

Coming soon - the Kingdom of God on Earth - 11

Daniel, who saw the kingdom of men represented in his visions by a series of dangerous wild beasts, saw the third empire, of the Greeks (the bronze midriff of the image in the king's dream) represented by the leopard - Daniel 7:6.

The "four heads" on the leopard were a result the untimely death of Alexander, after which his empire was divided among his generals into four subkingdoms in B.C. 301 - Daniel 11:1-4. These four divisions of the Greek Empire were as follows:

First head - The kingdom of the south which included Egypt, Libya, Arabia, south Syria and Palestine, under Ptolemy the Macedonian and his descendants until the Roman subjugation of Egypt in 31 B.C.

Second head - The kingdom of the north-west, which included lands north and north-east of Macedonia and Greece. .

Third head - The kingdom of the north-east, including the rest of Asia with Babylonia (now Iraq) and extending beyond the Euphrates to the Indus river (border of what is now Pakistan), all governed by the Seleucids until conquered by the Romans in 64 BC.

Fourth head - The kingdom of the west including Macedonia and Greece.

After the leopard, another, far more threatening beast loomed into Daniel's view - Daniel 7:7 "Behold, A FOURTH BEAST, DREADFUL AND TERRIBLE, exceedingly strong. It had huge IRON teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns."

The iron teeth connect this beast with the Roman iron legs and iron parts of the feet and toes in the image dream. The bronze claws (v.19) refer to the preservation of the Greek language and learning in the Roman empire. Militarily and politically, Rome dominated the other nations as would a Tyrannosaurus rex might have, with its huge jaws, multiple dagger-like teeth, and with its clawed feet, able to crush the lesser animals under itself.

The ten horns on this fourth beast are parallel with the toes of the Man-Image, prophetic of the independent states which would arise in Europe after the disintegration of the Roman empire - as divinely explained in v.24, "The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom."

Finally, Daniel relates - 13 "Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! ... 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him - parallel with the stone of the image dream becoming a mountain to fill the whole earth. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."

The final message of the one who "made known to (Daniel) the interpretation of these things" was 27 "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him."

Two years after this prophetic dream, Daniel received yet another picture of what was to transpire in the kingdom of men, and which re-enforced his previous vision, and that of Nebuchadnezzar.