

“The Four Beasts”

Part 1: The Lion King



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Daniel Mini Series

✓ The Great Statue (Dan 2)

Four Beasts (Dan 7)

 Lion [covering today]

 Bear

 Leopard

 Iron Teeth

Ram and Goat (Dan 8)

Little Horn (Dan 7-8)

Seventy Weeks (Dan 9)

Babylonian Kings Timeline

- ❧ 606BC-562 BC: Nebuchadnezzar reigned
- ❧ 562BC-553BC: Nebuchadnezzar's 4 sons reigned
 - ❧ Merodach
 - ❧ Neriglissar
 - ❧ Labashi-Marduk
 - ❧ Nabonidus
- ❧ 553BC-539BC: Belshazzar reigned
 - ❧ Belshazzar was last Babylonian King
- ❧ 539BC-Darius the Mede succeeded him (Dan 5:31)
 - ❧ Ushered in Medo-Persian Empire

Contextual Overview



- ∞ Daniel 1: ~606BC
 - ∞ Daniel and his 3 friends were taken into Babylonian captivity in 1st deportation Nebuchadnezzar
- ∞ Daniel 2: ~604BC
 - ∞ 2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign
- ∞ Daniel 3 & 4: somewhere between 604BC-562BC
 - ∞ Nebuchadnezzar's reign
- ∞ Daniel 5: ~539BC
 - ∞ End of Belshazzar's reign (last Babylonian King)
 - ∞ Dies in judgment (hand writing on wall)
- ∞ Daniel 6: ~539BC
 - ∞ Darius the Mede took power
 - ∞ Beginning of Medo-Persian Empire
- ∞ Daniel 7: 553BC
 - ∞ Vision of four beasts
 - ∞ 1st year of Belshazzar's reign
 - ∞ Chronologically Daniel 7 comes *after* chapter 4 not chapter 6

Contextual Overview



Important Considerations:

- ∞ Four Beasts vision in Dan 7 was given approx. 50 years after Great Statue dream in Dan 2
- ∞ Great Statue and Four Beast visions both given during Babylonian Empire

Daniel 7



Daniel 7:1-8 (NASB) - Daniel's Vision of Four Beasts

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. 2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. 4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!' 6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

Daniel 7



Daniel 7:9-12 – Ancient of Days Judges from Heaven

9 “I kept looking

Until thrones were set up,

And the Ancient of Days took His seat;

His vesture was like white snow

And the hair of His head like pure wool.

His throne was ablaze with flames,

Its wheels were a burning fire.

10 “A river of fire was flowing

And coming out from before Him;

Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,

And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;

The court sat,

And the books were opened.

11 Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

Daniel 7



Daniel 7:13-14 - Coming of the Son of Man

13 "I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.

14 "And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;

Daniel 7



Daniel 7:15-28 – Daniel Given Interpretation of Visions

15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. 16 I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 17 ‘These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. 18 But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’

19 “Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, 20 and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates.

Daniel 7



Daniel 7:15-28 (Cont'd)

21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them
22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the
Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be
different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down
and crush it. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another
will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue
three kings. 25 He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the
Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be
given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Daniel 7



Daniel 7:15-28 (Cont'd)

26 But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

28 "At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

Exposit: Daniel 7:1-3



1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. 2 Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

- ☞ “four winds” [more on this]
- ☞ “the great sea” [more on this]
- ☞ “four great beasts” [more on this]

“four winds”



- ∞ ROE: Must interpret Scripture with Scripture
- ∞ So let's look at examples in Scripture of “four winds”
- ∞ We will find that it signifies angelic activity and the context will define scope of location (heaven or earth)

“four winds”



Mark 13:24-27

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, 25 AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. 27 And then **He [Messiah] will send forth the angels,** and will gather together His elect **from the four winds,** from the **farthest end of the earth** to the **farthest end of heaven (ouranos or sky).**

- ☞ Angelic activity is connected with gathering the elect from the “four winds”
- ☞ The context defines the location, in this passage it is from “the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven (sky)”

“four winds”



Revelation 7:1 (after the breaking of the 6th Seal)

After this I saw **four angels** standing at the **four corners of the earth**, holding back the **four winds of the earth**, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

- ☞ four angels □ four corners of the earth
 - ☞ Four corners of the earth correspond to the 4 points of a compass (North/East/West/South)
 - ☞ We can deduce that there was 1 angel at each point of the compass
- ☞ Angelic activity is connected with holding back all wind of the earth
- ☞ Context defines location to the earth

“four winds”

Jeremiah 49:36-39

36 'I will bring upon Elam the four winds

From the four ends of heaven,

And will scatter them [Elam] to all these winds;

And there will be no nation

To which the outcasts of Elam will not go.

