

Daniel, Chapter 7, Part 2 – The Beasts

Beasts that are part of God's creation

We are familiar with the lion, the bear, and the leopard described by Daniel from the natural world. They still live there today. Therefore, we can assume that the first three beasts appearing in the prophecy—rising from the Great Sea—are kingdoms that have not yet completely departed from God's natural order. Beasts living in the wild primarily use their strength in the struggle for survival or to secure a better position within their habitat. This is how lions, bears, and leopards behave. Strength, the power that flows from it, and the need to use that power are natural to them.

This applies to all kingdoms, both those of the past and those of today. The great powers that emerged during the Bronze Age¹ began to colonize many nations, races, tribes, and languages on both known and newly discovered continents and islands. At its peak, Great Britain controlled

¹ According to Daniel's interpretation of the prophetic dream about the great statue, the prophesied Bronze Age (not the archaeological one, but the biblical one) is a time when the human kingdom will be given dominion over the earth. Given the hardness of bronze, it is also a time of deteriorating human relations with God, which began with the Renaissance. Since the Thirty Years' War, the deterioration of the relationship between human (primarily Christian) governments and God and Christ has been accelerating.

35.5 million km². Russia extended its rule over a territory of more than 22.5 million km². From the 16th to the 20th century, predominantly Christian kingdoms controlled, militarily and economically, about 85% of the inhabited world.

In a prophetic dream about a great statue, God revealed that the defiance of human governments toward Him would grow. Therefore, as a preventive² measure, God sternly warned Nebuchadnezzar and his nobles to respect Him. He miraculously delivered Daniel's friends from the fiery furnace before the king and all the nobles (Dan. 3), and King Darius witnessed how God saved Daniel by closing the mouths of the hungry lions (Dan. 6). He demonstrated His power to Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, and Belshazzar (Dan. 5) and to all future rulers as a warning. He demonstrated His power most clearly to the king of Babylon when He stripped him of his power for seven years³ (Dan. 4:28–30) until he lost his pride. God restored his power when the king realized that the Most

² As a precaution, because neither God nor His Son, Jesus Christ, seeks to destroy humanity, but rather to save it (Ezekiel 18:23).

³ The story of the king of Babylon, who lost both his power and his human heart, conveys more than just the fact that seven years will pass before the king regains his human heart and acknowledges God's sovereignty over him. It also shows that God prefers to correct a person rather than put him to death.

High God has the power and the right to appoint and depose rulers. This extraordinary story serves as both a warning and an inspiration for today's rulers to treat the Creator with respect. Right at the beginning of the Babylonian era, God did much to dissuade rulers from the rebellion foretold in Psalm 2. Today, people act—both consciously and unconsciously—against the natural order. Yet they have no excuse (Rom. 1:20–21) that their Creator did not warn them of the consequences. Nevertheless, the relationship of rulers and governments to the Creator—and later to His Son, Jesus Christ—began to deteriorate gradually.

The first three beasts differ from the fourth

The world in the first third of the 21st century is completely different from what it was before World War I. It also changed significantly after World War II, following which humanity's separation from the natural order has been growing and accelerating, partly due to the influence of new technologies. These technologies make it possible to influence the minds of people all over the world simultaneously. There is much evidence to suggest that the goal of this influence, combined with many deliberately created problems, is to sever humanity from its Creator. A person who has been uprooted will then more readily accept the changes planned by the servants of God's adversary. These changes are intended to lead to the coming of the fourth beast. The first three beasts have one thing in common: they are still controllable. They can be changed like the lion,

act on higher instructions like the bear, and are given dominion like the leopard. **The fourth beast will appear as if out of nowhere. One might say it will come about through a coup (Dan. 7:8). It is clear from the prophecy that the fourth beast will simply seize the dominion over the earth that was given to the third beast.**

What is a world government?

