

In other words, this power was composed of both church and state and can be easily seen in the image of **chapter 2** as “iron mixed with miry clay.”

19. Daniel beheld this power until what happened? **Daniel 7:9.**

20. The judgment was set, and what were opened? **Daniel 7:10.**

“Cast down” in **verse 9** is old English for “set in place.” The passage indicates that this judgment occurs among the heavenly host, while on earth the final activities of the kingdoms of men are nearing their close. This, of course, is the investigative judgment which we studied in lesson 17.

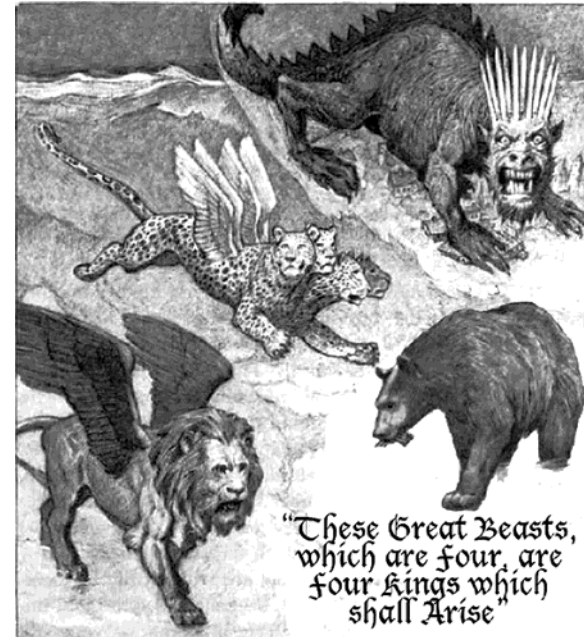
21. How will the outcome of the judgment affect the little horn power? **Daniel 7:26.**

Considering God’s Sure Word...

Do you understand that the ten horns of Daniel 7 represent kingdoms which would come into power after the fall of Western Pagan Rome, and that three of those kingdoms were to be uprooted by the emergence of the “little horn” power?

THE SURE WORD

Bible Course



Lesson Twenty-one: The Rise and Fall of Nations

Name:

Date:

1. In Daniel's vision, four winds strove upon what? **Daniel 7:2.**
2. In symbolic prophecy, what do bodies of water represent? **Revelation 17:15.**
3. What came up from this "sea"? **Daniel 7:3.**
4. What do beasts represent in Bible prophecy? **Daniel 7:17.**
5. How is the first beast, or kingdom, described? **Daniel 7:4.**
6. What nation, as a lion, symbolically broke Israel's bones? **Jeremiah 50:17.**
7. What nation had great eagle's wings? **Ezekiel 17:3, 12.**

Archaeology has revealed that composite lion-eagle creatures were common symbols in ancient Babylon. Regarding lions as royal beasts, Nebuchadnezzar engraved them on his walls and stamped bricks with them.

8. How is the second beast, or kingdom, described? **Daniel 7:5.**
Historically, Babylon was followed by the combined dominion of the Medes and Persians (**Daniel 5:28-31**). This kingdom was represented in **Daniel 2** by the image's silver breast and arms, and in **Chapter 8** by a two-horned ram. Just as one of the ram's horns was higher than the other (**8:3**), so the bear of **Daniel 7:5** raised up itself on one side, meaning to raise up one dominion. At first the Medes were the more dominant of the two. But soon the Persians became the more powerful side, fulfilling the prediction that *"the higher came up last"* (**8:3**). **Daniel 8:4** says that the Medo-Persian ram would push *"westward, and northward, and southward."* Between 547 and 525 B.C. they conquered Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt. This explains the three ribs between the bear's teeth (**7:5**).
9. How does the Bible describe the third beast, or kingdom, of prophecy? **Daniel 7:6.**

Medo-Persia was followed by Greece. This winged leopard kingdom corresponds to the brass belly and thighs on the image in **Chapter 2**, and the goat in **Chapter 8**.

Wings give the connotation of swiftness. As the goat in **Chapter 8** came from the west *"and touched not the ground,"* so Alexander's conquests were accomplished speedily. Just as the leopard had four wings and four heads (**7:6**), so the goat grew four horns (**8:8**) which represented the four divisions of the Greek empire (**8:22**). It is also interesting to note that Macedonian coins were minted with the likeness of a goat.

10. The fourth beast, or kingdom, of Bible prophecy is described in what way? **Daniel 7:7.**

11. What did this fourth beast represent? **Daniel 7:23.**

The fourth and final secular world empire was Rome. The great iron teeth (**7:7**) of this beast remind us of the iron legs of the image in **Chapter 2**.

12. How many horns did the fourth beast have? **Daniel 7:7.**
13. What did the horns of that kingdom represent? **Daniel 7:24.**

By A.D. 476, the western division of the Roman empire was divided between ten barbaric nations: Franks (French), Alemanni (Germans), Burgundians (Swiss), Suevi (Portuguese), Vandals (in Northern Africa), Visigoths (Spanish), Anglo-Saxons (English), Ostrogoths, Lombards, and Heruli (each in Italy).

14. What came up among these horns? **Daniel 7:8.**
15. What happened to three of the ten horns? **Daniel 7:8.**

Verse 24 says, *"He shall subdue three kings."* Historically, this horn power was responsible for the total annihilation of the Heruli in the year 493, the Vandals in 534, and the Ostrogoths in 538. The other seven still exist today as nations of Europe.

16. What kind of eyes did this little horn power have? **Daniel 7:8.**
17. What else did he have? **Daniel 7:8.**
18. How did he look compared to his fellows? **Daniel 7:20.**

These characteristics, along with the contextual indications that he acted in a spiritual realm as well as having political authority, account for the statement that *"he shall be diverse from the first"* (**7:24**).