37 'So I will shatter Elam before their enemies

And before those who seek their lives;

And I will bring calamity upon them [Elam],

Even My fierce anger,' declares the LORD,

'And I will send out the sword after them [Elam]

Until I have consumed them.

38 'Then I [Messiah] will set My throne in Elam

And destroy out of it king and princes,'

Declares the LORD.



four winds = angelic activity (likely by 4 angels)

“four ends of heaven” = four points of heaven
(similar to four points of a compass)

Thus, “the four winds from the four ends of heaven” in context is associated with angelic activity in the scattering, shattering, and bringing calamity to Elam [modern day Iran]

More on this end times prophecy in future study

“four winds of heaven”



Now back to Daniel 7:1-2:

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. 2 Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

Catarroja Translation (based on Scripture):

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. 2 Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four [angels] of heaven were

“the great sea”



- As for “the great sea”
- ROE: Must interpret Scripture with Scripture
- A lot of prophecy teachers butcher this one (me included)
 - We’ll look at examples of what NOT to do
- Then we’ll look to Scripture on how to interpret “the great sea”
 - We will find it signifies a very specific sea

“the great sea”

∞ Example of what NOT to do



∞ I was guilty of this and so are many others

∞ Will view the Great Sea broadly, as to the whole earth, and thus, opening it up to great subjectivity (man’s opinion; for example: the four beasts in this vision can be global (i.e. USA, China, Russia, etc. in play))

Here are a couple of examples of what NOT to do...

“the great sea”



Revelation 4:5-6 (John's vision of the throne in heaven)

5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

☞ sea of glass = the earth

☞ If sea = earth

☞ Then “the Great Sea” = the whole earth

“the great sea”



Revelation 17:15 (after the 7th bowl of wrath)

15 And he *said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”

∞ Since waters equates to sea (of waters)

∞ Thus, “the Great Sea” = multitudes of peoples/nations/tongues

Or some might have some variation of this and may sort of twist other Scriptures to support their interpretation...

“The Great Sea”



“the great sea”



So these are examples of what NOT to do (or any variation of it)

What does the Scripture say about what “the great sea” is?

“the great sea”



Let's look at the original language:

Daniel 7:2 Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds (angels) of heaven were stirring up the great (rab) sea (yam).

☞ Dan 2:4-7:28 was written in Aramaic

☞ ‘rab’ is an Aramaic adjective meaning great, boastful, large

☞ If noun is a Person: one in authority, great king (boastful), great God

☞ If noun is a Place or thing: its greatness and large in size

☞ In the context of this vision, the ‘rab’ is describing a great body of water or sea (yam)

“the great sea”



And now let's look at 'yam' (sea):

- ∞ 'yam' is an Aramaic masculine noun meaning sea. It is used of the Great Sea, the Mediterranean Sea
- ∞ “great sea” (rab yam in Aramaic) = “the Great Mediterranean Sea”

Ok with this in mind, let's relook at Dan 7:2 with what we've unpacked:

Catarroja Translation (using Scripture)

Daniel 7:2 Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold,

“the great sea”



**Mediterranean Sea
aka "The Great Sea"**

Exposit: Daniel 7:3



3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

- ∞ “sea” as we know = the Mediterranean Sea
- ∞ Daniel sees “four great beasts were coming up from the [Mediterranean sea]”
- ∞ Who are or what is the “four great beasts”?
- ∞ Well we’re going to see what is the most common and popular interpretation of who the “four great beasts” are
- ∞ Then we’re going to look to Scripture for the right interpretation

∞ One beast at a time

Chapter 2

Chapter 7



Babylon



**Medo-
Persia**



Greece



Rome



Chapter 2

Chapter 7

Babylonian Empire
(606BC-538BC)