Before we begin to consider the three beasts, we must explain what we mean by the term “world government.” To date, we have been experiencing a situation in which the world is more or less ruled by global national powers, such as the United States and, before it, England. This situation has existed since the time when the maritime powers of England, Spain, France, Portugal, the Netherlands, and other Christian (with the exception of the Ottoman Empire) European kingdoms with advanced seafaring capabilities began discovering previously unknown continents, islands, territories, peoples, tribes, races, and languages. By the 19th century, predominantly Christian governments already controlled most of the world (about 85%). But this is not a world government in the true sense of the word. The dominance of one or several European colonial powers does not constitute a world government. A world government is one formed by the voluntary transfer of sovereignty from national governments to a single supranational government, which will hold all the powers of a sovereign government over all nations. Today, the EU most closely resembles this

model. But it is an immature entity that has only partial powers, and only over European (not all) countries. It is likely that the EU is an experiment that will be used in the future to create a world government.

The Lion Beast

„The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till its wings 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.“ Daniel 7,4;

The first beast to emerge is like a lion with eagle's⁴ wings, and it is remarkable for its transformation. The lion with eagle's wings will lose its wings but receive a human heart and stand upright like a human. God used eagle's wings in His speech to Moses as a metaphor to emphasize to the people His protective role, majesty, nobility, wisdom, and power, with which He led the people out of Egypt and later (Ex 19:4; Deut 32:11; Isa 40:31; Rev 12:14). The eagle's wings will help the woman who gives birth to a child destined to rule the nations with an iron scepter, so that she may flee and hide from the serpent...! It is therefore not merely a symbol, but in this case a concrete instrument of God's will. This is also evident from the fact that the eagle's wings are torn off (plucked, Aramaic מֵרַט [merat]) from the lion-like

⁴ The Aramaic word נִשֶּׁר (neh'-sher) can mean an eagle or another large bird of prey. For example, a vulture.

beast, most likely by force. The transformation occurs after her large wings are plucked. Instead of a pair of wings, she will stand on a pair of legs like a human and be given a human heart. The human heart is the only one among known creatures that lacks an innate, natural reverence for the Creator and is prone to willful, perverse actions and evil thoughts (Mark 7:20–23).

In the Bible, the human heart is often associated with hardness and stubbornness (Gen. 11:5–6; Deut. 9:27; Eccl. 8:1; Matt. 19:8; Mark 3:5; Mark 16:14; Rom. 2:5). These are translations of the Hebrew word *קָשִׁי* and the Greek word *σκληροκαρδία*. Both mean hardness, stubbornness, and obstinacy. And from the interpretation of the Babylonian king's dream, we know that the increasing hardness of the metals from which the statue is made represents the increasing hardness of human rulers' attitudes toward their Creator.

The second feature in the description of the lion-like beast is duality. Two wings and then two legs. Therefore, it may refer to a superpower composed of two nations or centers of power, such as the Medo-Persian Empire. Today, the kingdom that most closely resembles this dual power is England and the United States, even in the sense that the larger horn of the United States emerged later. However, it is not stated that the lion-like beast will be given dominion over the earth. It may be a world power because of its strength, but it will not be a world government.

The Transformation of the Lion Beast

The lion-like beast can still be changed, and its transformation is apparently the main message associated with it in the prophecy. The beast will undergo a violent transformation. Major changes usually take place within the span of a single generation (lasting 70–80 years, according to Psalm 90:10; Mark 13:30). If major changes affect all of humanity, an even longer period is required. God the Creator decided to set the lifespan of every human being at one hundred twenty years (Genesis 6:3).

The transformation of the lion-like beast will occur more rapidly, likely as a result of a military conflict, and will take place as part of a much larger transformation of the entire world—much like the transformation of the world that resulted from the events and geopolitical changes caused by World War I. World War I marked a turning point, because the world changed completely after it. Soon, 120 years will have passed (between 2034 and 2038) since the beginning of this great global transformation, and we can realistically expect another major transformation.

The transformation of the lion is most likely just ahead of us, and it will probably be brought about by force—by

plucking⁵ their “eagle’s” wings, under which all of Western Europe has been hiding until now.

A bear with three ribs in its mouth

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

The second beast, resembling a bear, is characterized by the fact that it is turned toward one side; it is told to devour a great deal of flesh, and it has three ribs in its mouth. This apparently refers to a military attack in a specific direction, since the beast is turned toward one side as it devours. It is not granted world domination, but it will apparently, through military force, greatly influence the geopolitical situation in the world by defeating (devouring) one-third (three ribs) of the existing governments.

