

# The Prophetic Flow Of History

## The Lion, The Bear & The Leopard

### The Purpose of Prophecy

Prophecy reveals the play counter play in the great controversy between Christ and antichrist. Daniel and Revelation reveal as no other, the principles of the two kingdoms, that of Christ's and Satan's. It assures us of the victorious end. The things that were foretold and have come to pass assure us that the things that are yet to unfold will also come to pass. It reveals to us where Christ is in His ministry to save the world from sin that we might pray accordingly and help bring it to pass.

### The Historicist View of Interpretation

The historicist view of interpretation simply means that the prophecies follow a continual flow of history starting at the time of the prophet and continuing to the time of the everlasting kingdom being set up. This is true of the four visions we find in Daniel. Therefore, no matter what symbol in any vision we are looking at, we can know where we are in the scope of history. There are no gaps of time between symbols representing the reigning powers. Here's an example:

Babylon	605 B.C.—539 B.C.
Medo-Persia	539 B.C.—331 B.C.
Greece	331 B.C.—168 B.C.
Pagan Rome	168 B.C.—476 A.D.
Divided Rome	476 A.D.—538 A.D.
Church/State Union	538 A.D.—1798 A.D.

### The Structure of Daniel

This chapter dates approximately 553 B. C. Daniel is about 70 years old.

You will notice that this vision takes place during the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon. The chapters in the book of Daniel are not placed in the proper order, which becomes obvious just by looking at the first verses in some of these chapters. The true order is as follows.

### Daniel 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12

Daniel 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar

Daniel 8:1 In the third year of Belshazzar

Daniel 5 Judgment comes to Belshazzar and Babylon, which is given to the Medes & Persians.

Daniel 6 Darius the Mede is king

Daniel 9:1 In the first year of Darius the Mede

Daniel 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia

Daniel 11:2 There shall stand up yet three kings in Persia (after Cyrus), Cambyses, False Smerdis, & Darius 1

### Overview of Daniel

Daniel 1 is an introductory chapter.

Daniel 2 & 7 relate to each other and are parallel visions. They begin with the time when the prophet Daniel receives the vision and ends with the everlasting kingdom of God set up.

Daniel 3 & 6 relate to each other in that they are historical events which typify the prophetic fulfillment of the religious liberty issue found in Revelation 13.

Daniel 4 & 5 relate to each other. Daniel 4 deals with judgment of the king, while Daniel 5 deals with the judgment of the kingdom.

Daniel 8 begins with the kingdom of the Medes and Persians and we don't see the kingdom of God set up until Daniel 12:3.

Here is an illustration to help you remember how Daniel Chapters 1-7 relate to each other.



***Daniel 2 & 7 Parallel Each Other***

Interpretation	Daniel 2	Daniel 7
Babylon	Head of gold 2:37, 38	Lion with eagle feathers 7:4
Medo-Persia	Breast & arms of silver 2:39	Bear raised up on one side 7:5
Greece	Belly & thighs of brass 2:39	Leopard with wings 7:6
Pagan Rome	Legs of iron 2:40	Dragon with iron teeth 7:7,19, 23
Divided Rome	Two legs 2:40	Ten horns of the dragon 7:7, 8, 20, 24
Church/State Union	Iron & clay 2:42, 43	Little horn on the dragon 7:8, 11, 20, 21, 24-26
Judgment	Stone cut out of mountain 2:34, 35, 44, 45	Judgment 7:9, 10, 13, 14, 22, 26
Everlasting Kingdom	stone becomes great mountain 2:34, 35, 44	Everlasting Kingdom 14, 18,22, 27

## **Central Themes Of Daniel Seven**

The great controversy between Christ & antichrist  
The judgment given in favor of the saints  
The judgment of the antichrist  
God's eternal kingdom set up

## **Daniel Seven Divided into Four Sections**

### **Vision:**

Daniel 7:1-14 The full vision in its chronological sequence ending with the everlasting kingdom.

### **Explanation:**

Daniel 7:15-18 Daniel seeks for the meaning and an angel briefly explains, again ending with the everlasting kingdom.

### **Inquiry:**

Daniel 7:19-22 Daniel is troubled and inquires about the 4th beast, ten horns & the little horn.

### **Explanation:**

Daniel 7:23-27 The angel provides the final and fullest explanation of the 4th beast, the ten horns, the little horn and again, ends with the everlasting kingdom.

In order to correctly interpret Daniel 7, one must realize that it is not written in a linear fashion but in cycles.

## **The Time Of The Judgment**

In each section, it can be seen that the judgment follows the period of the little horn and that it comes before the everlasting kingdom is set up. We will discover that the judgment begins sometime after the end of the 1260 year reign of the antichrist in 1798 and before the 2nd coming of Christ.

