



THE BIBLE STANDS

*The Bible stands though the hills may tumble,
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble;
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,
For the Bible stands.*

Lesson 21: THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS

Name:

Date:

1. In Daniel's vision, four winds strove upon what? 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."

2. In symbolic prophecy, what do bodies of water represent? 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."

3. What came up from this "sea"? Daniel 7:3.

"And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another."

4. What do beasts represent in Bible prophecy? Daniel 7:17.

"These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth."

5. How is the first beast, or kingdom, described? 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."

6. What nation, as a lion, symbolically broke Israel's bones? 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."

7. What nation had great eagle's wings? Ezekiel 17:3, 12.

"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;"

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.

“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.”

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.

“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.”

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.

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.”

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.

11. What did this fourth beast represent? 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.”

12. How many horns did the fourth beast have? Daniel 7:7.

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.”

13. What did the horns of that kingdom represent? Daniel 7:24.

“And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”

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.

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

15. What happened to three of the ten horns? Daniel 7:8.

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

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.

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

17. What else did he have? Daniel 7:8.

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things."

18. How did he look compared to his fellows? Daniel 7:20.

"And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows."

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).

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.

"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."

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

"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."

Lesson 21

“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.

“But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.”

Thought Summary:

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.