Babylon



**Medo-
Persia**



Greece



Rome



Chapter 2

Chapter 7

Babylonian Empire
(606BC-538BC)



Babylon



**Medo-
Persia**



Greece



Rome



But from Dan 7:2 these four beasts (beginning with the Lion) will arise (in the future) AFTER the Babylon Empire; post 538BC

Chapter 2

Chapter 7



Babylonian Empire
(606BC-538BC)



Babylon



Medo-
Persia



Greece



Rome



But from Dan 7:2 these four beasts (beginning with the Lion) will arise (in the future) after the Babylon Empire; post 538BC

Chapter 2

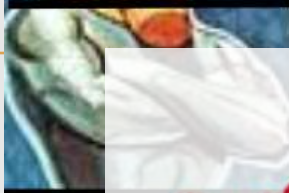
Babylonian Empire
(606BC-538BC)



Babylon



Chapter 7



Medo-
Persia



Greece



WRONG!



Rome



But from Dan 7:2 these four beasts (beginning with the Lion) will arise (in the future) after the Babylon Empire; post 538BC

“four great beasts”



Now let's get the right interpretation given by an angel to Daniel:

Daniel 7:15-17

15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. 16 I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: 17 ‘These great beasts, which are four in number, **are four kings** who **will arise** (future) from the earth.

- ☞ “four great beasts” = four kings (‘melek’ a king not ‘malku’ kingdom)
- ☞ ‘great’ is ‘rab’ again which is an Aramaic adjective meaning great, beautiful, large

Contextual Overview



- ∞ Daniel 1: ~606BC
 - ∞ Daniel and his 3 friends were taken into Babylonian captivity in 1st deportation Nebuchadnezzar
- ∞ Daniel 2: ~604BC
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 - ∞ Darius the Mede took power
 - ∞ Beginning of Medo-Persian Empire
- ∞ Daniel 7: ~553BC
 - ∞ Vision of four beasts
 - ∞ 1st year of Belshazzar's reign
 - ∞ Chronologically Daniel 7 comes *after* chapter 4 not chapter 6

Four great beasts are four kings that will arise from the earth AFTER ~553BC

Catarroja AMP: Dan 7:1-3



Now let's put this all together and re-look at Daniel 7:1-3:

Catarroja Translation (based on Scripture):

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. 2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the **four [angels] of heaven** were stirring up the [**Great Mediterranean Sea**]. 3 And **four great**

Daniel sees four angels stirring the Mediterranean Sea (aka “The Great Sea”) from which four kings will arise from (the surrounding nations):



Daniel sees four kings arise from these present day Mediterranean countries:



1st Beast: like a Lion



Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

KING #1

King #1: The Lion King

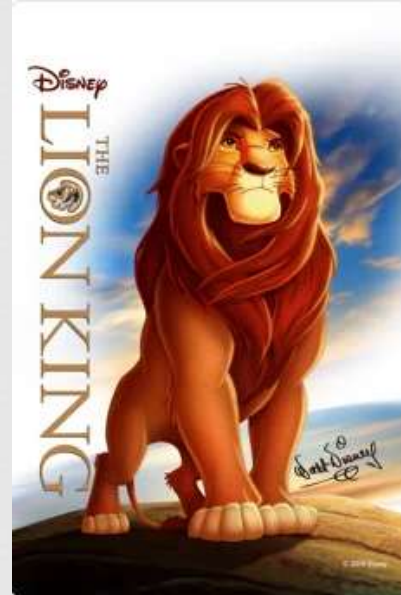
1st Beast: like a Lion



Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

King #1: The Lion King

KING #1



1st Beast: like a Lion



Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

KING #1

King #1: Lion with eagle's wings

1st Beast: like a Lion



KING #1

Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.



ROE: Must use Scripture w/Scripture

Who is likened to a Lion in Scripture?
What do “wings of an eagle” signify?

1st Beast: like a Lion



☞ Jeremiah is explicit on who he calls lions:

Jeremiah 50:17

17 “Israel is a scattered flock, **the lions** have driven them away. The first one who devoured him was **the king of Assyria**, and this last one who has broken his bones is Nebuchadnezzar **king of Babylon**.