The bear is a beast that occasionally hunts live game but is not entirely dependent on killing other animals, unlike the big cats. In this respect, it differs significantly from the big cats. In the description of the fourth beast, the bear’s claws are bronze (verse 7:19; Rev. 13:1–2). We will recognize it only when it attacks in one direction. There are increasing signs

⁵ This prophecy could come true very soon—for example, if a war breaks out between the West and Russia. The West has predicted that the war will take place in 2029–2030.

that the bear might represent Russia. But this cannot be said with certainty. It is also important that the bear will act on command: “... and they said to it, ‘*Arise, devour much flesh.*’” Which side should the beast target? And who will tell the bear, “*Arise, devour much flesh*”? Again, this has not yet happened, but the possibility of a major conflict between Russia and the West—led by the U.S. and the EU—is beginning to emerge. Another question is: How can anyone assign such a massive task to a specific government? In the past, kings consulted their gods through oracles and religious rituals. Today, rulers typically also have their own soothsayers or people connected to various esoteric or occult sources. They are often inspired and even controlled by these sources (which are sometimes demonic).

Leopard Predator

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

The last of the three beasts will likely be a government with global reach. Given that this beast has four heads and four bird-like wings (not specifically eagle wings), it is a new entity resembling the EU, but with far greater power and reach. The number four usually signifies the four cardinal directions. It therefore has global reach. The third beast is destined to achieve dominion over the earth. No existing entity has ever had such authority. It is almost certain that this will be the result of a great war. Similarly, after both world

wars, the “League of Nations” and the United Nations were established with the task of preventing another world war, but they were not given authority to rule. This is a direct reference to the bronze kingdom in the interpretation of the Babylonian king’s dream: “the third kingdom, of bronze, which will rule over the whole earth.” Although the beast is described as a leopard, the four heads and bird’s wings point to a transformation that does not exist in nature. Its territory is no longer limited, as with natural beasts, but the entire earth becomes its territory. It is given dominion over the world; it does not usurp it for itself.

After the war—which we probably cannot avoid—a new entity will emerge that will become the third beast, under the same pretext that this is necessary to prevent a catastrophe in the form of another world war. And this world government will truly be “given dominion” (Dan. 7:6).

Summary of Findings on the First Three Carnivores

For now, the lack of information prevents us from definitively determining which types of governments and world powers the individual beasts represent. So far, we have identified world powers and types of governments that emerged over the last four hundred years and gradually came to dominate most of the world. Since the activities of the first three beasts will culminate in the arrival of the fourth beast, it is clear that all of them must exist at the time of its arrival. The lion and the leopard are feline beasts and share many common (feline) traits. They are closely related. The bear is

an entirely different kind of beast. In the prophecy, the beasts emerge through the action of four winds/spirits from the sea, which represents all of humanity. Christian powers have a fundamental influence on the development and shape of today's world.

In biblical terminology, bronze symbolizes the deteriorating quality of God's people (Isa. 48:4; Jer. 6:28) as well as that of all humanity. We can assume that Daniel's prophecy about the four beasts relates to all of humanity and, above all, to God's people, who include not only the descendants of the Mosaic Covenant but also Christian nations.

Today, we are indeed in the Iron Age, represented by the two iron legs on which the statue stands. In the 20th century, those legs became the Eastern and Western blocs, whose leading powers were the United States and Russia (the Soviet Union). Both superpowers created their own blocs, upon which the global balance of power and world peace rested for over 40 years. We now stand on the threshold of another pivotal period, which coincides with the approaching 120th anniversary of World War I. Let us not fixate on dates, but rather keep an eye on future developments. With the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, the established order based on the global balance of power also ceased to function. Since the 1990s, other powerful nations have emerged, notably China and India. Nor must we forget the events and developments in the Middle East. The actions of Israel and its neighbors will

influence future developments and will certainly play a very important role with repercussions for the entire world.

Let us examine these developments from the perspective of the fulfillment of biblical prophecies. This study is not a prophecy, because no prophecy of God ever came by human interpretation (2 Peter 1:20–21), but its purpose is to suggest a way to use prophecy to discern the times in which we live and to understand the events toward which they are heading. According to Jesus' parable of the fig tree. May God's plan of salvation be fulfilled.