## **The Fourth Kingdom Has Four Periods of Existence**

1. The dragon
2. The ten horns
3. The little horn which continues till the judgment
4. The little horn reemerges but will be finally destroyed when God's kingdom is set up

We also see this portrayed in Daniel 2 with the iron which extends till the everlasting kingdom of Christ is set up. Again we see two symbols representing the four phases of the fourth kingdom, the iron legs, the toes and feet of iron and clay. There are two phases represented by the iron legs, and two phases represented by the toes and feet of iron and clay. In each of the visions of Daniel, we will find this fourth kingdom is dwelt on more than the first three kingdoms and as we shall see it most closely represents the kingdom principles of Satan.

## **The Judgment Has Three Distinct Phases**

1. Investigative: The books are opened, Daniel 7:9, 10
2. Verdict or sentence: Against the little horn and in favor of the saints, Daniel 7:22
3. Executive: Time comes when the kingdom is lost to the little horn and the saints possess the everlasting kingdom, Daniel 7:22, 27

Daniel 7 speaks of when "the judgment was set, and the books were opened", announcing the beginning of the investigative judgment. Daniel 12:1 speaks of the end of the investigative judgment when Christ stands up to reign as King of Kings.

Daniel 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. 10) A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

The investigative judgment is portrayed many times in the Bible. The Lord would have us know and understand His fairness in the judgment. How fair would it be if there was a judgment and an execution without an investigation? In the Garden of Eden we find God asking Adam, "Hast thou eaten of the tree?" (Genesis 3:11)? In the story of Cain and Abel, God asks Cain "Where is Abel thy brother" (Genesis 4:9)? Before executing judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah, the Lord spoke saying, "I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it" (Genesis 18:21). The New Testament parable speaks of an investigation. "Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment" (Matthew 22:12)? Daniel 5 gives the account of Babylon being "weighed in the balances and found wanting" (Daniel 5:27). God is all knowing and needs not to investigate, therefore it suggests that it is not for Him but for us. Will we find His judgments just and true when His "judgments are made manifest"?

Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

It is crucial to have a correct understanding of the three phases of the judgment for when Christ returns, He comes with His reward to give to everyone according as his work shall be. Just as it was in the days of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah, there is no second chance to be saved.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13) I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

In order to vindicate God's character of mercy and justice which has been maligned by Satan, the ultimate antichrist, God must be seen to be righteous in His judgments.

## Verse By Verse Study

### Daniel 7:1

Daniel 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Belshazzar was the grandson of King Nebuchadnezzar. This first vision of Daniel takes place shortly before the fall of Babylon recorded in Daniel 5.

### Daniel 7:2

Daniel 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

**Winds: whirlwind or political strife:**

Jeremiah 25:31 A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. 32) Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. 33) And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

**Winds: enemies:**

Jeremiah 49:35 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might. 36) And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come. 37) For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies, and before them that seek their life: and I will bring evil upon them, even my fierce anger, saith the LORD; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them:

Winds are a symbol of strife. The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power.

Christ's kingdom principles are the opposite of those that rule the kingdoms of this world. Earthly governments prevail by physical force; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace. These kingdoms represent Satan's kingdom principles, but there is no force in God's kingdom principles.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

**Four winds: The four corners of the land or universal:**

Ezekiel 7:2 Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.

Ezekiel speaks of a sealing before the desolation, or the release of the winds.

Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Revelation 7 refers to this same sealing before the four winds of the four corners of the earth are let go.

Revelation 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2) And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3) Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4) And I heard the number of

them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

**Great sea: A multitude of many people make a noise like a noise of the seas:**

Isaiah 17:12 Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! 13) The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Isaiah 8:7 Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks:

Isaiah 60:5 Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

Waters represent multitudes.

Revelation 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Egypt is represented by a flood of waters.

Jeremiah 46:7 Who is this that cometh up as a flood, whose waters are moved as the rivers? 8) Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof.

**Daniel 7:3**

Daniel 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

**Four beasts = four kings or kingdoms:**

Daniel 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

Daniel 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

It's interesting to note that these beasts are beasts of prey rightly representing the characteristics of their kingdom principles of force. Christ is called "the Lion of the tribe of Juda", but it is not by force but by self lowering sacrifice that Christ, the "Lamb" wins the victory over Satan and the kingdoms of this world.

Revelation 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Christ came as a Lamb and as an example of banishing every carnal weapon and physical power in the overthrow of Satan's kingdom, well knowing that victory can only be gained by giving liberty to Satan and his followers to reveal the results of self exaltation and force.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

2Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Christ's desire is that we too might see the light and choose to follow His example in how to deal with our enemies.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Romans 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

There are those who do not know God that will pattern themselves after their misconception of Him.