☞ Remember this is prophecy (looking forward from Daniel’s vision not back)

☞ 1st Beast (Lion) will be from Ancient Assyria/ Ancient Babylon

☞ With this in view, hopefully you can clearly see the error in a couple of arbitrary interpretations...

1st Beast: like a Lion



IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

LION with EAGLE'S WINGS plucked...

Great Britain **United States**



The first was like a lion,
and had eagle's wings: I beheld
till the wings thereof were plucked.

Daniel 7: 4



1776

1st Beast: like a Lion



Eagles Wings



∞ Eagles Wings also means protection:

Deuteronomy 32:

11 “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,

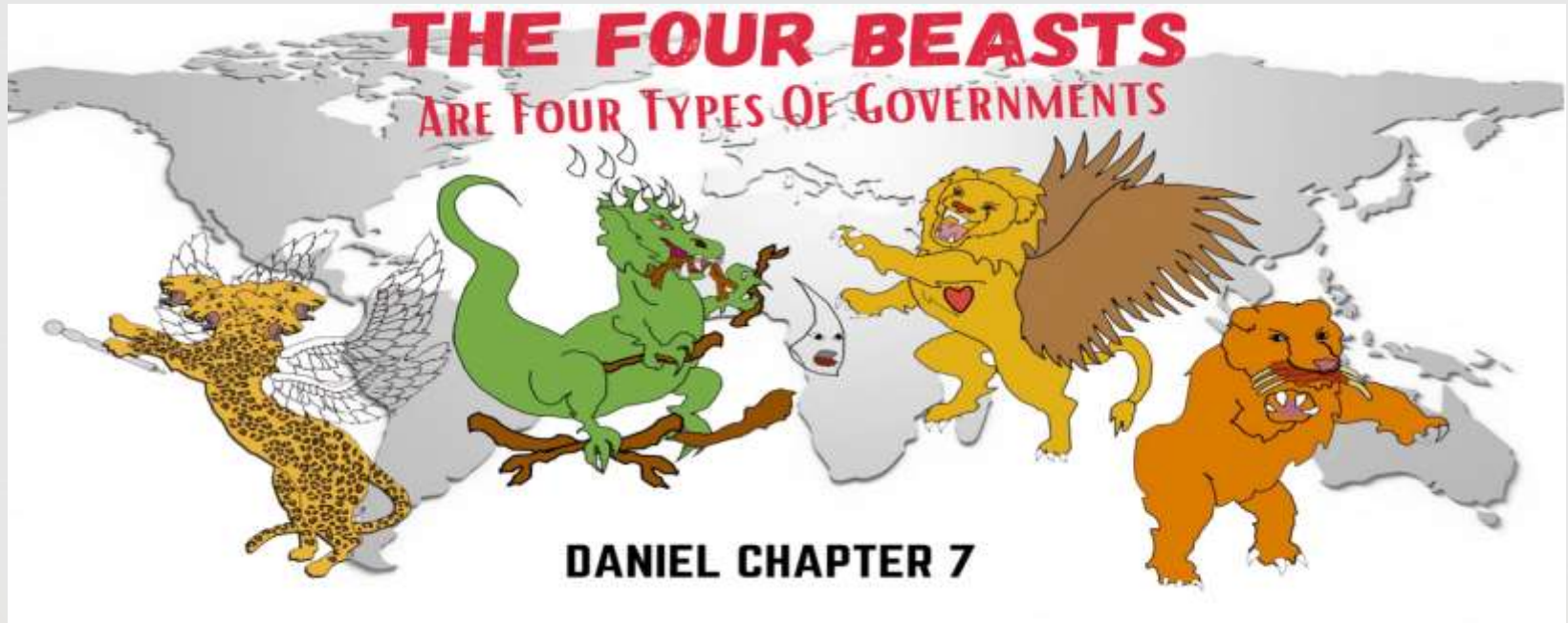
That hovers over its young,

He [Yahweh] spread His wings and caught them [Israel],

He [Yahweh] carried them [Israel] on His pinions [wings].

