Daniel's angelic visitants commanded him to "*shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end.*"

Daniel's book and mysterious, "sealed visions" have long held a place in Judeo-Christian lore. Today the *Book of Daniel* is part of every Hebrew, Christian and Orthodox Bible and is viewed generally as an *apocalyptic, eschatological, "end of the world" writing*.

A well known Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus (A.D. 37–c. 100), recorded attempts by Hebrew interpreters to decipher and apply Daniel's visions to events that occurred more than 2,000 years ago.<sup>3</sup> Jesus, in the New Testament, recognized "Daniel the prophet," and quoted from Daniel's visions in an "end of the world" context.<sup>4</sup>

Daniel's visions appear to repeat and reinforce one another, each vision introducing fresh prophetic information by adding or changing "cartoonish" characters. But the theme and scenarios played out in his visions are always the same—a *cataclysmic, cosmic/global, political/social, supernatural, end-of-the-world scenario*.

Recent events in America and growing unrest in the Middle East have sparked renewed interest in Daniel's book, particularly his first two visions. In one vision, Daniel is shown *Media* and *Persia* (modern Iraq and Iran) in a "time of the end" context. In 1980, Saddam Hussein's Iraq attacked Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran. For eight years (1980–1988), Saddam's brutal war with Iran seesawed back and forth over the exact ground Daniel described in his second vision. In

1988, then U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, ordered a show of American naval force in the Persian Gulf and a brief,

uneasy peace in the region followed. Two years later, in 1990, Saddam's Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait. Early in 1991, United Nations Coalition Forces in *Operation Desert Storm* drove Iraqi forces into full retreat.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, whether directly or indirectly involving Saddam and Iraq, have never-the-less focused U.S. and world attention on a very troubled part of the world. Could this be the time that Daniel's long-sealed visions of the end times will come true? Daniel's prophecies have never seemed more relevant. Will the United States, with her British ally, deal with Saddam and Iraq (*old Media*), and then be forced to reckon with an even greater threat: Iran (*old Persia*)?

In his first vision, Daniel sees a *Lion and Eagle Coalition* suffer stinging, humiliating defeat. In his second vision, a *Notable Horn*, said to represent the *Number One King of the Rough Goat power from the West*, is likewise shattered.

Daniel's visions of the end times—an omen of evil to come for Western powers? Does the looming Mid-East war portend a pyrrhic victory for a Western coalition, particularly the United States?

<sup>1</sup> Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 25, Verses 8-13

<sup>2</sup> Book of Daniel, Chapters 7-12

<sup>3</sup> The Works of Josephus, Book 10, Chapter 11, Section 7

<sup>4</sup> Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 24, Verses 14-21