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2) They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3) And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

#### **Daniel 7:4**

Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

#### **lion = Babylon**

Babylon is represented as the king of the beasts with eagle's wings, the king of the birds. In Daniel 2, Babylon was represented as gold, the king of the metals.

Ezekiel 17:3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch

of the cedar: ... 12) Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon;

Jeremiah 4:7 The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

Jeremiah 50:17 Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

Jeremiah 50:43 The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, and pangs as of a woman in travail. 44) Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan unto the habitation of the strong; but I will make them suddenly run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me?

The words of inspiration pictures the cruelty and greed of rulers instead of being protectors of men. Babylon became a proud and cruel oppressor revealing the secret of Babylon's fall and of many another kingdoms since the world began.

Ezekiel 34:3, 4. Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

### **Eagle's wings:**

Ezekiel, a contemporary of Daniel, wrote concerning Babylon, "a great eagle with great wings".

Ezekiel 17:3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar: ... 12) Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon;

Jeremiah, also a contemporary of Daniel, spoke of Babylon which was swifter than eagles.

Lamentations 4:19 Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

Habakkuk 1:6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs. 7) They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. 8) Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

### **Wings were plucked:**

Babylon ceased to conquer and the Medes and the Persians took it over.

### **Man's heart given to it:**

This describes the cowardice of Belshazzar (a lion with a man's heart).

### **Daniel 7:5**

Daniel 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

### **Bear = Media-Persia:**

Daniel 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28) PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

Isaiah 13:17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. ... 19) And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

### **Bear raised up on one side:**

The Medes and Persians are represented as the breasts and arms of silver in Daniel 2. Of the co-ruling kingdoms of the Medes and Persians, Persia was more powerful. Daniel 11:2 no longer mentions the Median kings but only refers to the Persian kings.

Daniel 11:1 Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him. 2) And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

### **Three ribs: The three provinces conquered by the Medes & Persians are as follows:**

1. Lydia (ancient Turkey) in 547 B.C.
2. Babylon in 539 B.C.
3. Egypt in 525 B.C.

In Daniel 8:4 we find the ram which represents Media-Persia coming from the west and conquering in three different directions, "westward, and northward, and southward", representing those three provinces listed above.

### **Daniel 7:6**

Daniel 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

### **Leopard=Greece**

Daniel 8:21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

## **Wings:**

The wings on the back of the leopard represent the rapidity with which this kingdom took over. It superseded the speed with which Babylon conquered. In the vision of Daniel 8, the symbol for Greece is an he-goat. It is said that it came from the west and it touched not the ground also referring to the speed in which it conquered.

## **Four Heads:**

Did the leopard have the four heads when it first began to rule? By looking at the next vision in Daniel 8 which repeats the succession of kingdoms while giving more details, we know that the four kings come up after the first king of Greece died.

Daniel 8:22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

“Not in his power” refers to Alexander having nothing to do with the generals that took over after his death. These four kings were not of Alexander’s posterity but four of his generals.

Daniel 11:3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. 4) And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

“He [Alexander] left not heir, and made no arrangements for carrying on the government. Once the uprisings of Greece in the Lamian war and of the Greeks in the far east were defeated, a struggle for power started among his generals in the shape of war between the satraps (territorial dynasts) and whatever central power aimed at general control; the battle of Ipsus in 301 definitely decided that the Graeco-Macedonian world could not be held together, and that world presently returned very much to the political shape it had before Alexander, though under different rulers and a different civilization. By 275 three dynasties, descended from three of his generals, were well established; the Seleucid’s ruled much of what had been the Persian empire in Asia, the Ptolomies ruled Egypt, and the Antigonids Macedonia. A fourth European dynasty, not connected with Alexander, the Attalids of Pergamum subsequently grew up in Asia Minor at Seleucid expense, and became great by the favor of Rome.” (W. W. Tarn, *Hellenistic Civilization*) (New York Meridian, 1971 p. 6)

## **Summary:**

As we contemplate the lessons to be learned from the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms, we can conclude by observation that only that which is bound up with Christ’s purposes, and expresses His character, and follows His kingdom principles of humility and liberty can endure. Those who rule with Satan’s kingdom principles of self exaltation and force shall perish, and will be followed with the setting up of God’s everlasting kingdom of love.

In the next study of Daniel 7, we will be focusing on the four phases of the fourth kingdom identified as the “dreadful and terrible beast and strong exceedingly”, the little horn, the judgment and God’s kingdom set up.

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