∞ So this 1st king may serve as a protection over his people and possibly to other nations

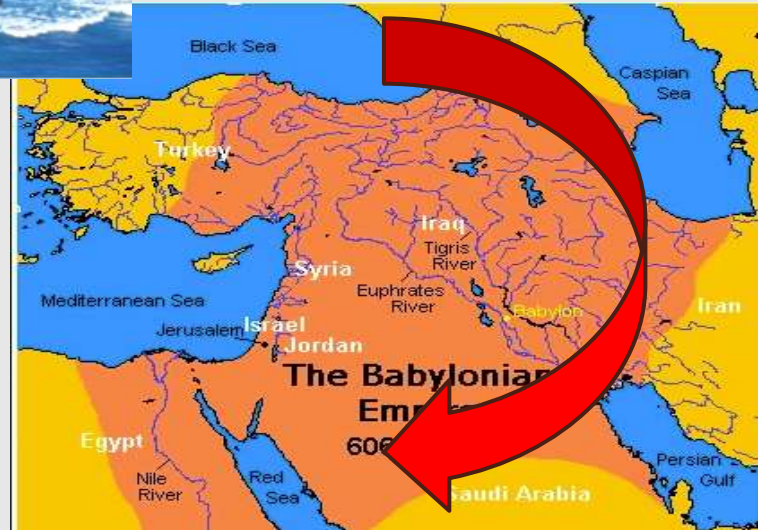
1st Beast: like a Lion



1st Beast: like a Lion



1st Beast: like a Lion



1st Beast: like a Lion



**SCRIPTURE-
BASED!**

1st Beast: like a Lion



❧ Does the Scripture call anyone else a Lion?

❧ Yes!

Revelation 5:5 and one of the elders *said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”

❧ Jesus is called a Lion from Judah

❧ But we know this is NOT the same Lion in Daniel’s vision

❧ Turns out someone else is called a Lion...

1st Beast: like a Lion



1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, **the devil**, prowls around **like a roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

☞ The Lion from Judah came to save

☞ The lion w/eagle's wings in Daniel's vision came to kill and destroy

Eagles Wings



- ❧ Eagles wings means to overtake:
Jeremiah 48:40 (Prophecy against Moab)
40 For thus says the LORD:
“Behold, one will fly swiftly like an eagle
And spread out his wings against Moab.
 - ❧ ‘swiftly’ is ‘daah’ which literally means to fly or dart swiftly through the air
- ❧ This 1st king will overtake swiftly like an eagle
 - ❧ Israelites and Christians in focus

1st Beast: like a Lion



Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking **until its wings were plucked**, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

ROE: Must use Scripture w/Scripture

What does wings being plucked signify?



“wings were plucked”



- ∞ plucked is 'merat' which is an Aramaic verb meaning to pluck off, to tear off. It means to remove something.
- ∞ These wings were removed or torn off from this Lion
- ∞ Is there any OT passages that can tell us more of this 1st Lion King?

1st Beast: like a Lion



Proverbs 28:15 Like a roaring lion and a rushing bear
Is a wicked ruler over a poor people.

- ∞ In context, rab yam (great sea) quite literally means the roaring sea
- ∞ Roaring lion = wicked ruler
- ∞ We can deduce this 1st Lion King is a wicked ruler who will overtake with swiftness, was a form of protection, but eventually have his wings pulled out and no longer be a threat or covering of protection

1st Beast: like a Lion

Which present day countries are in play where the 1st beast (1st wicked king) will arise from Daniel's four beasts vision (Ancient Assyria/ Ancient Babylon)



Proverbs 19:12 **The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion,**
But his favor is like dew on the grass.

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, **the devil,** prowls around **like a roaring lion,** seeking someone to devour.

Daniel sees the 1st of 4 kings arise from the Mediterranean Sea (Mediterranean nation) that was part of Ancient Assyria/ Ancient Babylon:



Daniel sees the 1st of 4 kings arise from the Mediterranean Sea (Mediterranean nation) that was part of Ancient Assyria/ Ancient Babylon:



Daniel sees the 1st of 4 kings arise from the Mediterranean Sea (Mediterranean nation) that was part of Ancient Assyria/ Ancient Babylon:



Conclusion:

Who is the Lion King w/ eagle wings?

The 1st king of Daniel's four great beasts vision will come from:

- ☞ Turkey
- ☞ Syria
- ☞ Lebanon
- ☞ Israel
- ☞ Jordan
- ☞ Egypt

